Coltrane

continued from D1

callbacks later, he said I had the part."

As to why he got the role of curious, rebellious Mason, he says, "I'm not sure Richard entirely knows. He tends to go with his instincts, I think. If I had to guess, it's that we look at the world in kind of a similar way."

In the early filming, the character of Mason was mostly drawn from Linklater's life and that of Ethan Hawke, who plays Mason's dad. But as time went on, the writer-director based more of the

character on Coltrane. "Yeah, Richard was al-

ways asking me for input as I was growing up. And as I became more of a person and had more input to give, that became what the character was because I had more ideas and more thoughts to contribute."

Coltrane had little impression of what the completed movie would be

"That was kind of the gift of it being over such a long period of time," he says. "And also Richard, kind of intentionally, veered the focus away from us ever really thinking about the final product. Especially for me and Lorelei (Linklater, the director's daughter, who plays his sister), I think, he never showed us any of the dailies or anything. We were just allowed to be lost in the process of making it. I think that's how all projects should be."

Coltrane first watched the finished film alone in a screening room. "Richard wisely suggested that I watch it by myself a few times before we took it to Sundance. It was very emotional, this kind of catharsis," he recalls. "You spend your whole life wondering how you're changing

over time and to see it in front of you like that and such a reflection of what I went through, the input that I had into the character's emotional response to things, to see that played out is intense."

He is not sure about a career in acting, since he also has interests in photography and art, but Coltrane expects to make a few more movies at least. "That's really the greatest thing about all of this, getting to meet so many people, so many filmmakers and actors. There's a lot of people that I don't want to work with, but a lot of people that I really do.'

He may look back on "Boyhood" as just an early film on his résumé, but he likes the idea of one day showing it to his future son. "Yeah, I definitely think about that. It will definitely always be a part of my life," says Coltrane. "And I also think about what it will be for me in 10 years to watch it, y'know?

"Because right now, the guy at the end of the movie, it wasn't that long ago that I was that guy. But when I'm 35, I'll look at it and it will seem a different person maybe."

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'As I became more of a person and had more input to give, that became what the character was because I had more ideas ... to contribute.

Ellar Coltrane



"Any Day." Arnold will appear at the festival and receive the Showmanship Award. CONTRIBUTED



The documentary "Record Man," is a music-filled history of disco that includes West Palm Beach's own George McRae(left). McCrea and KC and the Sunshine Band emerged from Miami's TK Records label and the studios of Henry Stone. From distributing records out of his '48 Packard to running the largest independent label of the '70s, Henry's story spans the dramatic arc of the record business from inception through the digital age. CONTRIBUTED

Festival

continued from D2

Even director Piven, older sister of Jeremy ("Entourage"), concedes that "Welcome to Me" may not be to everyone's taste.

"I feel like this is an area of the country that may not get this film in theaters," she says. So showing her movie – which also stars James Marsden, Tim Robbins and Joan Cusack - here is a way to get word-ofmouth going and a way of saying thank you to the area.

"It's a very welcoming place and it's a lovely film festival," says Piven of her experience with "Fully Loaded." "The audience was a good cross-section of transplanted New Yorkers people who remind me of my great-aunts and uncles - and then kind of the younger Palm Beach crowd.'

As to the likely reception for "Welcome to Me," Piven says, "I really feel that it can speak to many kinds of people."

But ask her to describe the film and she will tell you what it isn't. "It's not a mainstream comedy, let's put it that way."

Like constructing a good concert act, a film festival seeks a strong opener and a memorable closer. PBIFF's closing night film is "While We're Young" by indie darling Noah Baumbach ("The Squid and the Whale," "Frances Ha"). It stars Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts as a middle-aged couple whose professional and personal lives are disrupted by the arrival of a younger couple.

Another sidebar to the festival that is bound to be popular is "The Jewish Experience," a collection of current, cutting-edge Jewish/Israeli-centric films, including two world premieres, an official Oscar submission ("Bulgarian Rhapsody") and "Is That You?," a nominee for Israel's top movie award, the OPHIR.

In all, there will be close to 130 films - features, shorts and documentaries - unspooling at venues throughout Palm Beach County, including

12 world premieres and 15 United States premieres, from such nations as Germany, Poland, Venezuela, the United Kingdom and East Timor, with the first feature film ever produced there.

Festival screenings will be held at Muvico Parisian 20 in West Palm Beach, Cobb Downtown at the Gardens and Cinemark Palace 20 in Boca Raton.

Stars abound

at festival OK, it wouldn't be a Palm Beach International Film Festival without a few stars. And could it be a coincidence that the festival is turning 20 while it is honoring 20-year-old Ellar Coltrane of the Oscar-winning "Boyhood," which records his growth over 12 years, from 6 to 18? The Austin native will receive the Shooting Star Award for his stellar emergence on the film scene.

He's not exactly a star, but Tom Arnold is flying in to support his new film, "Any Day," about an ex-fighter who finds redemption from his troubled past. So he will leave with the Showmanship Award which sounds like what it is, a prize for showing up.

And then there is West Palm Beach native George McCrae, disco royalty for the mega-popular "Rock Your Baby," who returns to his hometown with the film, "Record Man," a music-filled history of disco made by a former festival volunteer. This Saturday, Mc-Crae will receive the key to the city. That night, the festival honorees will receive their awards at a VIP disco party, where McCrae will be perform-

It was not that long ago that the Palm Beach International Film Festival's future was in doubt. Now it is showing signs of a firmer financial footing and expansion. For instance, this year the festival is going bi-coastal. While it kicks off at City-Place today, it will have a presence on the west coast of Florida, with a screening of "X+Y" at Silverspot Cinema in Naples, as well as an opening reception there that evening.

But the bigger news is that PIFF has taken up permanent residence in Plaza del Mar in Manalapan. There it will show movies year-round, but "it's not just going to be a place to see films," explains Emerman. "It's going to be a multi-use venue. We'll have seminars and music and theater. Our goal, in the future, to have it as an educational center, for children and adults." The space, vacant since last fall, needs some renovation, new equipment installation and a paint job, but Emerman hopes to open it for business later this year.

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Noah Baumbach's marriage comedy "While We're Young," starring Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts, is being screened ahead of its commercial release as part of the Atlanta Film Festival. CONTRIBUTED BY ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL





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