

Star to open festival

By Bruce Rockemer

ACTOR, filmmaker and environmental advocate Daryl Hannah will launch the 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival at the Gala Opening Night on September 17.

The festival committee was extremely excited that Ms Hannah would give the opening address, the festival's curator, award winning film producer Sue Clothier, said yesterday.

"It's a real coup. We just couldn't believe it," Ms Clothier said.

The opportunity presented itself as Ms Hannah will be in Far North Queensland to address the Australian Permaculture Convergence at Kuranda on September 24.

"At this critical moment in history, we are facing many crises; resource wars,

Hannah will deliver address at Mission

mass extinctions, environmental disasters. It is crucial we all share information and inspiration on ways to care for and live harmoniously with this planet, other species and each other," Ms Hannah said.

"Festivals like Mission Beach Film Festival play an important role in this evolution, and I am so happy to be delivering the opening address."

Ms Hannah will launch the 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival at the Mission Beach Resort before the special Gala Screening of

the French/Australian co-production of *The Tree*.

The Tree was selected for Official Competition as well as being the closing night film at this year's Cannes Film Festival where it received a 10 minute standing ovation.

The Tree will be released in Australia nationally on September 30.

Known for her roles in a range of feature films including *Splash*, *Blade Runner*, *Roxanne*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Kill Bill*, Ms Hannah is ideally placed to open the Mission Beach Film Festival and has for the past 20 years been

passionately focused on living a low impact lifestyle.

"She has become an influential sustainability advocate and activist, working globally and reaching millions with her message to become more informed and pro-active about the natural world and the part we all play in protecting it," Ms Clothier said.

The 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival program features a rich and diverse slate of features, documentaries and children's screenings and activities complemented by Q&A panels and expert speakers to enhance discussion and debate about sustainability.

Tickets to the gala and festival are available now from a range of outlets from Cairns to Tully. Details are available on the website www.missionbeachfilmfestival.com.au