

Film-goers sing along to classic

By Clint Wolf cwolf@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, February 22, 2014 10:00 am

Audience participation was the name of the game Friday night at the Beloit International Film Festival presentation of the classic musical "The Sound of Music."

As audience members filed into the Eclipse Center, some dressed as characters from the movie and they were handed "fun bags" full of props to use during the film. There was some Edelweiss, an invitation to the Captain's Ball, and other items audience members were encouraged to hold up during the showing of the film.

And everyone was encouraged to sing along with the familiar tunes of the film, such as "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things," and of course "Edelweiss."

Nina Tarbay of Roscoe settled in to enjoy the show Friday, which she admitted would be a new experience for her.

"I've never been to anything like this. It looked interesting," she said.

She was joined by friend Sonya Sellner of Beloit and grandchildren Isaiah, 3, and Roslyn, 2, who Sonya said were ready to sing.

Meanwhile two women dressed as nuns were being questioned by the emcee for the evening. When asked their names, they responded "Sister Perpetual Motion and Sister Constant Memory Loss."

Good humor continued through the night as audience members who came in costume were called up on stage to display their Austrian garb and have a few jokes thrown their way.

The Sound of Music Sing-Along was another big draw for the Beloit International Film Festival which is nearing a close to its 10-day run.

Rod Beaudoin, Beloit International Film Festival Executive Director, said there have been a few hiccups in the film festival, but by and large things are going fairly smoothly.

"I think attendance was a little light (Thursday night)," Beaudoin said. "I think people were a little worried when they heard the winds could get up to 60 mph."

Otherwise, Beaudoin said movies and events have been fairly well attended. He said even after Monday's snowstorm, people turned out in good numbers.

He said a few hundred tickets were sold for Friday night's "Sound of Music Sing-A-Long," and he hoped for a good crowd.

Also kicking off Friday was the BIFF Plus Music events in downtown Beloit. From 10 p.m. - 2 p.m.,

people could be admitted for free to four downtown locations featuring live music — Bushel & Peck’s Market, Club Impulse, Merrill & Houston’s Steak Joint and Suds O’Hanahan’s Irish Pub.

Musicians will continue entertaining crowds tonight as part of the BIFF Plus Music. Patrons also can vote for their favorite musical acts and nominate them for BIFF Plus Music Awards.

This is the second year music has been part of the film festival activities.

Beaudoin said he felt BIFF was heading for a strong finish of it’s 10-day run.

“We had a strong weekend last weekend and it looks like we will have a strong weekend this weekend,” he said.