

'BEARS' NECESSITIES

Disney proved a theme park attraction could be brought to life the second "The Country Bears" band came off the tour bus for the Sunday afternoon preem at Hollywood's El Capitan.

While **Halcy Joel Osment** found it "especially cool" to lend voice to lead character Beary, it was the animatronic bear suits by the Jim Henson Creature Shop and blood, sweat and tears by suit performers that made the red carpet



Go-star **Dieudrich Bader** and wife **Dulcy**

stroll by Fred, Ted, Zeb and Tennessee so real.

Buena Vista execs **Brett Dicker**, **Bob Iger**, **Nina Jacobson** and their families were even treated to some post-film picking and grinning onstage by the Bears after the flick.

Since people "weren't familiar with the story" of the fictional band, helmer **Peter Hastings** was able "to get a little irreverent with it and make the film a musical that was fun for both adults and kids." For mass appeal, Hastings cast adult-familiar **Christopher**



Halcy Joel Osment grins and Bears it with Disney's **Country Bears**.



BV's **Oren Aviv** and Disney's **Richard Cook** get a bear hug from **Beary**.

Walken as the baddie and hired **John Hiatt** to write Bear songs that weren't strictly country but "a mix of many different types of American music."

Enjoying the Southern twang with their families at the Hollywood/



Helmer **Peter Hastings** with star villain **Christopher Walken**

Highland Ballroom after-bash were cast members **Candy Furl**, **Krystal**, **Eli Marienthal** and guests **Clancy Brown**, **Danny Bonaduce**, **E.G. Daily**, **Christopher McDonald** and **Kevin Richardson**.

— Greg Reifsteck