



# Focus on Film



Relax...

Palm Beach County, Florida Has It Covered.



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## BURT REYNOLDS AND HIS STUDENTS GET STANDING OVATION

January 2009



Burt Reynolds with Taylor and Owen Blackwell

**Burt Reynolds** in his favorite role as teacher and mentor presented a two hour film festival type event, comprised of nine filmed and edited scenes from his acting class. The students were directed by Burt Reynolds in the capacity of cast and crew for the extraordinary evening that opened with Burt Reynolds returning to the Jupiter stage with a warm welcome from over 500 people.

The Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission in partnership with the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office donated \$15,000 worth of video equipment to the **Burt Reynolds and Friends Museum** in **Jupiter**. The equipment is being utilized by students of the museum for several educational projects. One of those projects was an eight week "Acting for the Camera Workshop" taught by Burt Reynolds. The result was this premiere presentation of the "Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre Night of Filmed and Edited Scenes." The event was held at the **Maltz Jupiter Theatre**. For more info call 561.233.1000.



Burt Reynolds and his students on stage at the Maltz

## PROMINENT PALM BEACH RESIDENT TO BE FEATURED IN DOCUMENTARY FILM



A new feature length documentary developed by the Pamplin Film Company, based at G-Star Motion Picture Studios in West Palm Beach, has been certified to receive \$35,196.00 in incentive funds from the state of Florida. "The Gertrude Maxwell

Story: Save-A-Pet" will chronicle her first efforts to save animals in Illinois, then her national campaign and eventual move to Palm Beach, Florida. The film will feature interviews with Maxwell, her friends and supporters, including **Florida Governor Charlie Crist**. The film begins production this month and will be shot entirely in Palm Beach County. For more info visit [pamplinfilm-company.com](http://pamplinfilm-company.com).

Previously the Pamplin Film Company received incentive funds for the documentary "The Oscar Lose Story: A Dog's Life" which premiered at G-Star Studios in September.



Gov. Crist and Gigi Maxwell

## BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR ALLERGY COMMERCIAL...



Okeehchee Park

A new action packed commercial for **Claritin Allergy Products** just wrapped filming at **Okeehchee Park** in **West Palm Beach**. **Aero Films** out of Los Angeles held an aggressive two day shoot centered around a professional water skier who was filmed for

hours in one of Okeehchee Park's many picturesque lakes as a helicopter flew overhead for special aerial photography. Past productions that have utilized Okeehchee Park include commercials for the **Rocket Fishing Rod**, **Max Fli Golf Balls** and **Subaru**, and feature films such as **Pretty in Red**, **Washington Heights** and **Unconditional**.

Special thanks to **Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation**, the **Florida Office of Film and Entertainment**, the **Florida Department of Transportation**, the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office** and the **Palm Beach International Airport**. For more information please call 561.233.1000.

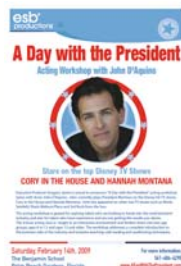


**Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission**  
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) | 561.233.1000

This newsletter is published in collaboration with:



## A DAY WITH A TV PRESIDENT



Executive Producer **Gregory James** of **ESB Productions** in Delray Beach is proud to announce "A Day with the President" acting workshop series with actor **John D'Aquino**. D'Aquino currently plays President Martinez on the hit Disney shows *Cory in the House* and *Hannah Montana*.

The acting workshop is geared for aspiring talent who are looking to break into the entertainment industry and also for talent who have experience and are not getting the results they desire. The four hour class is broken down into two age groups, ages 6 to 12 and ages 13 and older. The workshop will be held at the **Benjamin School in Palm Beach Gardens** on **Saturday, February 14, 2008**. The kids workshop starts at 8:30am and the teen/adult class starts at 2:00pm. For more info call 561.404.4290.

## MUSIC VIDEO EARNS GRAMMY NOD



Radiohead

The UK act **Radiohead** takes a strong position in the 2009 Grammy Awards by receiving seven nominations. Their music video, *House of Cards*, shot at the **G-Star Studios** on the **G-Star School of the Arts** campus in

**West Palm Beach**, earlier this year. Under closed set conditions and very tight security, the video was shot with a high definition laser, not a camera!

Please visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and type in "Radiohead Making of House of Cards" to access the behind the scenes video showing the band shooting in G-Star's Studio B, utilizing the Studios' 30 foot lift for high shots, and the Studios' Cast & Crew Transport bus for traveling shots. Fifteen students from the G-Star School of the Arts worked on the sets of the shoot and were invited as VIP guests of the band at the Radiohead concert given at the **Cruzan Amphitheater** in West Palm Beach. For more info please call 561.386.6275.



## NEWS SPOT STARS POPULAR LOCATION



Reminiscent of an Italian town center, **CityPlace** is one of the top visitor destinations in the County with premier shopping and entertainment.

Recently, **WPTV Newschannel 5** utilized the location to shoot a promo with **Keenan Smith**, the new morning meteorologist.

**WPTV Promotions Manager George Docekal** said, "CityPlace is a beautiful representation of downtown West Palm Beach. Can't wait to shoot there again." The promo begins airing this month and runs through March. For info call 561.655.5455.

## MUSIC COMPANY GAINS MOMENTUM



**Reid Whitelaw Productions & Brookside Music Corp.** based in Singer Island, are representing music in the new film, *MILK*, starring **Sean Penn**. Their exclusively managed companies; Philly Groove Records and Silk Music Inc. are represented with the song and recording, "The Player," by First Choice.

Another of their exclusively managed music publishing companies, **Nickel Shoe Music Inc.**, will also be represented with the main title song in the 2009 release of *Fighting* starring **Terrence Howard**, with "Ready Or Not Here I Come (Can't Hide From Love)." Nickel Shoe Music has also been scheduled to have The Delfonics song "Hey Love" included in the yet to be released film *Brooklyn's Finest* starring Richard Gere. The film is scheduled to be seen at Sundance this month. For info call 561.842.3383.

**BrookSide**

## AREA LIBRARY STARS IN THE MOVIES!



Wellington Branch Library

Local director **Octavian Onuc** recently selected the **Wellington Branch Library** as a key location in his new film, *The Novelist*, a thriller about a disgruntled writer who takes a successful novelist hostage at a book signing. The crew shot some of the most pivotal scenes at the library on a

day it was closed and also shot at **Okeehchee Park** and the **G-Star Motion Picture Studios** in **West Palm Beach**. Onuc said, "As soon as I saw this library, I knew it was the perfect location and the support we got from the library and county personnel was outstanding."

*The Novelist* is currently in post-production and is scheduled to be finished in the late Spring or early summer of 2009. Mr. Onuc plans to circulate the film at festivals and hopes to hold screenings at locations such as the G-Star Studios and the Wellington Branch Library. Special thanks to the library staff and the Palm Beach County Facilities Development and Operations Department. For more information visit [newbeginningfilms.com](http://newbeginningfilms.com).

## CITYPLACE HIGHLIGHTS FLA. AS TOP 10



CityPlace in West Palm Beach

The December edition of **P3 Update**, a monthly trade publication, published a feature story on the 'Top 10 Locations in the World'. The photo that introduced the article was a spectacular photo of **CityPlace in West Palm**.

The state of Florida was named in the list because of the state's clear-cut incentive program, its wide variety of incredible studios and because Florida has the third largest crew base in the United States. For info call 561.233.1000.

## AREA HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE IS A SUCCESS



The Palm Beach Gardens Community High School's (PBGHS) Five Star Magnet Program Open House was held on Sunday, December 7, 2008. The event allowed a number of potential magnet students and their parents to explore the possibilities available to future students by meeting staff, other parents, advisory board members and current magnet students.

Instructors **Ed Gigante** and **Marc Goldberg** and current TV and film magnet students were on hand answering questions and promoting the brand new studio facilities, set to open in August 2009. The PBGHS Television and Film Production Technology Program teaches students professionalism through hands-on training and real-life experiences. For more information please call the Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Ava Pence at 561.694.7388.

## FILM FESTIVAL GEARS UP FOR '09

### Palm Beach INTERNATIONAL Film Festival

The 14th Annual **Palm Beach International Film Festival** (PBIFF), taking place **April 23-30, 2009**, is quickly approaching!

Filmmakers worldwide are encouraged to submit their projects for consideration. The deadline for submissions is **January 23, 2009**. Last year's festival attracted worldwide media coverage for filmmakers in publications such as the **New York Times**, **A&E Network**, **Variety**, **Hollywood Reporter** and in hundreds of newspapers and magazine articles.

**A&E Network** selected the PBIFF to be the first to participate in its new "A&E IndieFilms Spotlight" campaign. As part of the campaign, select films from PBIFF aired on the network and on the website, with one selected film televised nationally on A&E. The program was part of A&E IndieFilms' on-going efforts to highlight and support independent filmmaking. Festival organizers have already begun planning for the event which will include a variety of seminars, workshops and parties at exciting and innovative venues. Entry forms and eligibility guidelines are available on [withoutabox.com](http://withoutabox.com) and the festival's website, [pbiffilmfest.org](http://pbiffilmfest.org).

## FESTIVAL ILLUMINATES RICH DIVERSITY



The **Jewish Community Center of the Greater Palm Beaches** presented the **19th Annual Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival** from December 3rd - December 14th with 36 films

from 12 countries. All screenings took place at the **Cobb Downtown 19** in **Palm Beach Gardens**, the **Regal Delray 18** in **Delray Beach** and the **Wellington Reel World Cinema**.

**Executive Director Karen Davis** said, "Artistically, this year's festival was probably one of the best. Financially it was a success with profits coming close and in some areas surpassing last year's festival." For more information please call 561.689.7700 ext. 158.

## 'ROX' IS GOING GLOBAL



Roxanna Cella and  
Randy Jackson

**Palm Beach Rox**, the TV show hosted by **Roxanna Cella** that features information on celebrities, nightlife and more, is going global. After five years of providing Florida and other markets around the world with an insider's look into the Palm Beach lifestyle, **Rox** is launching the **IPTV Network**. This new online network produces

and distributes unique content specifically designed for the web. The Network will also have an e-Commerce portal that will utilize state-of-the-art video streaming technology. Rox said, "We bring the best of world to Palm Beach and the best of Palm Beach to the world. Now we really can do this on a global level." **Palm Beach Rox** also has a full network multi-channel venue as well as a full HD production company. The show airs on the regional **NBC** and **ION** Networks. For more info please visit [palmbeachrox.com](http://palmbeachrox.com).

## PBC PRODUCER FINDS SUCCESS IN CHINA



Monte Young

Film producer **Monte Young** just wrapped the feature film, **Gasp**, which shot entirely in China. The film, which stars **John Savage** (**Deer Hunter**), took six weeks to shoot on a three million dollar Chinese government-funded budget. The film is a fast-paced "tragicomic", pop art vision of fear trying to escape itself, and the self-fulfilling prophecies of people doing everything they can to better their luck. The film is scheduled for a June 2009 release in China with a late 2009 U.S. release planned.

Young began travelling to China for business in 1994, when he worked as a lawyer. When Young decided to change careers to become a filmmaker, he saw an untapped market in China and has successfully been able to capitalize on it. Young said, "I like to stay ahead of the curve. There is globalization in every other industry and so the natural progression is to include the film industry in the global marketplace." In addition to producing films in China, Young has created **Vesta**, a company to help other filmmakers find the necessary resources in the country. Young has a slate of other films that he plans to shoot in China as well.

## CHANNEL 20 EARNS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Palm Beach County Channel 20 producer **Edward Carr** recently earned a **2008 Suncoast Regional Emmy Award** for individual achievement in the photographer-short form category.

The award was given to Carr for **Cato/707 Bridge**, a documentary about the day in the life of a local bridge tender.

Carr was also nominated in a children/youth/teens program category for producing **Get in the Zone**, a PBC Criminal Justice Commission program that provides viewers with a look inside Youth Empowerment Centers. Carr's Emmy is the first received by Channel 20. For more information please call 561.355.4573.

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS & CRUZAN AMPHITHEATRE



South Florida Fairgrounds

The South Florida Fairgrounds home of the South Florida Fair, which runs from January 16 to February 1 is a very film-friendly location in Palm Beach County. Located in West Palm Beach on approximately 130 acres, the Fairgrounds are made up of a variety of diverse areas including the Americraft Expo Center, the Concourse buildings, the Agriplex, the Cruzan Amphitheatre and Yesteryear Village.



Cruzan Ampitheatre

The Americraft Expo Center has over 150,000 square feet of usable space in two separate halls. Exposition Hall West has finished concrete floors, plaster covered masonry walls and it is 25' clear to underside of structure with no columns or obstructions. The Exposition Hall East has a finished, sealed concrete floor, painted block walls to a height of 14'8" and is dividable in the center. Loading in and out of the halls is easy with overhead doors to the exterior as well as between the exhibition halls.

The Concourse buildings offer 38,252 square feet of exhibit space within 10 different rooms, which can be mixed and matched to meet your exact needs. The Agriplex has a large animal barn and a large animal show ring covering 51,000 square feet of usable space.



Riddle House at Yesteryear Village

The Cruzan Amphitheatre is an outdoor venue that seats approximately 19,000 people in both covered and lawn stands. The Amphitheatre has a stage that is 63' deep x 110' wide with a backstage area that consists of 7 dressing rooms, 1 production office, a 3 room shower trailer and a catering room that can hold up to 40 people.

Nearby is Yesteryear Village where visitors are transported back in time to buildings ranging in date from the 1850's to the 1950's. There are original and replicated buildings that include an old school and farmhouse.

Projects that have filmed at the Fairgrounds include the Travel Channel's *Ghost Adventures* which shot at Yesteryear Village and *The Barrett Jackson Car Auction* for the Speed Channel. For info call 561.233.1000.



Agriplex at the Fairgrounds

Editor: Jill Margolius Contributors: Alex Marquez, Amy Peterson-Berry, Christine Tieche | To be included in the newsletter, please call 561.233.1000.

### Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission

1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401



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