

# FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | APRIL 2013



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## GLITTERATI TO GATHER AT THE ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

### Palm Beach International Film Festival

The Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) begins their 18th edition, April 4-11, 2013, and is featuring 26 World Premieres, eight U.S. Premieres and three North American Premieres! PBIFF will present features, documentaries and short films from the U.S. and around the world, including Russia, Spain, Argentina, Italy, France, England, Israel, and Thailand, to name just a few, and will play host to filmmakers, producers, and actors to represent and discuss their films. "We are excited by this year's program," said PBIFF Director **Randi Emerman**, "which reflects our ongoing mission to engage with the community, expanding and enhancing its knowledge of the world through the unique lens of independent film."



*Decoding Annie Parker*

Opening Night kicks off with *Decoding Annie Parker*, directed by Steven Bernstein. The film stars Maggie Grace, Academy Award winner Helen Hunt, Samantha Morton, Rashida Jones and Aaron Paul. Director Steven Bernstein, the real-life Annie Parker and some cast members will attend. Opening Night festivities will take place Thursday, April 4 at Muvico Parisian at CityPlace, followed by a party on the rooftop of Two City Plaza. The fest will close with the U.S. Premiere of *Chez Upshaw*, a comedy directed by Bruce Mason and starring Illeana Douglas and Kevin Pollak. Director Bruce Mason and Illeana Douglas will attend. Closing night festivities take place at Frank Theatres CineBowl & Grille/IMAX on Thursday, April 11, followed by the "It's a Wrap" party. Additional highlights of the PBIFF include the Weekend of Shorts, Voices of Local Film, and a Eastern European sidebar. For info visit [pbiffilmfest.org](http://pbiffilmfest.org).



*Chez Upshaw*

## HIGHLAND BEACH WELCOMES PRODUCTIONS



*Highland Beach*

The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) is thrilled to announce that the **Town of Highland Beach** is the newest member of the FTC's Free One-Stop permitting process! One-Stop permitting provides picturesque and unique locations without the worry of location fees.

Highland Beach is located in the southern portion of eastern Palm Beach County. The Town encompasses a three mile stretch, and is bounded on the north and northwest by Delray Beach and on the south and southwest by Boca Raton. The Atlantic Ocean lies adjacent to the Town on the east and the Intracoastal Waterway lies to the west. The Town's "main street" is a tree-lined stretch of A1A. The Town has a library in the

Town Hall complex next to the Intracoastal Waterway, and other locations that can suit a variety of productions. For more info call 561.233.1000.



## SPEED CHANNEL RACES TO PBC



*Barrett-Jackson*

SPEED is broadcasting more than 20 hours of live, high-definition TV coverage of the **11th Annual Barrett-Jackson Car Auction!** The broadcast will be on Thursday, April 4 from 2:00pm-8:00pm, Friday, April 5 from 2:00pm-8:00pm, and Saturday, April 6 from 11:00am-1:00pm and 4:00pm-8:30pm (EST). The renowned auction will take place at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach.



"Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach is sure to be an exciting celebration this year," said **Steve Davis**, president of Barrett-Jackson. "We're consigning some really rare, stunning cars, diverse enough for every level of enthusiast. I'm very much looking forward to seeing all of the Barrett-Jackson fans in Palm Beach." For more information about Barrett-Jackson, visit [barrett-jackson.com](http://barrett-jackson.com) or call 480.421.6694.





PARKS WELCOMES 'BIGGEST LOSER'



NBC'S *The Biggest Loser* featured the West Boynton Recreation Center during a segment that aired last month! The production crew filmed the "Challenge America" portion of the program at the park. Joe Ostaszewski from Boynton Beach is one of the final contestants.



*The Biggest Loser*

"The West Boynton Recreation Center was the perfect place for our workout shoot. The facility served as a great location and Jim Henneman and his staff were so cooperative and accommodating. Many thanks to PBC, everything went well and Joe and his family and friends had a great time," said Michael La Plante, Story Producer. For more info visit [nbc.com](http://nbc.com).

FRONT ROW SEAT AT FASHION WEEK



Roxanna Cella

Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, also known as New York Fashion Week, is one of the biggest fashion events in the world. Held semi-annually in February and September, it is one of four fashion weeks in the world. Recently, [Roxworld.TV](http://Roxworld.TV) decided to bring the best of New York City to their viewers by streaming the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week live on their website. "We are the first ever multi-channel television network to provide live streaming video of Mercedes Benz Fashion Week," said Roxanna Cella, president of [Roxworld.TV](http://Roxworld.TV). The designer shows that were included on Roxworld.TV's live stream included Badgley Mischka, Nautica, Vega Wang, Michael Kors, Lacoste, and Nicole Miller. At [Roxworld.TV](http://Roxworld.TV), everything from fashion to sports is a priority.



The latest episode of *Palm Beach Rox* has a segment on the premiere of *Parker* that was held at the Muvico Parisian at CityPlace. Rox was there to cover all of the action, and interviewed Jason Statham and Taylor Hackford on the red carpet. For more info visit [Roxworld.TV](http://Roxworld.TV) or [PalmBeachRox.com](http://PalmBeachRox.com).

MEDIA PERSONALITIES STAR ON WXEL



Laurel Sauer



Alan Gerstel

Two of Palm Beach County's VIP's came together to host a new show on WXEL! Hosted by Laurel Sauer and Alan Gerstel, "Heritage" is a showcase of programming that features local South Florida History on a wide range of topics. These award-winning half hour programs were written and produced by their partners at The Education Network (T.E.N.). WXEL reaches from Vero Beach to North Miami. Nearly 2.3 Million people!



A familiar face in South Florida for 29 years, Laurel Sauer is a well-known media personality in the Palm Beaches.. Alan Gerstel is a weekend Anchor for the Fox 29 Ten O'clock News and the Anchor of News 12's weekend newscast on WPEC News12. For info visit [wxel.org](http://wxel.org).

CREATIVE COMPANY CONQUERS NEW DOC



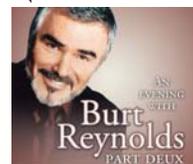
Filming of Conquer Series

Creative Lab in West Palm Beach is producing a new faith-based documentary series on manhood in the 21st century. The production team follows the true story of Dr. Ted Roberts, a former U.S. Marine fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, who relives his battle experiences and shares his greatest lessons on warfare with men, and helping them apply these strategies to their personal and professional lives. The Series includes action-packed battle reenactments with fighter jets and interviews.



"Shooting in Palm Beach County couldn't be more ideal. It has some of the most filmic and accessible locations in Florida," said Tiana Wiles, co-owner of Creative Lab. The Conquer Series will be available on DVD this spring. It will be distributed nationwide and internationally according to Wiles. Creative Lab also offers equipment rentals. For info visit [creativelabrentals.com](http://creativelabrentals.com).

VETERAN ACTOR RETURNS TO THE LYRIC STAGE!



Mega-Star Burt Reynolds returned to the Lyric Theatre for an intimate evening of insider stories and fond memories from a man whose multi-decade acting career has cemented him as one of the most famous movie stars of all time. Audiences heard Reynolds speak openly about his experiences over the years, from his award-winning work on films such as *Smokey and the Bandit* and *Boogie Nights* to his Emmy-winning work on television.

Apart from his success on stage and in film, Reynolds has spent a great deal of time and energy supporting his local community. Over the past decades, Reynolds has been a vibrant element of the town of Jupiter and beyond, creating and facilitating the Burt Reynolds Institute of Film and Theatre, which provides classes and educational opportunities for aspiring actors, as well as having a local park named in his honor. For info visit [lyrictheatre.com](http://lyrictheatre.com).



INT'L HONORS FOR LOCAL MUSIC VIDEO



L-R: Aaron Wells, Casey Derhak, Brooke Thomas, and Jared Kaufmann

A music video produced for Jupiter, FL, native **Casey Derhak** was honored with an Award of Merit at 2013's The Indie Fest. "Off the Back of the Boat" was shot over three days on a micro-budget with a skeleton crew, including capturing spontaneous events as Derhak played for appreciative fans throughout Palm Beach County. "It's all about enjoying the great gifts of sun, sand, and smiles—which made Palm Beach County the perfect location, it's all here in our backyard," said Executive Producer **Travis Suit**. "Off the Back of the Boat" was directed and edited by award-winning filmmaker **Aaron Wells**; Jared Kaufmann co-produced.

The Indie Fest recognizes film professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity, and those who produce standout entertainment or contribute to profound social change. "Off the Back of the Boat" is streaming online on YouTube at [youtube.com/tropicallyimpairedtv](http://youtube.com/tropicallyimpairedtv). For more info call Aaron Wells at 561.792.7290 or Travis Suit at 561.246.0205.

NEW TOURISM CHIEF IN TOWN



Glenn Jergensen

The Palm Beach County (PBC) Tourist Development Council, the organization responsible for the oversight of PBC's tourism agencies, has named **Glenn Jergensen** as their new Executive Director. Jergensen was the Operations Vice -President at the PBC Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"My goal is to do a better job of letting cities, towns, and redevelopment agencies as well as tourism partners at hotels and attractions know more about how the bed tax agencies are promoting the County as a destination," said Jergensen. For more information call 561.233.3130.

POP STAR PUPPY COMES TO PBC!



A dog that can sing is the premise of the new independent feature film, *Pop Star Puppy* which is set to shoot in Palm Beach County, FL. The film will be produced and directed by **Andrew Van Slee**. Under the flag of his production company **IFA Films**, Van Slee has not only written, directed and produced a plethora of independent films but also discovered one of the music industries hottest talents, **Michael Buble**.

"We are shooting in PBC for two reasons, one the great weather! Our film is an uplifting story about a boy and his magical dog. The story is bright and positive and the weather here will help deliver that. Secondly, we can appreciate the State's tax credits, they help in terms of the budget department," said Van Slee. The majority of the film will be shot at G-Star Studios, and Van Slee plans to have a theatrical distribution. The film was also approved by the DOVE Foundation as a Family Film suitable for family audiences. For info visit [ifmalliance.com](http://ifmalliance.com).



Andrew Van Slee

BOCA ATTORNEY BECOMES A 'STAR'



Richard Warren Rappaport

Boca Raton attorney **Richard Warren Rappaport** was just published by ABA Publishing (American Bar Association, Chicago) and has become a "best seller" at the ABA! The book, "STAR! Finding Artistic and Commercial Success in the New Entertainment Industry" presents the world of entertainment for artists, attorneys, and industry pros.

It discusses topics such as artistic creativity and the business of the entertainment industry. STAR! may be purchased through the ABA at [apps.americanbar.org/abastore](http://apps.americanbar.org/abastore) (search for STAR).



NEW SHORT FILM DIRECTED BY PAST STUDENT SHOWCASE OF FILMS WINNER



*Without Delay*, a short film directed by **Jean Carlo Ramirez** wrapped principal photography in Palm Beach County (PBC). Ramirez was a 2012 finalist in the annual Student Showcase of Films, placing second in the High School Feature/Short Category. Ramirez is working closely on this film with Producer **Marco Comeau**. "We chose PBC because of the broad spectrum of locations, and it was very easy to get the support we needed during filming," said Comeau.



Without Delay

Filming locations included G-Star Studios, Lantana Airport, and a private home. The film is an inspirational tale that dramatizes the significance of family and leaves you remembering that above all, your family is your life. They plan to circulate the film at upcoming film festivals. A screening will be held at Muvico Parisian in CityPlace on April 17 at 7:00pm. For more info visit [jcarlofilms.info](http://jcarlofilms.info).



LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: PGA NATIONAL RESORT & SPA



PGA National

Tournament play at PGA National has long been the calling card for champions and a source of inspiration for thousands of players since PGA National originally opened as a golf club in 1964. The property transformed itself over the years and

has a long list of tournaments including the 1987 PGA Championship on its resume. It currently hosts the Honda Classic each spring, which brings in people from all over the world.



Luxurious Pool

The PGA National Resort & Spa enjoys a reputation for more than golf on the sprawling property with five croquet lawns, 19 Har-Tru tennis courts, nine restaurants, zero entry pool, lakeside vistas, specialty suites, fitness center, five croquet lawns and a 40,000 square foot European spa.



Specialty Suite

For filmmakers and photographers PGA National offers the elusive "Anywhere, USA" look with several options for golf and related industry products to be featured without palm trees or homes in the distance that are appealing for producers

that are looking for film-friendly golf courses. The specialty suites make an ideal interview location for celebrity interview while the high hedges, sweeping vistas and meticulously manicured landscaping are perfect backdrops for product shots and footage.



Honda Classic

PGA National's marketing team is well-versed in photo shoots and film production and are available for site scouting and can take care of catering and lodging needs. Recent film productions include

Garmin, MasterCard, Ballantine's, Fashionizer, Piquet Audemars, and Hospice of Palm Beach County. If your next production needs golf, tennis, croquet, restaurants and bars, a fire pit, fitness or a luxury spa be sure to consider PGA National as a location. For more info please visit [pgaresort.com](http://pgaresort.com).

EDUCATION CORNER: SHOW ME THE FUNNY-SSOF BRINGS LAUGHS TO LYNN



Student Finalists

More than 700 students and film enthusiasts gathered to honor the winners of the 2013 Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) with more than \$10,000 in prizes and an awards show featuring finalists and celebrities on the red carpet.

Checks were awarded to the winning schools and students throughout the State of Florida. As part of the Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF), winning films will be screened in their entirety during the festival.



Burt Reynolds and Bruce Campbell

Prior to the awards show, competition finalists and industry VIPs walked the red carpet into the Keith C. & Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center at Lynn University. Hollywood legend and PBC native Burt Reynolds and "Burn Notice's" Bruce Campbell, also of the cult classic films *Evil Dead* and *Army of Darkness*, were among the day's presenters. Before awarding the students, the ceremony

opened with a retro-themed video, song and "movie line" performance by the event's host, and local actor and comedian, Frank Licari; directed by V. Alex Marquez, a local filmmaker and 10-year veteran of SSOF. The opening act was an ode to movies of an earlier era and also included actress, award-winning filmmaker and FTC board member, Suzanne Niedland; and local actor and musician David Weinstein – in addition to a surprise cameo by Burt Reynolds! Other presenters and industry professionals who participated in the show included actress Taylor Blackwell, Lynn University President Dr. Kevin M. Ross; Dean Lyon, who worked on visual effects for films such as *Avatar*, and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; KVJ Show Host Virginia Sinicki from WILD 95.5 FM; The Palm Beach Post's Leslie Gray Streeter; PBIFF Chair Yvonne Boice; and producer and actor Jacqueline Renee Journey, best-known for her role on "Friday Night Lights." For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).



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- Hal R. Valeche
- Paulette Burdick
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- Production Manager, Jill Margolius
- Production Coordinator, Vanessa Horta
- Office Coordinator, TBD
- Location Coordinator, Kelly King
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