

Focus on Film

NEWS FROM THE PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM & TELEVISION COMMISSION

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Cane Cast: Photo Credit: CBS

PBC'S WESTERN COMMUNITIES ATTRACT MAJOR PRODUCTIONS

The serenity and warm hospitality of the western communities in Palm Beach County has been attracting all sorts of productions lately! A tinseltown based production company is currently looking to film parts of their upcoming feature film in various areas of **Pahokee** including private corn fields. Pahokee also made a cameo appearance in the new intergenerational drama, **Cane**, which airs **Tuesdays at 10:00pm** on CBS. The show, which stars Emmy winner **Jimmy Smits** was shot at **US Sugar** and on various roads surrounding Pahokee. Stay tuned to future newsletters and call 561.233.1000 for more information.



Corn Fields in Pahokee



LEGENDARY FOOTBALL BATTLE ATTRACTS CABLE TV COVERAGE

Football fans from near and far flock every year to the region's most talked about high school football event, the epic battle known as the **Muck Bowl**. This year, **NFL Films** out of New Jersey came to Palm Beach County for close to a week to shoot an episode of the show, **Great High School Rivalries**, which aired on the **Versus Channel** on Thanksgiving Day. The crew not only filmed the Muck Bowl but also lensed various areas of **Belle Glade** and **Pahokee** as these towns geared up for the big game. The crew was accommodated at the **Residence Inn in West Palm Beach**. For more information please visit nflfilms.com.



Muck Bowl



PBC AGENCY RECEIVES A STANDING 'OVATION'

The Palm Beach County Cultural Council was honored with an **Ovation Award for Excellence in Performing Arts** for an episode of their television show, **Cultural Capital** that airs on the County's Education and Government Television station, **Channel 20**. The winning episode about **Step Afrika**, a professional dance company that celebrates a particular type of dance called "stepping" is now posted for view on the Ovation TV Network's website and will also be available through Video on Demand. **Cultural Council President and CEO Rena Blades** said, "We're very excited about **Cultural Capital** gaining this national recognition. This award not only reflects the quality and interest of the show on **Step Afrika** and the wonderful work the production staff did, but it's also a fantastic accolade for PBC arts and culture." For more info call 561.471.1601 or visit palmbeachculture.com.



MILLION DOLLAR SHOWDOWN ATTRACTS MAJOR TV NETWORKS

With nine hours of national coverage on the **Golf Channel** and **NBC**, the **ADT Championship** showcased one of PBC's most beautiful golf courses! A competitive field of the top 32 players on the **Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour** came to the Donald's exclusive **Trump International Golf Club** in **West Palm Beach** to compete for a \$1 million dollar purse. **The Palm Beach County Sports Commission** helped to coordinate the event, which was held **November 15-18**. In the six years that the ADT Championship has been here in PBC over \$650,000



has been distributed to local charities including **Children's Place at Home Safe**. For more info visit lpga.com.



LONGEST RUNNING FESTIVAL CELEBRATES JEWISH CULTURE

The Jewish Community Center of the Greater Palm Beaches presents the **18th Annual Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival** this month with 26 films from nine different countries and an Israeli eight-part TV series, making the festival a true international film experience! Opening night kicks off with the film **Sixty-Six**, a comedy about a young boy planning his Bar-Mitzvah during World Cup Fever. All of the screenings will take place at the **Cobb Downtown 19 in Palm Beach Gardens** and the **Regal Delray 18 in Delray Beach**. **Executive Director Karen Davis** said, "This is one of the strongest film festivals we've ever had! We are thrilled about celebrating our 18th year of bringing outstanding international films of Jewish interest to Palm Beach County." For more information please call 561.689.7700 ext. 158.



SUCCESSFUL PR CAMPAIGN DERAILS NEGATIVE STORIES ON BEACHES...

Last month, the **Weather Channel** set up shop in PBC to cover the severe beach erosion caused by Tropical Storm Noel. The newly appointed head of the **PBC Convention and Visitor's Bureau Jorge Pesquera** swung into action with a response campaign to get the word out that the majority of beaches were accessible to visitors. Pesquera said, "We were able to derail a potentially devastating story on our destination." PBC's Environmental Resources Management has been working diligently to restore the affected beaches and **Environmental Director Daniel Bates** said, "The restoration is going well and we expect to be done by January."



Location Spotlight

Palm Beach Zoo



Photo courtesy of Keith Lovett

If you are in need of lush, exotic locales look no further than the **Palm Beach Zoo** in **West Palm Beach**. With authentic reproductions of Mayan pyramids and sculptures throughout the zoo as well as a spectacular wooden bridge, your production can seem as if you filmed in the jungles of Central



Mayan Pyramid

America. Tucked away on the shore of beautiful Baker Lake in the heart of the zoo, the Tropics Café is a pleasant hideaway with an Amazon Basin theme.

Jaguars, bush dogs and giant anteaters are just a few of the animals that make their home in this 3-acre recreation of a Central and South American rainforest.

As an added bonus, animals such as Asian Eagle Owls and sloths can be used in photo shoots with the help of trained animal handlers that work at the Zoo. Another unique feature is the one-of-a-kind carousel which showcases thirty-two colorful and detailed sculptures including horses, hummingbirds and zebras. For more info on this location call 561.233.1000.



Wooden Bridge



Carousel



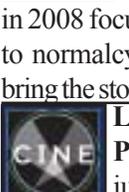
Frank Eberling

SCHOOL BOARD ATTACKS VIOLENCE WITH NEW VIDEOS...Local filmmaker, **Frank Eberling** said it was a logistical challenge to coordinate a large cast of children, sheriff's deputies and faculty. But his hard work paid off as he directed the first of a series of videos called **Code Red** designed to educate people about what to do if a violent situation occurs on school property. The videos were produced in conjunction with **Playimage Productions** and crewed by **T.E.N.**, the school board's TV station.



Wells filming the Volcano

LOCAL DIRECTOR TAPPED FOR FIERY PROGRAM ON VOLCANOES...Aaron Wells of **Silver Beach Productions** in Wellington wrapped shooting on the island of Montserrat for a TV show tentatively titled **Flashpoint** about the 1995 eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano. The show, which is scheduled to air on the **History Channel** in 2008 focuses on the history of the volcano and the island's difficult struggle back to normalcy. **Cheri Sundae Productions** out of Hollywood, CA hired Wells to bring the story to life along with journalist **Malcolm Boyes**. For info call 561.792.7290.



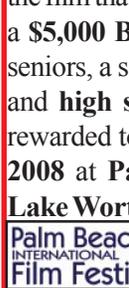
CINE

LOCAL FILMMAKERS WEIGH IN ON EXCELLENCE IN PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION...Four local filmmakers recently judged the short documentary category in the **Fall 2007 CINE Golden Eagle Film and Video Competition**. Jury chair, **Suzanne Niedland** of **BusEye Films** recruited **Frank Eberling** of the **Palm Beach Film Group**, **Kimberly Cooke**, an independent documentary filmmaker and **Aaron Wells** of **Silver Beach Productions** to view the latest round of hopefuls. For more info visit www.cine.org.



Education Corner

CALLING ALL FLORIDA STUDENT FILMMAKERS! The **Student Showcase of Films (SSOF)**, a companion event to the **Palm Beach International Film Festival** is proud to announce the **2008 Official Call for Entries!** Industry professionals will judge the following categories: **Feature/Shorts, Documentaries, Animation, Commercial/PSA, Music Video** and new this year a special "Audience Award" will also be given to the film that receives the most online votes. The competition also includes awarding a **\$5,000 Burt Reynolds scholarship** to two Palm Beach County high school seniors, a screenwriting contest and a \$1,000 poster competition open to **middle and high school** students. Over \$25,000 in scholarships and awards will be rewarded to High School and College students on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008** at **Palm Beach Community College's Duncan Theatre** in **Lake Worth**. The deadline for entries is **Thursday, January 17, 2008**.



Palm Beach International Film Festival

Entry forms are available at pbfilm.com under Student Showcase of Films or call 561.233.1000 for more info.



APRIL 15-17, 2008

short takes



MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS BLACK CULTURE IN NEW VIDEO...

A new documentary commissioned by the **Spady Museum** in **Delray Beach** helps to provide an understanding of the far-reaching role that black high schools played in the history of Palm Beach County. The documentary includes recollections of days spent at various high schools including **Carver High School** in **Delray Beach** and **Everglades Vocational School** in **Belle Glade**. For purchasing info please call 561.279.8883.



FILMMAKER AIMS TO RAISE DRUG AWARENESS THROUGH NEW FILM

Local **Director/Producer Suki DeJong** recently made **All Apologies**, a 20-minute documentary about her son that passed away from taking GHB, a recreational drug and common rape drug. The film was shot mostly in **West Palm Beach** and DeJong is in the process of obtaining distribution to expose the dangers of the drug to the masses. The DVD is being sold for \$20 and can be purchased at projectghb.org.



NEW PROGRAMMING SPICES UP TV STATION...

West Palm Beach's government access channel, **WPB-TV**, has reached an agreement in principle with Chef **David Pantone** of the **Florida Culinary Institute** and the **Downtown Development Authority** to produce a new cooking show about healthy eating. **WPB-TV** will also be carrying a new Spanish language public affairs show, **Enfoque Comunitario**. For info visit wpbtv.org.



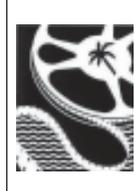
ASPIRING TALENT TO SHINE AT POPULAR VENUE...

The South Florida Fair will once again be searching for this year's most talented **Starz and Battle of the Bands** contestants! Auditions will be held from **Saturday, December 8** through **Tuesday, December 11** and the fair will be held from **January 18** through **February 3, 2008**. For more info please visit southfloridafair.com and click on the **Starz** logo.



NEW FESTIVAL DESIGNED TO CELEBRATE INDIE FILMS...

The organizers of the inaugural **South Florida Indie Film Fest** hope to promote local independent filmmakers with a new film festival debuting on **January 22, 2008!** The deadline for entries is **December 14** and the festival is open to anyone seeking to highlight their short films. For more info visit soflaindyfilmfest.com.



Film Commissioner, **Chuck Elder**
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Production Manager, **Michelle Marton**
Production Coordinator, **Jill Margolius**
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If you would like to be included in this monthly publication, please contact the **FTC** at 561.233.1000 or email information to jmargolius@pbfilm.com.

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