

FOCUS on FILM

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



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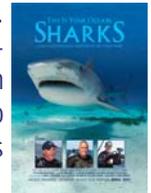
'SHARK WHISPERER' GETS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH ABC



ABC News with Jim Abernethy

Local shark enthusiast **Jim Abernethy** aka 'The Shark Whisperer' was featured on **ABC News** in a story called *Taking the Plunge*. ABC News' **Matt Gutman** suits up and talks with Abernethy all about sharks. The riveting story shows how Abernethy has formed a relationship with sharks, and believes that they can be friends not foe. He has been diving with sharks for over 35 years, and has developed a friendship with one Tiger shark in particular that he named Emma.

Abernethy was also featured in the film, *This Is Your Ocean: Sharks*. His connection and love for sharks plays a key role in the film with never before seen footage of a shark clearly showing affection for a human. Abernethy was also featured in the Fall 2013 issue of *art&culture* magazine. The article explores how Abernethy is able to capture such incredible photos of sharks.



Want to see sharks up close? **The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County** dives into the season with its new exhibit, "The Deep and the Shallow: Photographers Exploring a Watery World." Inspired by the ocean and its inhabitants, the exhibit highlights the work of 12 photographers, including Abernethy. One of his pieces, "Shark," gives the viewer an up-close and personal shot of a shark, while making the photo look almost like a painting. "These photographers will capture your imagination with what they found above and below the surface,"

said Cultural Council President **Rena Blades**. The exhibit runs through January 18, 2014. For more info visit palmbeachculture.com.



FILM CO. INKS DEAL FOR NEW REALITY SHOW



Rick Pamplin and Eric Streit

The **Pamplin Film Company** has signed contracts with two Hollywood reality TV producers to partner on the production of a network TV series to be based and partially shot in Palm Beach County. Award-winning independent filmmaker and Palm Beach resident **Rick Pamplin** helped develop the original series after working as a consultant on the highly rated Animal Planet series *Gator Boys*, which is filmed in Florida, and the Bravo TV mini-series *Showbiz Moms and Dads* -- which also featured Pamplin in the cast.

Pamplin's partners, **Eric Streit** (*Fearless Jimmy Entertainment*) and **Jeffrey L. Weaver** (*Weaverville Productions, Inc.*), specialize in reality/documentary television. "We expect to begin shooting in the spring of 2014 with a projected air date/debut in August of next year," says Pamplin, who will serve as a producer, writer and on-air talent. For info visit pamplinfilmcompany.com.

PB SHORES IS READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UP



Johnston & Murphy shooting in Palm Beach Shores

The crew from **Route 7 Productions, Inc.**, out of Miami Beach produced a fashion photography shoot for **Johnston & Murphy**. The shoot took place in **Palm Beach Shores**. "The look and feel for the upcoming Johnston & Murphy ads for Spring 2014 were to reflect the sophisticated look...but the casual feel of the brand. The County offers great assistance to shooting, and PBIAC is close by making flights easily accessible. The Palm Beach Shores beach is so varied that in some places it looks like Charleston, in others Cape Cod and in some spots like Miami. You get so many looks in such a small amount of space," said Producer **Brandon Deyette**.



The photos and behind the scenes footage will be used for magazines, in store ads, signage, online ads and more. For info visit johnstonmurphy.com.



FOCUS ON FILM

FILM DIGS UP THE DIRT ON COMPOSTING



Deborah Koons Garcia

Symphony of the Soil, a documentary by Director/Producer/Writer **Deborah Koons Garcia** screened at CityPlace in West Palm Beach. Several organizations asked her to screen the film locally, since PBC will discontinue its soil composting program next year. Part of the proceeds from the screening will go toward a community composting program planned in Lake Worth.

"The screening energized people interested in these ideas. It was wonderful to have over 400 attendees, and be able to move communities toward positive action," said Garcia. For more info visit symphonyofthesoil.com.



SHOPPING BUZZ IN WEST PALM BEACH



The buzz has already started for the new **Palm Beach Outlets** currently being built in West Palm Beach. Opening in February 2014, the redevelopment of this site will feature approximately 500,000 square feet of outlet shopping including some of the best names in fashion.



Photo Shoot on the West Palm Beach City Docks

Montana Pritchard Photography out of West Palm Beach was hired to produce a photo shoot for the Outlets. "The variety of locations in such a close proximity to the studio made Palm Beach a perfect choice for this shoot. Along with that, the availability of experienced crew based locally brought the two elements together wonderfully," said Montana Pritchard. Many locations in West Palm Beach were utilized for this shoot including the city docks and Table 26 Restaurant. The photos will be seen on billboards, online, and in print. For more info visit montanaphoto.com.



Photo Shoot at Table 26 Restaurant

IT'S A WRAP!



Cast and Crew of Hidden Assets in Lake Worth

The feature film *Hidden Assets* has wrapped production! The film shot in the City of Lake Worth and stars **Jacqueline Journey** (*Friday Night Lights*), **Steve Daron** (*Hollow Creek*) and **Chris Marks** (*Burn Notice*). Journey is also the Writer/Director of the film.

JOURNEY

"We were thrilled with the level of expertise and professionalism of our local cast and crew. The City of Lake Worth and Palm Beach County were tremendously helpful, and went the extra mile to help make our production a huge success," said Journey. *Hidden Assets* was also featured on a segment of the TV show, *The List*. For more info visit hiddenassetsmovie.com.

THE 'REEL' JEWISH WORLD

FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO YOU - THE BEST IN JEWISH FILM



Films, documentaries and shorts will be shown during **The Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival** from **January 16-26, 2014**, in Palm Beach County. Films will be shown at venues including Cobb Downtown 16 in Palm Beach Gardens, Kravis Center and the Norton Museum.

Now in its 24th season, the festival has a new director, **Ellen Wedner**. Wedner has more than a decade of experience running film festivals. From 2003 to 2013, she directed the Miami Jewish Film Festival. She created two other Miami-based festivals, KidFlix and the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and directed the 2010 Fire Island Pines Film Festival in New York. "The great thing about a Jewish Film Festival is that being Jewish is not a prerequisite for enjoying this festival. There is something for everyone from romantic comedies to edge of the seat thrillers. The films are truly international this year," said Wedner. For more info visit pbjff.org.

GOT CONTENT? PALM BEACH COUNTY WELCOMES A NEW NETWORK



BYL Network, Inc. is the first "free" 24-hour personalized Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Entertainment Network developed to better the lives of consumers around the world. The network will allow users "free of charge" a way to personalize their own "Better Your Life" dashboard by storing and sharing everything from TV programs, radio shows, magazines and social events; all in one place. A one stop personalized solution.

BYL Network Inc. was formed by **Jordan Aloop**, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and **Danielle Silverman**, Executive Producer. The network will feature content to help motivate and educate people, with a programming line-up to include original and syndicated programs hosted by celebrities, experts and real people from around the world. BYL Network's overall mission is to help today's consumer focus on the five areas of life: Health, Family, Money, Travel and Fun. For more info visit bylnetwork.com.



FEATURE FILM COMES OUT OF 'HIDING'



Hiding Victoria, a feature film written, directed and produced by **Dan Chinander** recently debuted on hulu.com. *Hiding Victoria* was shot in Palm Beach County in 2006. The movie was made in association with the G-Star School of the Arts. It is a drama about a Palm Beach Socialite hiring a convicted felon as her help mate. It won a Best Feature Film Award at the San Fernando Valley International Film Festival, an Audience Choice Award in the Asheville International Film Festival and was an Official selection in a number of other film festivals. **Margo Harshman** (*Disney's Even Stevens*) and **Anita Gillette** (*Moonstruck*) star in the film.



Hiding Victoria at G-Star in '06

Dan Chinander is currently in development on his next feature titled *Blues Man* starring Malcolm McDowell and James Earl Jones. For more information please visit hulu.com/watch/536803 or hidingvictoria.com. For more information on the G-Star School of the Arts please visit gstarschool.org.

CREW GOES 'HOUSE HUNTING' ON HGTV



Osprey Point Golf

The production team from Circus Dog Productions and Pie Town Productions out of North Hollywood, CA came to Boca Raton to film a segment for an upcoming episode HGTV's *House Hunters*.

House Hunters takes viewers behind the scenes as individuals, couples, and families learn what to look for and decide whether or not a home is meant for them. The crew shot at **Osprey Point Golf Course** in **Boca Raton** and at private locations in Palm Beach County. For more information visit hgtv.com.

GERMAN PROGRAM SHOWCASES WPB



Veterans Parade

Endemol, a production company out of Germany came to the U.S. to film an episode of the series, *Bitte melde dich*. The episode focuses on two adult children searching for their father who was last known to be in the West Palm Beach area.

The crew shot at the **Veterans Day Parade**, and at the **Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church** in West Palm Beach. The crew filmed the choir performing, and filmed the host of the show entering the church and enjoying the service. "The congregation was pleased to welcome the crew. It was an excellent opportunity as a church to outreach internationally, and we are looking forward to more production in the future," said First Lady of the Church, **Mami Kisner**. *Bitte melde dich* has traveled to many countries hoping to reunite loved ones with long-lost relatives. For more information call 561.233.1000.



Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

FILM FESTIVAL IS HEARING 'VOICES'



Submissions are now open for the **2014 Voices of Local Film** at the **Palm Beach International Film Festival!** Early deadline is February 7, 2014 and the final (late) deadline is February 21, 2014. The Palm Beach Film Society is looking for South Florida and Treasure Coast filmmakers to submit their short films, documentaries and music videos. Download the submission guide at PBFilmSociety.org.

The 19th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival will take place April 3-10, 2014. For more info visit pbfilmfest.org.

DYNAMIC FATHER, DAUGHTER DUO SHINE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES ON TELEVISION



Ric Blackwell



Taylor Blackwell

Ric Blackwell, returns to **CBS 12** as the weekend morning news anchor. He has spent close to 20 years at the station anchoring both news and sports. Ric has been nominated for two Emmys and has won several awards for his reporting. Ric also currently hosts "Good Sports," a nightly show on the Palm Beach County School District's Education Network. The show profiles athletes inside the school system.

Ric has four children, and one of them has become a successful actress. **Taylor Blackwell** has been acting since she was five years old, and has appeared in more than 35 commercials and 10 films. For the last two years, she has been a series regular on the **Starz** series, *Magic City*. She also appeared in *The Glades* on **A&E**, and was a presenter at the Student Showcase of Films. For more info call 561.233.1000.



FOCUS ON FILM

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: THE WESTERN EDGE

Western Palm Beach County is rich with agriculture, equestrian and beautiful marshlands. Not only does the area offer three seasons of growing crops, along with barns and equestrian venues, there are also airboats and flat tracks for traversing the Florida Everglades and Lake Okeechobee.



Bedner's Market

Bedner's Market is a family run agriculture based business with crops, hayrides, a seasonal pumpkin patch, covered pavilion and an off-site packing house. The architecture is a beautiful red barn like structure with a nod toward old fashioned. Filmmakers can get agriculture growing in the field shots as well as processing. There is vintage equipment that can also make great backdrops.



PB Downs

The 85 acres that makes up the **Palm Beach Downs** sits on the western edge of Delray and is open year round. They offer a one mile dirt track and a seven furlong turf track with stall barns and 22 groom rooms along with an electric starting gate for thoroughbred training. This facility is dedicated to training but is open to and familiar with film projects of all kinds. They are also affiliated with Sunshine Meadows and Delray Equestrian Center.



Slim's Fish Camp

Slim's Fish Camp on **Torry Island** is one of the gateways into Lake Okeechobee. The Corbin family has been providing dockage, bait and tackle and fishing guides since 1930 as well as facilitating the operation of the county's manual swing bridge that allows cars to transverse the rim canal onto Torry Island where they can launch their boats or enjoy hiking or biking along the Herbert Hoover Dike. The bridge is opened on demand during daylight hours by boats. The rim canal is a favorite of bird watchers and nature lovers as there is an opportunity to view a variety of flora and fauna. For more information visit pbfilm.com.



Swing Bridge

EDUCATION CORNER: LOCALLY BASED AUTISM CHANNEL CALMS THE AIRWAVES



A new television channel is pioneering the airwaves with their niche programming. West Palm Beach's own Flying Pig Ranch Studios is home to **The Autism Channel (TAC)**.



Michael Precourt and Anthony Canzonetta

TAC features a variety of programming, including their Movie Critic duo of **Michael Precourt** and **Anthony Canzonetta**. What is unique about "this duo is that they are on the spectrum of autism. Their reviews target viewers that not only want to know if it's good, but also to know how friendly a film is to watch for an individual on the autism spectrum. All of the programming on TAC is targeted towards families with members on the autism spectrum. It also regularly puts people with autism in front of the camera. Their highest rated show is *Time Out*. The program is seven minutes of soothing music and images designed to calm an agitated autistic brain.

The creators of TAC are **Jerry Trowbridge** and **Ray Smithers**. They are radio news veterans and serial entrepreneurs. In the 1980's, they developed a 1-800 telephone system to help customers locate the nearest Walgreens or Cirrus network ATM. It was a TED talk by autistic activist, Temple Grandin that inspired them to create TAC. Trowbridge believes autism programming is ready to go from obscurity to mainstream.



Autism Channel

Viewing the on-demand streaming video channel requires a Roku box and an Internet feed fast enough to support one. Roku set-top boxes can be found at most big box stores. TAC will soon be rolling out two new brands for TVs prewired to connect to the internet and display programming with no external devices needed. For more information visit theautismchannel.tv.

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