FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | FEBRUARY 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

1. THE NUMBERS ARE IN
2. TEE OFF HONDA CLASSIC
3. AFRICAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
4. BOCA SHINES ON ESPN
5. FILM AT TOURISM DAY
6. EDUCATION CORNER: SSOF THEME EMERGES
7. LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: ROMANTIC PLACES

PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO GROW IN PBC

Palm Beach County (PBC) is known for being camera-ready, welcoming production projects with a film-friendly community, free permits and discounted production space. The saturated colors of our tropical climate translate beautifully in a variety of media. The total number of permitted and non-permitted productions in PBC increased in 2015, with a marked increase in non-permitted productions by 18%. In 2015 television reigned supreme, filling screens across the country with views of our cultural hot spots, abundant natural lands and iconic architecture. Among those shows include **Ballers** on **HBO, Graceland** on **USA Network, The Ultimate Fighter** on **FOX Sports, The Vanilla Ice Project** on **DIY Network, Shark Week** on the **Discovery Channel, The Profit** on **CNBC, House Hunters** on **HGTV, True Life on MTV** and **Brew Dogs on Esquire**, among many others.

Photo shoots graced our region for **Rolling Stone Magazine, Chico's, Lily Pulitzer** and **Ralph Lauren**, while commercials shot for **Nike, Gatorade, Sony Pictures** and **Puma** —just a few we can mention! Indie features such as **Shadow Fighter** and **The Big Frozen Gumshoe** took advantage of PBC's free one-stop permitting and wide variety of locations from city to coastline. PBC played host to many film festivals, including the **Palm Beach International Film Festival, Student Showcase of Films, L-DUB Film Festival, Boca Black Film Festival, Swede Fest** and the **Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival**. As we continue to see growth in our production community, the film commission will continue its mission to "Provide the Best Quality Service Anywhere". See more online at pbfilm.com.

OLYMPUSAT THEATRE AT THE FAIR

The South Florida Fair swept into The Palm Beaches with lots of exciting events, but one exposition took home the best in show! **The Olympusat Theatre of the Palm Beaches** presented a long format tourism film dedicated to the best of everything in The Palm Beaches.

"The film took over 5 months of shooting, over 30 locations and endless hours of dedication from our crew," said **Shawn Copenhaver, Director of Production** at **Olympusat**. In partnership with the Tourist Development Council, this spectacular film showcases the county in the most breathtaking way. "Our next step is to make sure the world sees this through our owned and operated networks and through social media efforts," said **Joshua Castillo, Director of Business Development** for **Olympusat**. For more info please visit olympusat.com.

HONDA CLASSIC TEES OFF

The PGA Tour is headed back to the **PGA National Resort & Spa** for the 44th Annual **Honda Classic,** February 22 – 28. Some of the world's best golfers will arrive in The Palm Beaches for the 13th consecutive year to compete in the classic tournament. Millions of golf enthusiasts from around the world will tune into **The Golf Channel** for 16-hours of LIVE HD-coverage, featuring pros like **Rory McIlroy** and defending-champion **Padraig Harrington**.

Padraig Harrington

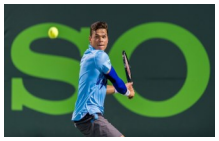
The Honda Classic is proud to give back to the local community. Last year they supported over a hundred charities in the area by awarding $2.6M in grants with a year-to-date total of $28M in charitable donations, according to **Dana Johnson, Director of Community Relations** for the Honda Classic. To learn more about this event, please visit thehondaclassic.com or pgaresort.com.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

The 11th season of the Kravis Center's **African American Film Festival**, founded by James Drayton, kicks off Monday Feb 15th. The festival celebrates African Americans who have made their mark in film narratively, stylistically, historically, thematically, economically and aesthetically.

The festival opens with ***A Tribute to Sidney Poitier*** hosted by AnEta Sewell, followed by the film ***Lilies of the Field.*** The festival is dedicated to bringing awareness to entertainment content about people of African American decent to a diverse audience. It is a festival that selects films that offer a historical perspective, but creates a diverse program that aids and empowers audiences and filmmakers alike. Join the festival as it continues the tradition of presenting positive, provocative and engaging films at the **Kravis Center from** Feb 15-29th. For more information please visit kravis.org.

DELRAY SHINES WORLDWIDE



The **Delray Beach Open** first serves on February 12th and features the world's only ten-day combined ATP World Tour and ATP Champions Tour event. While being televised more than 50 hours in HD in the US and 120-plus countries internationally, the tournament welcomes more than 60,000 week-long spectators to enjoy pro tennis, live music and gifted artisans. The **City of Delray Beach** shines on tv screens and downtown explodes with interactive exhibits, shopping and 10+ hospitality and special events.

Star players in the tournament's ATP World Tour field include **Milos Raonic**, currently No. 14 in the world and winner of nine ATP titles, **Kevin Anderson**, World No. 12 and a Delray Beach resident, and the **Bryan Brothers** (twins Bob and Mike) who have won a record 109 titles together. **Mardy Fish**, **James Blake** and Boca Raton resident **Aaron Krickstein** make up the US team in ATP Champions Tour action opening Presidents' Day Weekend. To check out the schedule and get more information please visit yellowtennisball.com online.

L-DUB FESTIVAL OFFERS WORKSHOPS

The L-Dub Festival welcomes the celebration, creativity and originality of a variety of films! The **6th Annual L-DUB Film Festival** will be held March 18-20, 2016, at the Stonzek Theatre of the Lake Worth Playhouse. The weekend will be filled with features, shorts, documentaries and music videos from local filmmakers and others from around the world who have become 'friends' of the L-DUB Festival over the years.

The festival is also offering a series of technical workshops on hardware, filmmaking techniques, screenwriting and auditioning. Since most filmmakers don't have the budget to get word out about their film, this is a great way for filmmakers to gain exposure and experience in the festival industry. For more information, please visit lakeworthplayhouse.org.

BOCA BOWL SACKS THE COMPETITION

More than two million people tuned in to watch the **Toledo Rockets** battle it out with the **Temple Owls** on the grid iron at the annual **2015 Marmot Boca Raton Bowl. Florida Atlantic University** hosted the nationally televised game which aired on **ESPN** for the second year in a row, and fans experienced a series of successful bowl-week events throughout Palm Beach County.

Event organizers are already hard at work to plan next year's festivities. **Doug Mosley**, Executive Director of the **Marmot Boca Raton Bowl** told the Sun Sentinel, "We don't want to keep giving fans the same old same old. I always want to be surprising people by what we're doing next." The primetime event once again catapulted **FAU**, **Boca Raton** and The Palm Beaches into the national spotlight during the three-hour telecast. According to Nielsen ratings, the Boca Bowl took the number one spot for sports programming that night. The annual event also brings in new visitors to the City of Boca Raton and into the County. For more information please visit online at thebocaratonbowl.com.

FESTIVAL RED CARPET SHOW NOW AIRING

The **20th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films Red Carpet Highlight Show** will air soon on Channel 20, the County's educational and information programming station. This half hour show dazzles viewers with all the best in festival activity. The show covers red carpet interviews from **Tom Arnold, Dean Lyon, Shira Piven**, and many others (including students from all over the state) who entered their work in The Student Showcase of Films—the largest student film competition in the state of Florida. The program examines the excitement of a local film premiering at the festival with native filmmakers; **Jacqueline Journey** and **Ann Fishman** who debuted their films shot locally at last year's event. This entertaining program colorfully highlights The Palm Beaches as a premiere destination for film festivals with great entertainment, dining and culture. Check for upcoming show times to watch the program and join us for the next Palm Beach International Film Festival on April 6-14, 2016. For more info visit pbfilm.com

EQUESTRIAN COVERAGE ON NBC

The 37th annual **Winter Equestrian Festival** (WEF) is being held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in **Wellington**, FL. The competition began in January and runs through April 3rd. On February 27th, NBC Sports Network will film the action of **Saturday Night Lights: $380,00 Suncast Grand Prix CSI5**. Riders from around the world will compete in the popular "Saturday Night Lights" grand prix competitions, and NBC will be broadcasting some events as well. Join WEF for the next several weeks while the ponies prance all over The Palm Beaches in a spectacular spread of events, competitions and charity receptions.

PAHOKEE'S "THE SEND-OFF" AT SUNDANCE

Upon landing in snowy Park City, Utah, the Pahokee students starring in the short documentary **The Send Off** posed for the camera as paparazzi captured Sundance celebrity arrivals. It was the first time the film was screened for an audience, and having it premiere at Sundance was a dream come true. The laughter and gasps from the crowd made the experience unforgettable.

The students participated in a speaker panel covering all of the short documentary entries, and when asked what put them at ease during filming, Chris said it was easy to "just be himself", and Tiana added, "I liked the attention!" These natural born stars were exposed to a wide variety of short films, with topics ranging from hard-working mothers in Bolivia to refugee camps in Syria. They were surprised to find that they related to stories from all over the world. Filmmaker **Ivete Lucas** shared, "For us, this is just the beginning. We will be making a series of shorts and are working on a feature screenplay based in **Pahokee.** We also plan to start a local educational program for kids who want to make films." See more at facebook.com/sendoffdoc.

G-STAR'S NEW RESIDENT

G-Star Studios welcomes **See-Worthy Films** as a permanent resident on its back lot! Owned and run by **Marc Zatorsky** and Shawn Morell, See-Worthy Films just completed the second season of their SAG-AFTRA web series, **TWEET**, starring **Taylor Blackwell**.

The production company looks forward to bringing G-Star students together with Hollywood talent for script writing to distribution. "We've known their reputation is excellent," said Greg Hauptner, Founder of the **G-Star Studios and School of the Arts**, "and we couldn't be more proud to have them on our back lot. However, we had no idea how far reaching their influence was until they put out a call for auditions for their new project ***In Sanity, Florida*** and received over 1700 requests to audition at our Studios. That's when I knew they are bound for the big time. We believe this collaboration will bring many great opportunities for our students." Get more info online at seeworthyfilms.com.

THE FTC WELCOMES HILARY WEBBER

Hilary Webber

The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission is thrilled to welcome **Hilary Webber** to our team as a Production Coordinator. Hilary is a Palm Beach County native with a Bachelors in Fine Arts in Film & Television from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and is currently enrolled at **FAU** in order to pursue her Masters in Communication and Film Studies.

Ms. Webber has served as a festival coordinator and theater manager for major festivals throughout the United States such as the Savannah Film Festival, Miami International Film Festival, ActionFest, **Palm Beach International Film Festival**, and others. Hilary is thrilled to join the team and looks forward to supporting Florida's diverse and vibrant film community.

ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION INDUSTRY AT FLORIDA TOURISM DAY

On January 20th, a contingency of leaders from **Film Florida** (FF) traveled to Tallahassee to attend **Tourism Day** to educate the legislature, media and Floridians on the significant role tourism plays in the success of Florida's economy. During the morning speaker session, featured partner/FF President Michelle Hillery shared, "In partnering with tourism, we create jobs, economic impact, and we are so happy to help increase tourism to this beautiful state of Florida." FF met with key legislators to ask for support of the state's **film, television and digital media industry** in this critical year. During a workshop the following morning for Senate Bill 1646, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development chair **Senator Latvala** stated, "To the best of my ability, any bill that passes the Florida Senate that has to do with economic development, is also going to include provisions that relate to the TV and film incentive program." The industry workforce will continue working towards a unified goal of getting a long-term program passed that will help retain and increase jobs for this industry within Florida. See more at filmflorida.org.

Michelle Hillery with Tourism Day Partners

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: ROMANTIC PLACES

With Valentine's Day approaching, we are obsessed with romantic locations for photoshoots. The beach is always romantic with the gentle waves of winter but for something with vibrant colors, consider **Mounts Botanical Garden.** Located in West Palm Beach, the tropical setting offers a beautiful metal bridge over a small lake; along with a gazebo and interesting sculptures peppered throughout the pathways. Also on site, you will find some mid-century buildings that are terrific backdrops.

For a more refined garden experience, visit the **Society of Four Arts** in Palm Beach. The public garden blends charming gates and lush tropical plantings with Asian and Spanish design perfectly. There is an interesting angle around every corner and is the perfect place for a lifestyle photo session. The entire property translates into a luxury location, and you don't want to miss the stunning fresco at the library.

The **Eshleman Pavilion** is perhaps one of the most beautiful and historic pavilions in PBC. Located at **South Inlet Park** in Boca Raton, the pavilion was once a Porte-Cochere for the Cabana Club for guests of the Cloister Inn, and was moved to the beach in 1981. The structure is impressive with gothic archways and Corinthian capitals, which makes it a popular spot for beach weddings. The barrel tile roof and pecky cypress ceiling add to its charm and make it a contender for fashion shoots.

Lake Worth is ready for romance, whether it's a stroll along Lake and Lucerne Avenues or a dreamy scene in the ballroom at the historic oceanfront Casino Building. You can capture a variety of angles in the artsy town of Lake Worth. One of our favorite places is on the western side of the ICW called **Bryant Park**, with the bridge and bougainvillea covered pergolas as a backdrop. Love is in the air! For more information please visit our locations database online at pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER: SSOF THEME EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS

The fog is starting to lift as the excitement builds around the **21st Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films Awards Show** (SSOF). According to veteran SSOF Director and Host, Frank Licari, "The theme of this year's show will feature on an old -school Hollywood director who just moved to Florida, bringing his outdated Film Noir technique with him to disastrous results." Our newly crowned award-winning FL students will give this stuffy, conventional chap a lesson on exceptional, modern filmmaking.

The SSOF is a juried competition recognizing outstanding film students by presenting over $11,000 in scholarships and awards each year. Student entries are judged by a prominent panel of qualified judges from across the country that share a common passion for education and artistic expression. With over 1,500 entries, the judges are tasked with selecting the finest films from a range of filmmakers who would be considered brave, bold and simply the best! Adding to the anticipation of this year's event are the "A" list of judges in the film, news and entertainment industry including Pixar Studios animator **Michael Bidinger**, Los Angeles actor **Jeff Berg**, LA Screenwriter **Judd Cherry**, Award-winning Russian Arm Operator **Michael Jordan**, Carolco Pictures COO **Jacqueline Journey**, filmmakers **Ann Fishman, Al Lougher** and **Michael Wittlin**, **Kevin Rolston** of 97.9FM, **Leslie Gray Streeter** of the Palm Beach Post, local news anchors **Jay Cashmere** and **Ric Blackwell** as well with many others.

Finalists will be honored on Friday, March 11, 2016 at the annual red carpet award show in the **Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center** at **Lynn University**. In a genre such as Film Noir often defined by ambiguity, it's no surprise that an air of mystery lingers around the SSOF like a shadowy figure shrouded by the warm glow of a lamppost. Yet it's sure to be exciting, especially with Mr. Frank Licari underneath the fedora and our Florida students in the spotlight. Don't miss your chance to experience the mystery, the twists and turns and, most importantly, the fun! For more info visit pbfilm.com/student-showcase.

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