# FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | FEBRUARY 2017

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PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900
561.233.1000 pbfilm.com


## A GLOBAL AFFAIR AT PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST

More than 300 people gathered at **Yaacov Heller's Gallery 22** in **Boca Raton** on January 15 to officially kick off the 2017 **Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF)** season. A bevy of beauty queens from all over the world, including Brazil, Russia and Venezuela mingled with the crowd while showcasing couture gowns by **Shy Figaro** and **Vicki Soble**. The stunning display of artwork and fashion is all part of the festival organizers' effort to bring more pizzazz and glamour to the 22nd annual film festival. Jeff Davis, the event's CEO and President, says "PBIFF is injecting more of the arts and culture into this year's film festival." **PBIFF** opens **March 29** with a Hollywood-style red carpet screening and after-party at the **Bowery Palm Beach**, a restaurant and live music venue in **CityPlace**.

*Beauty Queen at Kickoff*

*Sue & Yaacov Heller*

The annual festival will shine a spotlight on **The Palm Beaches** over five days - from **Boca Raton** to **Jupiter** and **Lake Worth** to **Wellington** - offering unique one-off events and parties that are designed to please a wide variety of festivalgoers. This year's lineup is comprised of 30 impactful films, including ***Price for Freedom***, an amazing true story of one man's courage during the birth of terrorism in 1979 Iran. PBIFF President Jeff Davis revealed that this year's festival will "concentrate on a variety of global issues, both historical and contemporary." Film screenings will take place at **Keiser University's** West Palm Beach campus, **Cinemark Theatre** and other yet to be announced venues. For the full screening lineup, information about special events and to purchase tickets in advance, visit pbifilmfest.org.

## HONDA CLASSIC TEES OFF

PBC resident **Tiger Woods** announced that he will play at the 45th annual **Honda Classic**, taking place February 20-26 at the **PGA National Resort & Spa**. Some of the world's best golfers will descend on **The Palm Beaches** for the 14th year in a row to compete in this classic tournament. Executive Director **Kenneth R. Kennerly** believes Tiger Woods' presence will "generate enormous excitement among the fans." In fact, attendance surged more than 45% back in 2012 when Tiger first played in The Honda Classic. In addition, millions of golf enthusiasts from all around the globe will tune in for live televised coverage all week long.

*Tiger Woods*

Event organizers will host a Kick-Off Party at the Gardens Mall on February 17, featuring live music and a silent auction as well as cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets for the official opening celebration cost $50 per person with all proceeds benefiting the Honda Classic's host organization, **Children's Healthcare Charity**. For a full list of events or to purchase tickets, visit thehondaclassic.com.

## THREE PAR-FECT DAYS IN PBC

**KO-MAR Video Productions** is wrapping post-production on ***Three Par-fect Days - Golf Heaven, The Palm Beaches***. In conjunction with the Sports Commission and the FTC, KO-MAR decided to show off PBC as the undisputed "Capital of Golf" with a half-hour nationally syndicated program. The show follows two couples visiting The Palm Beaches for three days as they play some of our best public courses, from **Boca Raton** to **Palm Beach Gardens**.

After enjoying the courses, the couples mixed in some jet skiing and airboat riding, as well as a delicious lunch at **The Woods**, Tiger Woods' restaurant in Jupiter. Director and KO-MAR founder Todd Kolich explained it simply: "we live in a beautiful place with beautiful golf courses… why not share it with them rest of the world?" The program will air nationally this spring. See more from the West Palm Beach-based production company at ko-mar.com.

*Host Ian Baker-Finch On Set*

## BOYNTON FEATURES NEW FEST

The **Boynton Beach Short Film Festival** celebrates their very first festival this spring from April 20-23. Presented by **South Tech Schools** and **Alco's Boynton Cinema**, the festival exclusively showcases Floridian talent. "Under South Tech Schools' commitment to visual artistic education and expression and the Boynton Beach community connection to the arts through Alco's Boynton Cinema," the festival believes it can carve a filmmaking niche as a Florida arts destination, according to **Executive Festival Director Jon Palardis** and **Lisa Mileti, Marketing and Development Director**. "The goal of the BBSFF is to serve as a launching pad for emerging Florida filmmakers to showcase their talent on the big screen." Late submissions will be accepted until March 4. To learn more about the new festival, visit bbsff.net.

## FILMMAKER'S MEETUP FOR NEW FILM

The **Palm Beach County Filmmakers** (PBCF) consortium was founded in 2010 with a special mission in mind: to bring the County's production community together in an open forum to share their talents, to educate each other and to make some great works of art as a powerful and productive collective. On February 4, the PBCF will hold its signature event, the Meet & Mingle Networking Fundraiser, at Geronimo's Bar & Grill at 8:00pm. The headliner of the evening will be the teaser trailer for the feature film, ***Coupons & Dreams***, produced by local production company and PBCF partner, **Black Onyx Productions**. There will be a cast and crew call for *Coupons & Dreams* which still has several speaking parts available as well as featured and extra roles. "At Meet & Mingle, filmmakers can meet each other, learn about filmmaking, support each other, support one another's film projects and have fun," states PBCF co-founder and writer/director/producer at Black Onyx Productions, Talina Adamo. The Palm Beach County Filmmakers group is open to all Florida filmmakers. See more at pbcfilmmakers.com.

BLACK ONYX PRODUCTIONS

## FROM PALM BEACH TO D.C.

**WPTV Channel 5** recently aired a 30-minute special titled ***Donald Trump; From Palm Beach to the White House***, following our newly inaugurated President's path after making a splash in The Palm Beaches by purchasing **Mar-a-Lago** in 1985. No stranger to the spotlight, WPTV was able to pull from plenty of source material following Trump's rise as a business icon. A familiar face was featured in the special, as **FTC Board Member Douglas Rill** recounted his experience interviewing Trump in 1988 for the Palm Beach Post. "They reached out to me to offer a piece of history regarding Trump at that time. He was very insightful, positive and focused. As I remember him, he was an unconventional, unlikely person to become president 29 years later," shared Rill. Mar-a-Lago has now been coined the "Winter White House", a term Trump himself promotes. Dig further into the story at wptv.com/longform/donald-trump-in-palm-beach.

*PB Post Cover Story 1988*

## SCRIPTAPALOOZA WIN FOR PBC LOCAL

***An Affair of the Heart***, a dramatic film script written by former **Forest Hill High School** English teacher and long-time resident of PBC **Claudia Crown**, Ph.D., has landed in the top 100 in Los Angeles' **Scriptapalooza 2016 Screenwriting Competition**! The story was inspired by *Brass Buttons*, a song by Gram Parsons. Crown shared, "In an instant, I was transported to a country road, a young woman who wore 'tiny golden pins in her hair', and the man still aware after 50 years that 'the sun comes up without her, it just doesn't know she's gone.' Once I cleared my tears, I started writing." With 3207 submissions, *An Affair of the Heart* shone bright amongst the entries. Claudia is now managing several actors in L.A. as she continues her passion for writing. See more at scriptapalooza.com or call 310.594.5384.

*Claudia Crown*

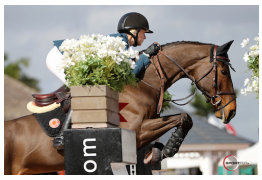
## PAHOKEE OFFICIALLY A SUNDANCE 'REGULAR'

Filmmakers Patrick Bresnan and Ivete Lucas introduced **Pahokee High School** to a worldwide audience at the 2016 **Sundance Film Festival** with ***The Send-Off***. Their connection to the community continues in 2017, as they premiered a new documentary short titled ***The Rabbit Hunt*** at Sundance in January, while in the midst of production on a feature-length documentary surrounding a select group of Pahokee High School Seniors who hope to graduate in May. As they did in 2016, the filmmakers brought their stars along for the experience at Sundance, posing on the red carpet at one of the world's most prestigious festivals. "It's their story, and we feel so honored to capture it on camera," said Lucas. "Once you have relationships, you can really build on them and tell a story," Bresnan added. Follow their journey on the festival circuit and beyond at facebook.com/TheRabbitHunt.

*Cast & Crew from The Rabbit Hunt*

## POLO EVENTS STREAM ON CHUKKERTV

The "Game of Kings" is a popular pastime in Wellington, and the sport is accessible now more than ever. **ChukkerTV** will live-stream over one hundred events, tournaments and five-star competitions in 2017, including the **Winter Equestrian Festival** (WEF), the longest-running horse show in America which takes place over four weeks every winter. Nine former Olympians will be competing in the 2017 WEF. ChukkerTV provides innovative video, streaming and on-demand options for virtual audiences and will be the live-stream provider for the **United States Polo Association Polo** (USPA) Network after entering a three-year partnership with the USPA, an arrangement expected to increase exposure globally. See more polo coverage and a list of events at ChukkerTV.com, uspolo.org or pbiec.coth.com.



*Lillie Keenan at WEF*

## FESTIVAL FRENZY ON CHANNEL 20

The **21st Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival** (PBIFF) and **Student Showcase of Films** (SSOF) **Red Carpet Highlight Show** is airing this month on **Channel 20**, PBC's educational and information programming station. Showcasing the best in festival activities, the show covers red carpet interviews from **Atit Shah, Hunter Lee Hughes, Sheldon Cohn** and many others including students from all over Florida who entered their work in SSOF, the largest student film competition in the state. The program also highlights notable local films, including the premiere of ***Ned Venture***, a family-friendly comedy filmed throughout The Palm Beaches. There is no better way to gear up for the excitement of this year's PBIFF than to enjoy a wrap-up of iconic moments from years past. Mark your calendars for the next PBIFF, March 29 through April 2. See more at pbifilmfest.org.

*Hughes on Red Carpet*

## SWA EDUCATES ON "RECYCLING RIGHT"

The **Solid Waste Authority of PBC** recently filmed a PSA on recycling at the skate park in **Jupiter's Abacoa Community Park**. To encourage recycling for local residents, SWA featured their blue recycling bins and the proper method for disposing of recyclables. The PSA depicts skate park patrons utilizing recycle bins the right way while at play. "Our hope is that when residents are faced with a decision of how to properly dispose of something, they think of our videos and take the proper action that benefits our environment and conserves our natural resources," said **Willie Puz, Director of Public Affairs and Recycling**. "As our county's population is transient and/or seasonal, the SWA has to continually educate or re-educate county residents on how to recycle right. By recycling what they can, our waste will take up less landfill space, we will consume less natural resources to make new products we use every day, and we give many materials a second or third—or fourth—life." Watch the video and learn more at SWA.org/RecycleRight.

## FTC WELCOMES AMBER ALI

The FTC welcomes **Amber Ali**, joining as **Associate Producer** for the upcoming **22nd Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films** (SSOF). Amber brings a wealth of event planning and production experience to the SSOF team. She spent the last two years with FilmGate Miami organizing their annual conference held in Miami Beach, FilmGate Interactive, which attracts nearly 5,000 participants worldwide. She served as a contributing writer for FAU's University Press, covering various feature stories as well as Production Assistant for Multi Image Group in Boca Raton. Amber will be graduating from **Florida Atlantic University** in 2017 with a degree in Multimedia Journalism, minoring in Economics. She remains passionate about creating successful platforms for artists to share their work, allowing more up-and-coming filmmakers to succeed!

*Amber Ali*

## DELRAY BEACH SERVES UP WORLD TOUR

A full field of the world's top-ranked players will take the court at the **Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center** from February 17 to 26 to compete in the world's only 10-day tennis extravaganza, consisting of the **ATP Champions Tours** competition and an **ATP World Tour** event. This year, the **Delray Beach Open** celebrates its 25th anniversary with on-site dining and drinking, live musical acts and a series of special events including the 11th annual Chamber Bash, an exclusive networking event on February 22. This year's tournament will feature Wimbledon finalist **Milos Roanic**, who is currently ranked No. 3 in the world. Other notable players include **Juan Martin del Potro**, **Ivo Karlovic** and the **Bryan Brothers** who are four-time **Delray Beach Open** winners. Event organizers expect to welcome more than 50,000 spectators to this year's events, which will be televised nationally and internationally throughout 120-plus countries. For a full schedule of events or to purchase tickets, visit yellowtennisball.com.

*Milos Roanic*

*Bryan Brothers*

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: SCENE LOCATIONS FEATURED IN BAYWATCH

The thrilling trailer for the upcoming feature film ***Baywatch*** is charming audiences worldwide, including scenes shot across south Florida last spring. Since the film is set in a fictitious town, the producers filmed in a variety of oceanfront cities including **Boca Raton**.

*Dwayne Johnson & Zac Efron at the Boca Resort Marina*

The comedy spinoff of the popular television series stars **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson,** along with **Zac Efron** and **Priyanka Chopra**, and is set to be released in theaters in May over the Memorial Day weekend. Locals will no doubt be able to spot several film locations, including the valet area at the popular **Boca Beach Club** at the **Boca Raton Resort and Spa**. Other filming at the resort took place on the beach while green screen scenes were shot at the Marina and a surveillance scene took place on the roadway that goes under the A1A overpass. The Boca Resort and Spa is truly a world-class hotel and has long been a film-friendly location that filmmakers want to partner with.

*Boca Inlet from the Jetty*

Another location that viewers will recognize is Palm Beach County's **South Inlet Park,** which has been rumored to be the location of the opening scene of the film. We understand that a kite surfer gets into trouble and needs to be rescued once he crashes, and this scene is where we meet "Mitch", played by Dwayne Johnson. The scene involved closing the park for filming on two different days and bringing in a custom lifeguard stand, as well as holding boat traffic in the inlet waterway for a safe and controlled environment while the actor ran down the jetty and dove into the water off the coral rocks that border the south side of the inlet waterway. South Inlet Park is a unique location in that there are no bad angles with coconut palms, sea grapes and the beautiful Eshleman Pavilion. For more information about filming in The Palm Beaches, please visit pbfilm.com.

## EDUCATION CORNER: SSOF SOCIAL MEDIA EXCITEMENT

The Tweeps are here! The engagement rate is rising and the "likes" just keep coming for the **22nd Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films Awards Show** (SSOF) on March 10. According to SSOF Director and Host, **Frank Licari**, the theme will surround the modern mania of social media. The entire stage will be designed as a giant ode to popular platforms such as Facebook Live, Instagram, Snapchat and perhaps a scrolling Twitter feed during the show. Even the podium will be an iPhone!

Actor and funnyman Licari won't stop there when it comes to making an impression on the SSOF audience. "I will play a millennial YouTube/Facebook star who's been asked to host the show as if he's this amazing celebrity," he explained. "Or there may be a twist where the social media celebrity mysteriously disappears before he can host, so old, out-of-touch 'Frank' has to take over again for comic effect." Whatever Frank ultimately decides to do, it's sure to go viral.

*Frank Licari*

The SSOF is a juried competition recognizing outstanding film students by presenting over $12,000 in scholarships and awards. The "A"-list of judges in the film, news and entertainment industry this year will include American Idol Music Director Michael Orland, Pixar Studios animator Michael Bidinger, LA Screenwriter Judd Cherry, award-winning Russian Arm Operator Michael Jordan, former Carolco Pictures COO Jacqueline Journey, Miami casting agent Ellen Jacoby, filmmakers Michael Maschio, Marc Zatorsky and Ron Davis, Virginia Sinicki of 97.9FM, Leslie Gray Streeter of the Palm Beach Post, news anchors Claudia Shea, Jay Cashmere and Ric Blackwell and many more! Finalists will be honored on Friday, March 10 at the Red Carpet Award Show at the **Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center** at **Lynn University** in **Boca Raton**. Don't miss your chance to make some lasting memes and follow the fun! For more info visit pbfilm.com/student-showcase.

Palm Beach International Film Festival's STUDENT SHOWCASE of FILMS

*Co-Editors: Phyllis Man & Christy Andreoni, Assistant Editor: Kelly King, Contributors: Alberto Jordat, Chris Cobb and Hilary Webber*
***To be included in this newsletter please email candreoni@pbfilm.com or call 561.233.1000***

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