FOCUS on FILM

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | February 2022

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PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES TELEVISION ThePalmBeaches.TV

FILM FLORIDA PODCAST SEASON 4

February Guests:
- Jay Roewe,, HBO / HBO Max / Warner Media
- Breion Moses, 7 Hillz Productions / ReelBack Film Summit

YOUR ALL ACCESS PASS TO THE HONDA CLASSIC

Koepka & Fowler

Brooks Koepka and Rickie Fowler, two of the biggest fan favorites in golf, have committed to play in the **2022 Honda Classic**, taking place February 21-27 at the newly renovated **PGA National Resort & Spa** in **Palm Beach Gardens**. Koepka, a West Palm Beach native who has won four major championships, is returning to the course where he finished second in 2019. Fowler, who won the 2017 Honda, is also looking to regain his winning form in this year's competition.

Golf Channel and **NBC** will broadcast live coverage of the event, which draws millions of viewers each year. In addition to the live television coverage, local production company **Thaler Media** will produce the ***Honda Classic All Access***, a 30-minute program dedicated to the unique fan experience of the tournament, taking viewers beyond the greens to showcase all the behind-the-scenes action. The show will also feature special programs being executed during tournament week and charitable highlights associated with Honda Classic Cares. *Honda Classic All Access* will air on **Scripps Media** channels in Tampa, Fort Myers, Miami and Tallahassee before finding a permanent streaming home on **ThePalmBeaches.TV**. From prime public seating options to family care lounges featuring covered AC seating to premiere hospitality suites and champagne lounges, there's something for everyone at the Honda Classic. For more, visit thehondaclassic.com.

Behind-The-Scenes at The Bear Trap

'BLACK VOICES' GOES STATEWIDE ON PBS

The popular lifestyle series, ***On the Town in The Palm Beaches with Frank Licari***, is usually seen on **South Florida PBS** stations from the Keys to the Sebastian Inlet. However, in celebration of **Black History Month** (February), one episode, ***"Black Voices"*** will reach a much larger audience. **PBS** stations in major Florida markets such as Tampa (WEDU), Tallahassee (WFSU), Pensacola (WSRE), Orlando (WUCF), Jacksonville (WJCT) and Gainesville (WUFT) will have the opportunity to view this special show. "We were delighted by the artists and business owners we met in Palm Beach County's Black community when we produced this episode," says Joyce Belloise, Vice President of Content and Community Partnerships. "To be able to introduce these entrepreneurs to a statewide audience is especially rewarding." To watch the episode on demand, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV.

BTS - Yoga with Jade

VOLKSWAGEN CRUISES ALONG FLAGLER

Third Story Films took a break from the winter weather of their homebase in Washington D.C. to film a commercial for **Volkswagen** throughout the sunny South Florida region. The **West Palm Beach** portion of their shoot took place along **Flagler Drive,** where intermittent traffic control was facilitated by the **West Palm Beach Police Department** for five minute intervals to capture picturesque shots of the palm tree-lined intracoastal waterfront of the downtown area. "Our favorite thing about the project was the local film professionals we were able to work with. The professionalism and attitude was second to none, and we film all over the US with great crews so the bar is high!" said Marc Ryan, Executive Producer. He added, "The team of officers we had were exceptional at keeping everyone safe and the traffic moving." See more at thirdstoryfilms.com.

BTS - Interior Picture Vehicle

SEA TURTLES SET THE SCENE

TLC's *90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days*, one of the spin-off series of the popular *90 Day Fiancé* reality franchise, follows couples who have an existing relationship online and travel to the other's foreign country for the first time in an attempt to establish an in-person relationship and start the K-1 visa process. Season 5 is currently airing, and in one of the recent episode, a couple has a one-of-a-kind date at the **Loggerhead Marinelife Center** in **Juno Beach**. They explore the marine life exhibits, learn about the sea turtle rehabilitation center, and enjoy a romantic champagne toast along the **Juno Beach Pier**! *Before the 90 Days'* season 5 premiere attracted over 3 million viewers, breaking the *90 Day Fiancé* franchise record. See more at go.tlc.com.

Sea Turtle at LMC

A RAY OF SUNSHINE AT SLAMDANCE

Delray Beach-based filmmaker Sasha Levinson's latest project, ***Sylvie of The Sunshine State***, made its worldwide debut at the **2022 Slamdance Film Festival**. The documentary follows Levinson's daughter Sylvie as she navigates through the absurdities of emotional turbulence of a life gone virtual while being raised by her eccentric multigenerational Jewish matriarchy and a dad who lives far away. Levinson has an extensive career in commercial production spanning major markets in Los Angeles and New York, and when the pandemic outbreak occurred shortly after her move to Delray Beach, she picked up her camera. "Becoming a film director has been a lifelong dream, ever since I sat in the dark theatre as a kid with my dad watching *Return of the Jedi*. I am both nervous and excited to share the very personal piece of work with the world," said Levinson. See more at sylvieofthesunshinestate.com.

Sasha Levinson

A FOND FAREWELL TO ROSIE

The PBC Film & Television Commission honors the life and legacy of **Tim Rosaforte**, who passed away in January 2022 from Alzheimer's Disease. **Golf Channel's** esteemed award-winning journalist called Palm Beach County home and hosted a golf series titled ***The Par-fect 18*** on **The Palm Beaches TV**. Affectionately nicknamed "Rosie", Rosaforte started his career as a newspaper reporter and became one of the top American golf journalists. Honda Classic Executive Director Ken Kennerly recently said in an interview with the Palm Beach Post, "We are so sorry to hear about Rosie's passing. Tim has always been a larger than life person and a tremendous pillar in the world of golf and media." This year's Honda Classic is sure to reverberate in celebration of the legend. Join Rosie on *The Par-fect 18* on ThePalmBeaches.TV.

Tim Rosaforte

FILM LEGEND IN BOCA

Pioneer of New German Cinema **Werner Herzog** will make a special appearance this month in **Boca Raton**! Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his epic historical drama ***Aguirre, the Wrath of God***, Herzog will be joined by the film's co-producer José Koechlin for a riveting discussion following the screening at the **Boca Raton Museum of Art** on February 11. The film documents the fictional journey of Don Lope de Aguirre, a ruthless Spanish conquistador, who vies for power while in Peru searching for El Dorado, the mythical empire of gold. Herzog and Koechlin will discuss the true adventures and achievements in the making of their films in the Peruvian Amazon, as well as their continued work to achieve their goals in film and sustainable tourism. Get tickets for the event at bocamuseum.org.

Werner Herzog

CONTENT GALORE COMING TO THE PALM BEACHES TV

An exciting roster of shows are coming soon to **ThePalmBeaches.TV**. Two brand new series are in production: ***Wild Palm Beaches***, hosted by wildlife enthusiast James Currie and ***America's First Resort Destination***, hosted by Keli Ferguson. Both series are also set to air on Destination America. There will also be more episodes of established favorites such as ***Passport to The Palm Beaches***, ***ScubaNation*** and the ever-popular ***On the Town in The Palm Beaches with Frank Licari***, adding to an already abundant lineup of over 60 hours of programming available on demand. From wildlife, to history, to restaurant-hopping and more, there is something for all kinds of audience interests coming in this new set of programs. Catch all episodes of these shows and more by visiting ThePalmBeaches.TV!

BTS - Wild Palm Beaches

BTS - America's First Resort Destination

BOCA RATON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Returning in February 2022 is the **Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival**. The multi-access festival will be presented virtually, in local theaters and at the **Levis JCC Sandler Center**! The tradition continues as festival organizers will present a broad array of exceptional films that explore the Jewish experience, culture, history, identity and topics relevant to Jewish life. Presented by **Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center**, the festival will showcase a wide variety of Jewish-themed films from around the globe, including feature films, shorts, documentaries and comedies. You won't want to miss it! Visit bocajff.org for more.

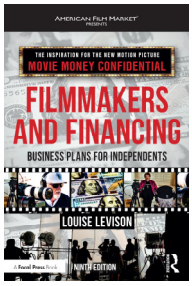
HOLIDAY FEATURE IN THE WORKS

Local film director **Dominic Giannetti** is at it again! A three decade Palm Beach resident, Dominic has been in the film industry since the day he moved here and writes, produces, and directs multiple projects per year with his team of collaborative crew and talent. His latest project, ***Once Upon a Christmas Eve***, just wrapped in Palm Beach and is set for a 2022 winter release. This heartfelt holiday film takes viewers on an emotional rollercoaster as three siblings struggle to keep their family together as they rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. The film stars Hector David Jr., Najee De-Tiege, Michael Franklin, Alicia Tomasko, and plenty of rising stars. Cinematography was done by Emmanuel Mondesir, and the film was produced by Giannetti and David Jr. See more at facebook.com/PositiveMotionPictures.

On Set in West Palm Beach

DOCUMENTARY'S WORLDWIDE RELEASE

The award-winning **Pamplin Film Company**, creators of the feature length documentary ***Movie Money CONFIDENTIAL***, Burt Reynolds' last film, announced worldwide distribution rights have been acquired by **Kaczmarek Digital Media Group** (KDMG). It will be released on streaming sites and in select theaters March 1-2, 2022. Inspired by Palm Beach resident Louise Levison's best-selling book ***Filmmakers & Financing***, the picture also features actress Salma Hayek. "Our goal was to reveal long held secrets about funding movies, then educate and inspire others to tell their stories and realize their dreams," said writer-director Rick Pamplin. Presented by Los Angeles-based Nemours Marketing, produced by Scott duPont and Maggie Pamplin, a Think Visual Group Production, it was filmed entirely on location in Florida featuring multiple Palm Beach locations. "The film showcases the Palm Beach film community, resources and talent to the world," said producer Maggie Pamplin. See more at moviemoney.com.



A GLOBAL INVASION

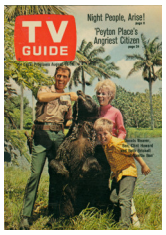
DMAC Studios out of Boca Raton, is proud to announce that their television series, ***Ultimate Invasion***, has been picked up by **Lee Production** for global distribution. The series, which was produced by Greg James Blount and David Wenzel and directed by Greg LeSar, was filmed right here in The Palm Beaches. *Ultimate Invasion* is a family-friendly adventure where aliens secretly invade Earth to explore the complicated experiences of human nature. You can check out this original sci-fi series airing February 22, 2022 on **Amazon Prime, Roku, iTunes** and more. Join in on the fun at ultimateinvasion.tv.

DELRAY BEACH SERVES UP WORLD TENNIS TOUR

The **Delray Beach Open**, the world's only 10-day **ATP Champions Tour** and **ATP 250** event, will be televised nationally on the **Tennis Channel**. Attracting 60,000-plus spectators each year, the event will also be broadcast to millions more internationally. The tournament consists of competitive, single-elimination singles and doubles events, featuring some of the top-ranked men's professionals in the world. There's also an ATP Champions Tour Legend Team Event, which will see former top-10 players team up for a showdown of Team Europe vs. Team World. In fact, a full field of the world's top-ranked players will take the court at the **Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center** from February 11-20, including: 2018 Champion and Boynton Beach resident Frances Tiafoe (USA), Nick Kyrgios (AUS), Kei Nishikori (JPN), and six-time doubles champions the Bryan Brothers (USA). For more, visit yellowtennisball.com.

Frances Tiafoe

FLASHBACK FEATURE: GENTLE BEN



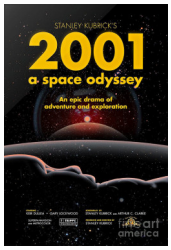
Gentle Ben (1967-1969) was a beloved television series about the Florida adventures of young Mark Wedloe (Clint Howard) and his black bear friend named "Ben." The show famously opened with the black bear riding on an airboat through the Everglades. The show aired for 58 episodes in two seasons. Ben was played by two black bears, Bruno and Hammer. Hammer retired from show business in 1969 and spent the rest of his days at the **Palm Beach Zoo**. Based off a book, the TV series took the original Alaska setting and changed it to The Palm Beaches and South Florida Everglades area for the show. It was one of the early successes in Palm Beach County's burgeoning production industry. See more about *Gentle Ben* at imdb.com/title/tt0061255 and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentle_Ben.

IN MEMORIAM
HONORING A COLLEAGUE & FRIEND

Melvin ("Duffy") Stanley Maron, a longtime member of the Film Commission's Board of Directors, passed away on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at the age of 90.

Mel Maron

In addition to the FTC Board, Mel was also an active member on the Executive Branch of the **Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)**, as well as the Advisory Board of the **South Florida Motion Picture & Television Film Society.**



Born in Queens, NY, Maron started as an office boy at **MGM** and rose to roadshow manager, where he worked on the distribution of films including *Dr. Zhivago*, the re-release of *Gone With the Wind* and *2001: A Space Odyssey*. He went on to work at several distribution companies including UPA, Commonwealth United, Cinema Shares, JGM and Castle Hill.

Mel & Bunny Maron

Mel was a staunch supporter of **The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films** (SSOF). In memory of Mel, and with the support of his family, the SSOF will award a scholarship in his name. Should you wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, please mail a check made out to the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission to 2195 Southern Blvd, Suite 520, West Palm Beach, FL 33406. In the memo of the check, please note the following: "c/o Mel Maron Scholarship Fund".

EDUCATION CORNER
LET THE JUDGING BEGIN

The entries are all in and the judges are ready to go! **The 27th Annual Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films** (SSOF) submission window is officially closed, and entries will now move on to the judging process. A dynamic group of industry professionals will judge this year's submissions, including: Vanilla Ice, Kelsey Scott (*How to Get Away With Murder and 12 Years A Slave*), Michael Orland (*American Idol*) and Jane Rumbaua (*The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*), just to name a few. To read more about the international panel of new and returning judges – a staggering 49 in all, please visit pbfilm.com/SSOFJudges.

In a continuing tribute to the legacy of film legend Burt Reynolds, the SSOF will present to a Palm Beach County high school senior, **The Burt Reynolds Scholarship Award**, a $5,000 cash prize. Mr. Reynolds was a longtime supporter and frequent presenter at the SSOF Red Carpet Award Show.

With over $20,000 in cash, prizes and scholarships on the line, the SSOF Red Carpet Award Show will be held at the **Maltz Jupiter Theatre** on May 6, 2022, where student finalists and winners from across the state will be celebrated. For more information, please visit pbfilm.com/ssof.

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