

# Focus on Film

Relax...  
Palm Beach County, Florida Has It Covered.



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## PALM BEACH COUNTY HOSTS LEGENDARY EVENT!

July 2011



Burt Reynolds

It was a star-studded evening in Palm Beach County! **Burt Reynolds**, an enduring iconic actor, **Ray Fielding**, the founder of Florida State University's film program, **Dee Miller**, a successful casting director, **Victor Milt**, a veteran director/cinematographer, and **Wes Skiles**, a celebrated freelance adventure photographer/cinematographer, who recently passed away,



String Theory

were honored as **2011 Florida Film Legends!** The band **String Theory** entertained the crowd with their musical stylings, and host **Frank Licari**, who has hosted the Palm Beach International Student Showcase of Films for several years, had the audience laughing throughout the show. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Legends Awards ceremony took place at the Keith C. & Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center at **Lynn University** in Boca Raton. This marks the first time Palm Beach County hosted of this prestigious event.



Boca Raton Resort & Club

Palm Beach County was also thrilled to be hosting the annual Khaki and White fundraiser where thousands of dollars were raised by silent auction to benefit the **Sara Fuller Scholarship Fund** and the **Don Davis Finishing Fund**.



The Performing Arts  
Center at Lynn University

The beautiful Boca Raton Resort & Club served as the host hotel. For more info visit [filmflorida.org](http://filmflorida.org), or contact Liz Morgan at 904.608.3823.

## GERMAN TV SHOW COMES TO AMERICA



Downtown WWPB

Palm Beach County hosts shoots from around the world on an annual basis! Production companies from the UK, Sweden and Germany have lensed their productions in our tropical oasis. Recently, a crew from the German TV Show, **Goodbye Deutschland** was in West Palm Beach, to follow two young German men who have a background in Olympic wrestling and sports. Cameras follow them as they open a new restaurant in downtown West Palm Beach. The show follows Germans who relocate to another country and seek a new life. Camera crews will be coming from Germany every month or two, to check in on the stars, and film them as they adjust to life in America.



"Typically German people do not consider taking such a bold step. An audience of millions throughout Europe are watching them struggle and triumph, or fail and return to their country," said **William Roger Cummings**, a local realtor who put together the leasing arrangements for the German cast members. For more info call Mr. Cummings at 561.282.5692.

## WATERING HOLE TURNS INTO VIDEO SET!



Alan Jackson filming his  
music video at Castaways  
Marina and Square  
Grouper Tiki Bar

They say history repeats itself, and in Jupiter it does! Country star **Alan Jackson** was back at the **Castaways Marina and Square Grouper Tiki Bar** in **Jupiter** to film a music video for his new song, *Long Way To Go*. Jackson previously shot the music video for *It's Five O' Clock Somewhere* with **Jimmy Buffett** several years ago at the local hot spot.

The new video is the story of Jackson and his crew coming to South Florida to make a video in the sunshine, but it rains, so they make some music and dance. The production team even brought in rain towers, in case it didn't rain. "The owner of the Square Grouper, Jimmy Burg, and his staff helped us pull it all together by helping us find extras, a caterer, hotel, etc. We could not have pulled it off without them. We even got the rain we wanted! Overall, shooting here was a great experience," said **Nicole McMillan**, Production Manager. The production team was accommodated at the **Jupiter Beach Resort**. For more info call 561.233.1000.



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## SIGNATURE NEWS SHOW FEATURES PBC



Roger Gamblin,  
Jimmy Trindade,  
and Peggy Gamblin

**Dateline NBC** has frequented Palm Beach County many times over the years to lens different episodes. A recent episode of *Dateline NBC* featured a story that has captivated locals for years. Jimmy Trindade's disappearance and Roger Gamblin's possible role.

Florida native Jimmy Trindade knew his way around the Bahamian Islands as well as any local. But what happened when Jimmy Trindade piloted his best friend's 38-foot Donzi from Spanish Cay back to Palm Beach. His boat was found, but he was not. From an extensive search that lasted months to strange twists and turns, Trindade's daughter and brother are still looking for answers. The story was also featured on FOX's *America's Most Wanted*. For more information visit [msnbc.msn.com](http://msnbc.msn.com).



## MASTER ACTORS HEAT UP THE STAGE!



L-R: Jeanne Bennette,  
Burt Reynolds, and  
C. Todd Vittum

The **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre (BRIFT)** presented their annual **Summer Showcase** to a packed house. The Showcase featured performances by graduating students from Burt Reynolds' Masters Acting Class. This year's showcase featured nine scenes from popular plays such as *The In-Laws*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Star Spangled Girl*, *Life and Limb*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *Chapter Two*, *Chocolate*, *Wanda's Visit*, and *He, She and It*.

"We are always so grateful for the support of Mr. Reynolds' fans. Tickets to the Showcase were sold out almost before they even went on sale," said Kelly Dennehy, Executive Director of BRIFT. If you are interested in signing up for summer classes at BRIFT, or for more info call 561.743.9955.



## FASHIONISTAS FLOCK TO WPB!



Palm Beach  
Style Rocks

Fashionistas, foodies and fun jazz lovers attended a spectacular 'unconventional' runway fashion event – under the stars. **Palm Beach Style Rocks – Jazz on the Palm** was a special event to support the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. **Devine Style Inc.** in conjunction with the **City of West Palm Beach** and **Wild 95.5** presented a community style event at the West Palm Beach fountains, Clematis Street. "The City of West Palm Beach was thrilled to partner with Divine Style for Palm Beach Style Rocks- Jazz on the Palm. The combination of amazing jazz performers, our top notch firefighters, and unique fashions from talented local designers made for a highly successful evening," said **Mary Pinak**, City of West Palm Beach, Community Events Manager.



Attendance for a Palm Beach County June event was at an all time high with more than 1500 circulating the vendor booths, listening to Jazz and enjoying the fashion show. A well attended weekend of in-store events concluded the Palm Beach Style Rocks festivities. For more info [palmbeachstylerocks.com](http://palmbeachstylerocks.com).



## NEW FEATURE IS 'UNFORGETTABLE'



Octavian  
Onuc

Local filmmaker **Octavian Onuc** (*The Passage*, *The Novelist*) is producing a new action film, *Unforgotten*. The film revolves around a renowned university professor who is the target of a revenge plot. The film stars local actors **Vinny Chimatto** and **Peter Marzilli**, who are both graduates of the Master Acting Class at the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre (BRIFT)**. Principal photography began in October 2010 and the project is set to be completed this month. Post-production will take place at the New Beginning Films Office in Wellington.



Unforgotten filming  
at Brakeworld in  
Wellington

"I chose to film in PBC because it is a fabulous area to film in, and visually pleasing. 90% of the film was shot here. The business establishments were very friendly and welcoming," said Onuc. Some locations that made a cameo appearance include **Palm Beach Atlantic University** in West Palm Beach, **Brakeworld** in Wellington, and **BRIFT** in Jupiter. Producers plan to circulate the film at major film festivals as well as hold local screenings. For more info visit [newbeginningfilms.webs.com](http://newbeginningfilms.webs.com).

## PR PRO EXPANDS HIS REACH



Barry Epstein

**Regan Communications Group** of Boston recently acquired **Barry R. Epstein Associates** of Boca Raton. The acquisition expands the reach of the 9<sup>th</sup> largest independently-owned public relations agency in the nation. Barry R. Epstein, President and CEO of Barry R. Epstein Associates, launched his firm in July 1979, with Irv Cowan, President of the Diplomat Hotel, as his first client.

"It's a thrill to be part of Regan Communications Group," said Epstein. "They have built a great reputation on the East Coast, and it will enable us to bring our clients to an even higher level." For more info visit [publicrelations.nu](http://publicrelations.nu) or call 561.852.0000.

## LOOKING FOR FLORIDA INCENTIVES?



The Florida Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive got an additional \$12 million total in tax credit allocations for the last three years of the five year program which started July 1, 2010 with an original allocation of \$242 million. As of June 15, 2011, 132 projects had been certified with anticipated qualified expenditures of close to \$1.37 billion including \$810 million in projected wages to Floridians associated with 195,000 jobs. The incentive program was modified by recent legislation to include caps on new TV series and pilots, the result of which is that new applications for these types of productions will be ineligible for certification for tax credits as of July 1, 2011. For more info regarding changes to the Incentive visit [filmflorida.com](http://filmflorida.com).

## PALM BEACH FILM SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH INT'L ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY



**Bigfoot Entertainment, Inc.** has agreed in principle to acquire the **Miami Film School** and **Palm Beach Film School** as part of the **International Academy of Film and Television (IAFT)** umbrella. Bigfoot also has appointed **Jim York**, founder and director of the schools, as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the IAFT. This partnership will add two new locations to the IAFT's growing roster of film schools, which includes campuses in Los Angeles and Hong Kong. "With his success in Florida at the Miami and Palm Beach Film Schools, Jim is the perfect person to oversee the always-growing initiatives of the IAFT" said Kacy Andrews, CEO, Bigfoot Entertainment and International Film School Holdings, Ltd. "We feel he will not only channel our efforts to put a network of IAFT schools on the map, but also guide their operations effectively due to his successful track record with other film schools."



Through Bigfoot Entertainment, the IAFT offers students an opportunity to be a part of feature film productions, such as the recently released *Deep Gold*, which employed the help of many IAFT graduates. "It has been an honor to work with the creative individuals at the Miami and Palm Beach Film Schools including teachers, staff and students." said Jim York, COO of the IAFT. "I now look forward to working with Kacy and IAFT to help aspiring filmmakers from around the world. With our new partnership, we will continue the commitment to train quality filmmakers, while opening new locations across the U.S. and abroad." For more info visit [bigfoot.com](http://bigfoot.com) and [iaft.net](http://iaft.net). In addition, the Miami Film School has been authorized to open film classes to M-1 Visa approved foreign students. For more info email [filmschool@aol.com](mailto:filmschool@aol.com).



### JULY 14 IS TURKLES DAY!



Commissioner Vana presenting the proclamation to *Turkles*

At the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissions meeting last month, Commissioner Vana presented a proclamation declaring July 14, 2011 as "**Turkles Day**" in Palm Beach County. *Turkles* is a family-friendly feature film that was made in association with the Film Department at **Palm Beach State College (PBSC)** and **The Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre**. The film shot for 41 days in Palm Beach County at locations such as **Juno Beach Park & Pier** and **John D. MacArthur State Park**.

"We are honored to receive this proclamation! This film was made by 200 volunteer filmmakers, depicts over thirty area locations, and raises awareness about sea turtles. We couldn't be prouder," said **Frank Eberling**, *Turkles* Writer/Director. Eberling is an award-winning filmmaker, who is also an adjunct professor in the PBSC Film Department. For more information please visit [turkles.org](http://turkles.org).



Filming of *Turkles*

### ARTISTS ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS



In a quest to improve film and TV programs in Palm Beach County (PBC), **The Palm Beach International Film Festival** and the **PBC Economic Development Office** donated funding to establish an equipment loan pool for public and private schools with TV and/or film programs in PBC. The money was used to purchase new TV and video equipment for the students. "The program has been successful for years, but this year brought a surge a students taking advantage of the equipment," said **Frank Gorora** of PBC's Education Network. Dr. Diane Allerdyce, Chief Academic Officer, at Toussaint L'Ouverture said, "Thank you so much for the use of the equipment this year. It literally changed several students' lives to be able to make videos." For info call 561.233.1000.

### SELLING HOMES 'HGTV' STYLE



HGTV's *My First Sale*

The production team from **High Noon Entertainment** shot five episodes of the reality-based TV Show, **My First Sale**, in Palm Beach County (PBC)! The episodes were shot in **Boca Raton**, **Royal Palm Beach**, and **West Palm Beach**. The show chronicles first-time home sellers' struggles and successes as they go through the potentially overwhelming process of listing, staging, and ultimately selling a home for the very first time.

"We became smitten with PBC during our research and casting process for *My First Sale*. The distinctly fresh and beautiful South Florida style was seen in both the real estate and in the home sellers themselves, not to mention the absolutely breathtaking natural beauty that surrounds the county. We feel that some of our strongest episodes have come out of our filming efforts in PBC. We could not have executed our production without the welcoming support of the County," said **Dan Lehan**, Line Producer. The shows will air around the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2011 or early 2012. Check your local listings for air dates and times.

For more info visit [hgtv.com/myfirstsale](http://hgtv.com/myfirstsale).



### MIAMI FILM DIRECTOR RETIRES



Jeff Peel

After 17 years at the helm of Miami-Dade's Office of Film and Entertainment, **Jeff Peel** has retired. Mr. Peel's career began in the film office in 1993, with the blockbuster **True Lies**, and he has worked with thousands of films, TV shows, commercial and still photo productions over the years.

The Office of Film and Entertainment will continue to offer location and permitting services to its clients under the supervision of Tony Ojeda, Director, Miami-Dade County's Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Peel has plans to remain active in Miami's film community, in particular with **Film Florida**, the statewide industry trade organization he helped create in 1998.

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: CHESTERFIELD HOTEL

### FASHION AND FAME AT THE CHESTERFIELD HOTEL



Chesterfield Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Palm Beach, **The Chesterfield Hotel** is the perfect getaway. The Chesterfield is just steps from world-famous Worth Avenue, and this hotel has long been a favorite of many seasoned travelers coming to partake of all that legendary Worth Avenue has to offer. As one of the most recognizable shopping streets in the United States, this popular destination for shoppers from around the world features over 200 shops, galleries and boutiques. Worth Avenue and



The Pool at the Chesterfield

The Chesterfield attract celebrities, politicians, personalities, captains of industry, and anyone interested in luxury and fashion. Famous names frequently make their way through the doors of The Chesterfield, and past and present celebrity guests have included Gabriel Byrne, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Lainie Kazan, Anouka Aimee, Alan King, and Lauren Bacall. The Chesterfield is, according to *National Geographic Traveler*, a "gem of a hotel". *Men's Health* rated it "Sophisticated, sensational pool, impeccable service and the hottest spot in Palm Beach" which leaves little to be said, except perhaps welcoming guests "as if they were royalty and boasts one of Palm Beach's most popular supper clubs, the Leopard Lounge" (Entrée Travelers' Newsletter).

The Chesterfield features 53 luxurious guest rooms and suites. The Chesterfield's famous Leopard Lounge, is one of the hottest night spots in Palm Beach. Beautifully decorated with its unique hand-painted ceiling, leopard print carpeting, elephant-head bar rails and many other jungle-like touches, this is an elegant and enchanting yet playful venue. The four-star Chesterfield Hotel is an elegant boutique hotel, 'a little bit of England in Florida'. Encapsulating all that is most luxurious and relaxing, this historic landmark building offers stunning European style and world-class standards of service. By day the hotel is an oasis of calm where guests gather around the pool; in the evening, live entertainment, dancing and gourmet dining at the Leopard Lounge and Restaurant make it a lively spot in the area. A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the hotel is within easy reach of the West Palm Beach business district, City Place shopping and dining, and Palm Beach International Airport. The Chesterfield is part of the Red Carnation Hotel Collection of luxury family run properties. For more info visit [chesterfieldpb.com](http://chesterfieldpb.com).



Penthouse at the Chesterfield



Leopard Lounge

Editor: **Jill Margolius** Contributor: **Terry Arke** | To be included in the newsletter, please call 561.233.1000.

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