

# FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | JULY 2014



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## UNDERWATER IS THE NEW BACKDROP FOR TELEVISION



The Palm Beaches are abundant in their underwater resources. One area that is particularly well-known is **Phil Foster Park** in **Riviera Beach**. Many productions have utilized this location including the reality TV Show *Ultimate Diver Challenge* (UDC). UDC challenged 20 of the top scuba divers in the country to compete against each other to determine who will be the Ultimate Diver! The show will begin airing this month with distribution through **Olympusat** on **Untamed Sports US** in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, **Untamed Sports International** in the Middle East, and **Ultra Docu** in key Hispanic markets such as Puerto Rico. Check your listings for air dates and times.

Another production that utilized the resources of Phil Foster Park is **Project Seahorse**. Project Seahorse is a youth outreach program with two purposes: To teach children about underwater resources, and to provide more exposure to Riviera Beach's and the county's diving assets. The event was produced by **Jim Abernethy** of Jim Abernethy's Scuba Adventures and **Dan Volker**, social media expert and scuba enthusiast.



Jakayla Epps with Project Seahorse



ABC News with Jim Abernethy

Jim Abernethy has been busy making news on his own. Aside from promoting diving assets, he is also a shark conservationist, and was featured on **ABC News** where he has been nicknamed 'The Shark Whisperer.' He recently created a video where a 'mermaid' dances with sharks in a protest against the global slaughter of sharks. The piece was shown on many news outlets including **Good Morning America**. For more info call 561.233.1000.

## MARKETING THE PALM BEACHES



In an attempt to market the Palm Beaches to the masses, **Levatas**, a next-generation marketing consultancy, has been hired to produce a number of videos, some slated to run nationally. The commercials will shoot in the Palm Beaches in August, and will aim to improve the county's brand. Levatas was also the company behind Discover Palm Beach County's new logo, which was unveiled earlier this year, and features a "palm-scape" graphic.



"Our clients include everything from local brands to multinational conglomerates, but we're especially excited for our work with Discover Palm Beach County and other county agencies, like the Cultural Council, who we are helping build a new website. We can't wait to showcase the Palm Beaches strongest assets to the world" said **Ray Popp**, Executive Director at Levatas. For more info visit [levatas.com](http://levatas.com).

## NEW FILM FEST KICKS OFF IN BOCA



The Boca Black Film Festival announces a special screening of *The Black Miami* at the inaugural film festival, held **July 17 – 19, 2014**. Directed by Carlton Smith and Michael Williams, the documentary film highlights the historical significance of blacks to the business, culture and development in the Miami-Dade community.

The documentary will screen on July 18 at 3pm. Co-director Carlton Smith will present a workshop session on Documentary Filmmaking after the screening along with a Q & A.



Following *The Black Miami* screening, the festival will present the official 2014 film selections. All screenings will be held at the **Boca Raton Marriott**. The Boca Black Film Festival will also feature a series of workshops with seasoned pros. For more info, or to purchase tickets visit [bocablackfilm.org](http://bocablackfilm.org).



### NEW MAG HAS AN INDEPENDENT STREAK



Rachel Galvin

There is a new film magazine in South Florida called **Independent Streak Magazine**. This monthly online magazine features interviews with filmmakers, reviews, events and more. The brainchild of **Rachel Galvin**, an actress, writer and producer who lives in Boca Raton, this magazine serves an international audience but has a focus on South Florida.

It serves as an extension to her online radio show **IndieStreak** ([blogtalkradio.com/indiestreak](http://blogtalkradio.com/indiestreak)) in which she interviews filmmakers every Sunday. For info visit [independentstreakmagazine.com](http://independentstreakmagazine.com).



Independent Streak

### PBC ANIMALS ARE HONORED BY USA TODAY



One of Palm Beach County's most popular attractions, **Lion Country Safari** was just named "One of the Ten Best Drive-Through Animal Safaris" by **USA Today**. The only drive-through safari in Florida, and the first in America, Lion Country Safari is divided into seven unique wildlife regions. Meet Wildebeests, African Lions, Chimpanzees and a baby Southern White Rhino, Anna, who just turned one this year along the drive-through safari.

Lion Country Safari has hosted many high-profile productions recently including **MTV2's *MLB Fan Cave***, ***Jobs That Bite*** on **Nat Geo WILD**, and **NBC's *The Today Show***. For more info visit [lioncountrysafari.com](http://lioncountrysafari.com) or call 561.793.1084.



Jobs That Bite at Lion Country Safari



The Today Show at Lion Country Safari



MTV2 at Lion Country Safari

### NEW SHOW 'SMOKES' THE COMPETITION



Filming of Holy Smokers

**Derrick McCray**, owner of **McCray's Backyard BBQ**, has a role on the new television show **Holy Smokers** as the co-host and lead judge. The one-hour special premiered on **Discovery Channel's *Destination America***. The show is about folks who are as passionate about their BBQ as they are faithful to their church. This competition takes smoked meats to heavenly heights when expert BBQ judges descend on a church gathering, offering the congregation a chance to win money for their favorite local charity.

"I enjoyed the professionalism and vision for the show. I'm hoping that the show will become a series," said McCray. For more information call 561.233.1000.

### SOUND STUDIO IS OUT OF THIS WORLD



Christopher Plummer



Bob Vila

**Saturn Sound Studios**, a professional audio recording studio based in West Palm Beach worked with Oscar winner **Christopher Plummer** when he visited the studio to record the voice over narration for the film ***Titan's of the Ice Age***. Their work is currently running on 47 IMAX screens across the U.S.

In addition, **Bob Vila** of ***This Old House*** fame visited Saturn Sound Studios this spring for recording work on his "**At Home with Bob Vila**" radio series. The company was also recruited for Video Production on Victory Cruise Lines Summer TV Campaign and Searcy, Denny, Scarola, Barnhart and Shipley's Spanish TV Commercial Campaign. For more info call 561.832.2148 or visit [saturnsoundstudios.com](http://saturnsoundstudios.com).



### INDIE PRODUCTION COMPANY TURNS ONE AND CELEBRATES BY FINISHING A SHORT FILM



**Tina Czarnota** is celebrating the one year anniversary of her independent production company, **Teal Chatelaine Productions**. Czarnota's most recent short film ***Slow but Shirl*** shot entirely in Palm Beach County, and has been entered into several film festivals. ***Slow But Shirl*** is excerpted off the feature screenplay, ***Deadwaiter***, which is in various stages of production and filming. ***Deadwaiter*** is a mystery/comedy adapted from the novel of same title.

"Combining several of my loves: bed & breakfasts, whodunits and family-friends, I had the basis for my mystery series. I can't help dreaming of the day when I will see my mysteries up on the big...and small screen," said Czarnota. For more info visit [tinaczarnota.com](http://tinaczarnota.com).



Filming on the set of Deadwaiter



FILM INKS DISTRIBUTION DEAL



Burt Reynolds in Hollow Creek

*Hollow Creek*, a film shot in Palm Beach County has inked a distribution deal with **Spotlight Pictures** for its Worldwide and Domestic Distribution. For marketing reasons the LA based company changed the name of the film to *Haunting in Hollow Creek* to take advantage of the supernatural element in the thriller. The film reportedly did very well in Cannes where it sparked the interest of international buyers who praised the production quality and legendary actor **Burt Reynolds'** performance, who makes a special guest appearance playing a coal mining tycoon.

The Producer and Director **Guisela Moro** is a master actor of Mr. Reynolds through the Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre (BRIFT). Moro also stars in the film along with actor and producer **Steve Daron** (*The Bus Driver*). "The experience of filming this movie has transformed my life," said Moro. For more info visit [Hollowcreekmovie.com](http://Hollowcreekmovie.com) or on Facebook.



FILM FLORIDA TO CHAMPION JOBS



**Michelle Hillery**, the Deputy Film Commissioner for the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission (FTC), has been named **President of Film Florida**.

"It is a great honor to be named as the next President of Film Florida. I am hugely excited by the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to working with the incoming leadership such as Sen. Andy Gardner and Rep. Steve Crisafulli in the Florida Senate and House on creating more jobs for Floridians." For info call 561.233.1000 or visit [filmflorida.org](http://filmflorida.org).



BREAKING SPEED BARRIERS



Johnny Bohmer and the BADD GT

Each year, **Supercar Week** drives into Palm Beach County (PBC), and garners a lot of media attention. All Supercar events have been created as media occasions for film and TV, and are filmed by **ICTV1**. The event celebrates the most significant cars in the world, and organizers recently announced that Supercar Week has now teamed up with **Performance Power Racing (PPR)** to break a world record! "We're excited to be part of history with Mr. Johnny Bohmer and his PPR team as they break the 300 mph standing mile street legal world speed record. Having the fastest car in the world at SuperCar Week has always been one of our greatest featured attractions. Not many people know that the BADD GT was conceived of, built and lives in PBC," said **Neil London**, President and EP of SuperCar Week.

"We see our mission to define PBC as the world-wide auto enthusiast travel destination each January coming true," said London. For more info email [media@supercarweek.com](mailto:media@supercarweek.com).



PUMA 'SWINGS' INTO LAKE WORTH



Lake Worth Golf Course

The scenic **Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course** was shut down recently for a **PUMA** photo shoot and video. A famous golfer was on hand to model PUMA products during the shoot. The all-day shoot utilized the golf course and the clubhouse.

"We were delighted to work with the production team on this shoot," said **Michael Bornstein**, Lake Worth City Manager. Special thanks to the City of Lake Worth for all of their assistance. For more info visit [lakeworth.org](http://lakeworth.org).

COOL FLICKS GIVES PBC RESIDENTS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER



Dorfman In Love



Blumenthal



Hora 79

The **Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival** presented by **Mandel JCC**, brings the **Hot Days Cool Flicks** summer film series to Palm Beach County, **July 22 to August 27**. The diverse program features American independent films *Dorfman in Love*, *Blumenthal*, and *The Jester*, as well as the award-winning Israeli films *Dolphin Boy* and *Hora 79*.

While the mission of the festival is to engage, educate and entertain" said Festival Director **Ellen Wedner**, "we tried to keep an emphasis on the third 'E' --entertain, for Hot Days, Cool Flicks." Premieres will play at the Mandel JCC in Palm Beach Gardens, the Movies of Delray, and at the Movies of Lake Worth. The cost is \$10 per ticket, and the six film series is \$54. For info visit [pbjff.org](http://pbjff.org).



LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: PEANUT ISLAND



Peanut Island

Peanut Island is a popular location and offers so much more than a boating destination. With humble beginnings, it has come a long way from its start as a collection site for the sand that was dredged during the construction of Lake Worth Inlet nearly 100 years ago. With additional

dredging projects, Peanut Island has grown in size over the years into the 80 acre site we enjoy today. The water around the island is crystal clear and shallow due to the sandbars, and visitors can see a brilliant turquoise color during an incoming tide; all these features combine to make it one of the most picturesque beaches in our area. The island is by no means remote – but since it is not a residential island there are several angles that read deserted. The only access is either personal watercraft, a ferry from the nearby marinas or a water taxi.



Lagoon at Peanut Island

Peanut Island Park offers boat docks, boardwalks, campsites, facilities, a fishing pier, mangroves, multiple breakwaters on the east side, as well as a lovely lagoon with coconut palms along with a beached rowboat that is artfully placed making it a wonderful backdrop for fashion shoots.

Since the island is just north of the Port of Palm Beach, freighters and cruise ships can be seen in the inlet to the south, while the Blue Heron Bridge can be seen off in the distance to the north.



US Coast Guard Station

Also located on the island is a roomy two story, Cape Cod style home with a red roof. This home was built in the 1930's to house the seaman for the US Coast Guard Station that were on duty at the time. Also on-site is the original coast guard boathouse and the underground bunker that was constructed during the

Cuban Missile Crisis as a fallout shelter because of its proximity to JFK's Palm Beach residence. For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).

EDUCATION CORNER: HONORING VETERANS, G-STAR STYLE



1941 WWII Douglas C-47 Aircraft at G-Star

The G-Star School of the Arts held a special event recently to honor Veterans. The event titled "Celebrate Veterans Big Memorial Day Classic Car & Motorcycle Show" welcomed special guests including the Honorable Bev Smith, Mayor of the Village of Palm Springs, along with Senator Maria Sachs, Representative David Kerner, and Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary Lou Berger who spoke to the Veterans, their families, and attendees. Tours were given inside a 1941 WWII Douglas C-47 aircraft that flew on D-Day at Normandy and The Battle of the Bulge. The plane can also be used as a backdrop for film projects.



Madison Lillard at G-Star

Recently, *PBG Magazine* published a story about G-Star student Madison Lillard who "adopted" a very special soldier, Senator Bob Dole. Lillard is part of the school's Adopt A Veteran program. in which she gets to "adopt" a veteran, and tell his story for years to come. "I want to congratulate the G-Star School of the Arts for [taking on] this project of 'The World War II Experience'. It's a wonderful opportunity for people to learn about World War II," said Senator Dole. "As a school, we have strived this past year to create programs that bring our students, Veterans, and Holocaust Survivors closer together to teach our students that 'Freedom Isn't Free'. We have created the 'Into the Past: The World War II Experience' project and our 'Adopt a Veteran' program to accomplish this goal. We thank Senator Dole for his support for our project," said G-Star CEO Greg Hauptner.



Once complete, the 'Into the Past: The World War II Experience' will include four newly constructed "futuristic" buildings featuring 60,000 square feet of all-new technology. For more information visit [gstarschool.org](http://gstarschool.org) or [atagency.net](http://atagency.net).

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