FOCUS on FILM

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

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FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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LOCAL SHIPPING VESSEL CAMEOS IN SNAKEHEAD

When the producers of ***Snakehead*** set out to find a film-friendly ship for a series of complicated action sequences, they conducted a nationwide search that landed them in The Palm Beaches. *Snakehead* centers around the story of a Chinese immigrant who gets caught up in an international crime ring of human smuggling while trying to make a better life for her family. The independent feature film is due to be released in 2018.

Brian Yang & Evan Leong

After working for several years in Los Angeles under the mentorship of Justin Lin (Director/Producer, *Fast and Furious* franchise, *Star Trek Beyond*), Director **Evan Leong** moved to New York City to pursue his own directorial pursuits, including the 2013 documentary *Linsanity*, which chronicles the journey of Chinese-American basketball sensation Jeremy Lin. Aspiring to bring more stories with strong Asian characters to the big screen, Leong teamed up with a group of industry insiders including **Brian Yang** (Actor/Producer, *The Man With The Iron Fists*, *Hawaii-Five O*, *Linsanity*) to develop *Snakehead*. As filming progressed, the producers found it impossible to execute crucial scenes on a ship in New York City. "Once we expanded our search, the FTC connected us with the **Port of Palm Beach**, which led us to vessel owner Kevin Teeters, and the rest is history!" said Producer Brian Yang. Overseen by the port security team to ensure safety, *Snakehead* filmed for two nights aboard the ***Monarch Countess*** shipping vessel while docked at the Port of Palm Beach. "If there is a more helpful combination of folks to orchestrate filming on a ship docked on a port, I don't believe it," added Yang. "Reflecting back on the making of our movie, the segment we did down there was the highlight of the entire production." See more at snakeheadmovie.com.

Monarch Countess

MONEY MATTERS IN PBC

Jean Chatzky, author and financial editor of **NBC's Today Show**, features **West Palm Beach** and **Delray Beach** citizens and their financial worries in a new series of educational videos. Minneapolis-based **Ann Schleck & Co** collaborated with Jean Chatzky, who has worked with people and their money for over twenty years, and local director **Audra Grigaliunas** on this multimedia financial wellness program. Asking questions like "what's the worst money advice you've ever gotten?" and "what holds you back from having a sweet nest egg?", the show's producers wanted diverse and gritty interviews featuring the concerns of real people. "West Palm's streets have a variety of facades, an urban bias and all kinds of people milling about at any given time," said Director/Producer Audra Grigaliunas. She also spoke to the high quality of production in The Palm Beaches: "I'm lucky to be the video arm with all the needed quality, support and expertise that any national project would demand right here in PBC." Check your financial finesse at jeanchatzky.com.

Jean Chatzky

360 DEGREES OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

Japan's largest national public broadcasting organization, **NHK**, visited The Palm Beaches to film a documentary-style program on **President Trump**. NHK and Milky Way Media used **360-degree** video technology to capture footage of President Trump's route taken from Palm Beach International Airport to **Mar-a-Lago**, the winter White House on the island of Palm Beach. Local landmarks like Trump International Golf Club, Trump Plaza and the Flagler Drive waterfront were showcased. The production team even stopped by **Bingham Island** to visit the press pool. The program will show the impact of President Trump's visits on the community, and will present interviews with town residents, including FTC Board Member Douglas Rill, as well as folks from other regions of the USA that have connections to the Commander-In-Chief. Learn more at milkywaymedia.net.

Capturing Mar-A-Lago

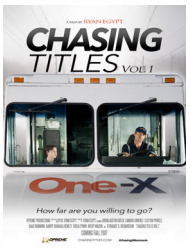
Douglas Rill with NHK Crew on Bingham Island

BOCA TEEN'S BIRTHDAY BASH ON MTV

Dy'mond

MTV's hit reality series ***My Super Sweet 16*** has returned to our screens, and their first stop? Capturing an epic party for one lucky **Boca Raton** teen. The revamped series' season premiere featured local beauty vlogger Dy'mond and her festive 16th birthday celebration. Scenes were filmed in Boca Raton and West Palm Beach, with the diamond-themed birthday bash taking place at the beautiful waterfront **Lake Pavilion** on Flagler Drive. Dy'mond ensured her debut was memorable – by arriving to her party in a helicopter! "If I could rate my party on a scale of 1 to 10 - I would rate it a 12," Dy'mond claimed in an interview with MTV. Catch reruns on MTV or view the episode online at mtv.com/episodes.

RIVIERA BEACH SETS THE SCENE



Palm Beach County native **Ryan Egypt** packed his bags in Beverly Hills and took to the sky to reach the ideal filming destination for his directorial debut, ***Chasing Titles***, in **Riviera Beach**. Starring Brian Austin Green (of *Beverly Hills, 90210* fame), the film is a coming of age story about a family struggling to make ends meet.

The complexity of the film's action and driving sequences was made possible by the efforts and expertise of the **City of Riviera Beach Police Department**. "We are always supportive of the film industry, and with a project of this magnitude, it was all hands on deck to make their vision a reality. My Administrative Assistant Tanya Franklin did an outstanding job coordinating those efforts," said Acting Assistant Chief Leonard B. Mitchell. Produced by **Opreme Productions,** *Chasing Titles Vol. 1* is set for release in September 2017 with *Vol. 2* due in 2019. See more at opreme.com.

Brian Austin Green & Ryan Egypt

A HOME RUN PROMO

Local production and distribution company **Olympusat Inc** set out to create a new video to market The Palm Beaches for baseball events. The **Palm Beach County Sports Commission** partnered with **The Ballpark of the Palm Beaches**, **Roger Dean Stadium**, and **Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation** to host the **Palm Beach Classic**, one of the largest high school baseball tournaments in the country. In June, over 250 teams consisting of more than 3,000 athletes utilized the County's premier sporting complexes. The event was the first amateur baseball tournament to take place at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, Florida's newest and most technologically advanced Major League Baseball spring training facility and spring training home for the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals. Olympusat was on site to cover all the action! For more, visit olympusat.com.

BATTLEGROUND: EVERGLADES

The battle lines are drawn—and the stakes couldn't be higher. On one side you have the farmers, who say they grow the food that feeds our country and to take away the farms is to put the United States at risk. On the other side you have the environmentalists, who say that if we don't do everything we can to preserve the Everglades—Florida's fragile ecosystem—our future will be gone. A documentary series coming this fall from **South Florida PBS** takes you to the front lines of this epic struggle. Look for ***Battleground: Everglades*** from the same Emmy-award winning team that produced *The* ***Unseen Everglades***. Featuring segments filmed in the **Western Communities** of The Palm Beaches, this series highlights the beauty of this national treasure and the highly personal nature of the fight to preserve it. Look for it this fall on South Florida PBS, wpbt2.org.

LOCAL EDUCATOR FINDS HER NICHE IN THE PRODUCTION INDUSTRY

With Auli'i Cravalho (Moana)

Skilled professionals from all walks of life can be found on set on any given day in the production industry. **Aimee Romano**, a certified educator and **Boynton Beach** resident, has found herself working in an environment she never imagined when she first set out to be a teacher. As an on-set tutor for young actors, Aimee has worked with talent on Disney's ***Moana, Pete's Dragon, Sleeping Beauty*** (DVD bonus features), Netflix's ***Bloodline,*** and more! "One of the great things about this type of work is there is never a 'typical day'. Each individual production has their own needs, and as a set tutor, I work around their schedules to make it run efficiently," Aimee shared. "I absolutely adore what I do. I really enjoy the energy on set and the children I work with. One minute I am working in a studio in Miami, and the next week I'm called for a job in NYC for a week-long cruise. The one thing that I *can* expect is that no two jobs are the same, and you must always stay flexible and positive!" For more information, please contact Aimee at aimcook@comcast.net.

Aimee Romano

INQUISITIVE MINDS ENCOURAGED

Greg & Dawn Hauptner with Joe Namath and Dick Arlett

Ever wonder what's running through the minds of America's burgeoning youth? Your chance to find out is here with G-Star's latest project, ***What Kids Wanna Know (WKWK)***. The show is produced by **Dick Arlett**, known best for his career at the *Today* show, numerous TV specials with stars like Bob Hope, and as the original co-creator of the TV series *Wings*. Taped at **G-Star Studios**, students write, shoot and edit the show. Interviews from celebrities range from legendary quarterback **Joe Namath,** to New York Yankees icon **Derek Jeter**, to PGA Champion **Phil Mickelson**. "The kids ask amazing, off-the-wall questions that make the celebrities laugh and open up," said G-Star Founder/CEO Greg Hauptner. "Audiences are going to love *WKWK*. It's funny, family-friendly, and a great opportunity for the G-Star students to develop their skills on set," said Dick Arlett. See more at gstarstudios.com.

BRITS FIND THEIR PLACE IN THE SUN

Year-round sunny skies and warm weather make The Palm Beaches a fantasy destination for most of the world, and for those that are lucky enough, having a residence here makes it possible to enjoy an endless summer. That's the goal for participants on ***A Place in the Sun***, Britain's longest running property TV series, watched by millions in the UK and abroad. The show helps British buyers connect with realtors to find their ideal holiday or relocation home, and an upcoming episode will feature a search through **Boca Raton**, highlighting everything from the coastal beauty at **South Beach Park** to the high-end shopping experience at **Town Center Mall**. Each episode airs repeatedly on British public service television network **Channel 4**, **More4** and **Discovery** channels throughout the UK. See more at aplaceinthesun.com/tv-show.

IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR ADVENTURE

CNBC's Adventure Capitalists (AC) gives entrepreneurs the chance to showcase new inventions in the environment they're designed for—the great outdoors! **3 Ball Entertainment** out of California recently filmed an episode in The Palm Beaches, featuring myriad devices including one that collects data to help correct mistakes during high-performance driving. "For the particular products our investors were testing, we needed an area that had great weather, warm water, beautiful scenics and an international raceway. PBC was a perfect fit!" said Jeff Altrock, SVP, Current Programming. The driving device was tested at the **Palm Beach International Raceway** in Jupiter, while filming also took place at **Currie Park** and the **City Center Garage** in **West Palm Beach**. AC is CNBC's youngest-skewing original series. Season two is set to air later this year. Keep up with the adventure at cnbc.com/adventure-capitalists.

EXTREME FISHING AT GULFSTREAM PARK

Kayaking off coast of Delray

Tougher Than It Looks is a new series starring host Andrew Younghusband, who tackles the most extreme situations–terrifying heights, challenging sports, bizarre hobbies and more. The episode set in **Delray Beach** will showcase Mr. Younghusband testing the waters of the **Atlantic Ocean** as he tries to catch big game fish – from a kayak. "**Gulfstream Park** was a great setting. It's vibrant and there's so much to offer. No shortage of things to see and do," said Christine Liber, publicist for Proper Television. "The Palm Beaches presented the perfect location for our series. When we scouted the area, the potential was immense. Andrew's kayaking experience was definitely '*Tougher Than It Looks*'! It was challenging, exhilarating…. and quite hilarious!" *Tougher Than It Looks* will air on the **Discovery** network in Canada this fall – with a US premiere soon to follow. Watch episodes online at discovery.ca/extra/tougher-than-it-looks.

IPC WINS MVP AT THE FLORIDA SPORTS SUMMIT

International Polo Club

The **International Polo Club (IPC)** in **Wellington** took home the biggest prize at this year's Florida Sports Summit after being named Large Market Sports Venue of the Year. The award, presented by the Florida Sports Foundation, honors IPC as a major catalyst for sports tourism. To boot, millions of people watched the ***US Polo Championships*** when it aired on **CBS**. Meanwhile, **NBC Sports Network** brought **The Palm Beaches** into homes across the country with its broadcasts of the ***Suncoast Grand Prix***, ***Rolex Grand Prix***, and select ***Gladiator Polo*** matches. The 248-acre facility also plays host to a variety of other sporting events including soccer and rugby. **Mark Bellissimo,** CEO of IPC**,** calls the polo club a versatile venue that "boasts the ability to not only showcase the highest levels of [prestigious] polo competitions, but also provide a platform of large mixed-use space to facilitate other popular field sports." To learn more about the club, visit ipc.coth.com.

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: HISTORICAL BACKDROPS IN THE PALM BEACHES

Peanut Island holds a treasure trove of historic locations including the **Kennedy Bunker**. Built in 1960, its code name was "Detachment Hotel" and was to be used in event of a nuclear attack. The plan was for then-President JFK to be evacuated to the site from his home in Palm Beach.

The Kennedy Bunker

Boca Train Depot

The **FEC Passenger Station** offers a peek into the past on its perfectly preserved property located in **Boca Raton**. The location is well suited for still photography and offers angles that would lend itself to vintage inspired fashions and could accommodate a flashback scene for a small commercial production. With the Seaboard Air Line Lounge Car located onsite, there are opportunities to cheat train arrival and departure as well as some train car interior sequences.

Yesteryear Village reads as "Small Town, USA" circa 1895-1945, and has hosted many commercial productions over the years. It most recently served as the backdrop for a zany production titled ***In Sanity, FL***, starring **Burt Reynolds** as himself. The collection of early Florida buildings includes a blacksmith shop, bait shop, church, the Riddle House, an old schoolhouse and a general store along with a variety of other buildings all on the Fairgrounds property.

The Feed Store

Boynton Women's Club Courtyard

Designed by famed architect Addison Mizner, the **Boynton Beach Women's Club** stands ready to provide a regal backdrop for commercial productions of all types. The building has been upgraded but retains its original charm with wide staircases that lead to the upstairs ballroom above the library and dining rooms which can easily be booked for a variety of productions. For more information, please visit our online database at pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER: SOUTH FL PBS FILMMAKER PROJECT

South Florida PBS has launched a program aimed at helping local filmmakers find success. The initiative was motivated by years of watching filmmakers stumble through common issues that created a gap between what they considered a finished film and content that was ready for broadcast. Issues ranged anywhere from sound editing to clearing the copyrights of material used in their production.

South Florida PBS decided to take a proactive approach by acquiring a grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts** which has allowed the network to launch the **film-maker** project. Participants are paired with mentors to guide them through the process of preparing a completed film for broadcast. Participants benefit from workshops that address issues facing local filmmakers. Once the film is ready for broadcast, South Florida PBS will air it to their viewing audience, estimated at 6.3 million, and distribute it through other media outlets, giving these productions a national audience.

"South Florida is in the midst of a cultural renaissance across all artistic disciplines," said Doris Bravo-Hieger, Ph.D., Manager of Arts Content for PBS. "It's become imperative to create opportunities for filmmakers. South Florida PBS is proud to offer a platform, mentorship and professional development through the **film-maker** initiative."

The project's Board of Advisors represent the South Florida filmmaking community, with representatives from **FilMiami, FilmGate, PBC Film & Television Commission** and other industry experts. South Florida PBS has strong ties with film festivals, secondary schools and colleges, film commissions and working professionals. The aim of **film-maker** is to close that gap between a rough cut and a polished production, to provide meaningful mentorships and to give local filmmakers distribution opportunities that they wouldn't have otherwise. For more, visit southfloridapbs.org/film-maker.

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