FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | JUNE 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

1. SHADOW FIGHTER
2. CHANGING SEAS
3. FESTIVAL SHOW WINS TELLY
4. DEVOUR! FESTIVAL
5. GATOR FILM FESTIVAL
6. SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE
7. EDUCATION CORNER: JOINING HANDS IN DELRAY

PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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BIRDING ACROSS THE PALM BEACHES

Nikon's Birding Adventures TV (BATV) is an ongoing television series that focuses on destination and adventure birdwatching. This successful national series is produced by local Palm Beach County production company **AA Video,** and they recently completed three half-hour shows dedicated to birding in The Palm Beaches. **Jeff Aderman**, Executive Producer of BATV, has been producing the series for seven years and says, "We have been doing the show for a long time, all over the world. So to finally film three episodes in my hometown and to show off the birding destinations in our backyard has been spectacular." Each episode explores the best exotic birding destinations in Palm Beach County; the most unusual, rare and highly sought after bird species and the amazing wildlife and the culture found in the area.

James Currie

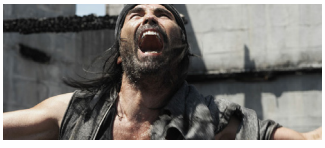
The episodes are led by **James Currie**, who is a passionate, informative and sometimes crazy host! The series portrays a unique blend of information and adventure, making birdwatching refreshing, contemporary and exciting. The program has a strong conservation emphasis and highlights the importance and urgency of preserving the lives of incredible birds. BATV brings the splendor of the world's bird and animal life to the comfort of your living room and is airing now on Destination America to over 50 million households. Each episode features a "Golden Bird" including the sandhill cranes, urban parrots, and snail kites. Take to the skies with BATV by visiting birdingadventures.com.

SHADOW FIGHTER READY TO COMPETE

Producer/Actor **Steve Daron**'s latest feature, ***Shadow Fighter***, is preparing to enter the film festival circuit. The story follows a homeless ex-boxer who finds himself training an inner city kid to defend himself from street dealers forcing him into a life of crime.

Steve Daron

The film was shot throughout Palm Beach County last year, with a majority of scenes taking place in **Lake Worth**. "We received such a great amount of support from Lake Worth **City Manager Mike Bornstein**, and the location was perfect. Having the ability to hire my own cast and crew in the region I call home made a huge difference for the success of the film," said Daron. Following its run in major film festivals, Daron plans to pursue distribution negotiations. Check out the mood reel at shadowfightermovie.com.



ALL ABOUT JAZZ IN SEASON TWO

Eight new episodes of ***I Am Jazz*** will be aired on **TLC** in the wake of a successful first season. ***I Am Jazz*** centers on the life of transgender teen **Jazz Jennings** and her family. The show is a critically acclaimed reality series with a season one premiere reach of over 1.4 million households.

Jazz and her family live in southern Palm Beach County. The series follows Jazz as she tries to balance life, school, sports and relationships. Season two will document Jazz exploring and enjoying some of Palm Beach County's beautiful natural areas at **Juno Beach Park**, **Phil Foster Park** and **Patch Reef Park** as well as making a trip to the **What Women Want Expo** in **Mizner Park**. The new season premieres June 8. For more information about this show or to watch episodes and extra content for free go to tlc.com/tv-shows/i-am-jazz.

LOCALS RULE! OUTSIDE TV'S "LOCALS"

Teton Gravity Research is producing a reality series titled ***Locals*** that visits the most exciting outdoor communities in the world. Palm Beach County resident **Damien Leroy** shares his favorite spots for stand-up paddling and kite-boarding in episode two of the newest season. ***Locals*** has explored the Himalayas, Barcelona, Cape Town, Japan and other exotic locales around the globe to see and share the best places not found in guidebooks.

Production Manager **Todd Barber** pointed to the "amazing beach culture, great weather and tasty foods" as some of the highlights of shooting in The Palm Beaches. "The fact that there was no fee for the permit made it a huge plus." Look out for **Jupiter Beach Park** and **Coral Cove** in an upcoming episode, as well as scenes of paragliding at **Juno Beach**. Start your own adventure by visiting outsidetelevision.com/video/locals-new-original-series.

CATFISH SPINS THE SUPERNATURAL

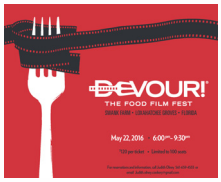
MTV's über popular TV series ***Catfish*** follows the intricate web of lies and truths of online relationships. While the show usually covers online dating, viewers were in for a surprise on a recent episode that explored the supernatural. Kayla from Kentucky hops on a plane to visit Courtney, a Jupiter-based psychic. In the episode's culmination, they finally meet in person under the picturesque pavilion at **DuBois Park**.

Relativity Real filmed in both **Jupiter** and **West Palm Beach**, showcasing our parks and waterfront walkways. ***Catfish*** gets a great deal of exposure, with this episode premiering to over a million viewers and the series averaging half a million households during repeats. This episode marks MTV's eighth visit to The Palm Beaches in the past three years. Catch full episodes of Catfish at mtv.com/shows/catfish-the-tv-show.

DIVE INTO OUR CHANGING SEAS

Changing Seas, a **WPBT2** South Florida public television series focusing on ocean issues and exploration, will feature an episode this month based at **Phil Foster Park** in **Riviera Beach**. "We were absolutely blown away by all of the unique biodiversity that can be discovered there. Every dive was different, and we saw a variety of marine life from seahorses to frog fish," said Producer **Alexa Elliott**. The team also captured research being conducted by **FAU's Chelsea Bennice** at the dive site. "Our show is heavily science-based, and this episode will feature Chelsea's research on how common and longarm octopods are able to coexist in this environment without outcompeting each other," Alexa explained. Catch the premiere on June 29th at 8:30 p.m. on **WPBT2** and learn more at changingseas.tv.

DEVOUR! THE FOOD FILM FEST



Swank Farm in **Loxahatchee Groves** served up delicacies for the senses with superb cuisine and cinema at **Devour! The Food Film Fest.** The inaugural event gathered over 100 people who have a passion for food and film. The seven-course meal was presented by several local chefs and included gazpacho, scallops, beef cheek tacos and other specialties.

Olney & Swank

The films ranged from short one-minute movies to the feature film ***Swank Farm***, a documentary produced by Palm Beach International Film Festival winner **Judith Olney**. The festival originates from Nova Scotia where the five-day event brings in over 9,000 attendees. "It was a pleasure to bring the event to Swank Farm. We were welcomed graciously and look forward to growing the festival in The Palm Beaches," said Michael Howell, Executive Director of Devour! The Food Film Fest. See more at devourfest.com.

A BIG WORLD GETS A LITTLE SMALLER

PBGHS Film and Television Technology Magnet Program

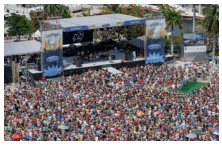
To expand their scope of the production industry universe, the **Palm Beach Gardens High School Television and Film Production Technology Magnet Program** engages their students in a variety of exciting ways. In January, they embarked on a trip to NYC, focusing on television with set visits to ***Good Morning America, The Chew, Dr. Oz*** and ***Meredith***. Once the spring semester began, the magnet program continued its long relationship with **Roger Dean Stadium,** announcing and broadcasting minor league ball games. Wrapping up the semester was the **Second Annual Gator Film Festival** which showcased film projects from their students and donated over $2,500 to the magnet program. The program teaches kids through real-life experiences in order to increase their understanding of this industry, ultimately lessening their apprehension to heighten their chance of success! To learn more, please visit fivestarmagnet.org.

LOCAL BREWERY MAKES WAVES

Delray's **Saltwater Brewery** recently posted a video on YouTube introducing its biodegradable and edible six-pack rings. The video has more than 300,000 views and went viral globally. The edible six-pack rings, made from beer by-products such as barley and wheat, are intended to feed – rather than harm - marine life. It's a concept that could make plastic six-pack rings a thing of the past. **Chris Gove**, President of **Saltwater Brewery,** says, "We hope to influence the big guys and hopefully inspire them to get on board."

The brewery partnered with creative ad agency **We Believers** to launch the video. The agency's co-founder Marco Vega told *AdWeek*, "Together with Saltwater Brewery, a small craft beer brand whose primary target are surfers, fishermen and people who love the sea, we decided to tackle the issue head on and make a statement for the industry to follow." To hop on board and learn more, visit saltwaterbrewery.com

SUNFEST STIRS UP THE MUSIC



For the 34th consecutive year, **Sunfest** is still the hottest ticket to paradise. The event gathered over 175,000 people over five days and drew national media attention. Audiences were treated to amazing musical entertainment, tasty food and kept cool by the famous breeze coming from the Intracoastal Waterway. Each year, the festival embraces the opportunity to show the audience what The Palm Beaches is all about. This year, **The Perfect Place** 30-second promotional spot voiced by Ray Liotta and produced by **Olympusat Inc**., ran as a stunning visual video postcard. The Perfect Place was also shown at The Palm Beach International Film Festival. The excitement of SunFest went viral, as revelers bathed social media with buzz when fans shared their experience at the largest waterfront music and art festival. See more at sunfest.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOURISM

Touting $7.1 billion in total economic impact, the spotlight shined on tourism in The Palm Beaches during **Travel Rally Day**, hosted by the Providencia Award-winning **Loggerhead Marinelife Center** in **Juno Beach**. The event included a presentation featuring Ko-Mar Productions' new promotional video series with **Discover The Palm Beaches**, highlighting golf athletes like **Jack Nicklaus** and **Tiger Woods.**

"We are proud to help promote The Palm Beaches by sharing our one-of-a-kind facilities with viewers from around the world, spotlighting the world-class work within our sea turtle hospital and on the stunningly beautiful **Juno Beach Pier**. Both seaside facilities are teeming with unique marine life which showcases the beauty and allure of The Palm Beaches," shared **Jack E. Lighton, Loggerhead President & CEO**. See more about the world renowned facility at marinelife.org.

FILM FESTIVAL SHOW WINS TELLY

The 20th annual Palm Beach International Film Festival and Student Showcase of Films Red Carpet Highlight Show was honored with a **Telly Award**. This is the 37th year for the specialized television awards competition, receiving over 13,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents. The Tellys continue to bestow accolades to the highest quality of work in the industry.

The award-winning show was produced by **Channel 20**, Palm Beach County's education and information programming station. The half-hour show dazzles viewers with all the best in festival activity and covers red carpet interviews from **Tom Arnold**, **Dean Lyon**, **Shira Piven** and many others including students from all over the state who entered their work in the **Student Showcase of Films**, the largest student film competition in the state of Florida. See the award-winning show at pbfilm.com.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROBOTS!

There's more to **G-Star School of the Arts** than just lights, camera, action! Their action varies, recently to more of the socket, wrench and hammer kind. Students **Dylan** and **Elsie Smith** acted as team leaders for **The Children of the Swamp Robotics Team 179** and recently returned from the World Robotics Championship in St. Louis. The spirited competition featured 600 teams, and to qualify, The Children of the Swamp had to win at the South Carolina Palmetto Regional in Myrtle Beach this past February. "This was a very accomplished year for us," explained Dylan and Elsie. "It was the first time we were able to go to three regional events…and to take the **Excellence in Engineering and Imagery Award** in all three!" In St. Louis, they competed with top teams in 10 qualifying matches. G-Star ended with an 8-2 record and ranked #5. The future looks bright for these engineering stars at one of Palm Beach County's premier performing arts high schools and their talent for digital media innovation! Plug into more details at gstarschool.org.

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: THE PERFECT PLACE FOR ART AND CULTURE

Discovering The Palm Beaches goes beyond the beach with a close-up on some of the places that are featured in our long format visual postcard, shot by **Olympusat, Inc.** They captured some of the most iconic locations that host productions and the ones who have shaped the cultural landscape of The Palm Beaches.

Flagler Museum

No cultural tour of The Palm Beaches would be complete without discovering one of our founding fathers by visiting **Flagler Museum**. A classic example of Gilded Age architecture, the Flagler Museum considers location requests on a case-by-case basis with preference to projects that are related to the Flagler story.

Kravis Center

Producers and production designers are often surprised to learn that WPB is home to a world-class performance hall. **Kravis Center** is impressive and offers many options for production. From masculine and feminine interiors to their café and banquet rooms and black box theaters, the property is able to handle productions of all shapes and sizes.

Norton Gallery

The **Norton Gallery** holds more than art within its Art Deco walls, lovely café, date-lined courtyard, stylized atrium, and down-to-business conference room, along with gardens and theater. The Norton is ready to be the backdrop or the focal point of productions large or small.

Morikami

Japanese gardens may not immediately spring to the mind of a producer considering locations in The Palm Beaches for their production, yet **Morikami** is "all things Japanese" and is located in west **Delray Beach.** The property stretches across 16 acres of Asian gardens, tea rooms, an outdoor café, bamboo gardens, rock gardens, gates and bridges all in a distinctive style unique to the Japanese culture. See more of what PBC culture has to offer on our Locations Database at pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER: JOINING HANDS FOR MUSIC IN DELRAY

Hands Participants

The Hands Movement and **Keeping The Blues Alive Foundation** (KTBA) teamed up in **Delray Beach** to promote music education and celebrate the joy of making music. "The Hands Movement was created to show that there is no such thing as a musician or non-musician, or any amount of inadequacy or inexperience, that can stop us from feeling the happiness of making music as human beings," said **Alyssa O'Toole,** Founder/Director. By sourcing the nation's most progressive city leaders and aligning with talented composers, music advocates, and supporters, Alyssa has been able to gain the momentum necessary to make Hands a viral movement. The message is spread to a nationwide audience via a video compilation that pieces together a song played in segments by participants in each community. For their Delray Beach event, a piano was set up on the lawn of **Worthing Park** in the bustling heart of Atlantic Avenue.

The Hands team worked with KTBA, a South Florida-based organization that provides funding for programs and scholarships for students and teachers who possess the desire to achieve their potential within the music industry. "We were looking for an interactive tool that would incorporate blues music, promote the idea that music should be accessible for all generations, and exemplify the kind of progressive outdoor activities that Delray is accustomed to hosting. That is why the Hands Movement was the perfect fit for this demonstration," said **Shawn Hagood**, President of KTBA.

Alyssa & Shawn wish to thank The Hands Team, KTBA Founder Joe Bonamassa, Bobb's Pianos & Organs, Salt7 and Park Tavern for their hospitality, and the **City of Delray Beach** for encouraging community activism and supporting arts and music programs. Explore the movement and see the completed video at thehandsmovement.com and keepthebluesalive.org.

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