FOCUS on FILM

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

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PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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ON THE TOWN IN THE PALM BEACHES PREMIERES

South Florida PBS features the town of **Jupiter** in its first episode of a new series, ***On the Town in The Palm Beaches***. **Delray Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Wellington, Belle Glade** were featured last year on the television program titled *Around the Corner in The Palm Beaches*. The launch of a new series, with a fresh look and feel, presents an opportunity for statewide distribution. "We feel *On the Town in The Palm Beaches* can attract a larger audience, include more tourism assets, and better reflect the essence of South Florida and The Palm Beaches," said VP of Content & Community Partnerships Joyce Belloise.

Licari at Roger Dean

SOUTH FLORIDA PBS WPBT • WXEL

On Set at Jupiter Lighthouse

South Florida PBS will premiere *On the Town in The Palm Beaches* on **June 25** showcasing interesting people and hotspots in Jupiter with a short side trip to **Riviera Beach**. Show host Frank Licari visits **The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum, Roger Dean Stadium** (featuring Frank's pitch to start the game), **Dubois Park,** the **Maltz Theatre** and more.

"This has been a great series to highlight so much of what PBC has to offer. We look forward to partnering with South Florida PBS on another season of *On the Town in The Palm Beaches*," said Glenn Jergensen, Executive Director of The Tourist Development Council. The season will offer viewers four new episodes and is slated to feature **Boca Raton, Palm Beach, Lantana, Pahokee, Palm Beach Gardens** and more. See more about this signature series at wpbt2.org/onthetown.

SCUBANATION SPOTLIGHTS BLUE HERON

From the producers of **ScubaNation** comes a new episode dedicated to the underwater wonders of what lies beneath the **Blue Heron Bridge**. ***Under a Bridge*** is a half-hour show that takes viewers into a world that is like no other! The episode features the unique creatures and stunning colors of this destination which is ranked the fifth best dive site in the world. The show aired on **Fox Sports Sun Network** in April with reruns to continue.

Blue Heron Bridge

Co-Host Billy C

To get a close up without getting wet in the underwater world beneath the Blue Heron Bridge, check your local listings for **ScubaNation The Palm Beaches**. ScubaNation made underwater stops all around Palm Beach County and featured above water destinations that any scuba or snorkeling enthusiast would enjoy. Dive into the fun and join *One Nation, Underwater* at scubanation.com/under-a-bridge.

BAYWATCH'S BOCA BACKDROP

Millions of moviegoers from all around the world caught a glimpse of **Boca Raton's** beautiful waterways on the big screen this Memorial Day weekend. The opening sequence for ***Baywatch***, starring **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** and **Zac Efron**, was filmed at **South Inlet Park** and along the jetty in the **Boca Inlet**. In that scene, Mitch Buchannon (Dwayne Johnson) dives into action – in slow motion, of course – to save a drowning kiteboarder.

The reboot is bigger and bolder than the 1990s TV show and serves up plenty of laughs. Some of the original **Baywatch** cast members, like **David Hasselhoff** and **Pamela Anderson**, have cameos in the new action-comedy and there are already talks about a sequel. **Baywatch** producer **Beau Flynn** hinted at this during an interview with **Variety** stating, "We have an amazing story already." In the meantime, the star-studded cast continues its world tour overseas, where the film is expected to be a hit. For more info or to watch a trailer, visit thebaywatchmovie.com.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WEST PALMER

The **West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority** recently commissioned **MoonBreak Productions** to create ***Day In The Life***, a POV commercial showcasing the destination for those who live, work, shop and dine in West Palm. "We discovered some hidden gems, like Santucci's and Johan's Joe, that you might miss on a typical stroll down **Clematis**. Spending time with more familiar places like Sloan's Ice Cream Parlor, PB Segway Tours, SoFlo Flyboarders, Palm Beach Dramaworks and SkyBike, we were able to connect to business owners in unique ways and establish new relationships," said **Chelsea Hackbart**, Producer. One of their production challenges was capturing POV shots through a RED camera. "Through some great problem-solving and ingenuity, the team was able to attach a heavy, cinema-grade camera onto a motorcycle helmet!" Chelsea added. See more at moonbreakproductions.com.

On Set at Sloan's

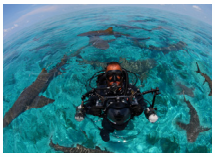
BOCA GETS REAL WITH HOUSEWIVES

Bravo does Boca in an upcoming season eight episode of the **Real Housewives of New Jersey**. The cast vacationed to Boca Raton to celebrate Melissa Gorga's 38th birthday. Star Siggy Flicker is a part-time resident of Boca, and Teresa Giudice, Dolores Catania, Margaret Josephs, and Danielle Staub were also present on the trip. The housewives shopped at **Mizner Park**, stayed at the world-famous **Boca Raton Resort**, and took a sunset cruise on **Mizner's Addiction**. The ladies made sure to spend plenty of time in the sun at the beach. There's no doubt that this episode will show off Boca Raton in a big way. Check out the drama at bravotv.com.

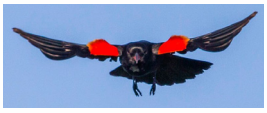
On Set at Boca Beach Club

ABERNETHY THE ANIMAL WHISPERER

Australian veterinarian and TV personality **Dr. Chris Brown** recently visited The Palm Beaches to see some of our world-famous wildlife. Known best for his TV series *Bondi Vet*, Dr. Brown was referred to wildlife expert and conservationist **Jim Abernethy** to see the best of what our region has to offer. It was a day full of adventure, including scuba diving at the **Blue Heron Bridge** and birdwatching at the **Wakodahatchee Wetlands**. They had a particularly interesting encounter while photographing the **red-winged blackbird** at Wakodahatchee. "The bird landed inches from me, so I started talking to it, telling the bird what I wanted so I could get a good shot. The crowd was laughing at me until the bird did exactly what I asked! Before I knew it, the entire crowd was talking to birds," Abernethy shared. See more about our resident animal whisperer at scuba-adventures.com.



Jim Abernethy



Red-Winged Blackbird

CELEBRATING SMALL BIZ IN BOCA

Plum Productions was recently honored as the **2017 Small Business Leaders of The Year** by the **Boca Chamber**. As active members in the local community, Plum Productions sponsors educational and networking events that bring business people together. "It was such an honor to receive this award. We work hard on behalf of many local companies to make their vision a reality, and we are so grateful to be part of a community of strong business leaders," said owner **Jennifer Jager**. Their motto is "Building Business Through the Power of Video"—a promise that they certainly live up to. You can see their work on sites like Amazon and Target.com, as well as in stores like Bed, Bath & Beyond and BJ's Wholesale. See more at plumproductionsmedia.com.

Jager at Boca Chamber Event

PAHOKEE DOCUMENTARY IS AN OSCAR CONTENDER

Documentary filmmakers Patrick Bresnan and Ivete Lucas have been working in **Pahokee** for the past two years, capturing remarkable stories from the community. After a successful run in the film festival circuit with 2016's ***The Send-Off***, Bresnan & Lucas have continued the momentum in 2017 with ***The Rabbit Hunt***, which premiered at Sundance in January and won **Best Short Documentary** at the **Florida Film Festival** in April. This win officially qualifies the film for **Academy Award** consideration.

Filmmakers & Cast at the Florida Film Festival

Immediately following the Florida Film Festival, ***The Rabbit Hunt*** garnered the Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival, which is also an Oscar-qualifying victory. "We are gearing up for a Europe tour starting in June with VIS Vienna Shorts, Sheffield Doc/Fest in England, the Norwegian Short Film Fest, and Champs-Elysees Film Fest in Paris," said Bresnan. "We are thrilled to show the world just how special Pahokee is." Keep up with their journey at facebook.com/therabbithunt.

AN EVENING WITH BURT REYNOLDS

Hollywood legend **Burt Reynolds** returned to **Palm Beach State College** recently to spend an evening with his biggest fans at the **Eissey Campus Theatre**. Reynolds credits the institution, called **Palm Beach Junior College** when he attended, as having everything to do with him becoming an actor.

The evening was moderated by **C. Todd Vittum** and included a performance by Stranger Friends, whose songs are featured in Reynolds' upcoming movie ***Dog Years.*** The film had its world premiere at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival and is set to open in theaters this fall. Reynolds spoke about his award-winning career and shared some stories about wild adventures previously known only to his closest friends. In fact, some of those friends –including **Joe Namath**–were in attendance for this event benefitting the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre**. Learn more at burtreynoldsinstitute.org.

Reynolds & Vittum

SUNFEST SIZZLES IN THE PALM BEACHES

SunFest continues to be the hottest party around, bringing art and entertainment to **The Palm Beaches**. The event was held May 3-7 along Flagler Drive in downtown **WPB** and featured performances by national headliners **Snoop Dogg**, **Blink 182** and **Weezer**. The diverse lineup of musical acts was aimed at attracting a wide audience, and it did just that. According to organizers, people from 35 countries, 50 states and 176 Florida cities outside of PBC attended the 35th annual event. **Paul Jamieson**, Executive Director of SunFest, noted that "with its location and experiences, SunFest is one of the most unique settings to enjoy acts you love and discover new ones." New this year was the **ChillZone** at **Trinity Park**. Festivalgoers were invited to lay out in hammocks along the Intracoastal and sample wines from the **Dark Horse Wine Container Bar**. Visit sunfest.com for more.

FILM FLORIDA ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP

Bonnie King

Bonnie King, Film Commissioner for the Space Coast Film & Television Office and Deputy Director of Broward County Tourism, was named **President of Film Florida** at the Annual Meeting held May 22-24 in Destin, FL. "I look forward to working with industry professionals as we seek opportunities to strengthen the film, TV and digital media industry," said King. "Florida is open for business, and we plan on continuing to spread that message." The Palm Beach County FTC continues to serve on the **2017-2018 Board of Directors** with Production Director Christy Andreoni elected Chair of the Film Commission Council, working alongside Past Presidents Film Commissioner Chuck Elderd and Deputy Film Commissioner Michelle Hillery. Join Film Florida for this crucial year to market the state as an ideal production destination and support job creation in the entertainment production industry by visiting filmflorida.org.

PBC SCHOOLS RANKED NATION'S BEST

Suncoast High School in **Riviera Beach** and **Dreyfoos School of the Arts** in **West Palm Beach** both secured a spot in the nation's top 100 public high schools as reported by **U.S. News and World Report.** The article ranked Suncoast 53rd and Dreyfoos 78th in the nation. Suncoast and Dreyfoos, two application-only public schools with programs emphasizing film, TV, digital media and photography, are regulars on the closely watched annual ranking. In 2015, Dreyfoos edged out Suncoast to win 68th place nationally. Overall, 12 **Palm Beach County** schools made it into list of the nation's top 2,000 public high schools. Of the 12, ten are public county schools and two, **G-Star School of the Arts** and **Inlet Grove High**, are charter schools which are publicly funded but privately operated. It all adds up to a big win for PBC students! See more at usnews.com/education/best-high-schools.

BLACKTIP SHARK MIGRATION CAPTURED FOR SHARK WEEK

British production company **Icon Films** made a great migration of their own to feature the **blacktip shark migration** that occurs in The Palm Beaches every spring. The spectacle will be featured in ***Great Hammerhead Invasion*** during **Shark Week 2017**. Icon Films made sure to capture every angle of this incredible shark migration – including aerial shots with drones and helicopters, to filming at sea with Bryce Rohrer of **Florida Shark Diving**. Accompanied by Professor Stephen Kajiura, a renowned shark scientist and researcher at **Florida Atlantic University**, the production company filmed on the water from **Jupiter Inlet**, following tens of thousands of blacktip sharks as they made their way south towards **West Palm Beach**. Some of the action was also captured on and offshore at **John D. MacArthur State Park** where great hammerhead sharks were filmed darting through the schools as they hunted the bounty of blacktips. Check out these natural wonders at iconfilms.co.uk.

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: SAND DUNES AND SANDBARS

When it comes to sand, The Palm Beaches have 47 miles of coastline and every inch is covered in it. The type of sand varies along the stretch and if sand is part of the shot, we have plenty. Besides the shoreline, there are the shifting sands of sandbars and sand in our dunes that act as a barrier in storms, and as an incubator for sea turtles. Sand is part of coastal life and our friends at **Environmental Resources Management** work tirelessly to ensure the beach can hold up under every visitor, resident and commercial production that wants sand in their scene.

One of the best sand dunes for a photographic backdrop is **Coral Cove**. Located in **Tequesta**, the County park provides long views to the north and south, and it's possible to get an image that reads "remote" since there are just a few buildings clustered together in the area. **Coral Cove South** offers opportunities for unobstructed views of the sky and tidal flats for several feet past the tideline for fashion photos and lifestyle imagery. **Coral Cove North** offers interesting rock formations at the shoreline and is a favorite spot for fashion shoots during low tide.

Sand Dunes at Coral Cove

North side of Peanut Island

Peanut Island is home to one of the County's most picturesque places with clustered palm trees and an old Coast Guard station reminiscent of something you would find in Cape Cod. The island is rich with history and hosts a reliable sandbar on the north side of the island, which makes it a boater's paradise on the weekend since there are no roads leading to the location. Located in the middle of the Intracoastal near the **Port of Palm Beach**, the island offers interesting visual backdrops from every angle with facilities on-site. See more at pbfilm.com.

Old Coast Guard Station

EDUCATION CORNER: G-STAR ATTRACTS BIG BRANDS & BIG STARS

NFL Hall-of-Famer **Joe Namath**, golfers **Michelle Wie** and **Rory McIlroy**, and one of baseball's highest paid players, **Bryce Harper**, recently appeared in major commercials shot at **G-Star Studios**, which is owned by the **G-Star School of the Arts** in West Palm Beach. Best of all, G-Star students were on set while these commercials were shooting!

Joe Namath

"There is no other high school, college or film school that offers these opportunities to its students like G-Star," stated Founder/CEO Greg Hauptner. "Feature films, major commercials and music videos with stars such as Bob Dylan and Celine Dion are shot here, but only if they agree to allow our students on set." Additionally, G-Star's original multi-media platform show ***What Kids Wanna Know*** (produced by famed producer Dick Arlett, where G-Star students ask questions of celebrities) was on set to interview Mr. Namath during his commercial shoot for a new program at a major hospital.

"**NIKE** shot at G-Star one week with Michelle Wie and Rory McIlroy," related Hauptner. "The next week they came back for another commercial with **Major League Baseball** players Giancarlo Stanton and Mike Trout. G-Star Studios' motion picture sound stage one has been named one of the 'Top Seven Sound Stages in the World'!"

Michelle Wie

Bryce Harper

The **Under Armour** brand appeared the following week to film a commercial with **Bryce Harper.** A week after that, **Peugeot**—the French automaker—brought in production teams from France, Italy, Brazil, Los Angeles and Miami to shoot a new car commercial for its entry into the USA market. It appears G-Star Studios is a hotspot on the international production map! Learn more about the production powerhouse online at gstarstudios.com.

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