FOCUS on FILM

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | June 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

1. ART ADVENTURES
2. A WILD CONNECTION
3. WALKER CUP
4. SERENA ON AMAZON
5. IDOL FROM RIVIERA
6. JUPITER WATERWAYS
7. SSOF'S BIG WINNERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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pbfilm.com

DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES TELEVISION
ThePalmBeaches.TV

ADVENTURE INTO THE ART OF NATURE

ART ADVENTURES™ OF THE PALM BEACHES

Restart with the arts! ***Art Adventures of The Palm Beaches*** is the premier programming guide to all the cultural diversity and artistic flair waiting for you to discover in The Palm Beaches. Tune in on **South Florida PBS** via WXEL on Saturday, June 26 at 5:30pm and WPBT on Sunday, June 27 at 1:30pm for the newest episode, ***The Art of Nature***.

The Adventure is On! Go on a journey with host Shelli Lockhart as she tastes her way through a world-class botanical garden and visits the legacy of a renowned artist, sculptor, writer and lover of nature. "With so many cultural venues to explore, we are proud to be called Florida's Cultural Capital. This episode explores some of our beautiful outdoor experiences. We invite viewers to learn more and then plan their trip," shared Jennifer Sullivan, Vice President of Marketing & Programs for **The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County**.

Lockhart

The Art of Nature invites you to discover and explore three very distinct and beautiful world-class gardens: **Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens**, **Mounts Botanical Gardens** and **The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens** - all open and welcoming visitors. *Art Adventures of The Palm Beaches* is a six-part, 30-minute episodic series created and produced by **Megastar Film & Publishing, Inc.** with Gregory Ross, documentarian and photojournalist and Pamela Ross, writer and artistic director. "As veteran storytellers in film, we look for the 'story in the story'," shared Gregory and Pamela. The series is made possible by The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission, and The Gardens Mall. See more about the series at artadventuresofthepalmbeaches.com or southfloridapbs.org.

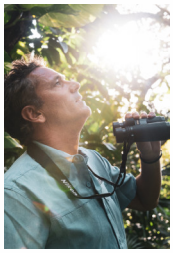
MEGASTAR FILM & PUBLISHING, INC.

Cultural Council FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY

CONNECTIONS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

A WILD Connection

A Wild Connection, an original series presented by Nikon, brings the splendor of the world's wildlife to the comfort of homes and mobile devices. Hosted by local talent **James Currie**, an award-winning wildlife TV host, *A Wild Connection* presents nature in a way that is refreshing and exciting. Local cinematographer Josh Liberman's daring style bridges the gap between travel show and wildlife documentary, leaving viewers with the urge to explore their natural world. The half-hour show is dedicated to the sea turtles in The Palm Beaches is expected to be released on **World Sea Turtle Day** on June 16, which falls in **World Ocean Month**. The show will document the unique activity of sea turtles and their connection to people and the environment within The Palm Beaches, highlighting the work and dedication of the **Loggerhead Marine Life Center** in **Juno Beach**. For more, visit awildconnection.com.



James Currie

WALKER CUP ON GOLF CHANNEL

NBC's Golf Channel featured The Palm Beaches during a televised broadcast of **The Walker Cup** live from the majestic **Seminole Golf Club** in **Juno Beach.** According to Golf Digest, the Seminole Golf Club is currently ranked the 12th best golf course in America. Designed by Donald Ross in 1929, the course has held a top 20 spot on Golf Digest's list since its inception in 1966. With the Atlantic ocean as a backdrop, team USA won its third-straight Walker Cup against Great Britain and Ireland last month as millions of fans tuned in from around the world. US Player Cole Hammer told the Golf Channel, "I cannot think of a better course to play a Walker Cup match on." Coverage from the 48th Walker Cup was also available on NBC's new streaming platform **Peacock** for on-demand viewing. Learn more about this coveted Championship at walkercup.org.

Seminole Golf Club

peacock

GOLF CHANNEL

SHARK SEGMENT TODAY SHOW

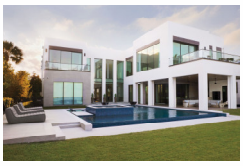
NBC's *Today Show* recently highlighted an increase in shark populations off the coast of Florida and California, filming live stand-ups with host **Kerry Sanders** in **Jupiter.** The segments celebrates the success of the Marine Animal Protection Act that has brought about promising indications that shark populations are able to thrive and grow in our oceans. Sanders reiterates how misunderstood sharks can be do to their representations in horror films like *Jaws*, but that their presence is important to the marine environment and beachgoers are safe as long as they respect guidelines for safe swimming. The Palm Beaches have become world renowned as a shark diving destination, attracting various TV series and documentaries from Discovery Channel, National Geographic and more. Check out the segment at today.com.

Kerry Sanders in Jupiter

STARRING SERENA

Tennis legend and Palm Beach County resident **Serena Williams** is set to star in a docuseries for **Amazon Studios** which will chronicle her personal and professional life. Filming is underway on the series which has yet to be titled. "I'm very excited to be partnering with Amazon Studios – they are developing some of the most inspiring and important content for a global audience," Williams said in a previous interview. "I have a lot of stories I'm eager to tell, including a continuation of my own, and I look forward to sharing those with the world." She will executive produce, along with Patrick Mouratoglou, Stuart Cabb and Tony Pastor. Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion also starred in a five-part docuseries for HBO in 2018 called *Being Serena*, which can be viewed at hbo.com/being-serena.

Serena Williams


Home in Jupiter

RIVIERA BEACH CELEBRATES IDOL

Riviera Beach residents gathered in **Bicentennial Park** in **Marina Village** on the evening of the ***American Idol*** Season 19 finale to cheer on their very own **Willie Spence**, who was born in West Palm Beach and has close family members and friends in the area. Spence has been a fan favorite for viewers across the country since he made his first appearance on the show, and "hometown segments" covering Spence's back story filmed at various locations in The Palm Beaches including a family home in **Riviera Beach**, **Provident Missionary Baptist Church** in **Boynton Beach, Ocean Reef Park** and **Phil Foster Park**. Spence was the runner up this season, but given the buzz around his phenomenal voice, there is no doubt that his star is just beginning to rise. *American Idol* is one of ABC's most popular shows, bringing in over 6 million live viewers during the final. See more at abc.com/shows/american-idol.

Willie Spence

Marina Village Watch Party

BOY WONDER ON REAL SPORTS

Palm Beach Gardens resident **Tommy Morrissey** was featured on **HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*** back in 2018 as a seven-year-old golf prodigy, dominating his peers even though he was born with only one arm. In 2021, *Real Sports* returned to visit Tommy at age 10, but this time for baseball! Filming interviews and game footage at **Gardens Park**, Tommy is shown batting, pitching and catching, covering all aspects of the game with his incredible talent. When asked in the interview whether he feels he is at a disadvantage having only one arm while playing each position, Tommy replies, "I don't really think about it. I just prove them wrong." Check out the inspiring story at hbo.com/real-sports-with-bryant-gumbel.

Interview at Gardens Park

THE PALM BEACHES TV FACEBOOK WATCH PARTY HITS 52 EPISODES

The Palm Beaches TV continues to expand its audience reach through social media distribution. **The Palm Beaches TV Facebook Watch Party** series launched June 9, 2020 and recently concluded its 4th season, completing 52 episodes. The campaign was created to keep Palm Beach County top of mind for visitors throughout the pandemic, so when they were ready to travel again, The Palm Beaches would be their choice for their next vacation. Each episode is hosted by Glenn Jergensen, Executive Director of The Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, who has shared relevant information as it pertained and changed throughout the pandemic. Reaching over 600,000 people within the state of Florida, the campaign will continue into the summer to target travelers who are within a short drive distance away. Tune in to the watch party every Tuesday at noon at facebook.com/FreePermits.

Watch Party Host Glenn Jergensen

PLASTI-POCALYPSE BUILDS MOMENTUM

On Location in Boca

Documentary filmmaker Rory Fielding's new project ***Plasti-Pocalypse*** focuses on plastic pollution and its effects on our oceans, animals and humans. Produced in collaboration with the **Gumbo Limbo Nature Center** in **Boca Raton**, filming has continued to reach new parts of the globe and attract high-profile celebrity talent! Interviews with **Boyan Slat**, Dutch inventor/entrepreneur and CEO of The Ocean Cleanup, were recently filmed in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Soon actor and director of Oceana.org, **Ted Danson**, will appear in segments as well. "This story spans so much more than just one species, one region, one issue. Plastic pollution has had an effect on all of us, and raising awareness about its impact is a lofty but essential goal for this project," said Fielding. *Plasti-Pocalypse* is funded by grants and individual donations. Support the effort at roryfieldingfilms.com.

Ted Danson

PODCAST EVENT GOES BEYOND

Beyond the Pines Productions out of West Palm Beach brought a major podcast event to the next level at the **Palm Beach Improv**. Collaborating with the team from the hugely successful **Your Mom's House** (YMH) podcast hosted by married comedians Tom Segura and Christina P., they transformed the audio-centered medium into a large scale production. Podcasts are becoming increasingly mainstream, offering an optimal platform for comedians to get their work out to larger audiences. "This was such a fun event to work on. The hosts of YMH are hilarious, and it was great to have our crew in the mix, overcoming the challenges of recording high-quality audio while executing a live show during a busy event," said Producer Dominic Anaya. See more at beyondthepinesproductions.com.

CURBSIDE PICKUP IN LAKE WORTH

Filming in Lake Worth Beach

Richard Drutman, an independent filmmaker out of New York, recently captured a short comedy in **Lake Worth Beach** titled ***Curbside Pickup***. Chock-full of the colorful flare Lake Worth Beach is known for, Drutman filmed along **J Street**. The story follows an idea Drutman had during the pandemic, imagining what would happen if an overly opinionated store employee commented negatively on movie rental choices as we have become accustomed to in our increasingly isolated lives in social media. "Having never filmed in South Florida, I didn't know what to expect, but local merchants and film schools were willing to work with us to bring my script to life." *Curbside Pickup* will soon hit the film festival circuit before an online release. Drutman's previous festival comedy, *StartlePlex Cinemas,* can be found on YouTube and his first feature comedy, *Co-opted*, will be produced through Triodepictures.com.

URBAN LEAGUE HONORS KO-MAR

West Palm Beach-based **Ko-Mar Productions** was recently honored as a **Community Champion** by the **Urban League of Palm Beach County** during the organization's **47th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Virtual Celebration.** Ko-Mar partner Jim Gallagher has been actively involved with the Urban League for many years and serves on their board of directors. "It's a great honor to be recognized by the Urban League. As a community organization, they do so much - not only here in Palm Beach County - but nationally. We at Ko-Mar are deeply committed to giving to and serving the community around us. Our support of the Urban League is a key way in which we do that," Gallagher said. While this year's event was virtual, it is expected that next year's event will be in person as in previous years. To learn more, visit ulpbc.org.

Urban League of Palm Beach County, Inc.

KO-MAR PRODUCTIONS,INC

ALIEN INVASION IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DMAC Studios in **Boca Raton** unleashes the ***Ultimate Invasion*** with their new TV show! *Ultimate Invasion* is a family-friendly series where aliens secretly invade Florida and infiltrate a modern family to discover what it's like to be truly human. Directed by Dr. Greg LeSar, with the casting support of legendary Casting Director Ellen Jacoby, *Ultimate Invasion* was filmed throughout The Palm Beaches in several unique locations like **Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park** and **South Inlet Park** in **Boca**, **Woodlawn Cemetery** in **West Palm Beach**, **Hundley Farms** in **Belle Glade**, and more. "We are so grateful to all of the actors, families and crew that took part in the show," said Executive Producer Greg James Blount. "We are really excited about *Ultimate Invasion*, and very proud that Season One was shot exclusively in Palm Beach County." The scheduled launch is September 17 on **Amazon Prime**. See more about the series on Facebook and Instagram at @ultimateinvasion.tv.

Talent On Set

FLASHBACK FEATURE: BAD BOYS II

Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when [you need to blow up an oceanfront estate]? You come to The Palm Beaches! That's exactly what director Michael Bay did for the 2003 action film ***Bad Boys II*** starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. The Hollywood-style action scene was shot in **Delray Beach** at the 38,000 square foot Mediterranean mansion once owned by Coca-Cola estate heir Michael Bird. The explosion and the movie were both a huge success but before the scene was shot, approvals were required across a number of government agencies to ensure safety, all facilitated by the PBC Film & Television Commission's one-stop permitting process. See more at wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Boys_II.

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
THE WATERWAYS OF JUPITER

You don't have to wander far in **Jupiter** to run into water. Besides the ocean, the **Intracoastal Waterway**, the **Loxahatchee River** and the **Jupiter Inlet** all connect with many creeks and forks that allow boaters and paddlers to take in the scene or create one on the water. Whether you need a cypress forest, a place to watch birds, or a fantastic sunrise or sunset spot, there is a lot waiting to be explored along **Jupiter's Waterway Trail**.

The Loxahatchee River

The Lagoon at DuBois Park

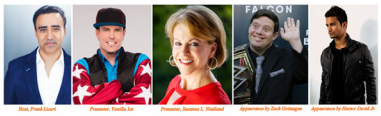
Most of us think of a beach when we envision a waterfront scene for film or television, yet filming on the beach isn't without its problems. Wind noise is one situation that can ruin a production shoot day quickly. The lagoon at **DuBois Park** provides a sheltered waterfront area that helps eliminate wind noise for a walk-and-talk on the beach scene, and doubles as a river on the south side of the lagoon.

The Lagoon at DuBois Park

Scouting by boat is great way to take in several waterfront options and quickly eliminate the ones that don't work for your production. No boat? No problem! Film-friendly **Jupiter Outdoor Center** has boats and kayaks for hire along with a ton of local knowledge about tides and even the best time of day to capture crystal clear turquoise water. To find out more about filming in Jupiter, visit pbfilm.com/locations.

EDUCATION CORNER
SEEING STARS AT SSOF!

The 26th Annual Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) revealed winners for 2021 during a dazzling, fun-filled broadcast that included "shout outs" from some of television's hottest stars. Despite the absence of a live stage show due to the lingering pandemic, SSOF still brought the glamour of the red carpet. Host **Frank Licari** brilliantly weaved song and humor into an entertainment experience that premiered on Facebook. "We are so proud of the work our students were able to produce in spite of unimaginable circumstances," said Michelle Hillery, PBC Deputy Film Commissioner and SSOF executive producer. 54 industry professionals from around the world had the challenge of selecting finalists from hundreds of eligible entries in 12 categories. More than $20,000 in scholarships, along with customized trophies, were presented during the Award Show, which received excellent media coverage across the state. Winners included Shelby Hatcher from Seminole Ridge High School, Milan Tangirala from A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, William Stead from Florida State University, Elizabeth Arceneaux from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and Adam Goldstick from A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. To watch the show and see what famous faces offered congratulations, visit pbfilm.com.



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