

# FOCUS on FILM

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | March 2022



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## FILM FLORIDA PODCAST SEASON 4



March Guests:  
- Frank Licari, Actor / TV Host /  
Writer / Producer / Director  
- Chris Dudley, Composer &  
Multi-Instrumentalist

## AMERICA'S FIRST RESORT DESTINATION

An exciting and informative new series, **America's First Resort Destination**, is joining The Palm Beaches.TV lineup! Palm Beach is often called *America's First Resort Destination* because American industrialist Henry Flagler, built the railroad that brought vacationing Americans from the north down to the warm Florida beaches. He developed hotel properties right on the water's edge – an innovation for that time. What ultimately became The Breakers resort was one of the first properties built to host sun-seeking guests over a century ago. This new series will explore the histories of the earliest influencers, like Flagler and architect Addison Mizner.



Henry Flagler



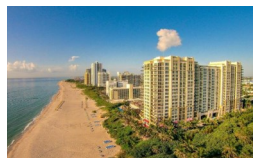
Keli Ferguson, sports anchor for local network affiliates WPTV and FOX 29, hosts the show. "I love exploring the history, people and architecture of The Palm Beaches and how Palm Beach County became America's First Resort Destination! It was paradise then and is still paradise now!" Future episodes will find Keli enjoying a bicycle tour along Worth Avenue, Palm Beach island's most glamorous shopping district; visiting unique architectural structures; sampling delicious dishes, and exploring the many dynamic attractions that make The Palm Beaches a true resort destination.

The three-episode series is produced by Jeff Aderman at AA Video "Capturing the beautiful scenery, historic structures and unique amenities of our area has been a special thrill. The Palm Beaches is a playground for every traveler, budget and interest," says Aderman. "I'm delighted to deliver these segments to viewers. Keli is the perfect host and storyteller." **America's First Resort Destination** will air on Discovery Channel's Destination America this summer as well as ThePalmBeaches.TV



## GROWING UP HIP HOP

WE tv's popular reality series **Growing Up Hip Hop** celebrated the wedding of Tahira "Tee Tee" Francis and Shawn Rogers at the **Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort**.



PB Marriott Singer Island



Mr. and Mrs. Rogers

The show concept chronicles the lives of the children of hip hop legends, and Tee Tee is the niece of the legendary Sandra "Pepa" Denton of rap trio Salt-N-Pepa. In an episode that aired last month, wedding bells rang in celebration of the couple at the picturesque oceanfront property. Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a reception at the lavish resort with the cake designed by Kursten Restivo, the Executive Pastry Chef with the Marriott Singer Island. Viewers get behind-the-scenes intel on all the pre-planning for the event, including a tour of the resort property and the variety of settings offered for a ceremony. Catch the episode at [wetv.com/shows](http://wetv.com/shows).

## SNOWY SURPRISE FOR SERENA

As a spokesperson for **Lincoln Navigator**, tennis legend and **Jupiter** resident **Serena Williams** has starred in a number of national commercials filmed in The Palm Beaches but none more fun than the recent spot titled **Serena's Snowy Surprise**.



Behind the Scenes  
Interior Picture Vehicle

"It's going to be really cool to have snow in Florida," Serena says at the beginning of the commercial as she heads to join a group of children for a day of snowball fights and sledding. The children are joyous with surprise as she reveals the frosty setting – many of them seeing snow for the very first time. With production by Greenpoint Pictures out of Brooklyn, NY, scenes were filmed at the **Boys & Girls Club of West Palm Beach**, with driving footage captured in **Wellington** and **Greenacres**. Relive the magic of your first snowfall at [youtube.com/watch?v=H216v2my9z4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=H216v2my9z4).





## SUBCULTURE FILM FESTIVAL

Get ready, Subculture is reeling in filmmakers to West Palm Beach this spring. The **Subculture Film Festival** will be held March 18-20, 2022 at The Peach, located at 3950 Georgia Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33405.

This new film festival will be bringing in filmmakers from all over the country, and will spotlight locally produced films with the goal of encouraging, promoting, and supporting new voices in film from our region. Don't miss your chance to be featured on the big screen! The festival is currently accepting film submissions from students and seasoned filmmakers alike to be featured and possibly earn cash prizes.

### SUBCULTURE FILM FESTIVAL THE REEL REVOLUTION

The Subculture Film Festival is made possible by the Subculture Group and a partnership with the local film collective I AM SUS. For more information please visit [subculturefilmfest.com](http://subculturefilmfest.com).

## MOVIE MONEY CONFIDENTIAL

The final onscreen appearance of legendary motion picture star **Burt Reynolds** in the feature length documentary **Movie Money CONFIDENTIAL** is generating strong attention as streaming sites began offering the film to the public on March 1.



"In the post pandemic world, streaming and digital downloads present the best option for reaching the largest possible audience," said producer **Maggie Pamplin**.

"Working with Burt was inspiring and uplifting. In the film he gives insight and advice for the next generation of filmmakers who he cherished and spent the last years of his life nurturing in Palm Beach," said writer-director **Rick Pamplin**. The documentary can be seen on multiple streaming sites such as Altice USA, Amazon, Blue Ridge Stream, Brighthouse Networks, Charter Communications / Spectrum / Time Warner, Cox Communications, OverDrive, RCN Streaming, Vimeo, Vudu and others. A complete up-to-date list can be found at [MovieMoney.com](http://MovieMoney.com).

## SADDLE UP, IT'S TIME TO JUMP

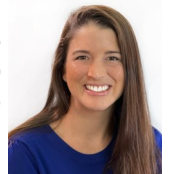
The **Winter Equestrian Festival** (WEF), one of the largest sporting events in the County, began on January 5 and runs through April 3 at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in **Wellington**.



This year, WEF welcomes back spectators with a revamped season featuring national and international athletes at every corner. According to Michael Stone, President of Equestrian Sport Productions, "We made improvements for parts of the facility that affect horses...there used to be a lot of small railings and now they all are higher, and safer. Thanks to GEG's investment, two additional lots on Gene Mische Road were purchased, so we've extended stabling tents and parking to that part of the property." WEF live streams many of the events, giving viewers around the globe the opportunity to see top notch equestrian shows at the longest running equestrian event in the world. Check out the live stream and competition updates at [pbiec.coth.com](http://pbiec.coth.com).

## STAFF CHANGES AT THE FTC

**Christy Andreoni**, Director of Operations and Production sets her sights on new challenges after nearly eight years of steadfast service to the entertainment production industry in The Palm Beaches. During her time at the FTC, Christy oversaw the One-Stop Permitting process while maintaining and developing relationships with local municipalities, taxing districts and county contacts. Christy now joins a new team tasked with relaunching the Broward County Film Commission.



Christy Andreoni



A.J. Jordat Jr.

Meanwhile, Office Administrator **Alberto Jordat Jr.**, has been promoted to Director of Operations. Since 2015, AJ has provided professional and administrative support in facilitating the FTC's various programs. The Film Commission extends its best wishes to Christy on her future career and congratulates AJ on his advancement.

## WATCH PARTY REACHES NEARLY ONE MILLION VIEWERS

Almost a million viewers have logged on to join **The Palm Beaches.TV's** Facebook Watch Party series during the past 18 months. What began as a marketing pivot during the pandemic, has evolved into an effective means for consistently engaging and informing viewers worldwide, about the plentiful assets to be enjoyed in The Palm Beaches. The series, which highlights content from The Palm Beaches.TV, streams each Tuesday at noon on the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission's Facebook page. **Glenn Jergensen**, Executive Director of The Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council hosts, along with **Lauren Tobin** of the PBC Film and Television Commission. To join the event on any Tuesday, visit our Facebook page at noon Eastern time.



Lauren Tobin  
host Facebook Watch Party





## MY FESTIVAL, MY WAY WITH ELIE TAHARI

Audiences have been engaged and delighted by screening the 80 films that make up *My Festival, My Way* – the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **Judy Krevis Krug Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival (BRJFF)**. Running February 27 through March 20, the BRJFF launched with a special guest appearance by famed fashion designer Elie Tahari, who visited on February 23 for a kick-off event in celebration of his documentary, *The United States of Elie Tahari*. Other audience favorites include films like *The Automat*, *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen*, *Rose, Persian Lessons*, and *Image of Victory*. BRJFF now considered one of the largest Jewish/Israeli Film Festivals in the country. Audiences also had the luxury of viewing the festival in theatres or in the comfort of their own home. To learn more about the festival, visit [bocajff.org](http://bocajff.org).



## SHARK ADVENTURE TO PROTECT FISH

**Josh Jorgensen**, born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, has quickly become one of the world's most popular fishing stars on social media. In 2003, his family bought a condo in South Florida and the fascination with fishing blossomed.



Josh started catching sharks on the beach, and his only evidence was photographs that people back home did not believe he caught. That's when he started filming videos and posting them to YouTube. Then, in 2008, BlacktipH Fishing was born. Josh, now a **Jupiter**, Florida, resident takes fishing to a whole other level in what he says is "making it more about the adventure than catching a specific fish."

Jeff Glor with **CBS Saturday Morning** recently spent a day at sea with Josh and learned that not only does he love fishing and catching big sea monsters, but he also cares about the conservation of our oceans, making sure we focus on the water quality and have more sustainable fishing regulations. Join Josh and Jeff on a wild adventure at [cbsnews.com/video/josh-jorgensen-on-protection-and-preservation-of-fish](http://cbsnews.com/video/josh-jorgensen-on-protection-and-preservation-of-fish).

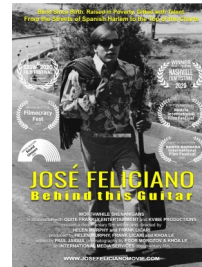


## LICARI'S DOCUMENTARY

**Frank Licari**, star of South Florida PBS' *On The Town in The Palm Beaches with Frank Licari* and host of The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films, is an accomplished documentary filmmaker.



Frank Licari



His latest project, **Jose Feliciano – Behind This Guitar**, will premiere at the **2022 Miami Film Festival** and has been selected for the festival's **Documentary Achievement Award**. Directed by Licari and Helen Murphy, the award winning documentary chronicles the continuing 55+ year career of 8-time Grammy winner Jose Feliciano- the first-ever Latin crossover artist, the first to personally stylize the national anthem, and one of the most underrated singer/guitarists of all time. "This has been a long-lasting passion project of mine and I'm thrilled to bring the documentary to audiences in South Florida," said Licari. "After being selected for SXSW 2020 and winning Best Latin Film at Nashville Film Festival 2021, the film is being represented by William Morris/Endeavor Content", he added. Get more details online at [josefelicianomovie.com](http://josefelicianomovie.com).

## LOCAL FILM ON FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

**The Chronicles of Jesus**, produced by local production company **Sensation Films**, has been selected into seven film festivals and counting.



The web series follows a war-torn veteran living in self-imposed exile, struggling to keep a grip on reality. But when a good Samaritan finds the Vet living rough among the trees, he's offered a second chance at redemption he can't refuse. The project recently picked up a Silver Award for Best Screenplay at the IMDb qualifier's Milan Gold Awards. Some of the film festivals screening **The Chronicles of Jesus** include the **Latin America Film Awards**, the **Paris Film Awards**, the **New York Film Awards** and the **Anatolia International Film Festival**. Learn more online at: <https://imdb.to/353h100>

## DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING BLACK VOICES IN PBC

Black history and culture is deeply rooted in The Palm Beaches. A recent episode of South Florida PBS' **On The Town in The Palm Beaches with Frank Licari**, celebrates various iconic and historical landmarks, black-owned businesses and cultural highlights in an episode dedicated to **Black Voices**.



The episode reached a larger audience than any previous episode of the series, with distribution in major markets across the state of Florida on PBS during Black History Month. Segments feature interviews with Charlene F. Jones, Museum Director of the **Spady Museum** in Delray Beach, Pastor Gerald D. Kisner of **Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church** in West Palm Beach, young talent from the **Glades Central High School** football team. Catch the full episode at [thepalmbeaches.tv/vod/on-the-town/black-voices](http://thepalmbeaches.tv/vod/on-the-town/black-voices).



## FLASHBACK FEATURE: THE COMEDIAN

Released in 2016 and directed by **Taylor Hackford**, *The Comedian* stars legendary actors **Robert De Niro**, **Leslie Mann** and **Danny DeVito** to name a few. The story follows De Niro's character, Jackie Burke, who is having a difficult time reinventing himself. With a budget of an estimated \$15 million and a Hollywood Film Award for Comedy of the Year, this movie was filmed in quite a few locations across Palm Beach County. De Niro preforms an impromptu set that was shot in the **Seagate Manor Condominiums** in Delray Beach. They also filmed a driving sequence where they drove in a yellow convertible from Delray to Palm Beach along **A1A**. Check out movie details and more online at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Comedian\\_\(2016\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Comedian_(2016_film)).

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT  
FOUNTAINS IN THE PALM BEACHES

**Fountains** come in all shapes and sizes and create a community gathering place. Several fountains have been incorporated into public spaces in Palm Beach County and range from antique and traditional to modern and contemporary.



Rosemary Square

**Rosemary Square** presents the best of both worlds with the historic fountain near the Harriett Himmel Theater and the playful interactive maze known as the Water Pavilion with intersecting rings that create walls of water.

Another interactive modern fountain is found at **Centennial Square**. During the day it's a splash pad that kids can enjoy and when the sun goes down, the space comes alive with LED lighting and music.



Centennial Square



Mizner Park

You'll find an elaborate tall fountain at **Mizner Park**, used as the centerpiece of the shopping district. The fountain is complemented by a blue gazebo and lush tropical landscaping, and has hosted countless commercials and still photography projects.

**Veterans Park** in **Royal Palm Beach** offers an interactive splash fountain that features concrete alligators and herons, as well as a coral rock waterfall and an Americana style amphitheater. This park has a variety of looks in the same location.



Veterans Park

EDUCATION CORNER  
LIVE AWARD SHOW DATE ANNOUNCED

After two years of virtual award shows, the Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films announces the 27th Annual Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films red carpet Award show will be held at the newly renovated **Maltz Jupiter Theatre** on May 6th, 2022.



"With **Burt Reynolds** deep connection to the theatre, we are delighted to hold this year's award show at The Maltz Jupiter Theatre," said Michelle Hillery, Executive Producer of the show. This year brings the excitement of a live awards show and lots of surprises for students across the state.

The competition has received three hundred eligible submissions from student filmmakers, representing an impressive forty-five schools across the state of Florida. Entries came in from Tallahassee to Key West, covering a wide range of topics. With twelve categories to choose from and three special recognition awards, the students have a lot to look forward to. This year's group of films covers interesting topics including how Covid affected students, politics, mental health and environmental issues that affect everyone.



With the award winning, ultra talented, **Frank Licari** hosting the upcoming show, this is one event that is sure to provide great entertainment and one you won't want to miss! For more information please visit: [pbfilm.com/ssof](https://pbfilm.com/ssof).



Frank Licari

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