

FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | MAY 2013



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FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE BEST IN INDEPENDENT FILM

Palm Beach International Film Festival

It was a true celebration of film as the Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) celebrated its 18th installment with tremendous success. PBIFF thrived in the true spirit of independent film camaraderie as filmmakers from around the world enjoyed welcoming audiences, shared their experiences and attended parties. Opening night kicked off with the screening of *Decoding Annie Parker*. Director Steven Bernstein and the real-life Annie Parker were in attendance, and held a special Q & A. After the Q&A, a party was held at the Muvico Parisian 20 at CityPlace.



Annie Parker and Steven Bernstein



Ileana Douglas and Bruce Mason

After a week of screenings, the votes were tallied to determine the winners for Best Feature Film, Best Documentary, and Best Short Film, while audiences voted for their favorite. Best Feature Film went to *Lonely Boy*, Best Documentary Feature went to *Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor*, and the award for Best Short Film went to *Sahasi Chori*. The Audience Favorite Award for Best Feature went to *As High As The Sky*, the Audience Favorite for Best Documentary went to *Bearing Witness: The Voices of Our Survivors*, and *Ardeshir Mohasses: The Rebellious Artist*, the Audience Favorite Award for Best Short Film went to *The Color of Christmas*, and the Audience Favorite Award for Best of Florida went to *The Shift*. The 18th edition closed with Bruce Mason's *Chez Upshaw*, starring Ileana Douglas and Kevin Pollack. The screening was held at Frank Theatres CineBowl and Grille in Delray Beach, with Bruce Mason and Ileana Douglas in attendance. For more information visit pbiffilmfest.org.

LATIN BEAUTIES GO ON SAFARI



Nuestra Belleza Latina

Nuestra Belleza Latina, a beauty pageant and reality show on Univision came to Lion Country Safari to film an episode for their seventh season! The show attracts an average of four million viewers. *Nuestra Belleza Latina* revolves around 12 women selected by the judges to compete for the title of Nuestra Belleza Latina, as well as winning prizes and becoming a personality for Univision. It's hosted by actress Giselle Blondet, who does the audition process and is also the mentor of the winner for the year of reign. The first season premiered in 2007 and was one of Univision's highest rated shows.

Lion Country Safari is no stranger to production. They have hosted the Weather Channel, the Travel Channel, Animal Planet, Telemundo, TBS, E!, and many photo shoots. For info visit lioncountrysafari.com.



GOLF CHANNEL SHOW SWINGS INTO PBC



David Feherty and Jack Nicklaus
Photo: Golf Channel

David Feherty, host of Golf Channel's hit, original series, *Feherty*, returned for his third season with a slate of exciting interviews! Feherty recently sat down with Major Champion and Hall-of-Famer Jack Nicklaus at his home in Palm Beach County (PBC). Affectionately described by Feherty as golf's Mt. Everest, Nicklaus reflects on his record-setting career, his mentor Bobby Jones and his friendly rivalries with Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson. Feherty also sat down with Lee Westwood at the Old Palm Golf Club in Palm Beach Gardens for an interview about his golfing career, and no topic was off-limits.



David Feherty and Lee Westwood
Photo: Golf Channel

Feherty debuted in 2011 as the most-watched original series in Golf Channel history. For info visit golfchannel.com.



FILM COMPETITION IS HEARING 'VOICES'



South Florida filmmakers were honored during the annual Voices of Local Film, during the 18th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival. The award for Best Feature film went to Robert Goodrich for his film, Ares 11, and the award for Best Director went to V. Alex Marquez for his film Kundalini.

"We had our best event yet. The audience enjoyed seeing locally produced films," said Heath McKnight, President and Founder, Palm Beach Film Society. All of the selected films screened at the Cobb Theatres in Palm Beach Gardens. Voices is the only category during the PBIFF which features films made by local, non-student filmmakers. For more info visit pbfilmsociety.org.

BOCA PRODUCTION HOUSE IS SIZZLING HOT



Over the past 18 years, Hutton Miller based in Boca Raton has helped sell more than two billion dollars worth of direct response products worldwide by creating campaigns in every category from household and beauty to tools and toys. Hutton Miller's expansive, state of the art studio provides an endless canvas for any set imaginable, but sometimes, they just need a special look. "Our client had a particular look and feeling in mind that was better achieved on location, rather than overhauling our studio," says CEO Peter Hutton about their recent major toy project, "and that's when we turned to PBC for assistance. Scouring through dozens of options, Hutton Miller finally found the fit that was just right for the project and the client was thrilled.

"There are so many great private and public locations locally, the possibilities are pretty much endless," points out President John Miller. "We can have a beautiful, modern house one day and be at a desolate lot the next depending on the needs of our clients' projects. And to be able to do all of that without breaking the budget or traveling more than about an hour, is a great asset to our company." For more info visit huttonmiller.com.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PIO IS MOVING ON



Nat Harrington

Nat Harrington, chief public information officer for the Palm Beach County School District, and a long-standing board member of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission will be resigning from the School District next month. As the lead spokesman for the nation's 11th-largest school district for 16 years. Harrington has acted as liaison between the district and news organizations, handles communications, and organizes community volunteers. "I am excited to be pursuing new opportunities and expanding my career," said Harrington.

Harrington helped to organize many film shoots that took place at county schools. Some of those film shoots include an episode of ABC's Extreme Makeover, which shot at Wellington High School. For more info call 561.233.1000.

CRIME THRILLER NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD



Jason Statham at the Boca Resort & Club

The feature film Parker will be released on DVD on May 21! Palm Beach County served as the picturesque backdrop for the movie, which stars Jennifer Lopez and Jason Statham. Directed by Taylor Hackford, the movie revolves around a thief with a unique code of professional ethics who is double-crossed by his crew and left for dead. Assuming a new disguise and forming an unlikely alliance with a woman on the inside, he looks to hijack the score of the crew's latest heist. West Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Ocean Ridge and Boca Raton were utilized during filming.

The film made its East Coast premiere at the Muvico Parisian 20 at CityPlace in West Palm Beach, and Taylor Hackford held a Q&A session with the audience after the film. For more info visit parkermovie.com.



JAPANESE-STYLE, FIVE-STAR HOTEL MAY COME TO MORIKAMI PARK



Garden Views at Morikami Park

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach has been a gracious host to many film shoots including commercials for Audi, Claritin, and City Furniture. Palm Beach County is now reviving a proposal to add a hotel to the Japanese gardens and museum at Morikami Park. Morikami — named after the farming family that donated the land to the county 40 years ago — includes 170 acres featuring soothing rock gardens, towering bamboo, koi ponds and bonsai displays as well as a Japanese museum.



Bridge at Morikami Park



SHARING A LITTLE SUNSHINE



Delray Beach

Visit Florida came to Palm Beach County (PBC) to film areas of Delray Beach as part of their Florida Insiders series, which is an initiative of Visit Florida's Share A Little Sunshine program. Share A Little Sunshine is an effort to encourage Floridians to invite out-of-staters to experience all Florida has to offer. The premise behind the program is that tourism creates jobs.

"We were excited to shoot in PBC, and Delray Beach in particular, because it offers the quintessential Florida experience. It is a vibrant community situated on the ocean, and it is a small town with big city sophistication. All of that vibrancy and charm came through in the shoot," said Producer Jenny Zoberg. The videos will be seen on VisitFlorida.com. Users are sent to the site to view the Florida's Insiders videos through billboards and Public Service Announcements throughout the State. The shoot was produced by SPARK, a branding agency located in Tampa, FL. For more information please visit spark.us.



'REAL HOUSEWIVES' IN WELLINGTON



Real Housewives of Miami-Season Two Cast Photo

The third season of the Real Housewives of Miami has kicked off and the ladies of the famous Bravo franchise made their way up to Wellington this year! The one-day shoot took place at the 4th Annual Gay Polo Tournament held at the Grand Champions Polo Club.

Season Three will give viewers an inside look into the aspirational lives of some Miami women as they juggle family, work, and a spicy social scene in one of the hottest cities in the world. For more information please visit bravotv.com.

POP CULTURE CONVENTION IN WPB



A brand new fan event, FatalitiesFest will be held at the Marriott in West Palm Beach from June 7-9. The goal of FatalitiesFest is to unite genre fans over the course of three days in an expo filled with celebrity appearances, a VIP party, a filmmaking competition, costume contests, panels and workshops, and more.

Some of the celebrity appearances include Christopher Judge (*Stargate SG-1/DeadSpace:Aftermath*), Scott Spiegel (*Actor, Writer, Producer, Director*), Ernie Hudson (*Ghostbusters, The Crow, Oz*) and Judith Shekoni (*The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2*). FatalitiesFest is produced by ADA Management Group, an entertainment management firm, and Fatalities Films, a film production company. "FatalitiesFest is the next big thing in pop culture conventions," said Andrea A. Albin, owner of ADA Management Group. For info visit fatalitiesfest.com and click on West Palm Beach.



FTC WELCOMES SPRING INTERN!



Alexander Owens

Please join the PBC Film and Television Commission in welcoming Alexander Owens to the internship program. Owens is inspired to one day be a film director and screenwriter. He attended the G-Star School of the Arts where he worked on the feature film, *Destiny's Stand* and participated in the 2011 G-Shorts Student Film Competition.

He currently attends Palm Beach State College where he studies Motion Picture Production. "I hope to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the film industry in PBC during my internship," said Owens. For more info visit pbfilm.com.

PALM BEACH COUNTY'S HIGH SCHOOLS RANK HIGH IN NATIONAL INDEX!

Each year, the Washington Post names America's Most Challenging High Schools, and this year Palm Beach County has five schools at the top of the list! Suncoast High School in Riviera Beach at number 15, Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach at number 63, Atlantic Community High School in Delray Beach at number 209, Spanish River High School in Boca Raton at number 236, and the G-Star School of the Arts in Palm Springs at number 544. America's Most Challenging High Schools ranks schools through an index formula that's a simple ratio: the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that year. For more information visit washingtonpost.com.





LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: HISTORIC LAKE PARK



Town Hall

Lake Park is a small town on the Intra-coastal Waterway that was originally designed by the Olmstead Brothers and boasts two square miles of charm with the centerpiece being the historic Mediterranean Revival Town Hall that was designed as a replica of Villa Guilia in Rome, Italy.



Council Chambers

The Town Clerk's office is where the former Council Chamber was housed. The spacious room lends itself to filmmakers since it is large, sound proofed with an elevated area. The current council chambers are housed where the town's fire trucks and horses were kept. The arched, dark wood, raised panel doors with high positioned windows provide a great environment for a multi camera interview since the space is not used on a daily basis.

The hallway to the current council chambers also has arched wood doorways and a long, well lit corridor that circles back to the entry area with brick floors and center staircase to the upstairs mezzanine where official business takes place.



Mirror Ballroom

The Mirror Ballroom is a beautiful room that has been used for events and performances since it was originally constructed in the late 1920's. The light colored cypress ceiling is gorgeous with arched framing and thoughtfully integrated lighting for the stage.



Presently the Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre is using the space for some classes and performances which is a homecoming of sorts for Mr. Reynolds considering that in the 1950's he attended Palm Beach Junior College in the Town Hall building after the staff moved to another building on Park Avenue to accommodate the college. The works being presented are from the golden age of radio when he was beginning to immerse himself in the craft of acting at the very site where these performances are taking place. For more info visit pbfilm.com or brift.org.

EDUCATION CORNER: PAST SSOF WINNERS SUCCEED IN FILM BIZ!



The Shift Cast & Crew

For 18 years, the Palm Beach International Film Festival's (PBIFF) Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) has provided Florida high school and college students with a opportunity to display their work. Participating in the showcase can open the door to a wide range of opportunities.

Case in Point: Lee Cipolla. Cipolla won 1st place in the High School Feature/Short competition in 2002 for his film, *Taken Away*, and went on to have a successful film career. He recently directed a medical drama called *The Shift*, starring Danny Glover. *The Shift* premiered at the PBIFF, and took home the Audience Favorite Award for Best of Florida!



V. Alex Marquez

V. Alex Marquez also won a very special award this year at the PBIFF. Marquez was honored with the award for Best Director for his comedy *Kundalini* that screened as part of *Voices of Local Film*. Marquez has been involved in filmmaking for most of his life. He has completed more than two-dozen projects, including the award-winning cult favorites *Film Contest?* and *Heartbreak*, and is also a past SSOF winner. Marquez has directed the SSOF for the past ten years, and has become a respected force in the industry.



Kundalini Photo

These stories of triumph are bright examples of the many benefits the SSOF can provide. The event is held at the Wold Performing Arts Center at Lynn University in Boca Raton. Each year students from all over Florida can submit their work in seven categories in hopes of winning more than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards. Winners have the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor each year at the live award ceremony. For more info about the film festival visit pbfilmfest.org, and for info about the SSOF, visit pbfilm.com.



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