

# FOCUS on FILM

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



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 SCUBANATION IN PBC
- 2 TELEMUNDO'S NEW HIT
- 3 SSOF CALL FOR ENTRIES
- 4 CELEBRATING A LEGACY
- 5 SWEDEFEST'S BEST WORST
- 6 LOCATION SPOTLIGHT:  
Marinas and Boating
- 7 EDUCATION CORNER:  
In Sanity at G-Star



1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900  
561.233.1000 [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com)



## EMMY AWARD-WINNING SERIES IN THE PALM BEACHES

The Palm Beaches is like a giant personal aquarium, with incredible underwater assets lining our 47 miles of shoreline. Off the coast, divers and snorkelers can find some of the most diverse species in the world with extraordinary wreck and reef sites. The Emmy Award-winning series



Billy Catoggio "On Set"

**ScubaNation** is now in production on an episode dedicated to the incredible submerged features of our region. The show will capture our dive sites, unique fish species, and topside local attractions like restaurants and breweries. "When people ask me what's my favorite place to go scuba diving, The Palm Beaches is at the top of my list. Being so close to the Gulf Stream it is adrenaline diving at its best," said Executive Producer Billy Catoggio. The show recently dove down to capture the **Ana Cecilia** ship sunk off the coast of Riviera Beach, as well as the annual goliath grouper spawning season in Jupiter. The goliath groupers are a spectacularly unique feature to The Palm Beaches; spawns take place every year like nowhere else in the world. The show also plans to film at local attractions such as **Food Shack** and **PonTiki** in **Jupiter**, as well as **Saltwater Brewery** in **Delray Beach**. These local hot spots round out the show to give viewers an idea of what they can experience once they emerge from their underwater adventure.



Goliath Grouper



ScubaNation is the highest rated TV show dedicated to the exploration of our oceans through the sport of recreational scuba diving. The show aims to entertain and educate in a fun and fast-paced style never before seen on a scuba diving show. The Palm Beaches-centered episode is expected to air April 14-23, 2016 on **Fox Sports Sun**. Get a glimpse of the series at [scubanation.com](http://scubanation.com).

## TELEMUNDO TELENUELA IN WPB

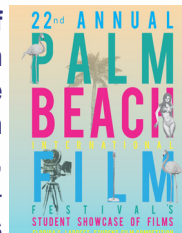
Telemundo's newest telenovela is **La Fan**, the tale of Valentina, a young woman whose life becomes unexpectedly intertwined with that of her favorite famous soap opera star. Angélica Vale returns to television screens as Valentina Perez after more than a decade away from telenovelas. Also starring in this new comedy are Juan Pablo Espinosa, Scarlet Ortiz, and well-known Colombian actor Miguel Varoni as the director of the story.



Production brought the show to **CityPlace** in **West Palm Beach**, chosen to simulate the look of Los Angeles. A representative from production said, "Our production enjoys how film-friendly everyone is while filming in Palm Beach County." Telemundo hopes to bring a new format to the Hispanic market through comedy. **La Fan** is expected to air in 2017 to Telemundo's prime-time audience of 1.4 million people. For updates on the show, visit [telemundo.com](http://telemundo.com).

## SSOF NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES

The **22nd Annual Student Showcase of Films (SSOF)** is now open for submissions from Florida high school and college students. The largest student competition and award show in the state recognizes outstanding filmmakers, writers, graphic designers and digital media artists by presenting more than \$12,000 in awards in the following categories: Feature/Short, Documentary, Animation, Commercial/PSA, Music Video, Screenwriting, Poster Design, Mental Health Awareness, Environmental PSA and Audience Award. Honoring Burt Reynolds, the SSOF also awards a scholarship bearing his name along with a Sara Fuller Scholarship through its partners at Film Florida. "The impact this event has on these young minds and the opportunity they are being given is priceless," said Mr. Burt Reynolds. Submissions are judged by industry professionals from around the globe with finalists to be showcased at the red carpet award show on **March 10, 2017** at **Lynn University** in **Boca Raton**. For more, visit [pbfilm.com/student-showcase](http://pbfilm.com/student-showcase).





## CLASSICS MAKE A COMEBACK

Get a taste of the cinematic experience you've been missing out on at Boca Raton's Willow Theatre in Sugar Sand Park. The **Sounds of the Silent Screen** film series includes upcoming screenings of 1923's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* on November 3 and 1928's *Steamboat Bill, Jr* on December 15. **Peter Tavalin** improvises musical accompaniment on a synthesizer. "His timing and talent immerse you into the film and cause you to forget that there's a man playing live music just a couple feet away from you," said Marketing Coordinator Carter Bogush. "Classic silent films shown the way you'd have seen them at a movie house a century ago was too good to pass up," said Bogush. "You certainly don't want to forgo the opportunity to see them." Tickets are \$7 per film. Get tickets at [willowtheatre.org/sounds-of-the-silent-screen](http://willowtheatre.org/sounds-of-the-silent-screen).



Peter Tavalin

## MAMA ALWAYS SAID I WAS A WINNER

Mama always said, "Politicians was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." At least that's what Forrest Trump's mama told him in this year's best worst film at **Swede Fest™ Palm Beach**. The three-minute movie, directed by **Mary Stucchi**, was shrouded in topical humor and parodied the 1994 classic *Forrest Gump*. Stucchi, a West Palm Beach native, produced the hilariously bad remake for less than \$20 and shot it in just one day and 10 minutes.

When asked what inspired her, Stucchi said, "Forrest Gump is near and dear to my heart... and it just so happens that it rhymes with Trump." This year's Swede Fest, hosted by the **Palm Beach Film Society**, was once again a sold-out event. People lined up outside **The Kelsey Theater in Lake Park** hoping to score a last-minute ticket. Those lucky enough to make it inside were relegated to the standing-room only section. However, that's where the Kelsey Theater's bar is located, so it was a win-win for those who waited until the last minute. Watch this year's winning swede at [youtu.be/w2qWihC57cg](http://youtu.be/w2qWihC57cg).



## KANYE PARODY PULLS BIG VIEWS

The **Daily Mulligan** and **Killer Whale Productions** teamed up to produce *Kanye in the Park*, a parody of Kanye West's controversial N.Y. Fashion Week show. The production company chose **Meyer Amphitheatre** in West Palm Beach to double for Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, a popular filming location in downtown N.Y.C. "Aside from it being a simply beautiful location to film at, the Meyer Amphitheatre was the perfect fit for our Kanye in the Park concept. Additionally, we think it's awesome when we're able to showcase a landmark location from our hometown in our work," said Killer Whale Productions' Chris Waddington. *Kanye in the Park* boasts 2.5 million views online with viewership steadily increasing. "View count numbers like that really push us to strive towards maintaining and increasing our viewership for future projects." Gear was provided by South Florida multimedia company **Afflux Studios**. Watch the parody at [dailymulligan.com](http://dailymulligan.com).

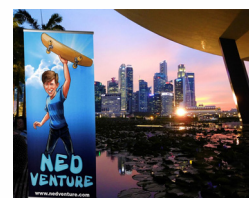


## NED VENTURES THE GLOBE

Family fun feature-length comedy **Ned Venture**, which filmed throughout **West Palm Beach, Jupiter and Boynton Beach** in 2012 and premiered in 2015, is now sharing its story with a worldwide audience!



The film went global at the **Singapore World International Film Festival** and will continue to screen at festivals in Los Angeles, Rome, Moscow, Kuala Lumpur, and more. "During our visit to Singapore, we brought the Ned Venture banner around and photographed Ned visiting some of the key city landmarks, which we will continue to do on our tour across the world," said



Creator/Director Ron Stone. The film also strives to give back to the community, hosting a charity event in October at the Los Angeles screening through the Dream Center of L.A. to benefit homeless families. Follow Ned Venture at [facebook.com/nedventurethemovie](http://facebook.com/nedventurethemovie).

## SILVER PALM AWARDED TO STANDOUT ENSEMBLE

Congratulations are in order for FTC Board Member **Marcie Gorman** of **MNM Productions** as a recipient of **The South Florida Silver Palm Theatre Awards!** Founded nine years ago to honor theatrical excellence in South Florida, the awards are presented each year to 28 individuals and organizations. Marcie Gorman-Althof and Michael Lifshitz were honored for their new theatre company and the outstanding ensemble of *The World Goes 'Round* at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts. "I've always defined success as just doing what you think is right. I'm delighted that we have casted so well and chosen our directors and other staff as well as we have!" said Gorman. *The World Goes 'Round* is the fourth major musical produced by MNM Productions over the last two years, following *A Chorus Line*, *Side By Side By Sondheim* and *HAIR*. The company predominantly performs at the Rinker Playhouse at the Kravis Center. "I am really honored, delighted and excited," Gorman shared. For more info, visit [facebook.com/groups/MNMproductions](http://facebook.com/groups/MNMproductions).



Silver Palm Award







## CELEBRATING A LEGACY

In honor of one of Palm Beach County's media pioneers, the FTC celebrates the life of **Murray Green**, who passed away in October and is survived by a loving family. Mr. Green worked in radio and television for over 50 years, 18 of which were in The Palm Beaches as the founding General Manager of **WFLX-TV**. Mr. Green was instrumental in the creation of the FTC in 1989, and has been dedicated to the success of our local film and television industry throughout his life.



Murray Green

In a message to his family and friends, he shared, "If you knew me at all, you knew that I loved my work, loved going to work, loved the people I worked with and for and loved the business I was in. There was rarely a day that did not start and end on a high." His legacy will live on through the many lives he has touched throughout his journey.

## A LEGEND'S GLIMPSE INTO HOLLYWOOD

The **Rosarian Academy**, an independent Catholic school in **West Palm Beach**, welcomed Hollywood icon **Burt Reynolds** as the guest of honor on October 15 for a special screening of his 1978 film *Hooper*. The event benefited the school's arts program, as well as the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre** (BRIFT) in **Jupiter**.

Prior to screening the movie, Burt Reynolds took the stage and shared stories about his personal and professional relationships with fellow Hollywood legends like **Joanne Woodward**, **Paul Newman**, **Sally Field**, **Jackie Gleason** and even **Elvis**. **Todd Vittum**, Executive Director of BRIFT, described the event as "a success on all fronts," and says "we look forward to more events



Burt Reynolds & Todd Vittum

such as this one in the future." In the end, Mr. Reynolds admitted that his favorite film was *The Longest Yard* because he "got to play football and [got] paid for it." For more info on Burt Reynolds' acting institute, visit [burtreynoldsinstitute.org](http://burtreynoldsinstitute.org).

## MARINE LIFE AMBASSADOR ABROAD

**Jim Abernethy** continues to be an influential voice for conservation worldwide, while acting as an ambassador for local marine life in The Palm Beaches. His passion for the protection of marine life, especially sharks, has led many to use his skills to tell their story and their mission.



Jim Abernethy

Jim recently traveled to Australia to help launch season two of **Tales by Light**, a series produced by Untitled Film Works and Canon Australia which airs on **National Geographic Australia**. These episodes unite adventurous exploration and stunning photography while promoting the conservation mission of selected photographers. Told through the eye of the storyteller, this program follows extraordinary artists as they work to capture the perfect image and show us their world in a new light. In



Eric Cheng's episode, Jim helps Eric work with what many consider to be the world's most dangerous sharks. See more at [nationalgeographic.com.au/tv/tales-by-light](http://nationalgeographic.com.au/tv/tales-by-light).

## SPECIAL BLOOD SPREADS AWARENESS

One in 10,000 people will be affected by Hereditary Angioedema (HAE) in their lifetime. The rare and potentially life-threatening condition causes pain and swelling that lasts from a few hours to days. Filmmaker **Natalie Metzger** is bringing awareness to this disease through her documentary **Special Blood**, which depicts what it's like to live with HAE and features personal testimonials from around the U.S. Natalie's father, who has HAE and lives in **Delray Beach**, appears in the documentary.



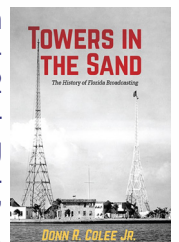
When asked why she chose to film in PBC, Natalie said, "The beach and water-scapes of Florida gave a really nice visual contrast to some of the other locations where we had filmed." *Special Blood* recently screened in **Boca Raton** and is set to premiere across the country and in Europe in the near future. For a full list of screening dates and locations, visit [specialblood.com](http://specialblood.com).

## A CENTURY OF BROADCASTING IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

**Towers in the Sand**, a new book by **Donn R. Colee Jr.**, is the only comprehensive history of **AM/FM/TV stations** in the state of Florida. More than a parade of call letters and frequencies, the book tells stories from the people who created the stations and made the magic of broadcasting. Woven through Florida history from 1922 through 2015, the book celebrates the past and challenges the future of free, over-the-air broadcasting. In discussing his passion project, Colee shared, "The most time consuming task was tracing every radio and television station in the state back to its origins, with all letter, frequency, and ownership changes. Those details provided the backbone of the book and took a few years of research." Colee is a seventh-generation Floridian and second-generation broadcaster with a storied history in The Palm Beaches, with connections to 80 broadcasting pioneers included in the book. *Towers in The Sand* is available in paperback or e-book at [towersinthesand.com](http://towersinthesand.com).



Donn R. Colee Jr.

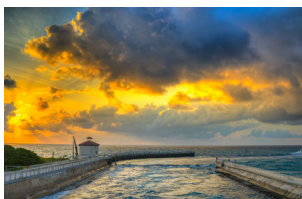




## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: MARINAS & BOATING

The summer air of The Palm Beaches makes boating activities possible all year round, with marinas and dockage dotted along the Intra-coastal Waterway. These familiar backdrops have been made famous by luxury designers for their high-end nautical clothing and furniture lines.

As we edge into a new season, we expect to see photoshoots popping up with spring lines being photographed for the many catalogs that will be delivered to consumers, taking nothing away from the backdrop of fun in the sun in The Palm Beaches.



Boynton Beach Inlet



Sailfish Marina

From lake views with marshes and glades to the sandy shores of the Atlantic Ocean with its turquoise waters, a tropical scene comes alive when set against the backdrop of a marina in The Palm Beaches. One of the most picturesque backdrops along the waterway is **Sailfish Marina** located on **Singer Island** in **Riviera Beach**. The property

hosts a variety of looks from blonde wood party rooms to a tropical outdoor setting.

Design teams can count on an abundance of angles in The Palm Beaches, from sandy shores to winding waterways, with an infinite number of pursuits available to a filmmaker looking to feature a tropical backdrop for their commercial production. The **West Palm Beach City Docks** stretch out



City Docks

into the Intracoastal Waterway and hold a variety of looks on each one, which means that there is a boating backdrop for any budget.

Whether the scene calls for a remote setting with skinny water, a serene lake or inlet waterways that lead to the ocean, there are many options to choose from within the 47 miles of beaches and the pristine waterways within Palm Beach County. Explore the variety of options online by searching our locations database and visiting [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).

## EDUCATION CORNER: SEE-WORTHY IN SANITY AT G-STAR

**G-Star School of the Arts** is collaborating on an exciting new production by teaming up with local production company **See-Worthy Films**. "When the state-sponsored film incentive was cancelled we intensified our work with local filmmakers to partner with them," said **Greg Hauptner**, G-Star's Founder and CEO. "We found the best in See-Worthy Films."



See-Worthy producers **Marc Zatorsky** and **Shawnee Morell** quickly came aboard with **In Sanity, Florida**—a comedy-drama about a small town called Sanity in present day Florida where "the town is small, but the crazy isn't." The town of Sanity is a throwback to a small town that looks straight out of the 1930s. "We found the perfect sets in **Yesteryear Village** at the **Palm Beach County Fairgrounds** where the show will be shot," says Morell. **In Sanity, Florida** has a full-length feature film script and features an Emmy Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated actor soon to be named as its star.



G-Star School of the Arts also announced that three of its students, **Sydney Presendieu**, **Madison Lillard**, and **Walker Clermont**, have been cast in prominent roles in the show. Furthermore, many G-Star students are working on the crew in camera, sound, lighting, and as background actors. "This is a wonderful opportunity open to all of our students at G-Star to work with true professionals in a real-world, hands-on experience on set," said Hauptner.



On the Set of In Sanity

"G-Star is the only high school in the world that offers its students the advantage to work with some of the most famous stars and film industry professionals on multi-million dollar feature films, commercials and music videos," Hauptner added. Catch the **In Sanity** at [seeworthyfilms.com](http://seeworthyfilms.com).



Co-Editors: Phyllis Man & Christy Andreoni, Assistant Editor: Kelly King, Contributors: Alberto Jordat, Chris Cobb and Hilary Webber  
To be included in this newsletter please email [candreoni@pbfilm.com](mailto:candreoni@pbfilm.com) or call 561.233.1000

### Board of County Commissioners

Mary Lou Berger, Mayor  
Hal R. Valeche, Vice Mayor  
Paulette Burdick  
Shelley Vana  
Steven L. Abrams  
Melissa McKinlay  
Priscilla A. Taylor



### Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission

Film Commissioner, Chuck Elder  
Deputy Film Commissioner, Michelle Hillery  
Production Director, Christy Andreoni  
Development and Marketing Producer, Phyllis Man  
Location & Marketing Coordinator, Kelly King  
Senior Production Coordinator, Ian Saylor  
Production Coordinator, Hilary Webber  
Social Media Specialist, Christopher Cobb  
Office Administrator, Alberto Jordat