

FOCUS on FILM

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



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FILM FLORIDA PODCAST SEASON 4



November Guests:
- Austin Highsmith Garces:
Actress, Writer, Producer
- State Rep. Dana Trubus
- State Rep. Linda Chaney

BURT WOLF RETURNS TO THE PALM BEACHES

Internationally renowned travel historian **Burt Wolf** recently wrapped a week of filming in Palm Beach County. This time, the host of *Travels and Traditions with Burt Wolf*, which airs nationally on PBS stations including **South Florida PBS**, brought his teenage son along for the experience. The theme of this latest installment of the series is "Teach Me" and finds the two learning and playing in The Palm Beaches. "I've had incredible opportunities to learn from the artisans that I've met during my world travels – like a pasta making session in Bologna, Italy or meeting up with friends for a ski lesson in Switzerland. I've always enjoyed my times in Palm Beach County and wanted to share with my son, Nicholas, my love of this place with the many unique experiences that can be enjoyed here," said Mr. Wolf.



Kayaking the Intracoastal

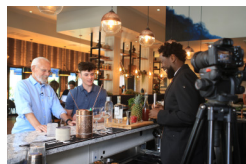


Travels & Traditions With Burt Wolf

Their "teach me something" experiences include an art session at the **Armory Art Center** in downtown **West Palm Beach**, a surf casting fishing lesson in **Juno Beach**, an environmental photography lesson on the **Intracoastal waterways** with Benji Studt of the Palm Beach County's Environmental Resources Management agency, a mixology session with master mixologist **Bootleg Greg** at **Stage Kitchen & Bar** in **Palm Beach Gardens**, a lesson with a chef on how to properly extract lobster meat and more. West Palm Beach-based **Apex Productions** handled the cinematography. In addition to reaching more than 10 million households nationally, the series can be viewed on demand at **ThePalmBeaches.TV**.



Armory Art Center



Mixologist Bootleg Greg

BOYNTON'S JUNIOR WARRIOR

Boynton Beach resident Jordan "Flare" Fernandez shined on a recent episode of **Universal Kids / Peacock's** popular television series **American Ninja Warrior Junior** Season 3. The talented teen trained for the challenge with the help of the **City of Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Department**. Jordan's father, Lt. Alvis Fernandez, served as a firefighter for 19 years until his untimely passing in 2019.



Jordan Fernandez

His colleagues and friends from Station #4 have been there for Jordan ever since, even building her a Ninja Warrior obstacle course in her backyard to train for the show. JVCT Productions out of California filmed background segments with Jordan throughout The Palm Beaches, including at Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Station #4, to set the scene and honor Lt. Fernandez. See more at universalkids.com.

KOEPKA ON THE COVER

Professional golfer **Brooks Koepka** graced the cover of the latest issue of **Golf Digest**, shot at a private waterfront estate in his hometown of **Jupiter**. Koepka is back at the top of his game following knee surgery in March 2021, recently tying for second place at the 2021 PGA Championship. Posing in colorful attire along the palm tree-lined backyard and lounging in flamingo floats in the infinity pool, Koepka and fiancé Jena Sims let their personalities shine in front of the lens as well as in an accompanying video interview playing the "(Not Yet) Newlyweds Game". The setting is quintessential Florida, and Brooks is in good company amongst golf greats Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Rickie Fowler, Rory McIlroy and more who call Jupiter home. "Outside golf, I have everything I want... Even if I shoot 75, I come home to people I love," said Koepka in the **Golf Digest** interview. See more at golfdigest.com.



Koepka in Jupiter



MORIKAMI SETS THE SCENE

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach recently hosted two Japanese product campaigns, one for **Matsuda** eyewear and the other for **Kikori Whiskey**, a Japanese spirit brand. While Morikami is a popular production venue for a variety of projects looking for lush backdrops and whimsical settings, its uniquely Japanese-inspired elements make it a perfect location for domestic productions that need to capture the essence of Japan. "It is an honor to host so many different productions throughout the year and to see the hard work we put into curating the gardens reach audiences across the globe," Alanna Keating,



Morikami Japanese Gardens

MATSUDA

Facility Rental Manager. See more about all the attraction has to offer at morikami.org.

FOOTBALL IN PARADISE

Millions of eyeballs around the country will be tuned in to The Palm Beaches every Saturday when the **Florida Atlantic Owls** play at home in **Boca Raton**. That's because FAU's football program is set to join the **American Athletic Conference (AAC)**. Formerly a part of the Big East, this monumental shift will bring a big boost to the program's TV exposure. The AAC recently struck a 10-year deal with **ESPN**, making it the wealthiest conference in college football outside of the Power Five. The new agreement provides a stronger presence on ESPN's primary networks, which include **ABC** and streaming service **ESPN+**. FAU President John Kelly says the university is proud of the move, adding that he looks forward to "continuing our tradition of Winning in Paradise with the AAC" and achieving Howard Schnellenberger's vision of building a national championship team in Boca Raton. For more info, visit fausports.com/sports/football.



team in Boca Raton. For more info, visit fausports.com/sports/football.

ALL HEALTH ALL THE TIME

The **Health Channel** offers a uniquely designed concept that connects viewers with medical and well-being specialists in real time.



Created by **South Florida PBS** in collaboration with **Baptist Health South Florida**, the network aims to empower its audience with the most up-to-date information to help them take more control of their health, and has become more important than ever since the onset of the pandemic. Featured programs include: **Doctor Q&A**, a show where viewers can get in-depth answers to their health and wellness questions from a trusted source; **Vital Signs** with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent; and **Vida y Salud**, a fast-paced and informative Spanish-language show. Most recently, the network premiered **Sex Talk**, a show that dispels sex myths while looking into the science of sex and sexual health.



The show is hosted by Dr. Lia Giannine, a professor at Nova Southeastern University. Learn more at allhealthtv.com/news.

PALM BEACH FILM FEST'S FIRST WRAP

The inaugural **Palm Beach Film Festival** was hosted at the **Movies at Wellington** last month, presenting some of the best new short and feature-length films from around the world and offering directors, producers and talent a new window to showcase their productions.



Through the efforts of director/producer Carlos Ochoa, the festival had a great turnout for a variety of events including the Opening Gala and Awards Ceremony, Teacher's Night Out Party, Treat of 3 and Spooky Friday. The US debut of **The Laureate**, a film by William Nunez,

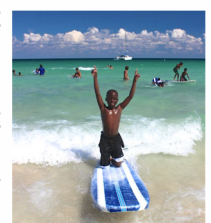


Opening Gala

opened the festival and set the scene for several days of wonderful films, creative talent and supportive audiences. See more about the films featured at pbfilmfestival.com.

ON THE TOWN EXPANDS REACH ON CHANNEL 20

The **Palm Beaches TV** original programming expands content distribution to Palm Beach County's government access **Channel 20**. *On the Town in The Palm Beaches Hispanic Heritage* explores Hispanic businesses with **Rhythms Dance Studio**, **The Hispanic Heritage Festival**, **Salento Coffee Shop**, **Mario Lopez Torres Furniture** and more. The show is airing Mondays at 9:30am, Wednesdays at 10:00am, Fridays at 4:00pm and Saturdays at 3:00pm. *On the Town in The Palm Beaches Black Voices* visits a variety of Black owned businesses, including **Natural Movers Dance Project**, **Spady Cultural Heritage Museum**, **Streetwaves**, **The New Vegan** and more. The show is airing Sundays at 9:00am, Tuesdays at 1:30pm, and Thursdays at 8:30am. These signature shows, airing first on South Florida PBS, continue to air on The Palm Beaches TV and are available for video on-demand viewing. For more information, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV.



Surfer at Streetwaves



NEW THRILLER ON THE CIRCUIT

Daggers Drawn, a short film by local writer/director James Cotton, is hitting the festival circuit this Fall with three stops in November alone. The film will premiere at the **Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival** on November 6 (with two subsequent screenings on November 10), followed by the **Rome International Film Festival** in Georgia, then heads to the UK for the **Birmingham Film Festival** where it is up nominated for *Best Hair & Make-Up*, the *Audience Award* and *The Bull Award* (grand prize). "I am eternally grateful to everyone who made this film possible. It is such an honor to show this passion project to so many different audiences across the globe. In particular, I sincerely hope that the project leads to further collaborations with the film community in Florida and enables me to leap into the feature film space," said Cotton. The film is produced by **Cotton Reel Entertainment** and **FilmGate Miami**. See more at [instagram.com/daggersdrawnshortfilm](https://www.instagram.com/daggersdrawnshortfilm).



TRANSMEDIA HITS THE AIRWAVES

TransMedia Group, a full-service PR firm in the heart of **Boca Raton**, has introduced a new radio show broadcast on **WWNN Radio**. Dubbed **TransMedia Monday**, every week on WWNN will kick off with rousing interviews with celebrities, sports figures, crypto experts, successful entrepreneurs and other newsmakers. "Radio listeners are in for a sparkling new format that eventually will go national," said show host, **Adrienne Mazzone**, President of TransMedia Group. "The show will feature stimulating guests sharing their personal success stories in business, sports, entertainment, and the arts." Listeners can enjoy TransMedia Monday at 9:00am on 1470 AM, 96.9 FM, and 95.3 FM which are part of the South Florida's Money Talk Radio Network. Additionally, there will be Facebook live shows every two weeks which will also air on YouTube. For more information visit [fmmoneytalkradio.com](https://www.fmmoneytalkradio.com).



Adrienne Mazzone



KO-MAR'S LATEST INNOVATIONS

Production technology changes quickly, but **Ko-Mar Productions**, who has been producing content out of **West Palm Beach** for over 40 years, continues to stay on the forefront of the fast-paced industry. They have recently added the **ARRI Alexa Mini LF** to their camera gear which is one of the most versatile and full sensor cameras on the market. "This is a fascinating and powerful piece of equipment to add to our camera collection. It really expands opportunities and quality of our content," said Todd Kolich, president of Ko-Mar Productions. The exciting new camera, often used on large-scale productions and is currently being used around on series such as *Ted Lasso*, *Outlander* and *Killing Eve*. The new camera is being utilized at Ko-Mar Productions for a Jupiter Medical Center series as well as international clients BMW/IMG/European Tour Productions on a project centered around the unveiling of BMW's brand-new all electric SUV at golf's biggest global event, The Ryder Cup. See more at [ko-mar.com](https://www.ko-mar.com).



ARRI Alexa Mini LF

SOUTH FLORIDA FILM FUND

Feature Florida Partnerships is pleased to announce it has signed an agreement to serve as consultant to the **South Florida Film Fund One LLC**, a motion picture financing venture established for the four-county South Florida region comprising Monroe, Miami Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. An innovative alternative to tax incentives, the Fund is designed to revitalize production in the Sunshine State by providing capital at superior rates and conditions to independent feature films and limited episodic television series in the \$2 million to \$8 million range. It is intended to not only attract projects from out of state but also stimulate indigenous production and support aspiring Florida filmmakers and emerging Florida-based production companies who are transitioning to higher creative and budget levels. For more info, visit [featurefloridapartnerships.org](https://www.featurefloridapartnerships.org).



MEDIA LITERACY WEEK IN THE PALM BEACHES

U.S. Media Literacy Week was celebrated last month from October 25-29, calling attention to the importance of media literacy education by bringing together hundreds of partners for events around the country. Local award-winning producer and educator **Alicia Haywood** and her nonprofit organization, **The iSpeakMedia Foundation**, hosted events throughout The Palm Beaches. Kicking off with a virtual panel discussion titled **Behind the Screens: How does it work?** featuring veteran media professionals, subsequent events included: a **Moms for Media Literacy** Luncheon, **Dads for Media Literacy** Meet+Eat, the debut of the **Athlete Aftermath** podcast (hosted by Jana Angel) commemorating an **Athletes for Media Literacy** focus, a **Families for Media Literacy** screen-free challenge, and a **Teachers + Librarians B.Y.O. Tea**. "My hope is that appreciation for the skills needed to navigate our heavily mediated culture in a healthy way will continue to grow with more state and community leaders, educators, parents, students, athletes, and media professionals." See more at [ispeakmedia.org](https://www.ispeakmedia.org) and [MediaLiteracyWeek.us](https://www.MediaLiteracyWeek.us).





FLASHBACK FEATURE: MARLEY & ME

Marley & Me, a family-friendly favorite starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston and based on the best-selling book by former Sun Sentinel columnist John Grogan, filmed across South Florida in 2007. Palm Beach County can be seen as John Grogan's character (played by Wilson) is driving across the **Flagler Memorial Bridge** with unruly, lovable Labrador "Marley" in the seat next to him. The scene creates a traffic jam and results in the Sheriff issuing a ticket. The film spent two months filming in the region and pumped more than \$10 million into area businesses and paid wages for nearly 1,400 local industry pros. See more at [visit.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marley_%26_Me_\(film\)](http://visit.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marley_%26_Me_(film)).

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL BACKDROPS

Every photographer knows that strong lines lead the eye. We are always happy to find them, and whether they are straight or in a curved pattern, they excel in composing a picture or setting a scene.



Alton Bus Stop



Alton Retail Area

The modern angles in the **Alton** community in **Palm Beach Gardens** offer an exciting backdrop for fashion and corporate images with geometric two-toned hardscaping that adds dimension along with lush landscaping. The 650-acre community

features parks for people and pets, green space, walking trails, a recreation center with pool and retail zones. The vibe is modern and high style fits right in.

The **Palm Beach Zoo** entry plaza offers a sculpted wall water garden feature on a large curve. The property doubles as exotic locations like Asia, the Islands and Tropics of the Americas. Choose from indoor or outdoor backdrops that include



Entry Plaza



Entry Exterior

rustic pioneer, tropical gardens or caves and forests. The Mayan Plaza and the fountain area takes on a totally different look at night. For more info, please visit pbfilm.com/locations.

EDUCATION CORNER
G-STAR BLASTS OFF

G-Star High School of the Arts has linked up with NASA's HUNCH program (High school students **United with NASA to Create Hardware**), an on-going program open to students that offers interaction with the US Government for the expansion and evolution of space travel. Students will innovate and build inventions for astronauts to utilize in the International Space Station (ISS). Hardware will be inspected and approved by NASA and then launched on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket to be delivered to the ISS for use by astronauts.



"The opportunity to work with NASA to invent something for space makes science exciting and relevant," said Kim Collins, principal of G-Star School of the Arts. "This opportunity for G-Star students gives them access to a whole new world of career possibilities."

Five years ago, G-Star made the decision to move into the Augmented Age (people, Artificial Intelligence, and robotics) and space travel. As part of that mission, working with NASA fulfills a goal to unite art with science and engineering. The program will empower and inspire students through a "Project Based Learning" program. Students learn 21st century skills which could launch their careers through participation in the design and fabrication of real-world products for NASA. Those interested in the program should warp over to gstarschool.org.



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