

# Focus on Film



Relax...  
Palm Beach County, Florida Has It Covered.



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## PAST INTERNS MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE PRODUCTION WORLD

September 2009



Brian Hyder, host of *Adventure 101* and Amy Robinson

The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) developed an internship program more than nineteen years ago to assist in the development of a talented and knowledgeable workforce. Over the years, the FTC has had the pleasure of working with many talented interns. Two of them have gone to make a difference in the production community. **Amy Colonna-Robinson** is now the Executive Producer for **On the Road Productions, LLC** and is currently working on a new series, **Adventure 101**, which according to Robinson will be aired on the **Travel Channel**. Robinson is also working on the show **Discover America**, currently airing on the American Family Network and on her original program, **What's that Dog?** slated for PBS. "Doing an internship at the FTC was the best decision I ever made. It did so much for my career then and still today," said Robinson.



**Alexandra Flugel** also has her own production company, **Advantage TVP** based in PBC. She spent a year as a freelance producer for various Latin American Networks when they shot at Disney World in Orlando and is now back in PBC. Currently, she is working on pilots for three cooking shows, which she hopes to launch on the Food Network and the Gourmet Network. Flugel is also producing corporate and educational projects. "It's been 15 years and I have an amazing relationship with the FTC. My contacts from 15 years ago are still my contacts today as well as my friends," said Flugel. For more info call 561.233.1000.



Alexandra Flugel

## SUBMARINE EPIC FILMS IN PBC



The new feature length World War II epic, **USS Sea Viper** has been busy filming in Palm Beach County! The crew recently set up shop at the **Seminole Inn** in **Indiantown** where they shot a crucial scene. The Inn doubled for a hotel in Hawaii while sailors from the USS Sea Viper are on liberty. Other scenes for the movie have been shot at **Guanabana's Restaurant** in **Jupiter**, **Yesteryear Village** in **West Palm Beach** and in Martin and St. Lucie counties, and as well as aboard the USS Drum in Mobile, Alabama.

The film is scheduled for a 2010 release and will be accompanied by a documentary USS Drum 228: "The Untold Story." The project is being produced by three South Florida production companies. Producers plan to circulate the film at film festivals around the country. For more info contact Ralph Villani at 772.215.5695 or Rob Norris at 561.352.5052.



Production photo of USS Sea Viper at the Seminole Inn

## LEGEND'S MUSEUM FACES BULLDOZER



One of the County's most prized possessions, the **Burt Reynolds and Friends Museum** is facing demolition. The Town of Jupiter is trying to make way for a new commercial development, a \$110 million complex that will feature a hotel and marina. News organizations from all over the U.S. have picked up the story and there has been an "outpouring of support," said **Suzanne Niedland**, Chairman of the Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre (BRIFT). Radio morning jocks have been discussing how to save the museum, and even a radio station in Seattle, offered to do an interview and help raise awareness," said Niedland. "The Museum has been undergoing exciting changes. A new business plan combines the Museum and Institute and includes a 99-seat theatre and a soundstage. It is part of the bigger picture of what we want to bring to the community. The Museum will continue to exist, it's just a question of where. We are confident with the support we've received that the community wants the Burt Reynolds Museum and Burt's presence here," said Niedland.



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## SEA MONSTERS IN INTRACOASTAL



Muck Monster

Palm Beach County (PBC) has new TV stars! Mysterious sea creatures lurking in the Lake Worth Lagoon. Earlier this year, a production crew came to Palm Beach County in search of finding the first so-called sea monster. The crew captured footage for **Monster Quest**, a TV show that airs on the **History Channel**.

Then the second sea creature appeared and was nicknamed the Muck Monster. Channel 5 did a news story about the Muck Monster that reverberated through the Internet and onto **The Late Show with David Letterman**. Letterman's top ten list, "The Top 10 Questions Received by Palm Beach County Authorities about the Muck Monster" was aired at the end of last month. **Monster Quest** airs on Wednesdays at 9pm/8C. For more info call 561.233.1000.



Mysterious Creature in the Lagoon

## WOODSTOCK DOCUMENTARY FEATURES LOCAL COMPOSER'S WORK



Fred Weinberg

The original Woodstock festival was the mark of Sixties flower power, memorable for its music and mellow atmosphere. 40 years have now passed since 500,000 people came to New York for three days of performances by artists such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. Now, **VH1** and

the **History Channel** are airing a documentary called **Woodstock-Now & Then**, a history of the event, and it features musical segments from a local composer.

**Fred Weinberg**, a veteran of the music industry who was won numerous awards such as Grammy's, Emmy's and CLEO's, was approached by the show. Producers bought original and licensed music from the Fred Weinberg Productions. "It is an honor to be chosen to have our work featured in this documentary. People always think that the world headquarters for film and TV is in Hollywood and New York, but quite a bit comes from Palm Beach County," said Weinberg. For more info call 561.988.6196.

## THEATRE WELCOMES ACCLAIMED FILM



The **Mos' Art Theatre** in **Lake Park** was chosen to hold the Florida debut of the new film, **Yousou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love**. The film is a documentary about an African music superstar, **Yousou N'Dour**, as he embarks upon a turning point in his life and career. It opened in New York and Los Angeles to much acclaim and has won many awards on the film festival circuit.

The **Mos' Art** is a new theatre that shows artsy, foreign and classic films. **Mos' Art Co-Founder Phil Dvorak** said, "We're fast becoming the County's premiere independent theatre and are happy to be able to provide theatergoers films outside of the mainstream." For more information call 561.337.6763.

## FITNESS MAG SHAPES UP IN DELRAY



The team from **SobeFit Magazine** in Miami came up to the **Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens** in **Delray Beach** to photograph models performing various exercises including yoga and shoulder presses. "We decided to check out Morikami because everyone was telling us that it was amazing. When I visited Morikami before the shoot, I was blown away by how beautiful it was, I could have spent all afternoon there. The photos from the shoot have a really peaceful look but I still feel that they're energetic, which was absolutely the goal," said **Sarah Cazee**, **SobeFit Graphic Designer**.



Model posing at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. Photo Credit: Alleh Lindquist

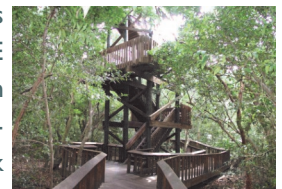
Look for the photos in the November/December issue. SobeFit Magazine focuses on the topics of fitness, nutrition, health and sports for men and women in South Florida. For more info visit [sobefitmagazine.com](http://sobefitmagazine.com).

## BOCA RATON FEATURED ON NATIONAL TV



**Gumbo Limbo Nature Center** and the **Mizner Dog Park** in **Boca Raton** will make cameo appearances in two new episodes of the TV show, **Designing Spaces**. Produced by **O2 Media** in Pompano Beach, **Designing Spaces** is a half hour series, nationally televised on **TLC** and **WE Networks**. The show is currently in its sixth season and recently celebrated the airing of its 100<sup>th</sup> episode! "The 100th episode milestone is a testament to the creativity, relevance and hard work in every aspect of **Designing Spaces**, from the segment topics to the professional team behind the scenes," said **Lysa Liemer, Executive Vice-President of Programming**.

The episode featuring Gumbo Limbo airs September 18th at 7:30am on the WE Network and September 19th at 7:00am on TLC. The Dog Park episode airs October 9th at 7:30am on the WE Network and October 10 at 7:00am on TLC. Check your local listings for any updated information. For more info visit [designingspaces.tv](http://designingspaces.tv).



Boardwalk to the Observation Tower at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

## STUDENT REPORTER LANDS INTERVIEW



President Obama with Damon Weaver

Palm Beach County's most famous sixth grader, **Damon Weaver**, recently landed his dream interview...a sit down with **President Obama**! The 11 year-old Pahokee resident was invited by the White House to meet with the President for a one-on-one interview. Weaver asked President Obama questions regarding how to improve school lunches and stop school violence. He also invited the President to Pahokee for a tour of his school.

Weaver took You Tube by storm after his interview of then Vice-Presidential nominee Joe Biden. His viral fame has already landed him a scholarship offer to college and many television appearances.



## WELCOME BACK PALM BEACH COUNTY STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS!



L-R Connie Scotchel-Gross, PBC School District, Michelle Hillery, FTC Director of Operations and Marsan Carr, Executive Director of FACTE

It's back to school for thousands of Palm Beach County students! The 2009/10 school year has begun and your Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) is here to help aid in the education of young filmmakers. Over the summer, the FTC was honored by being inducted into the **Florida Association of Career and Technical Educators (FACTE) Hall of Fame – Support Division**. **FTC Director of Operations Michelle Hillery** was on hand at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida to accept the award. The FTC was selected for this honor because of their significant contributions to Career and Technical Education. "We are especially pleased that you are being acknowledged for your outstanding support that you furnish to the students of Palm Beach County," said **Constance Scotchel-Gross**, Manager, Career Education, Choice Programs and School Choice, School District of Palm Beach County.

To help you keep you informed on what's happening in the world of former students as well as past Student Showcase of Films winners, keep an eye out for next month's newsletter which will include a special "Where Are They Now" survey conducted by the FTC. Film, TV and media instructors, please join us at the next Media Subcommittee meeting for **Career Education Business Leadership Committee (CEBLC)** which will be hosted by **Palm Beach Gardens High School**. The meeting will take place on **September 22, 2009** at **3:30 pm**. Please RSVP to Colleen Bearden by sending an email to [cbearden@pbfilm.com](mailto:cbearden@pbfilm.com) or calling 561.233.1000.



## NETWORKING EVENT UNITES LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY



Hundreds of film industry professionals gathered for the **South Florida Summer Film Industry Reception** held last month at the **China Grill** at the Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Marina. The reception provided the film community a chance to network among peers and discuss new ways to promote South Florida as a vibrant destination for film production and post-production. **Kelly Skidmore**, a member of the **Florida House of Representatives** was in attendance and made a speech about promoting South Florida as a premiere filming destination.

The topic of the night was how to improve the state's incentives and bring more film business to the state. Florida has a \$10.8 million incentive program for fiscal year 2009/10, which is double the amount for 2008/09. Kudos to the Broward Alliance for organizing the event!



Kelly Skidmore speaking at the South Florida Film Industry Reception

## FAMOUS ACTOR TEACHING AT G-STAR



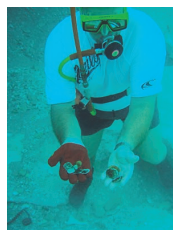
L-R Ron Palillo and Barry Bostwick in *Destiny's Stand*

**Ron Palillo**, the former **Welcome Back Kotter** star, known as Horshack, has joined the **G-Star School of the Arts** in Palm Springs as the new ninth grade acting teacher. Palillo recently starred in G-Star's first feature film, **It's a Dog Gone Tale: Destiny's Stand** co-starring **Barry Bostwick** (*Spin City*). "I am so excited to be back in the classroom, especially teaching aspiring actors at such as young age," said Palillo.

G-Star will also build the largest film sound stage in Florida on the school's property.



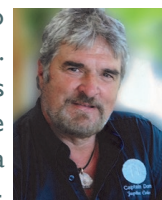
## AREA TREASURE FEATURED IN NEW DOC



Coins from the San Miguel Archangel

Recent new discoveries of treasure and shipwrecks just off the beaches in Palm Beach County have generated lots of buzz. Currently, there are two teams exploring a vessel believed to be the **San Miguel Archangel**, a Spanish ship that sank in 1660 off the Jupiter coast. **Captain Dominic Addario** heads the Jupiter Coins expedition team. He has been excavating this area for 23 years. Capt. Dom's team has been storing video footage of the discovery and is now turning it into a feature length documentary.

According to Addario, they have interest from the **National Geographic Channel** and they have applied for a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation specifically to aid in the filming and producing of the documentary. "It has been our passion to uncover the mysteries of this one wreck, to educate the public and give people a chance to look, touch and even own a piece of history," said Addario. For more information visit [jupitercoins.com](http://jupitercoins.com).



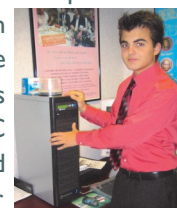
Dominic Addario

## FTC APPRECIATES ITS SUMMER INTERNS



Charlotte Gorant

The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) was thrilled to welcome **Charlotte Gorant** and **Luftar Rama** to the internship program over the summer. Gorant, a senior at Dreyfoos School of the Arts learned about the professional world of film production through the FTC. Rama, a recent graduate from Full Sail University, became so interested in the local industry, that he has decided to continue his internship at a local production company. The FTC also welcomed back Brett Eckert who completed the internship program after a brief hiatus. For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) and click on Internships.



Luftar Rama

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: BEACHES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY



Jupiter Beach Park in Jupiter

Palm Beach County is bordered on the east by 47 miles of pristine white sandy beaches and breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. The County's world renowned beaches have been featured in a variety of productions from adrenaline pumping television shows to fashion forward catalog shoots. **Jupiter Beach Park** in **Jupiter** has been utilized as a backdrop for many productions. With pristine sand, playgrounds and picnic areas, the park has provided the ideal set-up for productions such as the feature film *Turkles* and an **Abercrombie & Fitch** fashion photography ad campaign.



Lake Worth Municipal Beach

Travel further south to the middle of the County and you will find the **Lake Worth Municipal Beach**. This beach has 1,300 feet of guarded beach awaiting any productions needs. There are showers and restroom facilities as well as a picnic pavilion, tables and grills. The beach also has two large parking lots to accommodate production vehicles. The William O. Lockhart Municipal Pier, located at the Lake Worth Beach, has recently re-opened and extends 1,300 feet out into the Atlantic Ocean.

Nestled in southern Palm Beach County is **South Inlet Park** in **Boca Raton**. This scenic county-owned park on the Boca Raton Inlet goes from the ocean to the Intracoastal, featuring a jetty that is ideal for fishing/sightseeing. The beach is very film-friendly has hosted many shoots including a photo shoot for **JD Williams Men's Catalog** and for **Spike TV's Surviving Disaster**.



South Inlet Park in Boca Raton

On the western edge of the County is **Lake Okeechobee**. Productions can get a serene, natural view of the lake from **Torry Island**, where a campground and marina are available for productions. Also on the shores of Lake Okeechobee, the **Everglades Adventures & Sailing Resort Marina** in Pahokee, allows productions to have a more adventurous take on the Lake and all it has to offer, from pontoon boat rides to airboat excursions to fishing. For more info on these locations call 561.233.1000.



Lake Okeechobee

Editor: **Jill Margolius** Contributors: **Christine Tieche, Colleen Bearden** | To be included in the newsletter, please call 561.233.1000.

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