FOCUS on FILM

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

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PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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ARTS, CULTURE & THE UNDERWATER MERGE FOR A CELEBRATION

The aquatic, arts and cultural communities of The Palm Beaches have merged to celebrate the submerged. Rick Netzel, Director of Sales from the **Best Western**, welcomed over 50 attendees to the hotel and introduced Ted White, a reporter from local ABC affiliate Ch. 25, who emceed the affair. Jim Abernethy, a conservationist and underwater videographer/photographer discussed ***Project Seahorse***, a program that teaches children how to swim and takes them on an exploration of local snorkel sites. Billy Catoggio from the Emmy Award-winning series ***Scuba Nation*** announced the premiere of an episode dedicated to The Palm Beaches highlighting underwater dive sites like the recently sunk Ana Cecilia ship off the coast of Riviera Beach, the goliath grouper spawning season, and local attractions like restaurants and breweries. The audience watched the premiere of ***Snorkeling in The Palm Beaches***, produced by Michael Maschio, which captures the families of *Project Seahorse* snorkeling at **Phil Foster Park**.

Ted White

Diving Expert Jim Abernethy with Project Seahorse families

The result of these announcements? **The Underwater Festival of The Palm Beaches**, hosted by the Cultural Council, Environmental Resources Management, the FTC, and the Palm Beach Photographic Centre. "It's fantastic to see all these entities come together to support a festival that will bring more awareness of our underwater assets and attract more visitors to these world-class sites," said Glenn Jergensen, Executive Director of the PBC Tourist Development Council. The festival will be held August 4-October 15, 2017, with more details to come! Visit palmbeachculture.com to learn more.

SIGNATURE SERIES ON SOUTH FL PBS

South Florida PBS presents a brand new signature series, ***Around the Corner in The Palm Beaches***. The premiere airs September 15 at 8pm on WXEL and September 19 at 10pm on WPBT. The first round features **Delray Beach** (with a quick side trip to **Boca Raton**), following host Frank Licari as he takes viewers on a high-spirited and entertaining journey. On the way, he encounters the people and places that create our vibrant culture, diversity and quality of life. The show will continue to air quarterly, reaching broadcast markets as far south as the Keys and as far north as Sebastian County. The series will make stops in several parts of PBC including West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Wellington, Belle Glade, Jupiter and more. On September 14 at 6:30pm, join the producers at the **Arts Garage** for a special screening to celebrate the premiere. See more at WPBT2.org.

Host Frank Licari

NEWLY MET, NEWLY WED

A&E's hit reality series ***Married At First Sight*** features a couple from The Palm Beaches in their most recent season. A worldwide hit that airs in 23 territories, the American version is in the midst of a fourth season that filmed at **Spanish River Park** in Boca Raton. *Married At First Sight* pairs up three different couples of complete strangers with the help of clinical experts. After meeting for the first time on their wedding day, each couple takes a honeymoon and spends six weeks together before deciding if they'd like to continue the relationship or end the marriage with a divorce.

The sand and surf at Boca Raton's beaches made a picturesque backdrop for the couples' introductions. Will the couples still be together when the show checks in after six months? Over a million viewers worldwide have been tuning in to find out. Take your first look on Tuesdays at 8:30pm EST on FYI.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: SWEDE FEST 5

It's the "swedest" film festival of the year! And right now, they want you to send in the very best of the worst movies you've ever created for a chance to win bragging rights and a special grand prize. You might be wondering, "What exactly is a swede?" In short, it's a no-budget, hilarious 3-minute remake of a Hollywood film. Past entries lampooned films such as ***The Fast and the Furious*** using children's Big Wheels and ***Twister*** featuring balled-up paper towels.

Swede Fest Palm Beach's deadline for entries is **September 30** and submissions must be rated no higher than PG-13. It is free to enter and selected films will receive a complimentary ticket for the director. The popular sell-out event will take place on October 15 at 7pm at the **Kelsey Theater**. For a complete list of rules, details or to buy tickets, visit swedefestpalmbeach.com.

TRUE STORIES THAT INSPIRE

After graduating with a second Master's from the New York School of Visual Arts with multiple Director's Guild of America Awards under his belt, PBC native **Alcee Walker** returned to The Palm Beaches this month to capture a new short film titled ***Child Support***. The film centers on the true story of Amy Joyner, a Delaware teen who was a victim of bullying. "I was inspired by Amy's story," Alcee shared. "So often the stories of young black girls go untold, and this one can bring light and hope to struggling young people all over the world." In reference to choosing his hometown in **West Palm Beach** and **Riviera Beach** for the project, Alcee explained, "I wanted for young people in these neighborhoods to see what I'm doing as a filmmaker. I want them to know that they can follow their dreams." See Alcee's passion projects on Vimeo under ***Chasing My Dreams Film Group***.

Alcee Walker

Talent in Child Support

OUTRAGEOUS ACTS ON LAKE IDA

The Science Channel's ***Outrageous Acts of Science***, a fast-paced countdown of the world's top 20 homemade science stunts and experiments, scours every corner of the Internet to find amazing science stories. When their team discovered the video of the "**Guinness World Record Handskier Doing Pushups on Water**" on YouTube, they packed their bags for **Delray Beach** to recreate the stunt on **Lake Ida**. "This time we supersized the setup…we had one main camera on the boat, three GoPro cameras from the pole and the sides of the boat, and even a handheld gimbal stabilized camera for some smooth tracking shots," explained Mark Goodhew, Director of Photography for October Films. The crew thoroughly enjoyed their time in Delray, calling Lake Ida "beautifully framed for Florida." Explore more Outrageous Acts online by visiting sciencechannel.com.

Water Push-Up Stunt

SSOF WINNER'S FESTIVAL FRENZY

Yingxiang Huang, a graduate of FSU's College of Motion Picture Arts and 2016 **SSOF** award winner for her whimsical fantasy, ***Isa and the Frog Prince***, continues to gather accolades with her film. It has gone on to take a 1st Place Emmy at the **37th College Television Awards**, as well as the Jury Prize at the **Student Director's Guild of America Awards**! "Graduating from the FSU Film School, I see myself as a filmmaker from Florida," commented Ying. "I am so excited to share the good news with the Student Showcase of Films family." As an international filmmaker who traveled from China to Florida, Ying is working hard to renew her Outstanding Artist visa in order to remain in the United States. "The two years I spent in Florida have been the most meaningful time in my life, and I would like to fight for my career as a filmmaker here," said Ying. See more of her journey at isafrogprince.com.

Yingxiang Huang

PALMCON 2016 PREMIERES AT PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL

The film production students at Palm Beach Gardens High School are set to conquer PalmCon 2016 at a new event called ***PalmCon Indie Film Student Showcase - Palm Beach Gardens High School.*** Palm Beach County's largest comic and pop culture event, PalmCon will take place September 24 and 25 at the **Palm Beach County Convention Center**. PalmCon has partnered with PBGHS to showcase several student films and will be selecting outstanding projects to award. "We are hoping that we can grow this part of PalmCon," said organizer and local film director, Bohdan Neswiacheny, "and in the future involve more high schools throughout Palm Beach County."

The student films will be screened on Saturday at 11:50am, followed by the award ceremony on the main stage Sunday at 3:00pm. Though it's just the beginning for the *PalmCon Indie Film Student Showcase*, the talented students at Palm Beach Gardens High School are the perfect group to kick it off! See more about the exciting new event at palmcon.net.

FISHMAN'S FUNNY NEW FEATURE

Local filmmaker **Ann Fishman** recently produced her newest independent feature, ***Swiped***, throughout Palm Beach County. With great momentum following the release of her romantic comedy ***Marriage Material*** starring Victoria Jackson in 2015, Ann continues to work with top talent and crew from The Palm Beaches on her new film. *Swiped* stars George Hamilton, Alana Hamilton Stewart, Noah Centineo, Nathan Gamble, Kristen Johnston and Steve Daron. With a mostly South Florida-based crew, Ann shared, "It is always so important to me to use local artists on my projects. Our community collaboration makes the entire process so rewarding." The comedy follows a "computer nerd" who codes the ultimate hook-up app with unexpected consequences. See more at imdb.com/title/tt4867110.

Cast & Crew from Swiped

BRITISH BROADCASTER IN BOCA

U.K.-based production company **Plum Pictures** works with some of the largest names in British television and broadcasts shows on major networks like BBC, ITV, Channel 4, and Sky. Plum Pictures' newest project brought the production company to four of Boca Raton's most beautiful parks: **Spanish River Park, Red Reef Park, Lake Wyman Park,** and **South Beach Park**. With a production slate featuring stars like Hugh Laurie and James May, Plum Pictures' most recent documentary stars famous Trinidadian-British news presenter Trevor McDonald in ***Trevor McDonald Meets.*** Knighted in 1999 for services to journalism, Trevor McDonald has an illustrious and long-lived career in news and journalism and has won more awards than any other broadcaster in the U.K. Watch clips of previous productions and learn more at plumpictures.co.uk.

Trevor McDonald

MAKING WAVES IN THE SHARK TANK

Florida Atlantic University's College of Business hosted fashion entrepreneur and star of ABC's **Shark Tank** Daymond John on September 8. Shark Tank is an Emmy Award-winning reality series in which entrepreneurial contestants make business presentations to a panel of investors in the hopes of securing funding for their product or project. The show is an international phenomenon and the US version has celebrated seven successful seasons with an eighth season in the works. Daymond John, who joined the cast of Shark Tank in 2009, is a best-selling author and motivational speaker known for launching fashion brand FUBU. FAU's Assistant Director of Special Events Tonya May said, "We are so thrilled to have one of the top icon entrepreneurs coming to FAU." Jump into the Shark Tank at abc.go.com/shows/shark-tank.

Daymond John

MR. BRIGHTSIDE IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Christopher Oh returned to his home in PBC this summer to film ***Mr. Brightside***, a short film about an introverted teenager who is learning to connect with his peers. A current Columbia College Hollywood student, Christopher is proud of his roots as a **Dreyfoos School of the Arts** graduate and 2015 SSOF Burt Reynolds Scholarship Finalist. "The story was written for and about Florida, and I was adamant about filming it there - even though I am in school in L.A. most of the year," he shared. Christopher collaborated with local talent from Dreyfoos and **G-Star School of the Arts**, in addition to several classmates that flew in from L.A. Some of the crew's favorite locations included a controlled bonfire scene at **Phil Foster Park** and the Love Street Hammock at the Jupiter **Outdoor Center**. See more on **Kaos Productions**' YouTube Channel.

Set Photo (By Allison Parssi)

SHARON GLESS HONORED AS FILM FLORIDA LEGENDS "TOURISM AMBASSADOR"

Film Florida (FF) and **VISIT FLORIDA** honored the legendary **Sharon Gless** at the Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism Chairman's Dinner in Orlando on September 7. The Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actress was presented with the ***Film Florida Legends Tourism Ambassador Award*** for her storied career as a television and stage actress, known worldwide for her turn on beloved series such as ***Cagney and Lacey, Queer as Folk,*** and Florida's seven-year running megahit, ***Burn Notice.*** "Awarding Ms. Gless this year has been a true honor. As a proud Miami resident and incredibly respected talent, we were thrilled to have her join a group of legendary Florida icons," shared FF President Kelly Paige. While presenting the award, Ms. Paige emphasized the film and entertainment industry's ties to tourism. Showcasing Florida's diversity through the lens of a camera brings the publicity and worldwide attention that promotes our state as a premier travel destination across the globe. See more at filmflorida.org.

Sharon Gless

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: STAYING COOL IN THE SUMMER

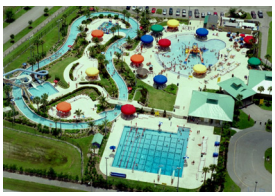
Since nothing beats the heat like riding waves and splashing around in a pool of cool water as we enter the tail end of summer, we're taking a look at water parks and pools because who could forget ***Caddyshack*'s Employee Pool Day** or the scene from ***Donnie Brasco*** at the **Rapids Water Park**? Summer would not be complete without a big splash down in one of their many tube slides. The Rapids in Riviera Beach is a thrill seeker's paradise with a few options for the more cautious adventurer.

Rapids Lazy River

Coconut Cove

Water features are a frequent request for backdrops, and pools of all shapes and sizes are available to view online at pbfilm.com. Whether for lifestyle images or catalog photoshoots, our most requested water park is **Coconut Cove** located within South County Regional Park in Boca Raton. **Animal Planet's *Insane Pools*** took inspiration from the park and modeled a backyard pool for a client wishing to go off the deep end in their own backyard.

Calypso Bay Waterpark in Royal Palm Beach is another option for a large scale park location with two four-story water slides, a separate lap pool with diving boards along with a massive lazy river. Projects requiring insert shots can find locker rooms and extra-large shower facilities onsite and a full service concession stand.



Calypso Bay

Lake Worth Casino Pool

Another favorite pool is the Olympic-size Lake Worth Municipal **Casino Pool**. With its classic, mission vernacular good looks and incredible setting near the ocean, the location offers a multitude of angles including ocean views from the second story terrace and an 800-foot pier over the ocean. Explore more ways to capture a cooldown at pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER: G-STAR HOSTS ROCK-N-ROLL LEGENDS

The **Counting Crows**, who have sold 20 million albums worldwide and received an Oscar nomination for their song *Accidentally in Love* in the film *Shrek 2*; along with **Rob Thomas**, formerly of the Orlando-born group Matchbox Twenty, prepared for their upcoming U.S. tour with help from dozens of lucky **G-Star students**. The kids pulled their weight by assisting in the set up and breakdown of sound, video and instruments needed to make the rehearsal possible - six semi-trucks in total. Production Manager Andrew Crow said, "Where was this place when I was going to high school? I would have gone here in a heartbeat. What you have here is incredible!"

Matchbox Twenty

Counting Crows & Rob Thomas

Students were brought into the **Soundstage** in small groups, expecting to be limited to the back of the room for a brief look. However, that was not the way crew and band members decided it should go. Each group was treated to a true "behind the scenes" experience with road personnel showing them how the tour came together, how everything worked and what it took to make the show happen. Some students were actually given the chance to pick up and play instruments. To top it all off, Rob and the band autographed a table top donated to the school by the crew. "This place is awesome!" said Rob Thomas. "These are great kids. I truly enjoyed talking to them. I'm definitely looking forward to coming back."

G-Star Student Participants

In addition, over one hundred **G-Star X-Scream** summer camp participants were given the opportunity to view the production. Rob and his entourage were incredibly open and caring, making the students' experience a true "once in a lifetime" opportunity. Rock on with more information at gstarschool.org.

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