

FOCUS on FILM

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



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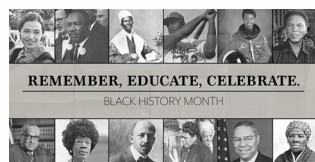


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ON THE TOWN CELEBRATES BLACK & HISPANIC PRIDE

Production is underway on two unique episodes of The Palm Beaches TV's signature lifestyle series, *On the Town in The Palm Beaches*. Two new episodes will focus on African American and Hispanic cultures and communities in Palm Beach County. From Black-owned businesses to arts organizations, actor/director and series host Frank Licari will explore them.



Similarly, he will delve into the county's diverse Hispanic community. "While we have done occasional segments in the past on the cultural history of Palm Beach County, I'm looking forward to really delving in and telling several stories," says Licari. "There are so many stories of families and their love, hard work and dedication in building these businesses of color. Now is the time to celebrate their accomplishments. We look forward to introducing viewers to some of the little-known faces and places that are part of our cultural fabric in Palm Beach County," says Joyce Belloise, Vice President of Content and Community Partnerships for South Florida PBS.

ON THE TOWN
in The Palm Beaches



These shows mark a departure from the usual, city-focused themes. In previous seasons, the Emmy-nominated show featured towns like Jupiter, Wellington, Delray Beach, The Glades and others. But in this new twist, the people are the focus, rather than the towns. Episodes will air on South Florida PBS stations **WXEL** and **WPBT** during August and September and again in the corresponding months of national recognition – February which is Black history month and September/October, during which Hispanic Heritage is observed. Learn more about the series online at southfloridapbs.org/on-the-town.



A SUMMER OF SHARKS

It's a shark-lovers' paradise this summer as **SharkFest** and **Shark Week** premier on Nat Geo and the Discovery Channel! Watch as the Palm Beaches take center stage for shows like *Shark Gangs*, *World's Biggest Bull Shark*, *Sky Sharks*, *Shark School*, and *Sharkadelic*...to name a few. Natural events that take place along Palm Beach County's coastline, like the mullet run and blacktip shark migration, lure production crews every year and culminate in a variety of programming that highlights the majesty and misconceptions of these sharp-toothed scene stealers. Additionally, the great offerings of shark diving tours and charters out of **Jupiter, Riviera Beach** and more have continued to draw leads for new series. SharkFest premieres on July 5, and Shark Week launches July 11. For more info, visit nationalgeographic.com and discovery.com.



VERLANDER'S SALUTE TO SERVICE

Eight-time MLB All-Star Justin Verlander joined two-time Olympic softball medalist Jessica Mendoza in a salute to veterans for T-Mobile's *Beyond The Bases* web series. Verlander's *Wins for Warriors* program connects veterans with service dogs to aid in the transition to civilian life. Directed by Domonic Smith of Shooter Productions and filmed at **Gardens Park** in **Palm Beach Gardens**, the inspirational video kicks off with an interview with Verlander, followed by delightful interactions with some highly trained, lovable canines, and concludes with conversations with real veterans participating in the program. The video was released in celebration of Military Appreciation Month and launches the second season of the series. Get inspired at t-mobilebeyondthebases.com/#/episode/1.



Verlander at Gardens Park





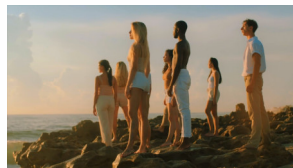
FIND YOURSELF OUTSIDE

Where do you go to find out who you really are and what you're really capable of? **Eddie Bauer's #findyourselfoutside** campaign tells stories about underrepresented communities and what nature means to them. In a recently released web segment titled **Find Yourself Outside: Imagine What's Possible**, Eddie Bauer Community Leader Perry Cohen and Adventure Travel Guide Trevor Frost explored **Riverbend Park** in **Jupiter** and **Loxahatchee Slough** in **Palm Beach Gardens**, kayaking along the **Wild & Scenic Loxahatchee River** and taking in serene views of wilderness and wildlife. "It brings me back to that unbridled joy I had as a kid," Cohen says during his eco-tourism explorations. Check out the segment at youtube.com/watch?v=ae8LrssEXo8.

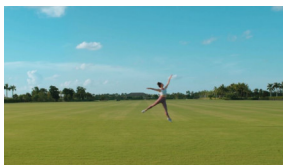


BALLET BRINGS STORY TO LIFE

MB Films & FB Ensemble have released an enchanting short film titled **Missed Connections**, featuring ballet dancers from the Miami and New York City Ballet. Filming took place last year at **Coral Cove Park** in **Tequesta**, a polo farm complex in **Wellington**, and various other locations across Palm Beach County. The film is directed by Megan L.C. McNally and choreographed by Gilbert Bolden III, with cinematography by Jason Greene. "We were able to find so many unique, vivid backdrops in the area, and particularly enjoyed the landscape of Coral Cove Park, where we filmed sunrise shots utilizing the coral rocks along the beach," said McNally. The film is now available online with an emphasis on digital promotion. Escape into the beauty of **Missed Connections** at vimeo.com/564470784.



Coral Cove Park



Wellington Polo Complex

HOME RUN OLYMPIC COVERAGE

Eight international teams recently competed for a spot in the upcoming Summer Olympics. The baseball **Olympic Qualifiers** took place at the **Ballpark of The Palm Beaches** where Team USA clinched their spot for the Tokyo Olympics with a 10-1 win over Canada. The series was made possible with a partnership between Palm Beach County and St. Lucie County. The games were broadcast on **ESPN+** in over 70 countries and territories, while over 2,000,000 fans engaged with the tournament through social media. The local and international media provided plenty of coverage, especially across North, South, and Central America with close to 200 accredited media members for the tournament, attending personally or virtually, taking advantage of the post-game press conferences provided in English and Spanish. Team USA joins Japan, Israel, Mexico and South Korea at the Olympic baseball tournament from July 28 to August 7 in Fukushima and Yokohama, Japan. See more at olympics.com/tokyo-2020.

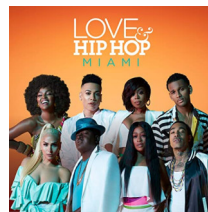


Team USA



NEW SEASON OF LOVE & HIP HOP

VH1's popular reality series **Love & Hip Hop Miami** is currently in production on Season 4, and The Palm Beaches set the scene for some major conversation moments. One of the main characters has a family member in Martin County, and they frequently meet in the middle for walk-and-talks to recap the drama or plan for upcoming social events. Filming has taken place in **downtown West Palm Beach**, **Mizner Park**, **South Inlet Park**, **Pinewoods Park** and **Sugar Sand Park** in **Boca Raton**. Stars of the series include iconic rappers Trina and Trick Daddy. The show regularly draws over one million viewers per episode. See more at vh1.com/shows/love-and-hip-hop-miami.



NEW PROGRAMS ON THE PALM BEACHES TV

Two new shows have been added to **The Palm Beaches TV** lineup for your viewing pleasure! **A Wild Connection**, hosted by international wildlife expert James Currie, explores the fascinating sea turtle population that annually nest on the beaches and shores of Palm Beach County. **A Wild Connection** was produced in partnership with **Loggerhead Marinelife Center**. Also joining the lineup is a new episode of **Art Adventures of The Palm Beaches** with host, Shelli Lockhart. Produced in partnership with the **Cultural Council for Palm Beach County**, the show explores the vibrant local arts and culture community. The new episode, "Art of Nature", showcases some of the county's most spectacular gardens, including the **Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden**, **Mounts Botanical Garden** and the **Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens**. Both shows can be viewed on demand at ThePalmBeaches.TV.



Shelli Lockhart



APPLAUDING WINNERS FOR BRJFF

The 5th Annual Judy Levis Krug Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival (BRJFF) is pleased to announce this year's winners. Running from January 5 through May 16, the virtual festival featured a diverse collection of over 50 premiere films and 24 webinars and was considered one of the largest virtual Jewish Film Festivals in the country. The prize for Best Feature was awarded to **The Good Traitor**, a historical drama of one man's impassioned resistance to the Nazis. **Love It Was Not**, the tragic story between a young Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz and Austrian SS officer, won Best Documentary Film, and the Israeli drama **Only Bibi** walked away with the win for Best Short Film. "We were incredibly proud of our Festival's line-up this year," said Lesley Rich, BRJFF Program and Production Director. "Seeing these films get the recognition they deserve brings us tremendous excitement." See more at bocajff.org.



SUMMER SCHOOL FILM PREMIERE

A film about bringing two distinctive cultures together, golf and skateboarding, recently made its premier at the **Palm Beach Improv. Summer School**, directed by David Hamzik, a cinema verité style piece that shines light on the similarities between these sports and introduces an authentic cast of characters. The "Hangry Kids" lead the way with help from friends **Rickie Fowler**, **Zion Wright**, **Sam Dorman**, and **Jessica Korda**. The film is derived from a nonprofit called **The Hangry Project**, an initiative that puts refrigerators at skateparks and keeps them stocked with free food for the kids. The concept originated from Brad Gehl who is currently a pro golfer living in Palm Beach County. The bulk of the project was filmed with a local crew of about five people in ten days throughout The Palm Beaches. See more about the film at thehangryproject.com.



LOCAL PRODUCER INSPIRES STUDENTS

Multitalented actress, author, producer, and television series host **Jacqueline Journey** recently offered tips for professional success to high school students at **Palm Beach Gardens Community High School**. Journey hosts the series **Passport to The Palm Beaches** on The Palm Beaches TV and spoke to students in the TV/Film and Radio Production magnet program about job preparedness and professionalism. She also shared tips from her book, *The Diva's in the Details*. One lucky student got an autographed copy of the book! "I truly enjoyed speaking to these amazing students. It was a pleasure meeting and spending time with future writers, directors, producers, and other industry technicians being developed right here in Palm Beach County. I look forward to seeing some of these talented young people on sets in the future," Journey said. She also made a donation of several pieces of technical equipment for the school's studio. To see Jacqueline Journey in action, watch *Passport to The Palm Beaches* on Destination America and online at ThePalmBeaches.TV.



Journey at PBGHS

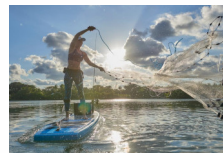


JUPITER BEACH SETS THE SCENE

Take Outdoors out of West Wareham, Massachusetts made a beeline for the Florida sunshine back in April for a photoshoot for **SIC Maui** at **Jupiter Beach Park**. A variety of looks are available onsite with a large sandy beach across from a tree-lined lagoon, making it ideal to show off SIC Maui's line of top-of-the-line paddle boards. "We had a great experience in the area, with ideal weather and conditions. We can't wait to come back again for a future shoot!" said SIC North America Product, Marketing and Digital Manager **Casi Rynkowski**. Check out the images and more at twitter.com/sic_maui.



Jupiter Beach Park



A G-STAR REVOLUTION!

G-Star School of the Arts documentary teacher Victor Patrick Alvarez's latest film, **Revolution Rent**, has garnered major accolades from the Hollywood Press. Centered on the groundbreaking musical **RENT**, *Revolution Rent* is about the first Broadway play produced in communist Cuba in over 50 years. Those familiar with the play's story will understand the impact and risk taken by Alvarez and company to put the production on in a totalitarian state. Neil Patrick Harris serves as Executive Producer in the film that details original *Rent* cast member Andy Señor Jr.'s efforts to stage a production of the Broadway hit in Cuba. The documentary, directed by Señor Jr. and Alvarez, also a producer and cinematographer, premiered on **HBO** on June 15. To see it for yourself, visit hbo.com/documentaries/revolution-rent.





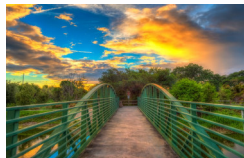
FLASHBACK FEATURE: BAYWATCH

Baywatch, a 2017 feature film based on the popular 1990's TV series about a group of lifeguards who patrol a crowded recreational beach, selected **Boca Raton** as an ideal location for the film's picturesque coastline, sunny skies, and swaying palm trees. Mega-stars Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Zac Efron filmed scenes at **South Inlet Park** and the **Boca Raton Resort & Club** for scenes varying from a rescued kite surfer to a character diving from the jetty. All aspects of the filming activity involved the assistance of Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the City of Boca Raton among other key PBC municipal players. Dive in for more action at [imdb.com/title/tt1469304](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1469304).

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
FOOTBRIDGES

Footbridges are designed for pedestrians, cyclists and even for wildlife, providing safe crossing over water, roads, and other obstacles and makes a great backdrop for filming.

Pondhawk Natural Area is a pristine park in **Boca Raton**, popular with runners and nature enthusiasts. The footbridge goes over Blue Lake. Best parking access is on the far west side of the Spanish River Library parking lot.



Pondhawk Natural Area



Commons Park

Commons Park in **Royal Palm Beach** is a great spot to capture sunsets. The Boardwalk Bridge with wood and metal materials create strong lines against the horizon, adding depth to the landscape.

Probably the most well known footbridge is at **DuBois Park** in **Jupiter**. The wood structure goes over the waterway that feeds the lagoon and has fantastic views in either direction. Another picturesque footbridge in Jupiter is found at **Indian Creek Park**. The bridge spans a water catchment lake and leads to a small island. The bridge has zig zag supports and stands out against the soft lines of nature. For more information, visit pbfilm.com.



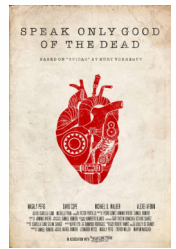
The Lagoon at DuBois Park



Indian Creek Park

EDUCATION CORNER
SSOF WINNERS SCORE DISTRIBUTION

College Feature award winners in the 2020 **Student Showcase of Films**, **Samuel Romero** and **Arminio Rivero**, and their first-place film, **Speak Only Good of The Dead**, just achieved the ultimate for filmmakers in any stage of their career, a distribution deal! As Miami Dade College students, Samuel and Arminio were also SSOFF finalists in 2021 for their film, **Now You See Nothing**. Not only has their hard work paid off with multiple recognitions at SSOFF, but their efforts have netted distribution with the **DUST Channel**. From feature films to short films, DUST presents both established and emerging voices with over 400 cutting-edge stories. "After a year in the festival circuit, we are very happy to share Speak Only Good of the Dead with a broader audience," said Romero. "It has been a great ride full of very talented and special people!" The film premiered on DUST June 29. Catch it at fb.watch/6rbFFki21t.



STOP MOTION SUMMER COURSE

As part of the **Kravis Center's Kravis Creates! Virtual Summer Arts Program**, young aspiring artists are welcome to **Ready, Set, Stop Motion!** The Film & Video Department will offer a highly imaginative virtual class on stop motion animation from July 12-16. The program is recommended for ages 7-11. Students will learn camera, lighting, and basic stop motion techniques, as they enjoy conceptualizing, producing, and finalizing their very own scene to be showcased on the final day. See more at kravis.org/education-community/classes.



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