FOCUS on FILM

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

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PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION

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DISCOVER THE PALM BEACHES TELEVISION
ThePalmBeaches.TV

ON THE TOWN CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The rich culture of Latin and South America takes the spotlight in the next edition of ***On the Town in The Palm Beaches.*** **South Florida PBS'** signature lifestyle series explores a variety of Hispanic-owned local businesses in an episode that airs Tuesday, September 28 on **WPBT** and Thursday, September 30 on **WXEL**. **Hispanic Heritage Month** is celebrated from September 15 – October 15 annually.

Licari On Location

"Instead of focusing on specific towns and communities as we've done with previous episodes, this time we're taking a look at how the Hispanic business owners – from many regions – enrich communities in Palm Beach County," says Joyce Belloise, Vice President of Content and Community Partnerships for South Florida PBS. Now in its fifth season, the series is hosted by versatile actor/producer/director Frank Licari. "I did a little salsa dancing, met some amazingly talented artists and craftsmen and of course, ate the most delicious food – and we just barely scratched the surface! Hispanic culture and flavor is on full display in Palm Beach County. I had a blast exploring and learning about the many facets. I hope viewers enjoy the show as much as I did," says Licari.

Licari Learning Salsa

On the Town recently aired a similar culture-focused episode, ***On the Town: Black Voices***, which highlighted Black-owned businesses in the County. After airing on South Florida PBS, both shows can be viewed on demand at ThePalmBeaches.TV. See more about the series at southfloridapbs.org/on-the-town.

WNBA STARS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Nike's Jordan Brand recently tapped renowned photographer Ming Smith to capture the latest addition of eight **WNBA** players to their roster of brand ambassadors. Staged at **Pine Glades Natural Area** in Jordan's hometown of **Jupiter**, the images are what Smith describes as "old as antiquity and new as today." The WNBA superstars featured include Jordin Canada, Te'a Cooper, Crystal Dangerfield, Chelsea Dungee, Arella Guirantes, Dearica Hamby, Kia Nurse, Aerial Powers and Satou Sabally. "To have 11 Black women be a part of this brand allows the younger generation and younger women to see that they can be like us — they can have that opportunity. I didn't see that growing up," said Jordin Canada, Seattle Storm point guard in a press release. The campaign signals a bright future for the women's game and the next generation. See more at news.nike.com.

WNBA Stars with Jordan

Jordin Canada

GET YOUR PASSPORT READY

Passport to The Palm Beaches Season 2 will premiere on the **Destination America** cable channel Sunday, September 5. The luxury lifestyle series is hosted by author/producer **Jacqueline Journey** and produced by West Palm Beach-based production company **AA Video.** The new season of episodes features environmentally-friendly luxury jewelers, a world-famous family-owned outdoor BBQ spot, an award-winning destination wedding planner and extravagant oceanfront condominiums – all of which can be found in Palm Beach County!

Jacqueline Journey

Additional segments include a visit to **Panther Ridge Endangered Big Cat Conservation Center** and the **National Croquet Center**. All episodes of *Passport to The Palm Beaches* are available on demand at The Palm Beaches.TV. Visit jacquelinejourney.com/passport-to-the-palm-beaches for more.

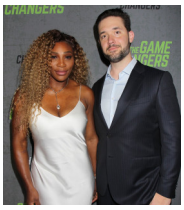
SCUBANATION DIVES IN

Off the coastline off The Palm Beaches lies diving destiny! The Emmy Award-winning series ***ScubaNation*** will be filming 30 days of diving/snorkeling in The Palm Beaches from mid-September to mid-October. Created by Billy Catoggio, the series is dedicated to the exploration of the underwater world. Focusing on conservation and dedicated to the preservation of our oceans of life, *ScubaNation* will produce two shows in Palm Beach County, titled ***Big Animal Action*** and ***Diving with a Purpose***. "These are going to be two unique shows that really show off the underwater world of the The Palm Beaches. We are excited to bring these episodes to our viewers," said Billy Catoggio. The shows are slated to air on **Fox Sports Florida** Summer of 2022 and again on **NBC Sports Boston**. Dive in at scubanationtv.com.

Goliath Grouper

INSIGHT ON INVESTMENTS

Local power couple Serena Williams and Alexis Ohanian attract dozens of productions to The Palm Beaches each year, and the latest shines a spotlight on one of Ohanian's adventure capital investments. A co-founder of Reddit, Ohanian is well-known as a savvy, sought after investor. **ALT**, a company that markets itself as "increasing the transparency and liquidity of alternative assets", hosts an exchange for professional sport cards that can be traded like stocks. **Beyond the Pines Studios & Productions** out of **West Palm Beach** filmed an informal interview and conversation between Chris Jackson, Relationships Manager for Alt and Ohanian at Alexis and Serena's compound in **Jupiter**. Capturing the conversation on camera adds a new layer to Alexis Ohanian as he speaks on an array of subjects, such as sports card trading investments 101, the future of ALT and more. Trade away at onlyalt.com.



Williams & Ohanian

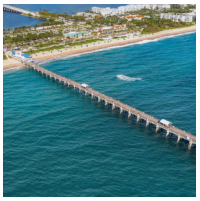
MEECAH'S BREAKOUT FILM

Singer and *Hamilton* Actress, **Meecah,** will premiere her debut short film ***Retribution*** in her hometown of **West Palm Beach** on September 15 at a live concert and drive-in screening at the **South Florida Fairgrounds.** When the pandemic outbreak initially took hold in 2020 and theaters were shut down, Meecah took her creative career into her own hands and filmed under strict COVID safety protocols throughout South Florida. Not only did she create an opportunity for herself, but also opened up work to a completely BIPOC cast and crew, including fight choreography by **UFC fighter Din Thomas**. Retribution follows the story of a young woman who seeks to destroy the chain of command responsible for her father's death. See more about the premiere at eventbrite.com/e/retribution-drive-in-screening-concert-tickets-148536593951.

Meecah

LAKE WORTH IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Vice Media, in association with the **National Association of Realtors** (NAR), is currently in Season 4 of its NAR web series that delves into the stories behind what makes a house a home. From multi-generational dwellings suitable for aging relatives, to first homes for single parents, each narrative sheds a light on the importance of finding the right fit for a long-term residence. Season 4 is titled ***Where The Heart Is***, and one of the segments recently filmed in **Lake Worth Beach** spotlights a disabled real estate agent who helped a disabled couple find an accessible home during the pandemic. In addition to filming in the neighborhood, the crew captured establishing shots along **Lake** and **Lucerne Avenue,** the **William O. Lockhart Municipal Pier**, and **Delray Beach**. Watch the series at video.vice.com/en_us/show/nar-s4.



Lake Worth Beach

LOOK OUT FOR SCREENS AIRING THE PALM BEACHES TV

The Palm Beaches TV (PBTV), as overseen by The Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, continues to distribute over 40 hours of original programming. This 24/7 channel provides all the family-friendly, iconic, and little-known offerings of Palm Beach County. Available as a designated channel in nearly 4,000 hotel rooms, on Roku, via mobile app and online at ThePalmBeaches.TV, the channel offers inspiration and some of the best experiences and backdrops of the destination delivered through the lens of lively storytelling. PBTV can also been seen at **The Palm Beaches Convention Center**, where attendees can gather, watch and be inspired to make a return trip or extend their stay. In addition, PBTV is playing at the **Palm Beach International Airport**. Travelers can find out what they can experience while in the area by watching the screens above the carousels in the baggage claim area. For more information, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV.

THE COLLEGE TOUR AT FAU

The College Tour is a web series that reveals what life is like on college campuses across the country and around the world. The show recently explored **Florida Atlantic University** (FAU) in **Boca Raton** for an upcoming episode. "The idea for *The College Tour* was inspired by my 16-year-old niece," said creator and host, Alex Boylan. "Because of the pandemic and finances, she wasn't able to tour colleges, so we created a series for young people like her who are interested in attending college!" In this innovative and informative series, each story is told by real students, professors, and alumni who are currently enrolled or who have attended the featured college. Over the summer, Boylan and his crew visited FAU and many of the surrounding attractions to entice aspiring students to our area. To catch the fun and see more episodes, visit thecollegetour.com.

Crew at FAU Stadium

FAU Owl with Boylan

SEARCHING IN SPANISH RIVER

Waves lap along a beach as a man comes upon a mysterious message in a bottle in ***Searching For Treasure***, a short film by up-and-coming filmmaker Felipe Martinez Carbonell. Filmed at **Spanish River Park** in **Boca Raton**, the story unfolds as the man follows a map to a treasure chest within the ocean. "For this film I was largely inspired by the BLM movement. I want to show the audience that our surroundings can teach and show us a completely new world that we often ignore," said Martinez Carbonell. With coast-to-coast home bases in both Los Angeles and Boca Raton, Martinez Carbonell's company **Hemisferio Films** is a multicultural, full service creative agency and design studio. See more at felipemartinezcarbonell.com.

Herbert Coleman in Film Still

SNAKEHEAD SECURES DISTRIBUTION

Snakehead, the story about a Chinese immigrant seeking a better life for her family, filmed key action scenes aboard the **Monarch Countess** vessel docked at the **Port of Palm Beach**. The crime thriller has been on the 2021 film festival circuit and recently scored a distribution deal with **Samuel Goldwyn Films** and **Roadside Attractions**. Director Evan Jackson Leong shares that he's "extremely excited to find a partner with Samuel Goldwyn to bring this story to the world." President Peter Goldwyn believes this is a "compelling story with strong performances that brings together the modern-day gangster movie that audience[s] will be thrilled by." Meanwhile, Roadside Attractions is a film production and distribution company with titles such as *Manchester by the Sea* (Academy Award Winner for Best Screenplay) and *Dear White People* (Independent Spirit Award Winner). To learn more about *Snakehead*, visit arowanafilms.com.

Still from Snakehead

TRUTH REVEALED IN NEW WEB SERIES

Step into the booth and confess your deepest secrets on the hilarious pop-up reality show, ***Free Drink Confessional***! Produced by **Roll On It Productions** out of **Wellington**, the web series proves that there are no limits on what people will confess when a free drink is offered as a reward. Show host "Reverend Tom", representing "Our Lady of Floridaman", set ups his traveling booth at popular restaurants throughout The Palm Beaches to speak with a chatty cast of characters. Filming locations so far have included **Abacoa Town Center, Delray Hideaway** and downtown **West Palm Beach.** "You can't make this stuff up!" said show host and producer Tom Cunningham. "These hilarious stories are proof that truth is stranger than fiction." See more at facebook.com/freedrinkconfessional.

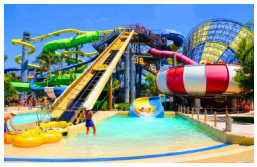
FRIDAYS ARE FOR FILM

Film Florida launched a new event series titled **Film Florida Fridays** (FFF) earlier this year as an opportunity to meet and engage with key industry professionals at the forefront of content creation, innovation, and the promotion and development of Florida's entertainment production industry. Beginning with a spotlight on **Black Industry Leaders: Part 1 and 2** with special guests **Thom Gossom Jr., Marco Mall, Ronald Baez** and **M. Denise Simmons,** the following months have included guests like **State Film Commissioner Niki Welge** and renowned **Location Scouts/Managers Maria Chavez, Leah Sokolowsky** and **Stacey McGillis**. The free event is designed to encourage open, inclusive conversations about current topics, initiatives and relationship-building. The next FFF will take place on September 10 featuring **Film Commissioners Gail Morgan** (Destin-Fort Walton Beach; Film Florida President) and **Sandy Lighterman** (Miami-Dade County; Film Florida VP). See more at filmflorida.org.

FLASHBACK FEATURE: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

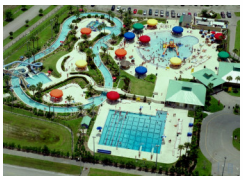
Up Close & Personal is a charming romantic drama starring **Michelle Pfeiffer** alongside **Robert Redford**. The 1996 film focuses on an ambitious young woman named Tally (Pfieffer) who lies on her resume and then falls in love with her boss (Redford) as she seeks to build a career in broadcast journalism. Production crews came to The Palm Beaches, where filmmakers used **sugar cane fields** just south of **20 Mile Bend bridge** to cheat scenes in Vietnam. The film was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe for Best Original Song for Celine Dion's *Because You Loved Me*, which went on to win a Grammy Award in 1997. See more at wikipedia.org/wiki/Up_Close_%26_Personal_(film).

LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
WATER PARKS IN THE PALM BEACHES



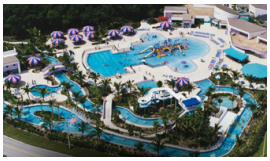
Rapids Water Park

Water parks are a great backdrop for summer lifestyle and action images. Recently included in USA Today's Top "10 Best" Reader's Choice, **Rapids Water Park** in **Riviera Beach** presents 42 thrilling water rides and a seven-story speed slide for thrill seekers, along with mild slides and a lazy river for those who are taking it easy. The flow rider simulates waves so visitors can try surfing and bodyboarding. Cabanas are available to keep models and actors out of the sun between takes. Rapids is a popular option for music videos and swimsuit catalogs.



Calypso Bay

Calypso Bay is an exciting water park with two four-story high waterslides and a separate lap pool for more athletic angles, plus two diving boards. Located inside **Seminole Palms Park** in **Royal Palm Beach**, the park itself is geared for sports with baseball, softball and multi-use fields along with grill and picnic areas.



Coconut Cove Waterpark

With a 1,000-foot lazy river ride, water obstacle course and two four-story water slides, **Coconut Cove Waterpark** is not to be overlooked for water activities and catalog work. Located in **Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park** in **Boca Raton**, the huge parking lot can accommodate most film projects along with party rooms that can be used to hold and house talent or extras. See more at pbfilm.com/location-directory.

EDUCATION CORNER
GARDENS HIGH BIDS FAREWELL TO ICON

Arty Falk

Beloved educator **Arty Falk** passed away in August at 67 years young. Adored by generations of students at **Palm Beach Gardens High School** (PBGHS), Arty fostered an atmosphere of fun and laughter, and created a positive influence on countless students during his 40+ years as an educator, beginning in Brooklyn and culminating in Palm Beach Gardens.

"Arty was amazing!" said Ryan Dockery, Film & TV instructor at PBGHS. "He launched our Five-Star Magnet Program back in the early 90's and was the coordinator until 2007. He then became the Assistant Principal until he retired in 2016, although he never stopped coming to school. He loved it!" Never without his signature fedora, Arty coached girls' basketball, loved announcing the football games, and led the Homecoming Parade Kazoo Band every year. He also immersed himself in volunteer work with organizations such as Relay for Life, Kayla Cares 4 Kids, and Junior Achievement. The iconic **Arty Falk Golf Classic** will forever bear his name as a memory of his numerous charitable efforts.

Kayla Cares 4 Kids

"Arty created one of the best business advisory boards in the county at Gardens High School," said Chuck Elderd, PBC Film Commissioner. "Their students have amazing opportunities to gain real world experience working with businesses on the board." Arty Falk will forever be missed by the students, parents, staff, and faculty he encountered along the way, and will forever be a **Gardens Gator**!

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