

# MAY 2007



## CBS PILOT COMES RIDING INTO PBC'S WESTERN COMMUNITIES...

Amidst the sugar cane fields and dusty roads in Pahokee, actors such as **Jimmy Smits** (*NYPD Blue*, *The West Wing*), **Hector Elizondo** (*Pretty Woman*, *Runaway Bride*) and **Rita Moreno** (*Law & Order*, *Oz*) filmed the *Untitled Cynthia Cidre Pilot*, a drama about a Latino family working together to operate a rum business. The action took place at US Sugar and on various roads around Pahokee. **Locations Manager Maria Chavez** said, "You cannot recreate 40 acres of sugarcane anywhere else, so we came to Palm Beach County because this location is an integral part of the story and we wanted everything to look authentic. We had a great time filming in Palm Beach County, and received red carpet treatment from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and US Sugar." Stay tuned to upcoming newsletters for future updates.



Jimmy Smits Hector Elizondo



## FESTIVAL ENTHUSIASTS WERE TREATED TO AN IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP AT THIS YEAR'S FILM FESTIVAL...

For one week in April, Palm Beach County became the portal into the universe of cinema with over 125 films from a variety of genres being screened at the **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF)**. This year's festival kicked off Hollywood-style with the film, *The Golden Door* starring **Vincenzo Amato**, who walked the red-carpet at the **Sunrise Cinemas at Mizner Park in Boca Raton**, followed by a posh after-party at **City Limits in Delray Beach**. The week then progressed with films including *9:04am*, *Film Contest?* and *Hiding Victoria* which shot almost entirely in Palm Beach County. The festival also proved once again to be an extraordinary opportunity for the filmmaking talent of tomorrow to further their budding careers, as over \$25,000 in scholarships and awards were presented this year. The local film industry had its chance to shine, and so did the global film market, with submissions from countries such as **Africa** and **Israel**, that introduced audiences to their respective cultures. Honorees at the Grand Gala included some of the great talents in the industry including **Malcolm McDowell** (*Clockwork Orange*) who was presented with the **Career Achievement Award** and **Anant Singh** (*Cry The Beloved Country*) who was honored with the **World Visionary Award**. The event was hosted by **Tristan Rogers** (*General Hospital*) whose new film, *Opportunity Knocks* made its world premiere at the festival. **The Delray Beach Marriott**, host hotel for the PBIFF, was sold out for several days and many other hotels assisted with the accommodations including the Grand Gala host, the **Boca Resort and Club**. For more information please visit [www.pbifilmfest.org](http://www.pbifilmfest.org) or call 561.362.0003.



Malcolm McDowell



Tristan Rogers



Anant Singh



## FED CUP SERVES UP HOURS OF TELEVISION COVERAGE...

Thousands of fans from around the globe traveled to Palm Beach County to watch the US team duke it out versus Belgium during the **2007 Fed Cup Quarterfinals** held at the **Delray Beach Tennis Stadium**. The match starred local tennis champions **Venus** and **Serena Williams** along with Lisa Raymond, Vania King and Zina Garrison. **The Tennis Channel** carried ten hours of live coverage over a two-day period. **The PBC Sports Commission** and the **Convention and Visitors Bureau** assisted with the promotions. For info visit [www.fedcup.com](http://www.fedcup.com).



## PRODUCTION CO. DREAMS UP NEW COMMERCIALS

**KO-MAR Productions** recently shot two commercials for **City Mattress**, a company that specializes in sweet dreams. City Mattress has stores in Florida and New York, and **VP of Programming and Project Development Jim Gallagher** said, "We shot at **Lake Side Park in North Palm Beach** where the trees and native grasses give you a look that can play in both markets." KO-MAR also says goodbye to **Bob Peters** who is retiring. See the June Newsletter for more info.



Bob Peters

## CRIME SERIES FILMS AT AREA LOCATIONS

Go inside puzzling crime cases in history and learn about how they were solved as **Court TV's** series *Body of Evidence* once again paid a visit to Palm Beach County to recreate crime scenes for two upcoming episodes. Washington, DC based **Story House Productions** produces the series and got the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office** in on the action during various segments. **Story House Field Producer Owen Palmquist** said, "The combination of beautiful locations, helpful people and warm sunshine made it so that we couldn't help but take beautiful footage every time we turned on the camera." For more info please visit [www.storyhousepro.com](http://www.storyhousepro.com) or [www.courtvtv.com](http://www.courtvtv.com).

# Focus on Film

NEWS FROM THE PALM BEACH COUNTY FILM & TELEVISION COMMISSION

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# Location Spotlight

## Unbelievable Acres Botanical Gardens



Unbelievable Acres

Unbelievable Acres Botanical Gardens in West Palm Beach is truly unbelievable! It is a museum of plants, and a place to relax, rejuvenate and experience the wonders of nature. Step foot into the gardens and be immediately transported to a Central or South American rain forest



Banana Tree



Beautiful Path

complete with a 100-foot high tree canopy. Unbelievable Acres has one of Florida's largest private collections of tropical fruit trees, and has a labyrinth of paths throughout thousands of varieties of plants including banana and plantain trees, orchids, palms and ferns. On the nursery side of the gardens there is a wealth of land for production vehicles making it an easy place to stage a home-base. This location can provide a tranquil backdrop for a variety of filming projects. For info call 561.233.1000.



PBC Courthouse

### PRIME-TIME NEWS SERIES VISITS COUNTY COURTHOUSE...CBS's 48 Hours Mystery came to Palm Beach County last month to produce a special report about the Ron Samuels Case, which involved a shooting that happened in Boca Raton in 1997, and left his ex-wife Heather Grossman paralyzed from the neck down. The crew filmed at the Palm Beach County Courthouse and the episode aired on Saturday, April 14 on News 12. The crew was hosted at the West Palm Beach Marriott. For more info visit [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com) and click on 48 Hours.

For more information please call 561.852.0000.



### FILM COMPETITION IS HEARING VOICES

South Florida filmmakers were honored during the fifth annual **Voices of Local Film**. The event achieved another successful year, providing a forum for films to be screened in a competitive atmosphere among peers. **Event Creator Heath McKnight** said, "The films get better each year, and our anniversary event proved that we have some of the most talented filmmakers in the country, in our own backyard." For more info please visit [www.pbfilmsociety.org](http://www.pbfilmsociety.org).



Niedland & Wells

### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR LOCAL FILMMAKERS

A double screening of the award winning *Miss Lil's Camp* by **Producer/Co-director Suzanne Niedland** and the short film, *Opportunity Knocks* which Niedland starred in and co-produced with director, **Aaron Wells** will be held at the **Emerging Cinemas** in the **Lake Worth Playhouse** on **May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm**. For more information please call 561.586.6410.



Hundreds of students from across the State of Florida were a part of the **12<sup>th</sup> annual Student Showcase of Films (SSOF)** which was held **Tuesday, April 24** at **Palm Beach Community College's Duncan Theatre**. Students learned about tricks of the trade from panelists such as actress **Mary Elise Hayden** (*Popstar*, *Redline*). **Rafael Canuto** from the **G-Star School of the Arts** and **Ruby Hernandez** from **Dreyfoos School of the Arts** took home the **two \$5,000 Burt Reynolds' Scholarships**, which will be used to further their education. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was also awarded to the grand-prize winner **Aaron Brownlee** who will pitch his film to development executives and VP's at **Lions Gate Films**, **Mandalay Integrated Media Entertainment**, **CBS** and more in L.A. The workshop and seminar series was also a success as professionals such as **Gary Marsh**, President of Breakdown Services, **Conrad Bachmann**, Former Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Performers Governor, **Ellen Jacoby** of Ellen Jacoby Casting International and **Tristan Rogers** led two workshops about casting and acting at the **Burt Reynolds and Friends Museum** in **Jupiter**. A full press release about the SSOF can be found at [www.pbfilm.com/news.asp](http://www.pbfilm.com/news.asp).



Student Showcase



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Rafael Canuto & Ruby Hernandez

# short takes



**RADIO SHOW REELS IN SPECIAL GUESTS...**The airwaves were buzzing as **Tristan Rogers**, *General Hospital's* **Robert Scorpio**, **Adam Massey**, director of *A Lobster Tale* and **Aaron Wells** director of *Opportunity Knocks* made special appearances on "**Barry Epstein Live**," the radio show that airs Fridays at 10:00am on **1470 AM** or on the Internet at [www.wvnnradio.com](http://www.wvnnradio.com) and click on "listen live." For more information please call 561.852.0000.



### AREA HIGH SCHOOLS CREATE MOVIE MAGIC...

Students from the **G-Star School of the Arts** and the **Dreyfoos School of the Arts** joined together to work on *The Guardian of Eden*, a feature film written by **Shayne Leighton**, a sophomore at Dreyfoos. The students even reeled in **Kurt Donath** of **Aberdeen Soldier's Productions** and **Estefania** and **Valentina Crespo** of **Deep C-Star Productions** to produce the film. *Eden* utilized the G-Star Studios for seven days in April and producers are already in talks with distributors. For more information please call Estefania Crespo at 305.338.3813.



Jupiter Lighthouse

### NEW TV SHOW RACES INTO HIGH GEAR...

The new high-octane drama, *Drive*, which premiered last month on **Fox**, mentioned some well-known Palm Beach County locations such as the **Jupiter Lighthouse** and **The Burt Reynolds and Friends Museum** during the first episode. The show follows a diverse group of Americans as they partake in a cross-country road race. For info visit [www.fox.com](http://www.fox.com).



Dan Mackin

### WELCOME TO AN ARTIST'S PARADISE...

South Florida artist **Dan Mackin**, whose colorful depictions of paradise were featured on the official 2006 SunFest poster, is now ready to have his work appear in film/TV productions. To view Dan Mackin's artwork or for more info visit [www.danmackin.com](http://www.danmackin.com).



Meghan Mayo

### FTC STAFF CHANGE

The Film and Television Commission says goodbye to our Locations Coordinator, **Meghan Mayo**, who will be going back to teaching and doing some freelance production and/or location work on the side. Good luck Meghan!



Film Commissioner, Chuck Elder  
Director of Ops. and Programs, Michelle Hillery  
Operations Manager, TBD  
Production Manager, Michelle Marton  
Production Coordinator, Jill Margolius  
Location Coordinator, Meghan Mayo  
Administrative Assistant, Christine Tieche  
Education Consultant, Alex Marquez



PBC Board of County Commissioners  
Chair, Addie L. Greene, Vice Chair, John F. Koons,  
Karen T. Marcus, Warren H. Newell,  
Mary McCarty, Burt Aaronson, Jess R. Santamaria

If you would like to be included in this monthly publication, please contact the FTC at 561.233.1000 or email information to [jmargolius@pbfilm.com](mailto:jmargolius@pbfilm.com).

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