

# Focus on Film

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



## In This Issue

Celebs and Filmmakers Shine at Film Festival

Festival Champions Indie Films

SPECIAL SERIES: Want a Job or want to post one?

Music Video Rocks Delray

Oscar Winner Shares Biz Secrets

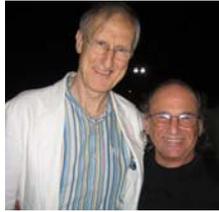
Location Spotlight: Downtown West Palm Beach Revitalization

Education Corner: Hollywood Legend Inspires Students at Student Showcase of Films



## CELEBS AND FILMMAKERS SHINE AT FILM FESTIVAL

May 2009



James Cromwell and  
Joel Zwick

With over 110 films, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival continues to live up to its ranking by **Movie Maker Magazine** as one of the top 10 destination film festivals! The festival kicked off with the film, **Stone of Destiny**, which screened to a packed house at the **Sunrise Cinemas in Mizner Park**. **Director Charles Martin Smith** was on hand to do a special Q & A with the audience after the screening. The film was followed by a posh after-party on the rooftop of Sunrise Cinemas where hundreds of film-lovers enjoyed a night under the stars.

Honorees at this year's **Grand Gala** held at the **Boca Raton Resort and Club** were **James Cromwell** (*Babe, W.*) who received the Career Achievement Award; **Christine Baranski** (*Mamma Mia*) who was honored with the Showmanship Award; **Joel Zwick** (*director, My Big Fat Greek Wedding*) who was presented with the Visionary Award and a special video tribute from **Tom Hanks**; and **AnnaSophia Robb** (*Race to Witch Mountain*) who received the Horizon Award.

The festival also proved once again to be an extraordinary opportunity for young student filmmakers to further their careers, as over \$25,000 in scholarships and awards were presented at the **Student Showcase of Films**. Throughout the week, the festival screened a host of features, documentaries, shorts and student shorts from the United States and such countries as Italy, England, South Africa and Germany. **The Delray Beach Marriott** was the host hotel for festival filmmakers. For info visit [pbifilmfest.org](http://pbifilmfest.org).



## FESTIVAL CHAMPIONS INDIE FILMS



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Delray Beach Film Festival (DBFF) returns this month with an impressive schedule of events including screenings, parties and celebrity sporting tournaments. Opening night will kick off with the film, **The Answer Man** starring **Jeff Daniels** (*The Squid and the Whale*) and **Lauren Graham** (*Gilmore Girls*). "I saw this film when it premiered at Sundance and I knew it would be a great film to kick-off our festival. It's a romantic comedy and I love romantic comedies," said **DBFF Director and Founder Michael Posner**.

The festival will be hosted by the **Colony Hotel in Delray Beach** and will run from **May 19-24, 2009**. DBFF also offers workshops covering distribution, marketing, music rights, equipment and software, acting, casting, screenwriting and film financing. There are even free surfing lessons given by professional surfers and golf outings at some renowned area golf courses. For more info about the DBFF call 561.213.5737 or visit [dbff.us](http://dbff.us).

## FICTITIOUS NATURAL DISASTER CHURNS INTO WEST PALM BEACH



Surviving Disaster shooting in West Palm Beach

If it looked as though a hurricane came through the Northwood area of **West Palm Beach** recently, it was actually a production company from Los Angeles performing a variety of special effects and stunts. The reason is that a new TV show, **Surviving Disaster** was in town

filming an entire episode on how to survive a hurricane. The crew shot at many locations including **Okeehetee Park in West Palm Beach**, **Riverbend Park in Jupiter** and on many public streets in West Palm Beach.

The series is projected to air on **Spike TV** in January of 2010. Special thanks to all of the agencies who were involved in the making of this episode including the City of West Palm Beach, the West Palm Beach Community Redevelopment Agency and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation.



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## WANT A JOB OR WANT TO POST ONE?



### Industry Jobs Webpage

on the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission's (FTC) new website.

To view the current job listings, please visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com), click on "For Locals" and then "Industry Jobs". The site features opportunities for the experienced as well as entry-level employee. Looking to hire? To post a job on the FTC website, please click on "Post a Job Opening" and complete a simple form. Submissions are free. For more information please visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) or call 561.233.1000.

[PBFILM.COM](http://PBFILM.COM) is the newest source for entertainment industry jobs in Palm Beach County! A variety of production jobs, internship listings and casting calls for area production companies, TV stations and schools are featured

## PBC ATTRACTS NETWORK TV



### Havana Hideout

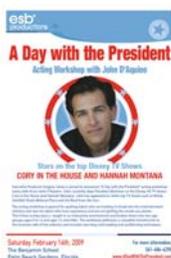
Recently, the County has attracted film crews from an abundance of network TV shows. From *Wife Swap* and *SuperNanny* on **ABC**, to two episodes of *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* on the **Food Network**, to *Surviving Disaster* on **Spike TV** to *Psychic Investigators* on **A&E**, the County has been busy!

The episodes of *Wife Swap* and *SuperNanny* were ABC's season finale episodes, raking in millions of viewers. The Food Network filmed their episodes at **Flakowitz** located west of Boynton Beach and **Havana Hideout** in downtown Lake Worth. *Surviving Disaster* shot at various locations in the County which you can read about on Page 1 and *Psychic Investigators* was in town to re-enact a 1977 murder case. The *Investigators* crew shot in cities including Boynton Beach and Delray Beach. These productions are more than interesting, they translate into revenue for area hotels and other businesses.



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## WORKSHOP FOR ASPIRING TALENT



Spend a day with the President, a TV President that is, at the **BAK Middle School** in **West Palm Beach** on **Saturday, May 30**. **Executive Producer Gregory James** of **ESB Productions** in **Delray Beach** is hosting another acting workshop with **John D' Aquino** aka President Martinez on the hit Disney shows *Cory in the House* and *Hannah Montana*.

"A Day with the President" has been held in cities across America and is geared for aspiring talent who are looking to break into the industry and also for talent who are not getting the results they desire. Class space is limited. For more info call 561.404.4290.

## MUSIC VIDEO ROCKS DELRAY BEACH



### Hey Monday

Alternative rock band **Hey Monday** recently shot their new music video, "**How You Love Me Now**" at an elaborate oceanfront estate in **Delray Beach**. The music video was shot in one day and premiered on MySpace Music racking in over 170,000 plays in just over 8 hours and became the #1 number most watched video of the day, according to **London Alloy Entertainment** in Los Angeles, the company that produced the video. Hey Monday consists of all Palm Beach County natives who went from playing the West Palm Beach scene to being signed by Columbia Records. The band is currently on tour with Fall Out Boy.

The Delray Beach estate was found by Boca Raton based company, **All-Star Locations**. Special thanks to the City of Delray Beach for their assistance. For more info visit [londonalloy.com](http://londonalloy.com).

## FILM TOUCHES DOWN IN LOCAL TOWN



"I think Palm Beach County is the best kept secret of South Florida. This area is going to be a hotbed of media production over the next few years," said local filmmaker

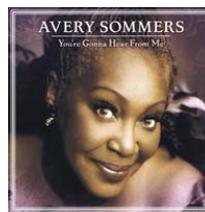
**Bob Ladrach**. Ladrach recently completed principle photography on the feature film *The Encounter*. It's the story of a time traveler who visits the present day to collect DNA that is needed in the future. Ladrach shot the film entirely in Palm Beach County, utilizing several private locations. G&M Ranch in Loxahatchee Groves was the primary location where most of the film was shot. Owners of the G&M Ranch allowed a space ship set to be built on the property, and some of their restored memorabilia was used as various props and set dressings in the film. In addition to the Ranch, the filmmakers filmed at a private residence in Lake Worth and a restaurant in Lantana.

Ladrach hopes to have the film finished in the fall. For more information please visit [encounterthemovie.com](http://encounterthemovie.com).



Encounter Cast and Crew

## PBC ACTRESS RELEASES FIRST CD

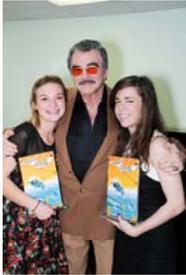


### Avery Sommers

One of Palm Beach County's own film and television actresses, **Avery Sommers**, has released her first CD, *You're Gonna Hear From Me*. The CD is a mix of Broadway tunes, jazz and blues music, with the bonus track being written by Ms. Sommers.

Ms. Sommers has appeared in films such as *Hiding Victoria*, which was shot in Palm Beach County, *Lost Everything* and *Mysterious*. In addition, she worked with **Burt Reynolds** on the locally shot television series *B.L. Stryker*. She has also starred on Broadway in *Show Boat*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Platinum*. For more information on the CD, please visit [AverySommers.com](http://AverySommers.com).

## HOLLYWOOD LEGEND INSPIRES STUDENTS AT STUDENT SHOWCASE OF FILMS



L-R : Savannah Winchester, Burt Reynolds, Kristin Harding

World-renowned actor and PBC native **Burt Reynolds** made a special appearance at this year's **14th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films (SSOF)**! For the first time, Mr. Reynolds presented in person his two \$5,000 scholarships to PBC students, **Kristin Harding** and **Savannah Winchester**. A crowd of more than 700 people gave a standing ovation to the film legend and listened intently to the advice he gave to the students. Local comedians **Frank Licari**, **Travis Thomas** and **Jesse Furman** of **The Jove Improv** in Jupiter served as hosts of the show featuring everything from clowns to live animals on stage. Notable award presenters included **Smitty** from 103.1 The Buzz, **Jay Harper**, winner of the national McDonalds Jingle competition and **Christine Christofek** spokesperson for the **Solid Waste Authority**. Florida State University swept the College Feature/Shorts and Documentary categories and Savannah Winchester from A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts took home three big awards. Winchester won the Burt Reynolds \$5,000 scholarship, 1<sup>st</sup> place in the High School Feature/Shorts and Documentary categories and the final award of the show with over 1900 votes for her film *Wednesday*, the \$2,000 Audience Award. Competition finalists were chauffeured to the entrance in Smart Cars, and walked the eco-friendly-green carpet-Hollywood style - as they entered **Palm Beach Community College's Duncan Theatre**. The curtains opened to reveal an elaborate set atop a stage made

from more than 1,000 plastic bottles and other recycled materials. Live music was provided by Jeff Harding.

"We broke all previous records with 219 entries this year, and added a new Film Florida, Sara Fuller scholarship to the awards," said **Michelle Hillery, SSOF Producer**. Over \$25,000 in cash prizes and scholarships were awarded. For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) or the SSOF Facebook group page. The entire show can be viewed on Webcast-TV.



2009 Winners

## FILM BRINGS STARS AND CREATES JOBS



The professional feature-length film, *Destiny and the Bulldozers*, which will be shot at the **G-Star School of the Arts in West Palm Beach in June** is in full swing! This family movie is billed as *Caddyshack* meets *The Alamo*. The film will star Golden Globe winner **Barry Bostwick (Spin City)**. The script is being re-written by **Amanda Moresco (Prince and the Pauper)** and directed by **Joe Reilly** who produced the *Prince and the Pauper* and *Kings of Appletown*. Dean Lyon has signed on to be the Special Effects Coordinator. Mr. Lyon was the Visual Effects Supervisor for all three *Lord of the Rings* films.

"It is going to be a great shoot! We are creating a film industry at G-Star to employ our college graduates for their entire careers. We eventually will do four feature films per year," said **Greg Hauptner, G-Star Founder**. Auditions will be held and crew positions are still open! Please email Mr. Wilson Plumb at [wplumb@gstarschool.org](mailto:wplumb@gstarschool.org) or call Mr. Hauptner at 561.386.6275 for more information about working on the film.

## OSCAR WINNER SHARES BIZ SECRETS



**Bobby Moresco** entertainment law. "This is an amazing school. I haven't seen anything like it. I want to come back with two films and shoot here," said Mr. Moresco.

Mr. Moresco won the Academy Award for co-writing the Academy Award winning film *Crash*, which he also co-produced. In addition, he co-produced *Million Dollar Baby*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

He is also the Executive Consultant on *Destiny and the Bulldozers* shooting locally next month.

For more info call 561.386.6275 or visit [gstarstudios.com](http://gstarstudios.com).



G-Star Studios

## FILM SCHOOL OFFERS NEW PROGRAM



The **Palm Beach Film School** has been approved by the Commission for Independent Education, Florida Department of Education, to offer a 10 month "Feature Film Program" that teaches students to write, shoot, direct and edit their own feature films. "The educational objective of the school is to teach students of all ages (16+) and backgrounds in small classes, usually 8-10 students, to take their creative film ideas from concept to reality and to learn the formula for independent feature filmmaking," said **Jim York, Director of the Program**.

The school is currently accepting applications. The first Feature Film Program will start in June 2009. For info call 561.242.9190.

## AREA MAG SNAGS MAJOR INTERVIEW



The summer issue of *art&culture of Palm Beach County* which debuts this month includes an interview with Hollywood industry veteran **Burt Reynolds**. This is the first magazine interview Reynolds has given in three years. The interview illuminates the Jupiter native's fondness for Palm Beach County. Reynolds also discusses his new Jupiter acting school, the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre**.

In the article, written by Christina Wood, readers can also learn Reynolds' key to success, what scares him and why at 73 years old he says, "my best work is ahead of me." For more info call the Palm Beach County Cultural Council at 561.471.2901.

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: DOWNTOWN WEST PALM BEACH REVITALIZATION



Aerial view of City Hall

One of the biggest undertakings in West Palm Beach history, is the new **West Palm Beach City Center**. The City Center includes a new state-of-the-art public library, City Hall, a parking garage and the Palm Beach Photographic Centre, a 20 year-old non-profit cultural and educational institute, and the only facility of its kind in the United States. City Center is designed to be a gathering place that is the educational, cultural and civic foundation of West Palm Beach. It is located on the 400 block of Clematis Street. A parade was held last month to com-



Public Docks

mence the grand opening celebration as several hundred city employees, residents and business people jammed the City Center plaza. "This is an exciting event and a significant part of our commitment to enliven our downtown, embrace our waterfront and bring people to West Palm Beach," said **Mayor Lois J. Frankel**.

As part of the waterfront revitalization, West Palm Beach constructed three public docks along Flagler Drive. Dock 1 (the northernmost dock) has a maximum capacity of 12 vessels, dock 2 (the middle dock) has a maximum capacity of 24, and dock 3 (the southernmost dock) has a maximum of 12. The middle dock is the main pedestrian dock, offering the perfect spot for families taking a walk, businesses people looking for a tranquil spot to enjoy lunch or visitors soaking in the downtown scenery. It features unique underwater ecosystems, planters with native plants, shaded seating areas for the public, and day docking for boaters.



Docks at Night

In addition to the docks, the revitalization includes a park and hotel where the Old City Hall currently stands on Banyan Boulevard. For now, the Old City Hall stands empty, at 5 stories tall with a basement, totaling 60,000 square feet. On the interior each floor is open in the middle with offices along the perimeters. The Old City Hall is available for any and all production needs including demolition. For more information please call 561.233.1000.



Old City Hall

Editor: **Jill Margolius** Contributors: **Michelle Hillery, Alex Marquez, Christine Tieche** | To be included in the newsletter, please call 561.233.1000.

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