

# Focus on Film

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



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## ULTIMATE DIVER CHALLENGE BEGINS!

July 2012



Palm Beach County (PBC) is considered a top diving destination greatly due to its blue waters, year-round warm temperatures, and dive sites that closely hug the coastline. **Ultimate Diver Challenge (UDC)**, a reality TV show based around a scuba diving competition will showcase some of these dive sites as they film their entire second season in PBC from July 20-31! Ten teams with 20 scuba divers will compete in challenges. Each challenge is designed to test diving skills such as buoyancy control, navigation rescue skills, and more. "The production crew have numerous years of experience in underwater productions. We are excited about the opportunity of creating a show for TV syndication and to share the beauty of PBC's underwater world while divers battle in the challenges," said Executive Producer **Pam Bertrand**.



Group of UDC Divers



Scuba Divers

Filming locations include **Phil Foster Park** and the waters around the Blue Heron Bridge and the **Mitigation Reef**. Over 100 people are involved in the production from crew to safety divers to volunteers, and hundreds of spectators are expected to attend throughout the competition. Local hotels will also get in on the action by hosting UDC events. The Producers Rep is **Mel Maron**, who represents independent filmmakers through J.G.M. Enterprises. He is currently working on a distribution deal. A big thank you to the municipalities, agencies and businesses for their assistance. For info visit [ultimatediverchallenge.com](http://ultimatediverchallenge.com).

## INDIE FEATURES SHOOT IN PBC



Principal photography begins this month on the new action/adventure film **Ned Venture!** According to Writer/Director **Ron Stone**, one of the top VFX Supervisors, Mr. Vladimir Leschinski is traveling from Russia to join the crew and make the special effects in this film look spectacular. The production company is working out of **G-Star Studios**. Beyond all the outrageous action and humor in this film, "one of its greatest assets will be the positive message it portrays about family unity and overcoming obstacles to achieve your dreams," said Stone. For info visit [nedventure.com](http://nedventure.com).



Also shooting is **Not For Human Consumption**, a film that utilized 42 locations in PBC! The film is currently in post-production, and set to be completed in October 2012. Producers plan to circulate the film on the festival circuit. "What an honor it was for myself and my Director, Chris Alonso to be able to bring our dream to life by filming in the place we've lived for the last 15 years. In my opinion it couldn't of been done in any other place," said Producer **Joshua Louis**. For info visit [notforhumanconsumptionthemovie.com](http://notforhumanconsumptionthemovie.com).



## TOY SPOT FILMS AT AREA SCHOOL



The production team from **Sideshow Productions** out of California came to Palm Beach County to film a new **Bounce, Bounce Tigger** Commercial. Bounce, Bounce Tigger is a new toy from Just Play Products. The spot will be out in September or October and will air on Nickelodeon, Disney XD, and family friendly cable channels. "In my 23 years of working in production, the commercial we shot with the kids at **U.B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts** was one of my favorites! This was our first production in Florida, and I have to say I found everyone to be some of the nicest folks I've ever dealt with, especially in production," said Sideshow Productions President **Christopher Folino**.



Sideshow Productions was formed in 2006. The company has a great deal of work experience in the video game industry and is primarily focused on video game trailers and documentaries. For the past few years they have been producing, directing and editing Kid's commercials. For more information please visit [sideshowproductions.com](http://sideshowproductions.com).



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Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission  
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
[pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) | 561.233.1000

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## LOCATIONS PROVIDE THE DRAMA



Still photography is one of the most lucrative facets of the production industry in Palm Beach County (PBC). Clothing companies continually choose PBC because of the diverse locations. Recently, the production team from **KSC Kreate** in Hollywood, FL was hired to produce a photo shoot for **Venus**. Venus has a variety of clothing from bathing suits and cover ups, to apparel and lounge wear. The photos will be seen in the Fall Venus Catalog and online at the Venus website at [venus.com](http://venus.com) in the fall.

**KSC KREATE** “Our shooting experience in CityPlace was amazing. I am sure that the images that we shot will look amazing. We will definitely go back to Palm Beach County to shoot again,” said KSC Kreate Producer **Claudia Garces**. For more information visit [ksckreate.com](http://ksckreate.com).

## SWEDE FEST TEAMS UP WITH VFX HOUSE



On Friday, July 27 at 7:00pm, **swede fest™ palm beach** and **The Digital Domain Institute** are pairing up to recognize the most “original remakes” at this first annual amateur film festival. Swede fest™ palm beach takes place in Palm Beach Gardens’ state-of-the-art theatre facility **Borland Center of Performing Arts**. A “swede” is a no-budget, laughably bad remake of a Hollywood film. “We have a vibrant film-making community here, and we wanted to tap into that creative group. Obviously we’re ecstatic to have the Digital Domain Institute involved,” said **Belle Forino, Marketing Coordinator** for Mainstreet at Midtown.

Films must be under three minutes and PG-13, even if the “source material” is not. This means finding creative ways to get around violence, objectionable language, and nudity. Guidelines are on the swede fest™ palm beach website, [swedefestpalmbeach.com](http://swedefestpalmbeach.com). Emcee for the evening will be **Leslie Streeter** from the **Palm Beach Post**. Entries must be submitted by July 13, 2012. For more info visit [swedefestpalmbeach.com](http://swedefestpalmbeach.com).



Borland Center in Palm Beach Gardens

## INDIE FILM GOES TO DIRECTV!



The indie flick, **The Incubus** will now be seen on the **DIRECTV** platform. Executive Producer and Co-Director **Marcie Gorman** inked a national distribution deal last year with **Maverick Entertainment Group**, and Maverick just released this film along with five others on DIRECTV.

*The Incubus* shot entirely in South Florida and was written by **Shayne Leighton** during her senior year at the **Dreyfoos School of the Arts** in West Palm Beach. “Comprised of young, local actors, *The Incubus* is a film that will resonate with a younger film audience,” said Gorman. For more info visit [IMDB.com](http://IMDB.com).



## FASHION FORWARD MAG FEATURES PBC



West Palm Beach

Glamorous models in designer clothes posed for the cameras at **Wright by the Sea** in **Delray Beach** and in downtown **West Palm Beach**, as the crew from **Elle Magazine** shot a fashion editorial. The editorial will be featured in the **September 2012** issue, and will showcase fashion collections and must-have accessories. “The lush landscape and architecture attracted us to Palm Beach County. The County was extremely supportive in helping us with this shoot. It was a very successful production,” said Producer **Jeff Broder** of Broder Productions.

Elle Magazine inspires women to explore and celebrate their own style in all aspects of their lives. Elle has 23 million readers globally, and 44 editions across 60+ countries. For more info visit [elle.com](http://elle.com) or [broderproductions.com](http://broderproductions.com).



Wright by the Sea in Delray Beach

## SUNNY HORIZONS FOR FL INDUSTRY



On July 1, 2010 the State of Florida implemented the Florida Entertainment Industry Financial Program, a new tax credit program in hopes of developing and sustaining the work force and infrastructure of film, digital media and entertainment production. Shortly after the program took effect, a slew of projects began to pour into the state. Big budget productions that met the requirements for the incentives received a 20%-30% tax credit on qualified expenses. Fast forward to 2012 and the incentives have become even more attractive. Some amendments have been made to the statute that will optimistically bring even more projects into the state.

A few of the modifications include removing the 25% cap on television applications and implementing a 45% cap on tax credits certified for high-impact television series, adding an additional \$42M in tax credits, bringing the new total to \$296 million, and extending the program by one year to fiscal year 2015/2016. Alongside all of these enticing benefits, Palm Beach County (PBC) also has perks to further enhance any film or TV production experience. For more info about incentives visit [filminflorida.com](http://filminflorida.com) and for info about PBC perks visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).



## BELLE GLADE MAKES A CAMEO



Filming in Belle Glade

The production team from **Christ Fellowship Church** filmed in **Belle Glade** near the Glades Correctional Institution. The footage will be seen during a weekly half hour TV segment set to air July 29th and August 5th at 10:30 am on ABC. This particular episode is about breaking free of past hardships, mistakes or negative family legacies.

“We frequently shoot along the coast to get that South Florida feel, but PBC affords many other alternatives. Since we are local, we want to show that this area offers more than beaches and palm trees,” said Director **Chandra Bill**. For info visit [ChristFellowship.TV](http://ChristFellowship.TV) or [GoChristFellowship.com](http://GoChristFellowship.com).



## PALM BEACH COUNTY EDUCATION UPDATE



Last month, the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) reported that an invitation was accepted to once again host the annual **Student Showcase of Films** at **Lynn University's Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center** in **Boca Raton**. This month, the FTC is proud to report that the **School District of Palm Beach County** also wishes to continue its support of the Student Showcase of Films for 2013. The event will be held on **Friday, March 15, 2013**. "We are always amazed with the talent displayed by Florida's young filmmakers during the Student Showcase of Films," said Michelle Hillery, FTC's Director of Operations and Programs and SSOF Executive Producer.



The Palm Beach County School District is also a finalist for the 2012 Broad Prize. The Broad Foundation awards a \$1 million Broad prize for urban education each year. Established by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation in 2002, the Broad Prize is the largest education award in the country given to school districts. The Broad Prize for Urban Education is awarded each year to honor the urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement with a reduction in achievement gaps among poor and minority students as a main goal. Arts education for all students in grades K-12 in Palm Beach County has been a successful strategy for raising student achievement. Michelle Hillery was able to share this as a participant in one of the Adult Focus groups that answered questions about school district programs and practices. For info on the Broad Prize, visit [broadprize.org/resources/overview.html](http://broadprize.org/resources/overview.html), and for info on the SSOF visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).



### PUERTO RICO COMES TO PBC

**Puerto Rico** Gumshoe Productions, LLC is the new production company based in North Palm Beach formed by local filmmakers **Johnston Blakley** and **C. Todd Vittum**. Their first project is **Puerto Rico**, an action drama television show. The story is set in the not too distant future when a massive oil supply is found under the island of Puerto Rico. The world's superpowers all vie for control of the island. Shooting commenced at a variety of locations in Jupiter Farms, North Palm Beach, and Palm Beach Gardens.



Actors filming a scene for *Puerto Rico*.

"Palm Beach County is not just a tropical paradise, we also have thick areas of tropical scrub, in fact everything we need is right here," said Blakley. Many of the cast are members of Burt Reynolds' Master Acting class, "The talent at the Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre (BRIFT) is so varied and well trained, we were able to use them as a resource as well," Blakley added. Blakley and Vittum are in the process of pitching "episode one" of their television show to networks and distribution partners. For more info visit [Puertoricofilm.tv](http://Puertoricofilm.tv).

### 'UNFORGOTTEN' FEATURE SCREENS



Local filmmaker **Octavian Onuc** (*The Passage*, *The Novelist*) produced the new crime drama, **Unforgotten**. Producers held a screening for the cast, crew and invited guests at the **Wellington 8 Cinemas**. The film revolves around a renowned university professor who is the target of a revenge plot. The film stars actor **Roberto Escobar** (*Burn Notice*) as well as graduates of the Master Acting Class at the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre (BRIFT)**. The film shot from October 2010 to December 2011.



Cast and crew of *Unforgotten*

"Shooting in Palm Beach County (PBC) was great! I chose to film in PBC because it is a fabulous area to film in, and visually pleasing. The business establishments were very friendly and welcoming," said Onuc. Locations that made a cameo appearance include



*Unforgotten* filming at Brake World

**Palm Beach Atlantic University, Brake World** in Wellington, and **BRIFT** in Jupiter. For more info visit the *Unforgotten* facebook page.

### PREPARING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SCARY



PBC EOC

'Tis the season to be preparing against a zombie invasion. Zombie preparedness as a genre seemed to take center stage during a disaster preparedness conference that was held at the Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center. Attendees heard from emergency response experts and were urged to be ready for disasters other than hurricanes.



G-Star Students

This readiness was put to the test when the students from the G-Star School of the Arts staged a surprise pandemic apocalypse. G-Star students have performed as victims of disaster drills for many government agencies. For info call 561.324.8165.

### FTC STAFF CHANGE



Carla Knight

Please join the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission (FTC) in giving a warm farewell to our Office Coordinator **Vanessa Horta**. Vanessa is now working as a freelancer, and has started her own blog. Replacing Vanessa is **Carla Knight**. Carla has a government background, and worked for ten years for various departments in the City of West Palm Beach, such as the Department of Housing & Community Development.

Carla is excited about learning more about the film and television industry in Palm Beach County, and putting her skills to use as the FTC's new administrative assistant. Best of luck Vanessa and Carla.



Vanessa Horta

## LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: ECO-TOURISM SPOTS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY



Torry Island Bridge

Eco-Tourism plays an integral part in Palm Beach County, and this month's location spotlight focuses on five locations. The first is located in the western part of the County. **Torry Island** is situated on 640 acres near the southern edge of Lake Okeechobee. Best known for its' unique eco-system, Torry Island is unruffled and rustic, providing anglers direct boating access to America's Bass Fishing Capital of the World.



Torry Island

Torry Island's historical manually operated swing bridge allows sailboats to cross into the Okeechobee waterway making this a unique option for eco tourism and film projects. **Green Cay Nature Center** is a pristine ecotourism destination that overlooks 100 acres of constructed wetland and provides educational opportunities about Florida's unique habitat. This rich landscape is saturated with lush vegetation and tranquil marshes making it an ideal location for outdoor fashion shoots.



Bryant Park

**Bryant Park** is situated on the Intracoastal Waterway in Lake Worth. Fashion photographers will love the Grecian style arches in the pavilion and the elongated views of waterfront property. There is a boardwalk style pier with a covered pavilion at the point and getting watercraft in and out of the water is easy with four launch pads. **Riverbend Park** is a county owned property and hosts canoe/kayak launch spots along the Loxahatchee River which are nicely shaded by cypress canopies. This park features wide open fields, bridges, trails and unpaved roadways. It also hosts a pioneer homestead that includes a smokehouse, an authentic sugarcane press, and a working sawmill. Filmmakers can produce "back in time" projects from Amish country to war scenes.



Green Cay Nature Center

Get back to nature at **Jonathan Dickinson State Park** and discover several different plant communities, one of which is the globally imperiled sand pine scrub community. Float the Loxahatchee River, Florida's first federally designated wild and scenic river. This park doubles well for remote Florida locations and has two full service campgrounds. History and mystery buffs will enjoy a ranger-guided tour of the 1930s pioneer homestead of Trapper Nelson. With 11,500 acres, there is plenty to explore including paved and off-road biking, equestrian, and hiking trails along with fishing and birding.



JD State Park

For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com) or call 561.233.1000.



Riverbend Park

Editor: Jill Margolius Contributor: Kelly King, Carla Knight, Anthony Martinez | To be included in the newsletter, please call

### Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission

1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 900

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

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