

FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | FEBRUARY 2013



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PALM BEACH COUNTY SHINES IN 2012!

Palm Beach County (PBC) serves as a filmmaker's paradise! From an extensive local crew base to free production space and lucrative state incentives, PBC continues to attract high profile productions. The best reality show on television came to Boca Raton, as the third and final **Presidential Debate** was held at **Lynn University**. A total of 59.2 million viewers watched the debate, and total debate production spending was \$8.1 million. PBC was also involved in post-production on the feature film *Parker* starring **Jennifer Lopez** and **Jason Statham**. The film opened nationwide on January 25. Throughout the year, PBC welcomed a variety of production. Some of the TV shows included: *The Today Show* on NBC, *The Vanilla Ice Project* on DIY Network, *Fish Tank Kings* on Nat Geo Wild, *Barrett-Jackson Car Auction* on the SPEED Channel, *Bar-Rescue* on Spike, *Four Weddings* on TLC, *Graceland* on USA, and the reality television show *Ultimate Diver Challenge*. In addition, FSU's inaugural semester of the Animation and Digital Arts program in West Palm Beach came to a close, and was a huge success. A special screening was held at the Kravis Center to showcase the student films.

PBC also served as the backdrop for fashion photo shoots including **Boston Proper**, **Venus**, **JD Williams**, **Julipa**, and **Fashion World**. All of the companies shot their catalogs using picturesque locations in PBC. The County is also home to many film festivals including the Palm Beach International Film Festival. These projects are not only exciting, they also translate into revenue, over \$120 million. Overall, the amount of projects combined with the area's warm hospitality proved that PBC will remain a premiere filming destination for years to come.



MOVIE IMPRESSES AUDIENCE IN WPB



The feature film *Parker* starring **Jennifer Lopez** and **Jason Statham** premiered at the Muvico at CityPlace in West Palm Beach. It was a packed house as Statham and Director Taylor Hackford welcomed the audience to watch the crime thriller. The film shot in many of Palm Beach County's (PBC) most beautiful locations including all three bridges that span from West Palm Beach to Palm Beach, Boca Raton and Resort & Club, and One Thousand Ocean Condominium. There is no mistaking that the film was shot in PBC, as the words "West Palm Beach, FL" flash across the screen. The audience roared as picturesque shots of the County played throughout the film. After the movie, Hackford held a Q & A with the audience. "When you're a filmmaker you want to be accurate. I knew I had to shoot this in PBC," said Hackford. Proceeds benefited the Palm Beach Film Institute. For more info call 561.233.1000.



Taylor Hackford during the Q & A

VANILLA ICE RETURNS FOR SEASON 3



Season Three of *The Vanilla Ice Project* premiered on DIY Network! Vanilla Ice and his crew are back, and will once again transform every room in a local home into a work of art. "I love flipping houses with my crew and turning a neglected mansion into a modern, state-of-the-art, one-of-a-kind pad," said Rob Van Winkle, better known as Vanilla Ice. "We pulled off an amazing renovation last year and you won't believe what we are pulling off this season."

In addition to *The Vanilla Ice Project*, **DIY Network's Ice My House** was also produced in Palm Beach County. Nesty and Michelle Nunez of Lake Worth were chosen from almost 1,000 photo and video submissions for a \$30,000 room renovation. The Vanilla Ice Project airs Sundays at 10:00pm/9c. For more information visit DIYNetwork.com.





FOCUS ON FILM

OSCAR EXPERIENCE COMING TO CITYPLACE

Palm Beach International Film Festival

The Red Carpet rolls out at **Muvico Parisian 20 at CityPlace** on Oscar Sunday, February 24th at 7:30pm in celebration of the biggest and most exciting nights in Hollywood – the 85th Academy Awards®. As one of only 46 officially sanctioned Oscar® viewing parties by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences known as the Oscar® Experience, this event promises to deliver all the thrills and surprises of this much anticipated evening.



"I can't think of a better way to experience the Oscars® than at this exclusive event," said **Randi Emerman**, executive director of the Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF). The 18th Annual PBIFF is April 4-11. For more information visit pbiffilmfest.org.

IRONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS...OH MY!



The PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens will once again welcome the world's best golfers for the 2013 Honda Classic from February 25-March 3. Crisp, high-definition coverage will be broadcast on both NBC and the Golf Channel for a total of 12 hours! The Golf Channel will broadcast from 3:00pm-6:00pm ET on Thursday and Friday, and The Golf Channel and NBC/Bear Trap Simulcast will broadcast from 3:00pm-6:00pm ET on Saturday and Sunday. The Honda Classic will feature one of the strongest fields of the year, with the likes of Tiger Woods, Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood, and a number of the best golfers in the world coming to this event. They will compete for a purse of over \$5.8 million. Over 100,000 spectators are expected to come out to see the golf and be a part of the festivities.



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission played an important role in the tournament with the coordination of the visit. For more information visit thehondaclassic.com or pgaresort.com.



Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa

Bass 2 Billfish is a hybrid reality show, that incorporates travel and reality while based in the diverse fishing environment in Florida. Host **Peter Miller**, professional angler and "Three Time World Sailfish Champion" takes guest anglers on a fishing adventure during each episode. The crew shot in Palm Beach County as part of their fourth season. Some of the featured locations were the **Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa**, **Peanut Island**, and **Lake Okeechobee**. "We are thrilled that our beautiful resort was shown on *Bass 2 Billfish*, we look forward to continuing our relationship, and hosting future shoots," said General Manager, **Roger Amidon**. Season Four will air on **NBC Sports Outdoors** from January 2013 to June 2013. The show airs Saturdays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 2:30pm. For more information visit bass2billfish.com.



LOVE MATCH FOR DELRAY AND TENNIS



Delray Beach Intl Tennis Championships

Tennis enthusiasts will gather for the **Delray Beach International Tennis Championships**. Two tournaments will take place at the Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center from February 25-March 3.

The Tennis Channel will broadcast portions of the event.

Each year the ITC attracts some of the best tennis players in the world. One volley event comes from past champs as top professionals such as International Tennis Hall of Famers, Davis Cup and Grand Slam winners compete in the round-robin ATP Champions Tour event. The second set faces current tennis professionals in the singles and doubles elimination play of the ATP Champions Tour event. For info visit yellowtennisball.com.



MILLION DOLLAR SHOWDOWN



Allianz Championship

This year's **Allianz Championship** will once again hit the links at the **Old Course at Broken Sound in Boca Raton** from February 4-10, 2013. It is the PGA Champions Tour's first full-field tournament of the season and the first in the early-season Florida swing. **The Golf Channel** will televise live all three rounds of championship play featuring a roster of golf legends, including 2012 defending champion Corey Pavin, 2011 champion Tom Lehman (2011 and 2012 Schwab Cup winner) and 2010 champion Bernhard Langer.



The field consists of 78 Champions Tour golfers, competing in a 54-hole stroke play. The Allianz offers a total purse of \$1.8 million. This will mark the 7th consecutive year the event has taken place in Palm Beach County. For more information visit allianzchampionship.com.

FISHING SHOW 'HOOKS' INTO PALM BEACH COUNTY



'ROCKING' SHOOT RIDES INTO PBC



Kid Rock riding a Harley-Davidson

Just before the new year, **Kid Rock** along with a crew from Robert Adamo Photography out of North Carolina came to Palm Beach County to film a top secret promo piece. Now the secret is out, and in its most thrilling and globally epic anniversary celebration to date, **Harley-Davidson** announced an exclusive partnership with Kid Rock, including a performance for the company's 110th Anniversary celebration in Milwaukee over Labor Day weekend. The partnership brings together Harley-Davidson as a title sponsor of Kid Rock's Rebel Soul tour. Harley-Davidson plans to offer fans unique experiences at each of the 60 planned stops during the Rebel Soul tour.

"Shooting the Harley-Davidson commercial in Palm Beach County was an absolute pleasure. The County, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Florida Film Commission and its L.A. Liaison were exceptionally cooperative. I look forward to the next opportunity to film there," said Location Manager, **Andrew Nathanson**. Tickets for Kid Rock's Rebel Soul tour are available at ticketmaster.com. For info about the shoot call 561.233.1000.

PBC WELCOMES PRESIDENTIAL YACHT



Honey Fitz

Five Presidents of the United States utilized the same yacht...known today as the "Honey Fitz." For President John F. Kennedy, some of his happiest moments were aboard that yacht.

Kennedy named the yacht Honey Fitz for his maternal grandfather, John F. Fitzgerald. In the winter, the yacht was transferred to Palm Beach to be used on Kennedy vacations. While in Palm Beach, it was docked at Peanut Island.

Today, the yacht is represented by Lots of Yachts/Lots of Spots, and is used for photo and movies shoots, private charters, and parties. For more info visit lotsofyachts.com or call 800.773.2812.

SOUND STUDIO ENGINEERS SUCCESS



Christopher Plummer

Saturn Sound Studios based in West Palm Beach recently worked with Oscar winner **Christopher Plummer** when he visited their studio to record the voice over narration for the film *Titans of the Ice Age*. Producers Andy Wood and David Clark from Giant Screen Films were present for the recording which was engineered by Rob Norris. "Titans of the Ice Age" transports viewers to the beautiful and otherworldly frozen landscapes of North America, Europe and Asia ten thousand years before modern civilization. *Titans of the Ice Age* is currently playing in IMAX Theaters across the Country.



In addition, **Bob Vila** of *This Old House* fame visited Saturn Sound Studios to record scripts for his web and radio series *At Home with Bob Vila*. *At Home with Bob Vila* is a series of helpful time saving and home improvement tips that airs on stations around the country. For info call 561.832.2148. or visit saturnsoundstudios.com.

BOCA PR GURU LEAPS TO VIMEO



Vimeo proudly adds "barry epstein live" to their lineup of shows on vimeo.com. For many years, the

Boca Raton based public relations counselor **Barry R. Epstein, APR** hosted a weekly radio show on various AM stations and then with the advent of social media, etc. he took a high-tech leap into the 21st century to allow global access to his guests and sponsors via his own weekly internet television show, "barry epstein live." Now he is producing the half hour show via Vimeo and it is also archived every week on his website, publicrelations.nu and on the Boca Raton tribune website, bocatribune.com. For more info call 561.852.0000.

LOCAL FILMMAKERS HAVE THE TICKET TO SUCCESS



The Ticket Box

Damaris Cruz, a local producer started a new production company Babycalf Productions. The company's first production is *The Ticket Box*, a 45 minute featurette. Cruz directed from her original script. Teaming with Cruz are producers **C. Todd Vittum** and **Johnston Blakley**, who recently worked with Cruz on *Puerto Rico*. The film is shooting in Palm Beach County, and casting was completed, with many roles filled by students from classes at the **Burt Reynolds Institute for Film and Theatre**. "My film experience has come full circle," said Cruz, "one my first film classes was at BRIFT, so I know how talented and versatile anyone we get from them will be." Cruz previously worked on other projects

filmed in the County and chose to return due to the array of looks and the ample availability of versatile crew. "Everything we need is here" she added. For more info email babycalfproductions@gmail.com.





LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: LION COUNTRY SAFARI



Aoudad from North Africa

What do you get when you combine an African jungle, wild animals, open plains, small islands and an amusement park all rolled into one venue? The answer is America's first drive through safari park **Lion Country Safari**. In the 1960's South African and British entrepreneurs decided that people who could not otherwise observe large game animals in a natural setting would benefit from an attraction that would allow people the opportunity to see herds of wild animals in a cage free environment. In 1967 the dream became a reality when the park welcomed its first visitors.



Zebras at LCS

Located in Loxahatchee off Southern Boulevard, Lion Country Safari is 320 acres of land dedicated to educating and preserving an African game park in our urban environment. This property is beautifully landscaped and attracts thousands of visitors

each week as well as a good amount of film and television production. They've facilitated pick up shots for a National Geographic show that was shot in Africa, hosted the Weather Channel, the Travel Channel, Animal Planet, Telemundo, TBS, E!, Univision, and more than a few still photography shoots for everything from corporate images to high fashion. With fence free sightlines in several locations within the park it's easy to cheat an open plain with a variety of animals that could be staged in the distance.



Giraffe during a photo shoot



Red Barn

The animal handlers understand how to get the animals into position so that everything goes smoothly for the production team. Other facilities that exist behind the scenes are a veterinary hospital, sewer plant, gas station, and campground. Along with small islands, there is a red barn, an animal themed carousel, splash park, ferris wheel, petting zoo, an African mud hut and an education theater that has a rustic look. For more info visit pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER: STUDENT SHOWCASE GOES 'RETRO'



292...A record breaking number of entries were submitted, and the competition is heating up, as students from around the State of Florida will compete in this year's **Student Showcase of Films (SSOF)**! The awards show will take place at the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center at **Lynn University** on Friday, March 15!



L-R: Stratton Leopold, Mel Maron, Marcie Gorman, and Michael Orland

Celebrating 18 years, the SSOF is the largest statewide film competition and awards ceremony for Florida's student filmmakers. The juried competition recognizes outstanding high school and college students by presenting more than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards in categories including: Feature/Shorts, Documentary, Animation, Commercial/PSA, Music Video, an Audience Award, and a poster competition. Honoring the legacy of **Burt Reynolds**, the festival also awards an annual scholarship bearing his name, plus a **Sara Fuller Student Scholarship through Film Florida**. This year, the entries will be judged by 27 industry professionals from around the globe. Some notable judges include: **Stratton Leopold**, a film producer, who most recently produced the feature film, *Parker*. **Mel Maron**, who currently runs Westchester Films, Inc., a distribution company, and represents independent filmmakers through JGM Enterprises, **Marcie Gorman**, President and CEO of S.M.ir.K. Entertainment, as well as President and CEO of Guy and Lollipop Records, and **Michael Orland**, the Pianist, Arranger, and Associate Musical Director for the FOX series *American Idol*. Hosting for the seventh time is international actor and comedian **Frank Licari** of Jupiter's The Jove Improv. This year's theme is "Retro." For more info visit pbfilm.com or email ssof@pbfilm.com.

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