The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) is ready to kick off its 24th season! Honoring the late Burt Reynolds, the SSOF will continue to offer a scholarship bearing his name, forever memorializing his legacy as a staunch advocate for film education. For nearly two decades, Mr. Reynolds personally interviewed scholarship applicants and presented the award onstage. Because the SSOF meant the world to him, his family asked for donations to be made to the Burt Reynolds Scholarship Fund and are being accepted online at pbfilm.com/student-showcase. The SSOF is the largest student film competition and awards show in Florida, and this year will offer more prize money than ever before to Florida student filmmakers. Over $15,000 is up for grabs in categories such as High School and College Feature, Animation, PSAs, the Suzanne L. Niedland Documentary Scholarship, the Vanilla Ice Music Video Award and more.

“You’ve got to put fuel in to have lift off and that’s what the SSOF is,” says longtime supporter and presenter, Vanilla Ice. “It’s a stepping stone for students to get recognized and understand the industry.” Student success is also fueled by 40 industry professionals from around the globe who serve as judges. Past judges have included Emmy-winning TV writer/show-runner Chic Eglee, American Idol Musical Director Michael Orland, ESPN filmmaker Billy Corben, Miami casting agent Ellen Jacoby and more! Selected judges evaluate hundreds of submissions to select the top three finalists in each category. Winners will be announced during the red carpet award show, April 5, 2019, at the Wold Performing Arts Center at Lynn University. See more at pbfilm.com/student-showcase-of-films.

ScubaNation, an Emmy Award-winning series that explores the oceanic underworld through the recreational sport of scuba diving, recently filmed an episode in The Palm Beaches. Titled Diving Destiny, the episode began airing on Fox Sports Sun in late September with repeats throughout the month of October, and will air on NBC New England in early 2019. Diving Destiny, along with previous episodes of ScubaNation, are available on-demand via ThePalmBeaches.TV. Hosted and produced by dive enthusiasts Billy C and Bitchin’ Mitch, the show blends underwater exploration with trendy culinary experiences. “The Palm Beaches is one of my favorite places in the world to scuba dive. They have healthy reefs, amazing wreck dives and some of the best big animal action anywhere! People from all over the world come to The Palm Beaches for goliath groupers!” said Billy C. See more at scubanation.com.

A new documentary produced by local company Apex Productions is now airing on PBS stations nationally. The two episodes are part of the series Travels and Traditions with Burt Wolf and are dedicated to the rich history of big game sport fishing in The Palm Beaches, exploring how it became the birthplace of some of the best fishing in the world. Burt visits the West Palm Beach Fishing Club and leverages their vast knowledge and archives to take a historical look at this sport. He also stops by the Rybovich & Sons boat building company. “It is an honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to own Rybovich for the time we did. Rybovich was the original inventor of the sport fishing boat and it was invented right here in West Palm Beach by the Rybovich brothers,” said Jim Bronstien, owner of Marine Business Advisors. For more information about the series and previous episodes, visit burtwolf.com.
FOOD YACHT SETS SAIL

Food Network’s newest hit series Food Boats recently featured a local attraction that showcases some of the best views of The Palm Beaches, right from our Intracoastal Waterway! Justin Lindemann’s Food Yacht, based out of Jupiter, invites guests to a full sit-down dinner aboard a 40-foot, double-decker luxury vessel. Hosted by Chef Jordan Andino, Food Boats follows the challenges chefs face when cranking out real deal food on the high seas—and what keeps their customers coming back for more. Lindemann served shrimp BLTs and Maryland crab cakes during his segment. “It was an honor to be featured on the show. We have been busier than ever since it aired!” said Lindemann. See more about the attraction at foodyacht.com and check out the episode on foodnetwork.com/shows/food-boats.

FLORIDA’S FALL FISH FRENZY CAUGHT ON FILM

Every year, spectacular events take place just off our coast in the beautiful blue waters of the Atlantic ocean. Each fall, schools of mullet migrate southward in impressively tight schools known as bait balls. Large groups of goliath groupers join together at the end of summer for one of the biggest undersea social events of the season – spawning. Our local population is joined seasonally each year by visiting fish that have traveled great distances in search of warmer waters. Sound familiar? Whether it’s the Gulfstream current, reefs, or wrecks they favor, the behavior of the mullet and goliath groupers is enough to attract international production to the area. Major media outlets like the BBC and the NHK (Japanese public broadcasting) have come to our shores to capture the amazing wildlife for exciting new television programs. Beaches were selected up and down the coast of The Palm Beaches to give an ideal viewing platform for these impressive wildlife events. Boats and drones were utilized by both crews to accommodate filming from sea and air. The extraordinary footage they are capturing will be shared via television programs across the world. Learn more at bbcstudios.com/teams/the-natural-history-unit.

FOCUS ON FILM

A NEW FILM TO LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS

Local filmmaker Mora Junior Etienne is nearing completion of his latest movie, Until The Last Breath. The film is a story of courage and hope that will highlight the beauty of the eclectic sub-cultures in Haiti. Based on a character who faces danger from all angles, the journey leads a man to self-discovery, spirituality, true love and friendships. “Many scenes for this film were shot in Palm Beach County and we are lucky to have such beautiful backdrops to film,” says Mora Etienne. The premiere screening will take place on Sunday, December 2 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton. See more about the film including the teaser trailer, synopsis and cast information online at untilthelastbreathmovie.com.

VANILLA ICE WINS FOR KIDS

Rapper and star of DIY Network’s The Vanilla Ice Project Vanilla Ice (aka Robert Van Winkle) recently paid a visit to the pediatric ward at Palms West Hospital to see how young patients were enjoying his $25,000 gift. Van Winkle donated his winnings from an appearance on ABC’s Celebrity Family Feud to Little Smiles, a south Florida-based non-profit organization that helps sick children during difficult times. “Kids are kids and they want to enjoy being a kid no matter what’s going on in their lives, and if you can put a smile on their face for a brief moment, it’s worth its weight gold,” he told WPBF Ch. 25 News. Van Winkle also added that the doctors, nurses and staff were “the real heroes.” Check out the full segment at wpbf.com.

KEEPING OUR BEACHES BEAUTIFUL

4ocean, an ocean conservation and clean-up company based in Boca Raton, filmed a brand-new PSA about the importance of keeping our beaches clean and cigarette-free at South Beach Park. 4ocean organizes beach clean-ups from Florida to Bali, with a fleet of boats cleaning Florida’s coast from West Palm Beach to Miami seven days a week. They have pulled over one million pounds of trash from the ocean since January 2017. “Trash on the beach can interfere with our local animals like sea turtles when they are nesting or hatching. Also, from an economic standpoint, our beaches are a huge reason people from around the world visit our state,” said Sonny DePasquale, Video Producer for 4ocean. 4ocean is a recent winner of the Blue Business of the Year Award for their outstanding contributions toward promoting conservation. Check out the PSA at youtube.com/4ocean.

FLORIDA’S FALL FISH FRENZY CAUGHT ON FILM

Mullet Run

Lindemann’s Food Yacht

Clean-Up Efforts

Vanilla Ice on Family Feud

Mora Etienne

FOOD YACHT SETS SAIL

Vanilla Ice

4ocean

FOCUS ON FILM
SWIPE RIGHT ON FISHMAN’S NEW FEATURE

Local filmmaker Ann Fishman has announced the release of her latest feature film SWIPED. Starring Kendall Sanders and 2018’s breakout rom-com heartthrob Noah Centineo, SWIPED is a romantic comedy that takes a serious look at the hook-up app culture. Fishman wrote, directed and produced the film, and her inspiration was pulled from multiple experiences—from dropping her sons off for their first year at college and worrying about who their roommates would be, to working with coders at the software distribution company she co-founded, to observations she has made about the current state of modern dating. Among the locations captured on screen, viewers will see college campus scenes at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens, as well as restaurant scenes at iForks in Palm Beach Gardens and private homes in West Palm Beach. The film will be distributed on iTunes, Amazon and On Demand November 6. See more at swipedthemovie.com.

FAU Football scored multiple nationally televised games this season, including broadcasts on FOX, ESPN and CBS Sports Network. Now, the Fighting Owls out of Boca Raton are tackling a weekly sports show airing on Fox Sports Florida. The half-hour program, FAU Football: Inside the Owls’ Burrow, airs every Thursday at 4pm and Saturday at 9:30am. The series is hosted by Frank J. Forte, a South Florida sports broadcaster that takes viewers behind the scenes and into the locker room for one-on-one sit downs with coaches and players. Forte, who spent more than a decade working on shows like Inside the Marlin and Inside the Panthers, believes producing this show is a big benefit for FAU Football and noted, “It’s a way to get the FAU brand in front of as many people as possible, while at the same time highlighting interesting personalities and stories of the players and coaches.” To catch segments of the show, visit fausports.com.

A LEGENDARY HONOR FOR VANILLA ICE

For the fourth consecutive year, Film Florida (FF) presented the Legends Tourism Ambassador Award during the Chairman’s Dinner at the Florida Governor’s Conference on Tourism on September 12. The award recognizes those that have achieved great success in the entertainment industry while also being a great ambassador for the state of Florida. Taking the stage in a room filled with hundreds of tourism, marketing and legislative officials, FF President Bonnie King presented this year’s honor to Palm Beach County’s very own Rob Van Winkle aka Vanilla Ice. “Starting with his record-breaking hip-hop career, which continues today, to starring in his own home improvement reality show to his numerous philanthropic contributions, Vanilla Ice continues to help others and accomplish so much while representing Florida in such a positive way,” said King. See more at whenallthatisleftislove.com.

INSIDE THE OWLS’ BURROW

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BRAVE MAN MEDIA GOES OFF THE RAILS

Delray Beach-based production company Brave Man Media, in partnership with Lions Kill Productions, has announced the international premiere for their independent feature Off The Rails at the Liverpool Film Festival on October 14. Shot entirely in Palm Beach County beginning in 2014, Off The Rails is a coming-of-age story of three young men in a backwater seaside town. It’s 1972, not long after the ‘summer of love’. The Age of Aquarius may be coming to an end, but “freedom” is still the byword of existence. Chris, Liam and Manny are floating aimlessly only peripherally aware that there is more out there. Equally lovable as they are inept, they decide to open a bar without any concept of what it takes. Through the trials of their journey, they come to discover who they are as individuals and what they really want in life. Stay tuned for local premiere dates and watch the trailer at bravemanmedia.com.

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When All That’s Left is Love is an emotionally gripping story of a wife’s determination to care for her Alzheimer’s stricken husband in their home. Producer and Director Eric Gordon filmed the documentary in South Florida and was recently awarded Film Florida’s Don Davis Finishing Fund. A private preview for over 450 VIPs, cast, crew, family and friends will take place on October 13 at 8pm at Movies of Delray, followed by a limited theatrical run with Movies of Lake Worth and O Cinema Miami, as well as screenings at film festivals and community engagement screenings worldwide. “It has been an honor to capture and share such an impactful story,” the director said. Roskamp Institute is the presenting community engagement partner, along with the Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment Center and Senior Information Centers. “The film would not be finished without them!” Gordon added. See more at whenallthatisleftislove.com.

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LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
BEACH PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

With 47 miles of coastline, a common production question is, “Can we get on the beach?” and of course, the answer is YES! Palm Beach County has a wide variety of looks within our unique municipalities—with rocks, piers, jetties and a lighthouse, there are plenty of options that need little or no art direction.

John D. MacArthur Park is easily the largest park in PBC with a mile-long boardwalk that takes you to a pristine beach, with a remote feel and a hidden jungle path that opens onto the sand. There is no vehicle access, but motorized 4-wheelers can carry the gear. The beach is wide and has an actual dune. It’s not quite a seaside cliff, but reads well on camera.

Many shaded beach access points are found along A1A between Coral Cove Park and the Juno Beach Pier. Most lead through thick clusters of sea grapes and are short walks to the sand. Coral Cove offers interesting sandstone rocks at the waterline.

Palm Beach Shores’ town beach is truly a hidden gem with a wide stretch of sandy beach and a long tiki hut for shade. Johnson & Murphy used the grassy area on the north side for catalog images. The waterfront Community Center is perfect as a holding area, and basecamp can go into the Ocean Mall parking lot five blocks to the north. Singer Island Municipal Beach has a treasure trove of coastal angles as well.

To the south, Delray Beach offers vertical lines in a horizontal image with the catamaran parking area on the beach near Seaspray Ave, while sporty volleyball angles, colorful kayaks and coconut palms are found near Causarina Rd. While South Inlet Park has a most amazing structure onsite, the Eshleman Pavilion is all that remains of the old Cloister Hotel. With its gothic arches, it offers an outdoor cathedral once the picnic tables are removed. Find out more at pbfilm.com.

BEACH PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

Singer Island Municipal Beach offers interesting sandstone rocks at the waterline.

North end of John D MacArthur

View from PB Shores Community Center

Eshleman Pavilion

EDUCATION CORNER
SCARING UP THE FUN IN OCTOBER

Are you the next John Carpenter (Halloween), Jordan Peele (Get Out) or Tim Burton (Corpse Bride)? Then October must send a chill up your filmmaker’s spine! If so, Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton has scares to spare with the 7th annual Kids’ Spooky Film Festival. Resurrected for a 7th straight year, the Kids’ Spooky Film Festival coincides with the 14th annual Shriek Week, Sugar Sand Park Community Center’s family-friendly Halloween event on October 19-20 and 25-27.

The deadline for submissions occurred in dearly departed September, and all films have been sacrificed to the panel of industry pros for judging. Awards will be given for the best youth, family and adult-created film, as well as the Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice. Many of the film formats will include live (or dead) action, (re)animation, and the increasingly popular digital comic books. The range of results should be frighteningly good. “The Kids’ Spooky Film Festival is a good opportunity for amateur filmmakers of all ages to get behind the camera and involve their friends and family,” explained Stefanie Ouellette, Booking Coordinator. “Last year, we had a lot of fantastic submissions in the youth and family categories. We can’t wait to see what our 7th year brings!”

If you’re in the mood for a more extreme scene, creep on over to G-Star School of the Arts for their X-Scream Halloween XIV! Over the past 14 years, X-Scream Halloween has become the third largest haunted house in Florida (behind Universal and Busch Gardens). 2018 contains two brand new haunts, Curse of the Cat Goddess and The Last Haunted Circus, that are sure to make your blood curdle. G-Star’s X-Scream Halloween event officially opens October 13 with tickets on sale at xscreamauntedhouse.com. Find more details on the Kid’s Spooky Film Festival at sugarsandpark.org/spooky-film-festival.