Hollywood legend Burt Reynolds passed away on September 6, 2018. “To simply say he was an iconic actor would be too confining—he was also a director, international superstar and proud Palm Beach County resident who supported our state’s film and television industry by attracting production and investing in the education of our Florida students,” said Film Commissioner Chuck Elderd. Mr. Reynolds was a longtime friend and supporter of The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF), awarding a scholarship in his name for nearly two decades. “The Burt Reynolds Scholarship became the pinnacle of the SSOF awards show. He clearly relished his time getting to know aspiring student filmmakers every year and honoring them on the SSOF stage,” said Deputy Film Commissioner & SSOF Executive Producer Michelle Hillery. Mr. Reynolds also offered educational opportunities for writers, actors and filmmakers at the Burt Reynolds Institute of Film & Theatre (BRIFT). “Burt was a mentor for many of PBC’s emerging talent through the Institute, and he was actively engaged right up until his final days with us,” said BRIFT Chairman Douglas Rill. For six decades, Burt Reynolds put us on the edge of our seats, made us cheer for the underdog and burst out laughing. “To the world, he was an iconic movie star. To the friends he grew up with in PBC, he was Buddy. To his students, he was a mentor and an inspiration. The world will miss Burt Reynolds. And we in his home town will miss him most of all.” -Kenneth Spillias, FTC Board Chair.

USPA Global Licensing Inc. (USPAGL) is proud to partner with the PBC Tourist Development Council (TDC) on sponsoring a new television and streaming show The Polo Life, a 30-minute experience that takes viewers inside the sport and lifestyle surrounding the world of polo. Produced by local production company KO-MAR, The Polo Life debuted Labor Day weekend and reached over 60 million households on the TVG Network. USPAGL will place the show in many of the 1,000 U.S. Polo Assn. retail stores that span across 100 countries, as well as on multiple digital platforms including the company’s website at uspolo.org, reaching millions of consumers globally. "We are proud to partner with the TDC and KO-MAR on such a compelling show that will be shared with a global audience," said J. Michael Prince, President & CEO of USPAGL. To watch the show on-demand, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV.

Palm Beach County resident Rob “Vanilla Ice” Van Winkle and his crew are back to renovating homes in The Palm Beaches for an all-new season of The Vanilla Ice Project. Season 8 premiered on the DIY Network in August, and new episodes are currently airing Saturday nights at 10pm. The “go-to destination for home improvement television” broadcasts this show to 53 million homes, featuring towns like Wellington and Lake Worth. Fans of the hip-hop icon turned knock-out home renovator can also stream the show for free on the network’s award-winning website, DIYnetwork.com. During a recent interview on The KVJ Show (97.9fm WRMF), Ice revealed that he’s already filming season 9 of the show and praised PBC for being a “great area for real estate, for living, and for building huge mansions and showcasing them to the world.” For more episodes and info, visit diynetwork.com/shows/the-vanilla-ice-project.
THE FAIR KEEPS IT LOCAL

In an effort to engage and showcase local production talent and creativity, The South Florida Fair, Palm Beach County Expositions, Inc. and the Film & Television Commission (FTC) invited qualified production companies to submit proposals for a series of commercials in advance of the upcoming 2019 South Florida Fair. “It was really refreshing to learn how many qualified production firms we have right here in the County. Thanks to the assistance of the FTC, the process ran smoother than we anticipated, and we are very excited about working with Brave Man Media,” said Vicki Chouris, Vice President/COO of the Fair. Each January since 1912, over a half-million visitors enjoy 17 fun filled days at the South Florida Fair, one of Florida’s oldest and largest community events. See more at southfloridafair.com.

MEDICAL MYSTERIES AT ST. MARY’S

Body Bizarre, a medical documentary TV series airing on Discovery Life, brought its latest medical mystery to The Palm Beaches when a contributor flew over from the United Kingdom to undergo major life-changing surgery. Body Bizarre travels around the world uncovering the true stories of people living with mysterious and inexplicable medical anomalies. British production company Barcroft Media filmed footage for a season seven episode at St. Mary’s Medical Center in West Palm Beach, as well as at the Palm Beach International Airport and Flagler Drive waterfront. “Our director found it such a lovely place to film,” said Munira Mnyuswawalla, Junior Production Manager. Body Bizarre is the most successful series to air on Discovery’s TLC Network and the new season will air globally in 2019. Check out more unbelievable stories at discoverylife.com/tv-shows/body-bizarre.

THE MEG TAKES BIG BITE AT THE BOX OFFICE

PBC has been home for stars and legends. In addition to celebrities, television stars and musicians, world-class authors such like James Patterson and Tim Dorsey find true inspiration in The Palm Beaches. Wellington resident Steve Alten is the author of the popular novel Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror, the book which inspired this summer’s hottest box office smash, The Meg. This action-packed megalodon monster movie is the long-awaited adaptation of Alten’s popular book. Both the book and the film follow a deep-sea diver (played by Jason Statham) who encounters an almost 70-foot cirarchadon megalodon, a species of mega-shark previously believed to be extinct. Things went swimmingly at the box office for The Meg, with the film earning $45.3 million domestically for an opening weekend total of $141.3 million internationally – the biggest debut of all time for any live-action shark movie. Alten’s rich universe is an excellent starting point for any probable sequels. “Each one ups the ante on the last one,” said the author. Learn more about local author Steve Alten at stevealten.com and see more about the film at themeg.movie.

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS

Boynton Beach filmmakers Chrys Calixte and Breion Moses recently released their latest feature film, True Colors. Written, directed and produced by Calixte, the film is a psychological crime thriller about a boyfriend who plans a home invasion against his girlfriend to pay back a hefty debt. “We had a great experience filming throughout South Florida and working with the talented local cast and crew based here,” said Calixte. The film is available on both maverickentertainment.cc and Amazon, and was released in select Walmart stores on September 4. Both graduates of Florida A&M University, Moses and Calixte joined together to create Seven Hillz Production, LLC and are currently in pre-production on a new film titled Epoch, which will be filmed throughout PBC. For all those interested in positions in front of and behind the camera, email seven.hilz@artlover.com.

NEW COMEDY TAKES THE STAGE

Beyond The Pines Productions out of Boynton Beach recently released the first episode of a new non-sequitur improv comedy web series titled The Stage. The Stage follows an amateur videographer who quits his day job and endeavors to put a band together to kick start his music career. The camera trails on laughable moments with main character Sko Gudino, with improvised dry humor in the vein of mockumentaries like Curb Your Enthusiasm & The Office. “Our goal is to be completely crowd-funded, however, we’ll still release content out of our own pockets for as long as we need to get our work out,” said Producer Dominic Anaya. The first three episodes were filmed at Old School Square in Delray Beach, with future episodes to be filmed throughout The Palm Beaches. Watch The Stage Ep. 1 - Making The Band on YouTube and check the production team out online at beyondthepinesproductions.com.
A new lifestyle series will soon join The Palm Beaches TV lineup. Passport to The Palm Beaches is a weekly half-hour luxury lifestyle show that offers an insider's look at the decadent side of Palm Beach County. From a multi-million dollar waterfront mansion to an eco-friendly mega yacht; from private planes to exotic cars, the show plants viewers in the very lap of luxury. The six-episode series is hosted and co-produced by award-winning actress/producer/author Jacqueline Journey and is co-produced by Jeff Aderman, owner of local production company AA Video. “We are so excited to discover, dream & explore the extraordinary Palm Beaches in every episode of this exciting new series. We will showcase the absolute best in luxury, lifestyle and adventure,” said Journey. Episodes will be accessible via cable, online and on Roku via ThePalmBeaches.TV.

CRUISIN’ WITH ANITA

A fun, informational radio show has launched to keep PBC listeners in the know about what’s happening in the community while promoting an exciting destination attraction – daily cruises to the Bahamas! Cruisin’ with Anita airs Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:30 p.m. on the True Oldies Channel (95.9 FM for The Palm Beaches). Hosted by renowned community leader and entrepreneur Anita Mitchell, the show is a promotional partnership between the radio station and the Bahama Paradise Cruise Line. “What’s more fun than doing a radio show from a cruise ship?” Ms. Mitchell exclaims. “My guests come from all walks of life, so it’s like a dinner conversation with friends rather than a Q&A.” Listeners may also win a trip (for two) to the Bahamas for a two-night stay on one of two vessels, the Grand Celebration or the Grand Classica, departing from the Port of Palm Beach. For more info, please visit bahamasparadise.cruise.com.

DOCUMENTARY TAKES ON LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE

When Wellington filmmaker Ron Davis was looking to adopt a rescue dog, his friends all told him the same thing: “You’ve got to meet Danny and Ron.” And when he met Danny Robertshaw and Ron Banta, he knew another thing: they would be the subject of his next documentary, Life In The Doghouse. Banta and Robertshaw are horse trainers who split time between Wellington and Camden, SC. The movie showcases their day-to-day life where up to 75 dogs have full run of their 4,400 square foot house, as well as the surrounding grounds. As the film details, the dogs are exceedingly well-cared for until they can be adopted. Staff is constantly in the house, cleaning bedding and floors several times a day, as well as uncaring endless boxes of supplies. “It’s all completely doghouse, Everything, including the bedroom, is part of the doghouse,” admitted Banta in an interview during a film screening at the Newport Film Festival. Life In The Doghouse screens September 13 in Royal Palm Beach. See more at lifeinthedoghousemovie.com.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Taylor Tyson, a Jupiter native and reigning Miss South Florida Fair, was recently crowned Miss Florida and will represent The Palm Beaches at the Miss America pageant on September 9. The pageant will broadcast primetime on ABC to millions of viewers worldwide. The 23-year-old beauty queen, who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, is temporarily putting law school aside to fulfill the duties of her role. Meanwhile, the PBC Board of County Commissioners presented a Proclamation designating August 22 as “Taylor Tyson Day.” Tyson divulged that representing The Palm Beaches still feels “surreal” during an interview with WPTV (NBC 5) and noted that it is “such an honor to be able to represent my people and my state.” For more information, visit missflorida.org or missamerica.org.

ON THE TOWN IN LAKE WORTH

The third season of South Florida PBS’s lifestyle series, On The Town in The Palm Beaches, kicks off with a visit to the historic and charming community of Lake Worth. Hosted by actor/producer Frank Licari, the show highlights all that is fun to do and good to eat in Palm Beach County. Previous stops have included Wellington, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, The Glades and Boca Raton. Lake Worth residents are invited to attend a free screening of the episode and meet host Licari and PBS executives on Thursday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County in Lake Worth. On The Town airs on South Florida PBS stations WXEL and WPBT, and on ThePalmBeaches.TV. For more information, please visit wpbt2.org/onthetown.
LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
CARS ARE STARS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

The film and television industry relies on many vendors as no two productions are ever the same. When it comes to antique and specialty cars, there is no shortage of unique vehicles in The Palm Beaches and some collectors in the County are willing to have theirs featured in print magazines or used in moving pictures.

Ragtops Palm Beach has been providing cars for events, parties and production since its inception and has recently taken over two locations in West Palm Beach. Their new setting will provide a fresh art deco/speakeasy backdrop and a venue space that is over 5,000 square feet, with a separate space with a 1950’s centric theme. Ragtops offers complete event production, coordination and design services for both corporate and special events.

Club 66, “The Ultimate Man Cave” in Boynton Beach, is a private club with several rows of vintage vehicles and high-performance cars including a Ford Shelby Cobra GT 500. The location offers an exceptionally clean garage cheat with a mechanics bay. There is a long wall of pinball machines and a pool table doubling as a nightclub or bar location. With art direction, the space converts easily into a restaurant/bar area. The room reads masculine and converts to a living room with a bit of pipe and drape, and with limited angles could function as an interview space.

A fresh resource for vintage cars and historic signage is the Jim Inglis Agency. Offering a wide range of pristine cars from a stoic 1934 Packard to a 1961 Fiat Jolly. He also has a passion for collecting vintage Palm Beach signage, which are available as props. See more at pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER
SSOF SPELLS SUCCESS

The Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) is a launching pad to success for many emerging Florida filmmakers. To honor its 24th season opening next month, we look back at three different stories, three years apart, and one degree of separation – the largest student film competition and award show in Florida.

(2000) Kelsey Scott won College Feature Short for The Buse as a student of Florida State University’s College of Motion Pictures Arts. Today she is best known for her role as Anne Northup in the Oscar-winning 12 Years A Slave and as Rose on How to Get Away With Murder. Kelsey gives back through organizations that encourage artistic expression in young people such as Kids in the Spotlight which enlists professional filmmakers to train foster care youth to create their own short films.

(2003) Wes Ball took 3rd Place in College Feature Short for his film, Work in Progress as a student of FSU’s College of Motion Pictures Arts. Wes is now a power player in Hollywood directing the Maze Runner film trilogy with a worldwide box office of $950 million. Wes is currently set to direct a film adaptation of Fall of Gods from Denmark-based Mood Studios.

(2006) John Logan Pierson was the winner of the Burt Reynolds Scholarship as a senior at St. Andrews School in Boca Raton. John’s talent led him to serve as Director of Film & Television Production for The Weinstein Company, overseeing production of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword Of Destiny. John was then recruited as Vice President of Features for Director Peter Berg’s production company Film 44, executive producing the feature film Patriots Day starring Mark Wahlberg.

The 24th Annual SSOF is April 5, 2019 where future success stories will walk the red carpet at Lynn University in Boca Raton! Learn more at pbfilm.com/student-showcase.

Co-Editors: Phyllis Man & Christy Andreoni, Assistant Editors: Kelly King & Hilary Webber, Contributors: Chris Cobb, Alberto Jordat, Ian Saylor, Lauren Tobin

To be included in this newsletter please email candreoni@pbfilm.com or call 561.233.1000

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