February is Black History Month, and this month also marks the start of production on a long-awaited and highly anticipated documentary on an important piece of Palm Beach County’s black history - the famed Sunset Lounge. Located in the Northwest neighborhood section of West Palm Beach, the club was deemed “The Cotton Club of the South” and was the social hub and entertainment spot for some of the most famous black artists of previous decades, including Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles and even Tina Turner.

The documentary is a collaboration between the West Palm Beach CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) and the Film & Television Commission. Ko-Mar Productions will produce the project with plans to air on PBS and on The Palm Beaches TV. “Having just completed a documentary on the 1916 Courthouse downtown, I was already keenly focused on the County’s historical assets. I saw an item in the Palm Beach Post about the planned renovation of the Sunset Lounge and realized that this too, should be a documentary,” said producer Todd Kolich, Ko-Mar. The CRA has been steadily planning this project and has enlisted local agency Cooper Construction Management to undertake the renovation and rebuilding process. The anticipated airdate of the Sunset Lounge documentary is February 2020. See more about the production company behind the project at ko-mar.com.

**HONDA CLASSIC TEES OFF**

The Golf Channel and NBC will air 18 hours of live coverage during the 2019 Honda Classic, taking place February 25-March 3 at the PGA National Resort & Spa. Last year’s final round of the Honda Classic drew in approximately four million viewers, the most in six years. In fact, Golf Channel was the most-watched cable sports network during the final round. New this year, Thaler Media in partnership with K2 Sports Ventures will produce the Honda Classic Live! This live stream set to air on The Palm Beaches TV will be dedicated to the fan experience at the PGA Tour event that takes viewers beyond the greens and showcases all the behind-the-scenes action. Brooks Koepka, a Jupiter resident and two-time U.S. Open Champion, has committed to play in the event. The 28-year-old Cardinal Newman graduate is currently ranked No. 2 in the world. For more, visit thehondaclassic.com.

**SET YOUR SIGHTS ON LITTLE WONDERS**

Destination America is set to premiere a new series titled Little Wonders of The Palm Beaches. Tune in February 24 at 6am as each half-hour original episode airs for six weeks, with repeats continuing on The Palm Beaches TV. Produced by local company AA Video, Little Wonders of The Palm Beaches takes viewers on a journey of all the fun families can enjoy together in The Palm Beaches.

From the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium to Hoffman’s Chocolate, beach adventures and fishing on Lake Okeechobee, this series is set to inspire little ones to explore the cool attractions and activities in the area. Join host Jemma Currie as she explores Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Palm Beach Zoo, Manatee Lagoon and so much more! For more information about the series, visit destinationamerica.com.
**HORSIN’ AROUND IN WELLINGTON**

The Winter Equestrian Festival saddled up in Wellington on January 9 and will continue through March 31, celebrating four decades as the pinnacle of equestrian sports. Held at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center, the festival attracts participants from all 50 states and 43 countries from around the world. While thousands of fans travel to observe the premier event in person, global spectators also tune into Chronicle TV’s daily live stream on tv.coth.com, while international media outlets descend upon the area to capture the excitement. “This will be the 40th year of WEF and it is now the world’s largest festival centered around show jumping, dressage, and polo,” said Mark Bellissimo, CEO of Equestrian Sport Productions. Gallup over to pbiec.coth.com for more.

**AN OASIS IN BOCA RATON**

Championship golf is back in The Palm Beaches and the PGA TOUR Champions event has a new title sponsor, Oasis Outsourcing. The annual competition, taking place February 4-10, will be played at The Old Course at Broken Sound, marking the 13th year in a row that the event takes place in Boca Raton.

All three rounds of the Oasis Championship will be televised on The Golf Channel as 78 players compete for a $1.7M purse. Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer told the Boca Newspaper that "those tuning into the Golf Channel will be able to see the world class championship in a world class city at a world class course." For more information about the PGA Tour event, visit oasischampionship.com.

**NOW AIRING: LANDMARK IN PARADISE**

The Palm Beaches TV is now airing Landmark in Paradise, a documentary that tells the story of the birth and eventual refurbishment and restoration of the original 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse. This new 30-minute episode, produced by West Palm Beach Company Ko-Mar, originally aired on South Florida PBS. The program is hosted by local architect Rick Gonzalez, the introduction and closing comments were delivered by Jimmy Buffett, and the episode also includes an interview with Burt Reynolds. The Palm Beaches TV offers high-quality, tourism-related family programming. Overseen by the Tourist Development Council, the channel streams at the Palm Beach International Airport, aboard the Bahamas Paradise Grand Classica cruise ship, and in guest rooms at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, Marriott Singer Island Beach Resort & Spa, the PGA National Resort & Spa, and the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Palm Beach Gardens. It is also available at the Palm Beach Convention Center, the Cultural Council and the Brazilian Court Hotel. Owned and operated by Olympusat, the channel is available anytime, anywhere on Roku and when you visit ThePalmBeaches.TV online.

**SHARKS SWARM LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL**

The students at Olympic Heights High School in Boca Raton were recently offered tips for success from the best as ABC’s hit reality series Shark Tank filmed an episode with over 1,500 of their students. Cast members (aptly nicknamed “Sharks”) Alli Webb, Mark Cuban, Daymond John and Kevin O’Leary gave words of wisdom and encouragement during an assembly in honor of Madison Borman, the Olympic Heights senior who won the Shark Tank High School Sweepstakes. O’Leary told the Sun Sentinel, “They asked good questions. They were succinct. I was impressed.” Shark Tank is one of ABC’s most watched primetime series, with an average of 3-5 million viewers per episode. The Olympic Heights segment is scheduled to premiere in May 2019. See more at abc.go.com/shows/shark-tank.

**FILM-MAKERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

South Florida PBS’s filmmaker project offers aspiring storytellers broadcast distribution! The film-maker series introduced South Florida and national audiences to 40 films from local filmmakers with all levels of experience. All shared one thing: a passion for storytelling. The project started with identifying 40 ambitious filmmakers from the Keys to the Treasure Coast. Once identified, online profiles were produced with access to their portfolios, social media channels and a companion digital series highlighting the filmmakers’ experiences. “Local independent films often go unnoticed by the general public, but through our film-maker series, we hope to offer a new platform to a talented and diverse group of local storytellers,” said Joyce Belloise, VP of Content and Community Partnership for South Florida PBS. Tune in to South Florida PBS in 2019 to watch local filmmakers take center stage at southfloridapbs.org/filmmaker.
West Palm Beach filmmaker John Koterba with Lightning Videos contributed to Netflix’s new Jack Black film titled *The Polka King*, a comedy about the real-life rise and fall of Polish-born Jan Lewan. Lewan immigrated to America where he enjoyed success in music and business before he was imprisoned for a Ponzi scheme. Koterba provided personal videos and photographs of Lewan, his friend for more than 30 years, first covering Lewan’s group tours abroad and then filming his concerts and personal life. The creators used Koterba’s material to create sets while Black studied them to mimic Lewan’s accent and demeanor. Koterba was also delighted to discover Wallace Wolodarsky, the film’s co-director and co-writer, and plays him in the movie. The film is streaming on Netflix. See more at LightningVideos.com.

**TONGUES A’WAGGIN FOR GOOD STORIES**

If you’re in the mood for a good love story, The Burt Reynolds Institute for Film & Theatre (BRIFT) presents *Tongues a’Wagging – A Once and Forever Love*, an entertaining evening of tales about romance. Local residents were invited to submit personal essays of 1200 words. A jury selected the eight finalists who will present their true stories to an eager audience on Saturday, February 9 at 7pm. Donna Carbone, Managing Director of BRIFT said in a recent interview, “*Tongues a’Wagging* is dedicated to presenting the most thought-provoking, laugh-inducing, heart-rending, blush-worthy and honestly memorable stories written and read by the people who lived them.” The inaugural event’s theme ties into Valentine’s Day, but future storytelling sessions may have different themes. For more information, contact Donna Carbone at info@burtreynoldsinstitute.org.

**DELRAY BEACH SERVES UP WORLD TOUR**

A full field of the world’s top-ranked players will take the court at The Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center February 15-24 to compete in the world’s only 10-day ATP Champions Tours competition and the ATP 250 event. This year’s Delray Beach Open will be seen all over the world via the Tennis Channel, which broadcasts nationally and internationally. In addition, the 10-day competition draws 60,000-plus spectators to The Palm Beaches. Juan Martín Del Porto make his fifth appearance at this year’s tournament, which also features Wimbledon finalist Milos Roanic. Other notable players include Nick Kyrgios, Frances Tiafoe and the Bryan Brothers who’ve reached the Delray Beach Open finals a record six times. Meanwhile, First Serve – a non-profit organization serving children in The Palm Beaches – will host the inaugural “Tennis Ball and ATP Pro Am” fundraiser Feb. 16-17. For a full schedule of events, visit yellowtennisball.com.

**SLAM DUNK FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY**

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission recently hosted the third annual Holiday Basketball Classic of The Palm Beaches. The local event attracted media exposure and a national presence while engaging the local community, with coverage on WPTV Channel 5 through ESPN West Palm Beach. Teams traveled from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, and throughout the U.S.! Roughly 600 out-of-town players and about 400 family members played hard at the games while enjoying the festive backdrop of The Palm Beaches. Friends and family were also able to watch the Championship games live as they streamed on Facebook and the Sports Commission website. Visit palmbeachsports.com for more.

**A LEG UP ON INSPIRATION**

Jupiter resident and Kylar Productions Executive Producer Amanda Roxborough’s documentary feature *Leg Up* follows lifelong horseman and champion trainer Ernst Oertel, who had to have his left leg amputated after complications following a fall during routine training. The powerful film shares his struggles, passion and determination to return to his life with racehorses. Filmed primarily in Dubai, UAE and England, the film won the 2017 Equus Film Festival, screened in Lake Worth and Saratoga Springs, NY in 2018, and will air on UK and UAE TV networks in addition to private screenings for equine therapy organizations in 2019. “I have a strong love for sharing the stories and lives of the people who work in the equine world. The bond between horse and human is a powerful and healing energy and I knew his story must be shared,” said Roxborough. Watch *Leg Up* on Amazon and see more about the film at legupthemovie.com.
LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
ROMANTIC BACKDROPS

In a County with 47 miles of coastline, a romantic stroll on the beach is a great option for a romance-themed backdrop. For sunrise color we recommend South Inlet Park in Boca Raton. The gothic architecture of the Eschleman Pavilion is a beautiful setting for all things production for ocean exteriors. Interior scenes for the epic love story are welcomed down the street at The Addison. With its Mizner architecture, the venue is breathtakingly romantic.

Another romantic property is The Boynton Beach Women’s Club. It offers large open rooms that double as residential, with a big kitchen and a large upstairs ballroom with curved lines and beautiful details. It is a perfect setting for production. Just down the road is the event space Benvenuto with a lovely courtyard and exteriors that read “luxury” estate, making it perfect for a romantic backdrop.

Need lots of options in one location? The International Polo Club in Wellington is a great location for fitness with amenities that include nine polo fields, an Olympic-size pool, spa and fitness center, and a tournament croquet lawn. A large wrap-around porch, wine room and library serve well for “the good life” lifestyle angles. #

Looking for something a little more wild and wonderful as a romantic adventure backdrop? The team at Lion Country Safari understands production and will work with crews to feature wildlife in advertising or storytelling. They’ve expanded their offerings with a walk-through safari experience. Head to the plains of Africa and never leave Palm Beach County. For more information about these locations and more, visit us online at pbfilm.com/locations.

EDUCATION CORNER
SSOF HONORS THE BANDIT

The 24th Annual Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films Awards Show (SSOF) is set to pay tribute to the late, great Burt Reynolds with lots of love and laughter, with a little help from his friends. Honoring the man who loved and supported Florida students will be the theme for the next exciting SSOF Red Carpet Awards Show! Iconic cars, kicking mustaches, tributes from former Burt Reynolds Scholarship winners and other surprises will weave a loving tapestry of the man who meant the world to the SSOF. “Burt Reynolds was an International icon in the entertainment industry,” stated show director and host Frank Licari. “This year, the SSOF will present a most deserving homage to the man who put Palm Beach County on the map.”

The SSOF is a juried competition recognizing outstanding film students with $15,000 in awards. Student entries are judged by a prominent panel of judges from around the world who share a passion for education and artistic expression. The roster of judges will include Executive Producer of Warner Brothers’ The LEGO Movie Sequel Jinko Gotoh, Hollywood composer/orchestrator Hal Rosenfeld, Executive Producer of Patriot’s Day and Mile 22 John Logan Pierson, Broadway producer and filmmaker Suzanne Niedland, Miami casting legend Ellen Jacoby, acclaimed writer for Sony Pictures and Fox Television Hal Cantor, violin virtuoso Nick Kendall, Nikon’s Biriding Adventures host James Currie, foremost Russian Arm Operator Michael Jordan, award-winning filmmakers Ron Davis, Kevin Sharpley and Andy McEntire, Leslie Gray Streeter of the Palm Beach Post and many more!

Finalists will be honored on Friday, April 5 at the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center at Lynn University in Boca Raton. Don’t miss your chance to shed a tear and grab a fair share of belly laughs as we celebrate the legacy of our dear friend, Burt Reynolds. Visit www.pbfilm.com/ssof for more.

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

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