The Honda Classic continued to draw impressive crowds at The PGA National Resort & Spa February 25 - March 3, 2019. Over 200,000 fans came out to witness one of the PGA Tour’s most exciting events. Viewers were able to watch the tournament Thursday through Sunday on the Golf Channel and NBC Sports for over 16 hours of live coverage, along with repeat airings Sunday evening and Monday against The Palm Beaches backdrop.

For the first time ever this year, the fan experience was recorded live in a new show called Honda Classic All Access, which aired on The Palm Beaches TV on March 1 and 2, some of the tournament’s most popular days. Honda Classic All Access was the first live event launched on The Palm Beaches TV mobile app, released last month. “We are constantly improving the fan experience and airing on The Palm Beaches TV was an incredibly creative way to showcase the experience of Honda Classic,” said Ken Kennerly, Executive Director of Honda Classic. Viewers were able to watch coverage of what takes place off the greens and behind the ropes to get a real inside look at the tournament. Hosts interacted with attendees to learn what brought them to the Honda Classic. The Palm Beaches TV aired eight hours of coverage and distributed the content to over 2500 hotel rooms in Palm Beach County. Viewers also watched online at ThePalmBeaches.TV, the newly launched mobile app, on Roku, via the Palm Beach County Sports Commission’s Facebook page and the Honda Classic Facebook page. This incredible distribution effort brought The Palm Beaches and the Honda Classic to new audiences! Tune into the ThePalmBeaches.TV.

DREAM CRAZIER WITH SERENA

There’s no doubt that The Palm Beaches are a major live, work and play destination for A-list talent, and local resident Serena Williams regularly brings commercial production to her backyard. Her latest project to air was Nike's Dream Crazier commercial, which wowed viewers during the 2019 Academy Awards live telecast with an estimated 29.6 million viewers. Serena’s inspiring voiceover was recorded at Saturn Sound Studios in West Palm Beach. “It’s very gratifying to know that some of the biggest companies in the world trust the team here, and legends like Serena feel comfortable enough that they come here to do work that’s going to end up on the Oscars,” said Owner, Producer & Engineer Rob Norris. Other recent megastars who’ve recorded at Saturn Sound Studios include Billy Joel, Vanilla Ice and Bob Vila. Learn more about the world-renowned recording studio at saturnsoundstudios.com.

CAR LOVERS, START YOUR ENGINES

Netflix is adding to its collection of motor programming with a second season of their first global motor sport original series, Fastest Car, which features sleeper versus supercar competitions. Vice President of Content for Netflix Bela Bajaria said, “Netflix drove full-speed into the genre of car culture and competition this year with the debut of Fastest Car, and audiences around the world connected with the compelling stories of these cars and the people who love them.” The second season, titled Fastest Car 2, filmed the racing portion of an episode by making a pit stop at the Palm Beach International Raceway here in The Palm Beaches. Fastest Car 2 will have seven episodes and can be found streaming later this year. Netflix is the world’s leading internet entertainment service with 130 million memberships in over 190 countries, offering TV series, documentaries and feature films across a wide variety of genres and languages. Catch the series at netflix.com.
TITANS OF THE PALM BEACHES

Two Palm Beach County residents have pushed themselves to the limit on national television as they compete in NBC’s The Titan Games. Julie Dudley, a 50-year-old grandmother from Jupiter and firefighter of 20 years, defeated an opponent half her age during one of the contests in the premiere episode. Meanwhile, 27-year-old Chris Ruden was a testament to the inspirational stories the show highlights. The Florida Atlantic University graduate was born with a birth defect that left him with a short arm and only two fingers on one hand. But that didn’t stop Ruden, who sported a bionic arm during the trials. The competitive reality series is hosted by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and reaches more than four million viewers each episode. See more at nbc.com/the-titan-games.

SHADOW FIGHTER IN HIGH DEMAND

Local producer/actor Steve Daron’s feature film Shadow Fighter is now available in homes across the country through several major on-demand platforms. The inner city fable follows a homeless ex-boxer who finds himself training an inner city kid to defend himself from street dealers forcing him into a life of crime. The film was shot throughout The Palm Beaches, with most scenes taking place in Lake Worth. After being offered exclusively on Xfinity for 30 days, the film is now available on iTunes, Google Play, Microsoft, DirecTV, Amazon and Dish. Shadow Fighter also features a cameo from the late, legendary Burt Reynolds. “Burt Reynolds was basically the person who told me to make films. I was a student in one of his acting classes, and I used to write scenes for the actors to perform. He recommended I start writing screenplays, and that is how this whole adventure began,” said Daron. Get a free digital poster, a sampling of the original score and more information online at shadowfightermovie.com.

SSOF FRENZY ON CHANNEL 20

The 23rd annual edition of The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) Red Carpet Highlight Show is now airing on Channel 20, PBC’s educational and information programming station. The show covers red carpet interviews from celebrity presenters like Rob Van Winkle aka “Vanilla Ice”, Backstreet Boy Howie D, Chris Hayes and students from all over Florida. The program also honors the late, great Burt Reynolds, Palm Beach County’s hometown hero who honored one talented, hardworking student each year with the Burt Reynolds Scholarship. There is no better way to gear up for the excitement of this year’s SSOF than to enjoy a wrap-up of iconic moments from years past. Watch Channel 20 live at discover.pbcgov.org/Pages/CH20Live.aspx.

LOCAL FILMMAKER GOES GLOBAL

Local filmmaker and Take 2 Productions’ founder George Barnes recently directed an unprecedented global event in Paris, France for International Holocaust Remembrance Day in partnership with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). The show featured simultaneous remote Facebook LIVE integrations in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, CA, and both Warsaw and Birkenau, Poland with actual Holocaust survivors. The event focused on a screening of the award-winning documentary Who Will Write Our History (directed by Roberta Grossman, with Executive Producer Nancy Spielberg, distributed by Abramorama) in support of the #WeRemember initiative. Mr. Barnes is a leading Facebook LIVE content creator. “It was incredible to be a part of this global event, bringing millions of people together around the world in solidarity,” said George. Learn about Take 2 Productions’ live streaming services at take2productions.com.

THE PALM BEACHES TV LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

The best of The Palm Beaches is now in the palm of your hands! The Palm Beaches TV is now available on your mobile devices. Visitors to The Palm Beaches can gain access to the channel’s video on demand content, including live streaming as well as current events, via mobile phones and tablets. The app can be downloaded for free at the App Store (Apple) and the Play Store (Android). “The Palm Beaches TV is a unique tool for both tourists and residents, highlighting the best of everything The Palm Beaches has to offer,” says Glenn Jergensen, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council. “Given the channel’s accelerating growth and accessibility in more than 2,500 hotel rooms throughout The Palm Beaches, it’s only natural that we make it available for mobile devices.” For more information, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV and download the app at The App Store or The Play Store.
PBC COMMUNITY LEADER RECOGNIZED

Dr. Mami Kisner is a woman of excellence who is regularly recognized for her work as a community leader. For years, Mami served as the Director of Development for the Trumpet Awards television show, highlighting African-American achievements around the world. In 2008, she directed the pre-show for the Trumpet Awards which featured First Lady Michelle Obama. Mami also led the planning team for the Civil Rights Walk of Fame located at the Martin Luther King Memorial Center. Now, the Palm Beach County chapter of the Public Relations Society of America is honoring Dr. Kisner with the prestigious Stellar Palm Award, which recognizes a community member and/or business executive who has made an outstanding contribution to the community by utilizing ethical public relations practices and principals. Learn more at prsapalmbeach.org.

JAY LENO BACK IN BOCA

Stars are regularly drawn to the glitz and glamour of The Palm Beaches, and TV personality Jay Leno is no stranger to Boca Raton. Leno, star of Jay Leno’s Garage and former host of The Tonight Show, was the celebrity guest once again at the 13th annual Boca Concours d’Elegance. Taking place from February 22-24, this event showcased some of the finest collector cars and motorcycles from around the country.

Leno has made regular appearances at the Concours d’Elegance, headlining the Grand Gala Dinner as well as the Live Auction & Show. Leno’s “Big Dog Garage Award” went to a 1960 Chevrolet Corvette convertible, belonging to Juno Beach’s Robert Oatman. For photos, visit bocadE.com.

JEWISH FILMS AND WOMEN-LED FILMS LEAD PALM BEACH FILM FESTS

It’s film festival season in The Palm Beaches! Two different festivals take the spotlight during the month of March. Judy Levis Markhoff Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival boasts a diverse line-up of films screening throughout The Palm Beaches, including Night At The Garden, Academy Award nominee for Short Live Action Film. Special events this year include opening night screening To Dust, a dark comedy starring Matthew Broderick, with director Shawn Snyder and actor Géza Röhrig in attendance. Tickets are $24 and are available by calling 561.852.3214.

LUNAFEST® returns with a series of short films screening on March 21 at 6 pm at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FAU’s John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter. This touring film festival believes the future of film is diversity and about "opening the door for filmmakers who might not otherwise be given the chance to show their art," said Co-CVO Kit Crawford. See more at lunafest.org/screenings/jupiter-fl-032119.

TOURISM TALKS IN PBC

What happens when you take a husband and wife team, both from the hospitality industry, and give them a microphone? You get an informative and engaging talk show aimed at boosting tourism in The Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast areas. Rick Netzel, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Best Western on Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. and his wife, Christie Netzel, Director of Sales and Marketing at Homewood Suites in Palm Beach Gardens co-host Life in The Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast with Rick and Christie. The show airs Saturday mornings at 8am on Coast 101.3 FM and reaches four counties: Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee. Mr. Netzel says he and his wife enjoy doing the show because “ultimately, it’s about the attractions, destinations, events, businesses and mostly the people of PBC and the Treasure Coast. We live, work and play here, so we enjoy showcasing all this area has to offer.” For more information or to listen in, visit coast1013.com.

DOCS GO SOCIAL

Jupiter Medical Center has found an innovative way to deliver important medical tips to the community. Using the social media platform Instagram, Jupiter Medical Center’s physicians will post a series of brief tidbits and helpful health reminders. Local production company Jetty Productions films the social media videos using two cameras and a green screen setup at their video production studio in Jupiter. Says Jetty Productions’ owner Neilson Paty, “We are delighted to assist Jupiter Medical Center in this forward-thinking approach to getting info out to the public.” Launched in February, the project is ongoing and more than a dozen doctors will participate during the next few months. Topics include diabetes, strokes, cardiac rehabilitation and more. To learn more, visit instagram.com/jupitermedicalcenter.
LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
FILM-FRIENDLY GOLF COURSES

With year-round play and courses designed by the greatest golf architects in the game, teeing up in The Palm Beaches is a high stakes game, especially when you consider how many professional golfers reside in The Palm Beaches and bring their endorsements home for production.

The most luxurious and challenging courses are found at the PGA National Resort with five golf courses to choose from, all with superbly groomed fairways and the fastest greens in golf. Home to the Honda Classic, the PGA National is a second home to the Golf Channel and enthusiastically welcomes commercial production with all the support spaces one would need for a successful shoot.

For productions looking for more than golf, the Lake Worth Municipal Golf Course has a lot to offer with a Key West-style clubhouse situated on the Intracoastal Waterway. The property has event space, outdoor patio, indoor bar and restaurant along with 18 holes. Its unique setting makes it a must-scout for productions that involve golf equipment.

Located in West Palm Beach, the County’s Okeeheelee Golf Course offers 27 holes in a park-like setting with lots of nature and wildlife. The wide open holes and hazards make it interesting and picturesque. There is a well-stocked pro shop and lots of parking. Mature trees serve as a screen for some houses making it a great option for commercial production.

Osprey Point Golf Course inside the Burt Aaronson South County Park in Boca Raton has been the backdrop for many productions and has been recently renovated to expand services beyond 27 holes of golf. There are no homes on the course, which is great for sightlines and setting up shots without having to avoid angles and other residential hazards. For more, please visit pbfilm.com/locations.

EDUCATION CORNER
SSOF EASTBOUND AND DOWN!

The 24th Annual Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) is loaded up and truckin’ with a tribute to the Bandit, honoring the late Burt Reynolds. Nearly 700 submissions were received with 260 advancing to the judges, revealing the talent found in Florida’s educational programs. Student projects are judged by 45 industry professionals with finalists being presented over $15,000 in cash and prizes during the red-carpet award show on April 5 at Lynn University in Boca Raton. The live show attracts over 750 students and their families, along with celebrity presenters, industry pros, state and county dignitaries, and the media. Along with Mr. Reynolds, past celebrity presenters have included Vanilla Ice, Backstreet Boy Howie D., Cheri Oteri, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Bruce Campbell, Clint Howard, Linda Blair and more. The live show will be hosted by actor, entertainer and star of Blue Bloods (CBS) and PBS South Florida’s On the Town in The Palm Beaches Frank Licari. For more about SSOF, visit pbfilm.com/ssof.

GATOR FILM FEST AT PBGHS

Palm Beach Gardens High School will host their 5th annual Gator Film Festival on May 4, 2019 at 6pm in the school’s auditorium. Tickets are $5 and all proceeds will help fund the TV/Film & Radio Five Star Magnet Program.

Because May 4th is nationally recognized as Star Wars Day, the film festival will have a Star Wars theme. All those who attend the festival are encouraged to wear their favorite Star Wars apparel or dress up as their favorite character. The Gator Film Festival recognizes and awards the program’s students in categories like PSA, News Package, Stop Motion Animation, Movie Trailers, Music Video, and Short Film. This year, the festival is proud to have Keiser University’s new Cinematic Arts Program as the title sponsor for the event along with returning sponsors like iHeart Media. To purchase tickets, sponsor or get involved, contact Ryan Dockery at ryan.dockery@palmbeachschools.org.