ART ADVENTURES DEBUTS ON SOUTH FLORIDA PBS

In The Palm Beaches, the arts and cultural sector is a major economic driver. The annual economic impact of the arts is over $633 million. Tourism is the number two driver in the economy and cultural tourists have been shown to stay longer and spend more. To showcase the arts and cultural landscape in The Palm Beaches, the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County and The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission have partnered to sponsor a new series, Art Adventures of The Palm Beaches. Dave Lawrence, President and CEO of the Cultural Council for PBC shared, “It’s an in-depth look at cultural experiences in The Palm Beaches and a way to explore our fantastic cultural amenities.”

The series is set to air on South Florida PBS, March 20th on WPBT at 11:30am and March 29th on WXEL at 3:30pm. The six half-hour episodes are being produced in partnership with Gregory Ross of TimeIn Media and the publishers of Art Hive Magazine, Angela Yungk and Jessie Prugh, who together host the show. The series is designed to highlight the diversity of cultural options in The Palm Beaches with each episode thoughtfully crafted to market the area as Florida’s Cultural Capital. “This is an opportunity to show viewers that The Palm Beaches is the best destination to visit for their fix of art and cultural experiences. We are also telling the untold stories of the creative professionals that call PBC home,” said Greg Ross, Executive Producer. Episode one is dedicated to the arts warehouse districts with future episodes featuring fashion, food, kinetic art, graffiti and more! For more info, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV.

HONDA CLASSIC’S BIG IMPACT

The Honda Classic, the longest active title on the PGA tour concluded this month, once again leaving a monumental footprint on the Palm Beach Gardens community and the County at large. Sungjae Im won the tournament, which was broadcast live on the Golf Channel for the first four days of play, and the final rounds were carried live on NBC.

Beyond-the-ropes fan activities and interviews were showcased on Honda Classic All Access, which aired live on The Palm Beaches TV for a total of 11 hours, up from last year’s inaugural six hours of live streaming. The Honda Classic also involved a weeklong series of charity events and fan experiences unlike any other, which might explain why it was named the “Most Fan First Event” on the PGA Tour last year. Visit thehondaclassic.com for more.

SERENA GETS AWAY AT HOME

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. In addition to a Gatorade commercial recently filmed in West Palm Beach that is soon to be released, Serena was photographed for Away, a premium luggage brand.

The Away x Serena Williams collection includes both luggage and travel accessories, all co-designed by Williams herself, featuring a rich red shade and colorful camouflage accents. Marketing stills for the collection were taken at CityPlace Tower on the 18th Floor, a film-friendly office space which doubled as a high-end VIP travel suite. The campaign was released with a major PR push to appeal to Serena’s ardent fan base. See more at awaytravel.com/serena-williams.
TIME TO GET HOOKED!

Renowned outdoor enthusiast James Currie explores the incredible fishing opportunities of Palm Beach County in the original series Hooked on The Palm Beaches. Experience the hardcore offshore competition of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club’s 83rd annual Silver Sailfish Derby, catch snook on the Loxahatchee River and feel the excitement with lots of urban fishing, reeling in peacock bass, tarpon and more! Brought to you by local producer Jeff Aderman of AA Video, the series takes viewers on a fishing exploration throughout The Palm Beaches. Each half-hour episode is set to air on Destination America every Sunday at 7:00am beginning February 23 with the final episode airing on March 29. To get hooked, visit Facebook @hookedonthepalmbeaches.

BIG BRANDS IN FOCUS

The Palm Beaches have attracted a variety of fashion and lifestyle brands over the past several months to capture still photography for upcoming marketing campaigns, seeking our year-round tropical climate and sunny skies while winter bears down elsewhere in the US. Productions have included Badgley Mischka’s Spring 2020 line, Eric Javits’ Spring/Summer 2020 hats and bags, Amanda Uprichard’s swimsuit line and Polo Ralph Lauren’s Summer 2020 collection, just to name a few.

From posing along the rocky oceanfront at Coral Cove Park in Tequesta to lounging by the pool at a private luxury estate in Ocean Ridge, a variety of locations in Palm Beach County will serve as picture-perfect backdrops as these campaigns are released. Keep up with production updates like these and more within the County at facebook.com/freepermits, instagram.com/pbcbfilmandtv and twitter.com/pbcbfilmandtv.

POLO GOES OVER THE TOP

USPA Global Licensing, whose headquarters are located in West Palm Beach, recently launched Global Polo TV, an over-the-top distribution platform which broadcasts daily livestreamed games, weekly highlight shows, and other polo content (Video On Demand) regarding the sport, global news, lifestyle, short films, broadcasts and archived games. In addition, a brand-new weekly polo news show is being produced in collaboration with Global Polo Entertainment and local production company, Ko-Mar Productions and includes onsite production at USPA’s global offices. Register at globalpolo.com for free access which provides content in 1080 HD, covers 70+ GAUNTLET games and abbreviated game recaps. For more info, visit uspolo.org.

LOCAL COMPOSER SCORES ON HBO

Delray Beach native Paul Zambrano is making a name for himself in Hollywood. Zambrano’s career began at Florida Atlantic University, where he used education as an opportunity to network and “learn the ropes” necessary for independent filmmakers. That included putting together a portfolio of music tracks and film scores that he composed during college. From there, he sent unsolicited emails to production companies in hopes of building his reputation. “I just wanted to get my IMDb numbers up. Something to show.” Soon after, Zambrano found work with Slipping Into Darkness, winning Best Film at the 2019 Latino Film and Arts Festival. Slipping Into Darkness will be featured on HBO for the next two years and is set to premiere in April. “It’s almost surreal. One day you’re this small indie crew, and then the next point you’re like, ‘oh crap we’re gonna be on HBO!’” To learn more about the up-and-coming composer, visit paulmyleszambrano.com.

THE PALM BEACHES TV, SO MANY WAYS TO WATCH

Did you know that you can see The Palm Beaches TV from anywhere you happen to be? The channel is available as a free mobile app if you’re on the go. You can also log on from your laptop, iPad or desktop, using any browser. If you find yourself in any one of the 4,000 hotel rooms in Palm Beach County or aboard either ship of the Bahamas Paradise cruise line, you can watch it as a designated in-room channel. There are also the countless lobbies and public spaces, including the Palm Beach International Airport Baggage Claim and the Palm Beach Convention Center. No matter where you are, take The Palm Beaches TV with you. Watch it, Live it, Share it! For more information, visit ThePalmBeaches.TV online.
SUPER SOUNDSTAGE FOR SUPER BOWL

G-Star School of the Arts, located in Palm Springs, is home to a top-of-the-line, $5M soundstage. Recently, this ground-breaking high school hosted producers for Super Bowl LIV’s halftime show. Boasting more than 110,000 square feet, the space was used by producers to practice assembling the custom-built stage, sound and special effects lighting system. G-Star Founder Greg Hauptner shared that more than 100 students assisted with preparations for this year’s Super Bowl halftime show. Hauptner told the Palm Beach Post, “They [the halftime crew] put on a whole exhibit for [students] about what they were doing, how they were doing it. They gave the kids a huge lesson in this whole rigging process.” See more about the school and soundstage at gstarschool.org.

A COMIC EVOLUTION

Legendary Palm Beach County filmmaker Gary Davis has a legion of films under his belt. Davis’ newest passion is transitioning each of his films from one medium to another, specifically from film to comic book. So far, he has three editions hot off the press! Number four is due out in March with a fifth now in the hands of artist and collaborator, Hugo Martinez.

To date, he has donated 10,000 free copies to charities close to his heart such as Bahamas Relief and the Art Departments of Glades Central and Pahokee High Schools. And while he has been happy to give away his comics, he’s sees a Netflix series as the culmination of his efforts. “As a filmmaker,” added Davis, “I understand what it takes for a summer blockbuster and these comic books are the real deal”. To find out more visit facebook.com/ChocolateStarEnt.

GOTTSAGEN MAKES HISTORY

Zack Gottsagen, an actor out of Boynton Beach who starred in 2019’s The Peanut Butter Falcon, made history at the 92nd annual Academy Awards as the first Oscar presenter with Down syndrome. Taking the stage alongside co-star Shia LaBeouf to present the award for live-action short film, Gottsagen inspired viewers around the world (an estimated 23.6 million), garnering more fans and establishing himself amongst his Hollywood cohorts. Named one of The Associated Press’ Breakthrough Entertainers of 2019, the sky is the limit for this talented actor. “It means some people believe in me ...(and) a lot of people love my talent,” Gottsagen told the Associated Press. See more about the rising star at imdb.com/name/nm5789377.

MARCH FILM FESTS OFFER VARIETY OF FILM LOVERS

It’s film festival season in The Palm Beaches! Three different festivals take the spotlight during the month of March. The Judy Levis Markhoff Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival boasts a broad array of films exploring the Jewish experience, culture, history, identity, and topics relevant to Jewish life, with screenings held throughout The Palm Beaches from March 8 – March 29 (bocaajff.org). LUNAFEST, a festival that provides a platform for stories by and about women, returns with a series of short films screening on March 26 at 6pm at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FAU’s John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter (lunafest.org/screenings/jupiter-fl-032620). The 9th annual L-DUB Film Festival will be held March 26 – March 29 at the Lake Worth Playhouse’s Stonzek Theatre. The innovative selection of work spans a variety of genres from music videos, shorts and documentaries to full length features (lakeworthplayhouse.org/welcome/idub).
LOCATION SPOTLIGHT
PUBS & TAVERNS

As we head into March, it’s only fitting to put the spotlight on a few film-friendly Irish pubs and taverns across The Palm Beaches in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

For nearly 30 years, Roxy’s in West Palm Beach has been pouring pints and serving up delightful dishes while patrons enjoy sports on a multitude of screens that are thoughtfully placed as to not distract from the fine millwork you will find inside. The atmosphere is certainly old world with polished stone floors, granite and wood walls, upholstered booths with swords and shields on the walls. One of the rooms feels like a library while the rooftop feels like a party every night.

O’Shea’s is an Irish pub on Clematis Street with dark wood and leaded glass details on the pony walls that make it feel cozy and welcoming on the inside. Outside there is a courtyard with round metal tables and umbrellas for shade along with a riser for entertainment.

Brogues Downunder offers an “all things Gaelic” pub atmosphere with wood walls and floors, painted tin ceiling and fine upholstery throughout the seating area. Located in Lake Worth Beach, the sports themed Banshee room is available for parties and filming events.

You might not expect to find an Irish pub in Mizner Park in Boca Raton, but Dubliner’s has been serving guests for 13 years. Their interior is more modern with a mix of brick and painted walls, giving a more industrial feel with exposed brick in the kitchen and exposed ductwork throughout. There are tables inside and outside with communal style seating by the floor to ceiling bar that is classically Irish upscale. For more details on each location, visit pbfilm.com/location-directory.

The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) is ready to rejoice in a quarter century of saluting Florida’s future filmmakers! SSOF will dazzle in silver as it celebrates its 25th birthday this spring. To mark the milestone, a record number 377 eligible student submissions were passed on through to the 50 international industry professionals serving as judges for 2020. Finalists will be celebrated, and winners presented with over $20,000 in prizes during the gala red-carpet award show on April 3 at Lynn University in Boca Raton. The award show attracts over 750 students and their families, along with celebrity presenters, industry pros, state and county dignitaries, and the media. Past celebrity presenters have included the late Burt Reynolds, Vanilla Ice, Montel Williams, Backstreet Boy Howie D., Cheri Oteri, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Bruce Campbell, Clint Howard, Linda Blair and other shining stars that lit up the stage.

The live show will be hosted by Frank Licari, an award-winning actor, writer, producer/director who has appeared in over 250 theatrical, television and film projects. Frank has hosted the SSOF for an astounding 12 years. Aside from his hosting duties, Frank is the Creative Director and Executive Producer of Kvibe Productions and Managing Director of Quite Frankly Productions where he is producing two full-length feature music documentaries on Vanilla Ice and 9-Time Grammy winner, Jose Feliciano. Additionally, Frank is the director/producer of a new celebrity cooking show coming to Food Network in 2020. An entertainer in high demand, he is also the host of the PBS travel and tourism show On the Town in The Palm Beaches, now in its 4th season. “I will always have the time for the SSOF,” says Licari “It has a special place in my heart, and I’m thrilled to help celebrate its 25 years of success.” For more details, visit pbfilm.com/ssof.

FOCUS ON FILM