

# FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | SEPTEMBER 2013



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## OLYMPUSAT RESTORES MEXICAN CINEMA CLASSICS



Olympusat Inc. based in West Palm Beach is working with independent film libraries to restore classic Mexican films and bring them to Spanish-speaking TV audiences in the U.S. An important part of the restoration is the coloring process. Senior Colorist **Jim Wicks** has color restored nearly 200 films in the past two years! Wicks is a recognized and well-respected Colorist in the post-production community, and has worked in motion pictures and television over 30 years. "The key is to 'listen' to the film with your eyes. The films are all color damaged, but they will tell you where they want to go. I lead a great team of artists. We are all helping to bring joy to millions of movie fans of these classic Spanish-language films," said Wicks.



*Jim Wicks at Olympusat in West Palm Beach*

Among various agreements with film libraries, Olympusat reached a deal with Mexican company Movie Mex International to restore films from its 800-movie archive, including titles such as "La Escondida" (1955), and "La Vida No Vale Nada" (1954). Olympusat offers a variety of other post-production services as well. For more information visit [olympusat.com](http://olympusat.com).

Olympusat Inc.'s founder and CEO, **Tom Mohler** said this business line was launched two years ago due to the need for restored classics in high definition for the company's Ultra Clasico TV network, which features award-winning movies from Mexican and Latin American cinema (1930-1980). The films are sent to the company's post-production centers in West Palm Beach and Mexico City where they are digitized and restored frame by frame to eliminate scratches, dust and dirt, correct sound defects and recover the film's original color.

## FILM COMPANY PREPS NUMEROUS PROJECTS



*Rick Pamplin and Jeff Wayne*

The Pamplin Film Company (PFC) has a full slate of new projects prepped for production in Palm Beach County (PBC) beginning this fall including five new feature films, a reality TV series and re-releases of five films directed by filmmaker **Rick Pamplin**.

*Big Daddy's Barbeque*, a film adaption of comedian Jeff Wayne's critically acclaimed one-man play, is the first of five films the company plans on shooting in PBC. PFC has secured a guaranteed theatrical opening for the film with a Los Angeles distributor. Pamplin has also made a deal with Los Angeles-based TV reality series producer Eric John Streit, (*Little People, Big World* and *Gator Boys*), to co-produce a weekly TV reality series created by Pamplin and to be broadcast on a major cable network. PFC celebrates its 20th year as a Florida production company in 2014! For more info visit [pamplinfilmcompany.com](http://pamplinfilmcompany.com).

## USA DRAMA FILMS IN BOCA RATON



**USA Network** shot a scene for the season finale of the original drama series, *Graceland* in Boca Raton. Last year, the crew shot scenes at a farm in Boynton Beach. The show is set in Southern California, but is being shot in Florida. The show airs on Thursdays 10/9c on USA.

*Graceland* is a place where nothing is what it seems and everyone has a secret. The show delves into the lives of undercover agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Drug Enforcement Agency, and US Customs, who live and operate under one roof (the house got its name because the drug lord from whom the authorities seized the property was known to be an obsessed Elvis Presley fan). When forced to give up any shred of normalcy and the question of trust is a matter of life or death, the house becomes their sanctuary, their "Graceland." For more info please visit [usanetwork.com](http://usanetwork.com).





### FORMER INTERN BECOMES A BIG SUCCESS



Former PBC Film & Television Commission intern **Jordan Kessler** is the **Executive Producer** on **Lee Daniels' *The Butler***! Kessler was one of the first FTC interns, and parlayed that experience into producing films in Hollywood. "Interning at the FTC was my first experience working in production. It was a great glimpse into how the business works," said Kessler.

Kessler worked with an A-list roster of talent on *The Butler* including **Forest Whitaker** and **Oprah Winfrey**. The film is inspired by the true story of Eugene Allen, who served eight presidents during his tenure as a White House butler. For info call 561.233.1000.

### 13 MONTHS – 40,000 MILES - ALL 50 STATES



*The Today Show* interview at Lion Country Safari

Ever dream of taking a year off and traveling across the US? One local family did just that! The Martin family from West Palm Beach sold their house, bought an RV and embarked on a journey to visit all 50 states in 13 months. Along the way, they stopped at the KOA Campground at **Lion Country Safari (LCS)** and a camera crew from **NBC's *The Today Show***

interviewed the family about their adventure. *The Today Show* recapped their journey on a broadcast, which aired last month. Crews from *The Today Show* frequent Palm Beach County often. A segment was shot about the TV Show *River Monsters* in 2012, and in 2011 producers came to town to shoot a piece on the **G-Star School of the Arts**.



LCS also welcomed Nat Geo's "Jobs that Bite." The show depicts various jobs with animals where people are passionate about their professions. It will start airing in November. For info visit [lioncountrysafari.com](http://lioncountrysafari.com).



### FILMMAKERS TO BE HONORED AT L-DUB



The Lake Worth Playhouse's Stonzek Theater is running its fourth annual L-Dub Film Festival from September 27-29! The festival will highlight films that moviegoers would otherwise not get to see at the big theaters. A wide range of projects from music videos and documentaries to short and feature-length movies will be screened.



Free workshops will run throughout the festival. Topics will include screenwriting, acting, and marketing and distribution, among others. The award ceremony and wrap party will be held on September 29, and jury awards will be given out to the best films in this year's competition. For info visit [lakeworthplayhouse.org](http://lakeworthplayhouse.org).

### 'HORSEING' AROUND IN WELLINGTON



Trump Invitational Photos by: Elena Lusenti and Sportfot



Aerial of PBIEC

Equestrian Sport Productions (ESP) hosts a number of equine and local events at the **Palm Beach International Equestrian**

**Center (PBIEC)** in **Wellington** year-round and is the majority contributor to the \$220 million yearly economic impact of the equestrian industry in Palm Beach County. National and international publications, as varied as Horse & Hound to Delta's Sky Miles magazine, as well as TV shows such as "Extra!" have featured ESP events.

The next big competition on the schedule is Holiday and Horses from November 27-December 1. Featured in the event is the WinterFest, hosted by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, which includes a performance by Vanilla Ice, on Saturday, November 30. For info visit [equestriansport.com](http://equestriansport.com)

### LOCAL FILMMAKER INKS A DEAL WITH TELEVISION NETWORK



During the last 12 months **Gary Davis** of **Chocolate Star Entertainment** has produced 20 weeks of programming on the **CW West Palm**. In addition, he has produced, released and premiered two features films, *2056 Escape from Zombie Island* and *2057 Return to Zombie Island*. His most recent project is a TV series/pilot called *2057 Return to Zombie Island* based on the movie of the same name. "It was developed especially for the youth of our community and my students," said Davis.

According to Davis, the CW West Palm has offered him a time slot to air the pilot on Saturday, September 28th at 4:00pm. "I could not have wished for anything better! I am also planning a sneak preview at a local theater," said Davis. Davis utilized all local talent and crew for the project. For more information call 561.516.4362.



**NEW PRODUCTION STUDIO HEATS UP**



*Melian Studios  
filming comedian  
Michael Colyar*

**Melian Studios** has a new home in West Palm Beach! The company uses the latest technology, state-of-the art 3D videography and full color holographic portraits for clients who embrace exciting new ways to capture images on film. Melian Studios also offers a variety of photography services including culinary and runway fashion.

"We are proud to be among the first in South Florida to bring together a network of professionals who specialize in various forms of digital media focusing on photography and cinematography", said Melissa Benilous, Founder of Melian Studios. "Our experienced cinematographers have filmed reality programming, music videos, commercials, infomercials, and feature films using the latest technology even underwater ROV's."

Melian Studios has many projects already in the works in the South Florida area including filming commercials for local businesses. For more info visit [melianstudios.com](http://melianstudios.com).



**NON-STOP SERVICE FROM PBC TO L.A.**



Palm Beach County residents traveling to Los Angeles no longer will have to drive to Fort Lauderdale or Miami for a direct flight. American Airlines will start non-stop trips to Los Angeles International Airport on Nov. 21. The daily, year-round flights are the first direct routes into Los Angeles from PBIA.



The outbound flight on a Boeing 737 leaves at 8:50 a.m. and arrives in Los Angeles at 11:50 a.m. The return flight is a red-eye — it departs just after midnight and arrives at 7:55 a.m. For more information visit [pbia.org](http://pbia.org), or [aa.com](http://aa.com).

**KO-MAR HITS THE SWEET SPOT**



*KO-MAR crew  
shooting stand-ups  
with Scott Walker*

West Palm Beach based **KO-MAR Productions** completed production of their 12th consecutive year of The PGA Junior Championship. It was held this year at Trump National Golf Club in Potomac Falls, Virginia. KO-MAR traveled a full production contingent including five camera packages and a crew of 13. Producers Jim Gallagher and Chris Demaio have worked on dozens of live sporting events over the past twenty-five years and the PGA Junior Championship has become one of their favorites.

KO-MAR has worked with Palm Beach Gardens based PGA of America bringing events such as this one to prime time on **The Golf Channel** on September 5th at 8:00pm. Host Donald Trump spent much of his time hosting players, family and even the production crew to some great stories. Over 50 hours of raw footage will be dissected and scripted for the one-hour prime time show. For more info visit [ko-mar.com](http://ko-mar.com).



**FL HAS A NEW INTERIM FILM COMMISH**



*Niki Welge*

The Florida Office of Film & Entertainment (OFE) has a new interim Film Commissioner, **Niki Welge!** Welge has been with the OFE for more than ten years. "I could not think of a more qualified, intelligent and committed person to take on this position, at this juncture in time. This appointment is a reflection of her tremendous ability," said **Leah Sokolowsky**, President of Film Florida.



The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity will conduct a nationwide search for a new Film Commissioner. For more info visit [filminflorida.com](http://filminflorida.com).

**BOCA RATON LOCATIONS MAKE A CAMEO IN NEW DOCUMENTARY**



*Filming at James A.  
Rutherford Park*

The new documentary **Widowsville** about love and loss recently shot in Palm Beach County. The one-hour film focuses on widows of varying life stages, as they dance the dance of post-mortem love. Locations included **James A. Rutherford Park**, **Boca Chase Senior Community**, and the **Barnes & Noble** and **Winn Dixie** in **Boca Raton**. "We loved filming in Palm Beach County. The County was tremendously helpful with suggestions for locations and walking us through the permit process. We felt very welcome there and look forward to a return trip. Plus, we had ideal weather conditions," said Producer **Max Frankston** (*Look Twice*).

The project is being produced by Max Video, Inc. in New York, NY. Principal photography will be finished by the end of 2013. Producers hope to get distribution for the film on networks such as PBS or HBO. For more information visit [widowsville.com](http://widowsville.com).



LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: RIVERBEND PARK IN JUPITER



Riverbend Park

Movies and parks have enjoyed a long relationship going back to the beginnings of film with some of the earliest "on-location" film shoots. Parks are often used for critical scenes in motion pictures made by the big studios, as well as the independent filmmaker and the still photographer. Parks provide amazing backdrops, a variety of landscaping and facilities that go a long way toward offsetting the high cost of shooting on-location.



Wooden foot-bridge over the Loxahatchee River

Riverbend Park in Jupiter ticks all the boxes in the categories of vast, rural, and winding rivers. With the Loxahatchee River winding through the park, Riverbend has been the backdrop for more than a few photo shoots, commercials and most recently; an independent feature film with a cameo appearance **Burt Reynolds** titled *Hollow Creek*. Filmmaker **Guisela Moro** shot a

scene in one of their many large grassy fields and created an "other worldly" dream sequence. The park is massive with huge open fields and park personnel will work with each film crew to get the desired look and feel for the project.



Pioneer Homestead

The 680-acre park has quite an interesting history, in the 1900's the property was a citrus grove, and part of it remains with future plans to improve that area. Today, after a 32 year renovation and removal of non native and invasive species; it sits as one of the gems in the Palm Beach County Park system. Aside from the hiking and equestrian trails, the park hosts canoeing and kayaking in the Loxahatchee River with a stone bridge and wooden bridge to travel under while floating past the cypress and abundant wildlife that make their home in the waters that lead to the Jupiter Inlet. The park also has a Pioneer Homestead that consists of a sugar press, smokehouse and a pig pen with a large community garden all created with wood processed at their working 1930's saw mill. For more info visit [pbfilm.com](http://pbfilm.com).

EDUCATION CORNER: FSU WELCOMES A NEW CLASS!



Florida State University's (FSU) College of Motion Picture Arts welcomed a new class of 15 students to the campus located at CityPlace in West Palm Beach! Out of over 600 applicants, 30 were accepted into the BFA programs; 15 will live and study Animation and Digital Arts in West Palm Beach for the year. The other 15 are based at the main campus in Tallahassee studying production

The FSU College of Motion Picture Arts has earned the reputation as a leader in education, described by The Hollywood Reporter as "one of the world's best," listed in the Fiske Guide to Colleges as "one of the top motion picture schools in the nation," and recognized by the Directors Guild of America for its "distinguished contribution to American culture through the world of film and television." Students learn from a faculty body composed of award-winning industry leaders such as "Hugo" Sr. VFX Producer for Pixomondo **Jonathan Stone** and Disney veteran **Chuck Williams**. The mission of the Animation and Digital Arts program is to prepare students for careers in the motion picture industry and join FSU College of Motion Picture Arts alumni whom earned over a 97% industry placement rate within one year of graduation. Working towards this goal, FSU students are currently shooting their films in many of Palm Beach County's most picturesque spots. "We continue to be enamored by the diverse shooting locations this county has to offer our students," said Assistant Dean **Andrew Syder**.



FSU was recently named one of the Top 25 "Best Film Schools" by The Hollywood

Reporter (THR). The school ranked number 17 on the list! The editors of THR's third annual film school rankings consulted a brain trust of industry insiders, asking them to rate programs nationwide. More than 600 ballots were returned, and the responses factored heavily in the final rankings. For more information visit [film.fsu.edu](http://film.fsu.edu).

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