

FOCUS on FILM

The Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission | SEPTEMBER 2014



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COOL, INDIE FILM FESTIVAL TAKES LAKE WORTH BY STORM



The Lake Worth Playhouse's Stonzek Theatre is running its fifth annual **L-Dub Film Festival** from September 26-28! An innovative selection across a wide range of genres from music videos to shorts, documentaries and feature-length films will be shown. All of the screenings will be held at the Stonzek Theatre located at 713 Lake Avenue in Lake Worth. L-DUB's mission is to celebrate the art of filmmaking, provide industry collaboration opportunities for emerging filmmakers and outlets for filmmakers to present their work and gain recognition from their peers, the public and industry professionals.

Filmmakers will be able to network with industry directors, filmmakers, actors, writers, and producers at the filmmaker reception on September 27. Then the annual awards ceremony will be held on September 28. Awards will be given for Best Feature, Best Documentary, Best Short, Best Music Video, Best Student Film, and more. Free workshops will also be held on topics such as acting, screenwriting, casting, and more.



Lake Worth Playhouse

The festival director is **Charlie Birnbaum**. He is the Film Director at the Lake Worth Playhouse and Manager of the Stonzek Theater. Charlie has been booking and exhibiting movies for 40 years. Along the way he has reviewed films and film festivals for newspapers and magazines, written and shot short films, and directed the 3rd annual L-DUB Festival. For more info visit lakeworthplayhouse.org.



CREW IS HAVING A BLAST 'AFTER MIDNIGHT'



After Midnight filming at a market in Delray Beach

Filming for **After Midnight** began in Delray Beach last month, and will wrap up this month. **The Lion's Kill/Brave Man Media** film is a low-budget production and is the first feature-length film for the media group. It hopes to feature this movie, which has been in the works for 18 months, on Netflix. The crew has filmed at many locations including 3rd & 3rd Restaurant in Delray Beach, the Delray Beach Artists Warehouse, the Oscar Magnuson House in Boynton Beach, and many other locations.

brave man media "We have an intimate knowledge of Delray Beach, and from a production value point of view, this area is so under represented in cinema, why wouldn't we want to use it," said Director **Damian Fitzsimmons**. For more info visit bravemanmedia.com.



WESTERN COMMUNITY OFFERS THE LOOK



Filming of Blood, Dust & Banjos

Blue House Films in West Palm Beach is at it again with another fun short film titled **Blood, Dust & Banjos**, a dark comedy/horror film in the vein of *Twilight Zone*. Shot entirely on location in Belle Glade, the film utilizes some of the amazing and barren landscapes in and around the area's sugarcane fields.

"I wanted this to feel like it was set in some unknown location in the South. Aside from TV shows like *The Glades*, or *Gator Boys*, I always felt like there was not enough films being shot here that showcased the true and old areas of Florida. There is a fantastic landscape with hidden gems like old railroads and abandoned warehouses, an old prison even, that add a ton of production value to any project," said Director **Al Lougher**. **Blood, Dust & Banjos** will be doing a short festival run throughout 2014 and into early 2015. For more info call 561.233.1000.



HISTORIC LOCATION MAKES A CAMEO IN FILM



El Mago Cast and Crew

South Florida resident **Ana Rodriguez** is producing her first feature film, *El Mago!* She is a classically trained pianist/composer, who decided to make this film along with a past Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) winner, **David Liz**. Liz won the College-Feature/Short category for his film, *Luz* in 2012. "A couple years ago I was graciously awarded the 1st place prize at the SSOF, and now here I am again being welcomed with open arms to film in this amazing town that I love. Palm Beach County has a distinctly beautiful aesthetic that is cinematically alluring. There's no other place around here quite like it," said Liz.

The film is an experimental abstract piece that is set in the 1920s. For a pivotal scene in the film, the crew needed to film the perfect courtroom location, which they found in the **Historic 1916 Courthouse** in West Palm Beach. "Shooting in the courthouse was a dream! It truly was a perfect location, so beautiful and inspirational," said Rodriguez. She plans to enter the film into film festivals around the world. For info call 561.233.1000.

SUMMER INTERNS MAKE THEIR MARK



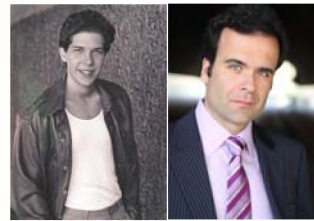
Josh Kessler



Kristina Tokar

The FTC welcomed two interns over the summer. The first student, **Josh Kessler** attends University of Hartford, and is pursuing his B.A. in Cinema/Communications. Josh co-founded the school's Film Club, and oversaw their first film festival. The second student **Kristina Tokar** attends G-Star School of the Arts and plans to major in photojournalism and/or cinematography in college. She participated in the Boca Museum of Art's Student Exhibition and worked closely with FTC staff to perfect photos that will be featured in upcoming publications. For more info visit pbfilm.com.

FORMER PBC STUDENT PURSUES DREAMS



Michael Carbone Jason Huber

Michael Carbone knew he wanted to be an actor the moment he stepped into a Broadway theater at the age of six. In 1985, Michael was cast by **Dustin Hoffman** in his made-for-tv movie of *Death of a Salesman*. "I was just a kid," Carbone said in a recent interview, "but Dustin Hoffman treated me like one of his own. Michael grew up in Palm Beach County, and attended Wellington High School.

Today, Michael is a filmmaker who along with his writing partner, **Jason Huber**, created *Unconventional*, which follows the life of a failed comic book writer and his misfit employees as they try to mount their own pop culture, sci-fi, comic book convention. The film was named an official selection of the New York Television Festival. The NYTVF is dedicated to identifying top independent creative talent and connecting them with networks, studios, and digital media companies. For info email Michaeldcarbone@gmail.com.

CH. 20 SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON PBC



Witness exclusive footage from upcoming feature films and experience first-hand what it's like to be behind-the-scenes of some of your favorite productions in the all-new **Palm Beaches Annual Production Review Show**.

Produced by Palm Beach County's Education and Government TV Station **Channel 20**, along with the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission, the show is currently airing. Check your local listings for air dates and times. For more info visit pbccgov.com/publicaffairs/channel_20.htm



WOOF! AMERICA'S TOP DOG MODELS IN PALM BEACH COUNTY



Top Dog Models

Earlier this year, "America's Top Dog Model ® Golden Paw Awards" aired locally on **WPTV-5 West Palm Beach** and nationally on the **Esquire Network**. This docu-reality show, written, produced, and co-directed by **Jo Jo Harder**, is a retrospective about America's Top Dog Model ® contest which she created in 2005. The show was filmed in front of a live studio audience at **Dynamic Studios** in Boynton Beach, as an introduction to a reality series that is now being shopped to major networks.



On October 18, at 2pm, Jo Jo Harder will make a special presentation at the Delray Beach Public Library. She will talk about how dogs make a difference in people's lives and show the TV program. For more info visit americastopdogmodel.com.