

## **NEWS AND EVENTS, APRIL 30, 2010**

### **NEWS**

#### **GOVERNOR CRIST APPLAUDS FLORIDA JOBS BILL, ENHANCING JOB GROWTH, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN FLORIDA**

**“Will strengthen Florida’s economy and improve the long-term quality of life for every Floridian”**

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today applauded the Florida Legislature for passing Senate Bill 1752. In response to the Governor’s economic policy and budget recommendations, Florida’s Jobs Bill provides strategic investments in a number of priority areas which will trigger job growth, business development and ensure long-term economic expansion for Floridians.

“The recovery and long-term health of Florida’s economy is closely tied to the ability to attract and retain high-wage jobs and innovative industries in Florida,” said Governor Crist. “I applaud the Florida Legislature for supporting a bill that provides high-wage jobs for Floridians and aids in the diversification of Florida’s economy.”

Four priorities of the Jobs Bill include funding for the State’s economic development incentive programs, assistance to small businesses, calculated support for Florida’s space business sector, critical relief for the unemployed and rural communities, and targeted assistance for Florida’s innovative film and entertainment industry.

“The recently passed Jobs for Florida bill is visionary,” said Chris Hart, interim director of the Governor’s Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED). “This legislation provides the right mix of economic development incentive tools specifically designed to meet the unique needs of Florida’s existing economy and industry base, as well as the promise that exists for Florida’s workforce and entrepreneurs in today’s global economy and emerging industries of tomorrow.”

#### **Florida’s Film Industry**

The film and entertainment industry is a high-wage, value-added sector of Florida’s economy, creating high paid jobs for production units and extending economic benefits into other industries such as restaurants, lodging, retail, construction, and tourism, bolstering job creation and generating revenue for an increased number of residents and businesses. A recent independent study on Florida’s entertainment industry reported that in 2007, the industry generated \$17.9 billion in Gross State Product with a total statewide fiscal impact of \$29 billion, and directly employing 102,000 Floridians with an average wage of \$57,700.

Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program: A five-year, \$242 million transferable tax credit incentive program for Florida’s Film and Entertainment industry will induce over \$1.2 billion in direct spending by entertainment production companies into Florida’s economy. Tax credits are awarded after certified projects complete production and submit a final report. The total amount of tax credits authorized under this bill is \$53.5 million for Fiscal Years 2010-11, \$74.5 million for Fiscal Years 2011-12 and \$38 million for each of Fiscal Years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

“We have been inundated with calls from projects that are interested in coming to Florida contingent on the passage of this monumental legislation,” said State Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne. “I thank the

Governor, Legislators, and the many industry members and organizations that have worked diligently over the last two years to put Florida back on the map for entertainment production.”

### **Business Expansion & Relocation**

To support Florida’s efforts at attracting and retaining globally competitive industries, Senate Bill 1752 expands the use of Florida’s business incentives and provides \$22 million to support economic development.

Quick Action Closing Fund (QAC), \$15 million to ensure the state is able to provide the means necessary to attract new, and expand existing, high-impact businesses. In Fiscal Year 2008-09, QAC projects led to the creation/retention of 25,610 jobs at an average annual wage of \$51,503.

Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund (QTI), To enhance the incentives provided through this program, additional per-job tax refunds will be provided for high-impact businesses, for businesses receiving exceptional support from a local government, and for businesses that increase exports of goods through Florida seaports or airports. In Fiscal Year 2008-09, QTI projects created 8,382 new jobs at an average annual wage of \$51,257.

Local Government Matching Grants, \$3 million to provide a 50-percent match of expenditures by local governments used to attract and retain businesses in Florida. In an effort to spur job creation and retention, areas with pervasive poverty or extreme economic distress will be given higher priority. Individual grants may be up to \$50,000.

Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIG), \$4 million to local communities to support projects associated with Florida’s military installations, which provide immediate investment resulting in jobs and economic activity while ensuring Florida’s bases remain open and mission ready. Florida’s defense economy contributes approximately \$60 billion to Florida’s gross state product and employs nearly 725,000 Floridians.

High Impact Performance Incentive Grant (HIPI), In an effort to position Florida for success in a highly competitive and innovative global economy where every state and nation seeks to attract and retain high-impact industries, the eligibility threshold for potential grant recipients is lowered from a \$100 million investment and 100 jobs for high impact sector businesses, to a cumulative investment in the state of at least \$50 million and create at least 50 new full-time jobs. The qualifying amount required for research and development facilities also changes from \$75 million and 75 jobs, to at least \$25 million and 25 new full time jobs.

### **Small Business Assistance**

Florida is home to more than 1.8 million small businesses, accounting for nearly 60 percent of new jobs created in the state. Small businesses have been dramatically impacted by current economic conditions, facing layoffs and a loss of resources. As such, it is imperative they receive technical assistance to spur growth. \$11.9 million in assistance to small businesses will be provided through:

Research Commercialization Matching Grants, \$3 million in grants administered by the Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to assist small businesses seeking federal research and development funding. These state matching grants will help Florida small businesses compete with other states for research and development funds available from federal agencies through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR) programs. Phase I grant applicants may receive up to \$50,000 per award, with Phase II grants up to \$250,000. All applicants must have received the federal grant award for that phase in order to qualify for the grant.

Economic Gardening, \$2 million to expand the Governor’s Economic Gardening Pilot Program, which identifies qualified companies (between 10 and 50 employees) and helps them expand by offering specific services such as market information, leadership development, and assistance in digital media applications. The Florida Economic Gardening Institute at the University of Central Florida was created as

a result of the pilot program. The new funds will help local communities create their own programs to provide technical assistance to businesses in their areas. By utilizing the expertise and resources of the Economic Gardening Institute, local programs can more easily offer assistance tailored to the specific needs in their geographic region.

Export Finance Capital, \$4.9 million in access to capital to the Florida Export Finance Corporation to assist Florida small businesses in completing their short-term export sales transactions. Greater than 95 percent of Florida's exporters are small to medium-sized businesses, with a vast majority requiring assistance to complete their sales.

State University Research Commercialization Assistance Grant Program, \$2 million to increase commercialization of products and technologies that emerge from research taking place at state universities in Florida. The Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board, which exists within the Board of Governors of the State University System in Florida, provides a funding option to make research projects a reality. While available only to researchers whose projects are taking place within the State University Systems, these grants provide budding business owners with the resources to take an idea and bring it to the marketplace using Florida's workforce.

### **Empowering Space Coast Industry**

Florida's aviation and aerospace industry is home to approximately 400 companies, employing 31,700 workers at average wages of more than \$71,300. In response to the national policy decision to end the space shuttle and Constellation programs, and the inherent impact this will have on Florida's workforce and industries, it is necessary to provide new resources to develop facilities and sites needed by new commercial space enterprises and to ensure that capital is available to assist in expansion financing. As such, \$19.8 million will be provided to Space Florida to diversify and expand commercial aerospace in the state through:

Space Industry Business Development, Infrastructure and Business Financing, \$10 million to Space Florida for establishing an internal source of financing and investment funds in order to provide additional opportunities for expanding space businesses, and to support sustained industry growth for the Space Coast workforce.

Workforce Development Assistance, \$3.2 million to Space Florida for workforce development assistance through a partnership among state and local agencies, academic institutions and space businesses, and by providing access to aerospace facilities and technologies.

Expanded Space Business Services, \$3 million to allow for the growth and recruitment of new space-based enterprises by using Space Florida's resources to secure federal programs and processes to support job retention, identify and secure new contract and grant opportunities for Florida businesses, and aggressively engage company and federal officials to site new program elements including research, design, testing, and manufacturing work packages in Florida.

Space Infrastructure Assistance, \$3.6 million to address infrastructure projects to assist in the continued development of Florida's aerospace industry and management of state-of-the-art facilities for space businesses that will create high-technology, high-wage jobs.

Manufacturing and Spaceport Investment Incentive, This new incentive program will encourage capital investment and job creation in manufacturing and spaceport activities in the state by providing tax refunds to businesses making significant investment in Florida.

### **Relief to Unemployed Workers and Assistance to Distressed and Rural Communities**

Florida is facing historic unemployment conditions, which have impacted growth in areas across the state. In order for Florida to maintain positive economic growth, it is critical to put Floridians back to work and provide adequate support for struggling communities. As such, \$11 million in funding will be provided to:

Jobs for the Unemployed Tax Credit, \$10 million in tax credits provided to any new or existing qualified targeted industry business that hires a new employee who is unemployed. Businesses are eligible for a \$1,000-tax credit per each qualified employee. The tax-credit cap is \$5 million in FY 2011-12 and \$5 million in FY 2012-13 to be distributed by OTTED on a first-come, first-served basis. A “qualified employee” is defined as any person who meets all of the following criteria:

- Has been out of work at least 30 days prior to being hired by the eligible business.
- Was hired by the eligible business on or after July 1, 2010, and had not previously been employed by the business.
- Works for the business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week and for at least 12 months before the eligible business owner files for the tax credit.
- Has not been previously claimed by the eligible business for a tax credit under this program.

Rural Communities Assistance, \$1 million to support Florida’s rural communities in their attempts to fund capital investments in infrastructure and diversify their economies, which spur job creation, capital investment, and better equip them to access federal programs of support.

Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant Program, This program will match 50 percent of expenditures by local governments to attract businesses in Florida. Special attention will be given to areas with pervasive poverty, high unemployment levels, and economic distress.

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## **REP. PRECOURT APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF FLORIDA FILM & ENTERTAINMENT TAX CREDIT - URGES GOVERNOR TO SIGN**

### **“Tax Credit Will Lead to Immediate Job Growth for Floridians”**

Tallahassee, FL – Today, the Florida Legislature passed SB 1752, Economic Development, the companion bill to the Entertainment Industry Economic Development Act (HB 697) which passed the House unanimously. Sponsored by Representative Steve Precourt along with prime co-sponsors Representatives Kevin Ambler and Jennifer Carroll, the bill is a centerpiece of the Legislature’s jobs package and enjoys wide bipartisan support.

“Floridians are hurting, and the Legislature has taken a bold step forward in putting people back to work by passing this bill,” said Rep. Steve Precourt. “It’s rare that a piece of legislation can have an immediate impact, but this innovative proposal will immediately put Floridians to work in film and digital media at little cost to the taxpayer.”

In recent years, Florida’s existing film incentive program has been cut dramatically, resulting in a sharp decline in production projects lost to competing states. The bill creates a film and digital media tax credit that has a proven track record of attracting and growing the industry in other states. The production company will only receive the credit after all its payments have been verified. With the investment occurring before a credit is issued, this is a true performance-based credit.

Other key provisions include an annual cap on total credits of \$53.5M for fiscal year 2010-2011, \$74.5M for fiscal year 2011-2012, \$38M for fiscal years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015, an increase in the base incentive amount from the 15% to 20% for major film, TV and digital media productions and an increase in the “family friendly” project enhancement from 2% to 5%. Only Florida expenditures such as hiring local residents and contracting with Florida-based companies qualify.

This bill now goes to the Governor for signing.

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## **PRESTIGIOUS CANNES CRITICS’ WEEK SELECTS FLORIDA STATE ALUMNI FILM**

## **“Only Feature Film from United States Selected for Competition Since 2005”**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Seven alumni of the Florida State University [College of Motion Picture Arts](#) made a film that was just selected by international film critics to screen at the 49<sup>th</sup> Cannes Critics' Week, one of the world's most prestigious film competitions.

[“The Myth of the American Sleepover,”](#) a dramatic comedy, was one of seven feature films worldwide — and the only one from North America — selected for the highly lauded program at Cannes. In fact, “Myth” becomes the first American film invited to screen during Cannes Critics' Week since 2005.

“The Myth of the American Sleepover” tells the story of four young people looking for love and adventure on the last weekend of summer in suburban Detroit. The movie has received rave reviews; *The Hollywood Reporter* called it “a beautifully rendered tale of teen angst.”

“We are so proud of this young team of Florida State filmmakers,” said Frank Patterson, dean of the College of Motion Picture Arts. “Our graduates have a reputation for sticking together and extending their intense teamwork in film school to their feature film work in the industry. So it's no surprise to us that all of the major creative roles on 'Myth' — from director to editor — were filled by former classmates at Florida State.”

Film School alumni who created “The Myth of the American Sleepover” include writer-director David Mitchell (MFA '02); producers Adele Romanski (BFA '04), Justin Barber (BFA '03) and Cherie Saulter (BFA '06); cinematographer James Laxton (BFA '03); and editor Julio Perez IV (MFA '02). And in front of the camera, Brett Jacobsen (MFA '03) gave a critically praised performance as the character Scott Holland.

Remarkably, this is the fourth feature film made by teams of Florida State graduates that has earned industry accolades over the past year. “The Taqwacores,” directed by Eyad Zahra (BFA '04), and “The Freebie,” produced by “Myth” producer Adele Romanski (BFA '04), both premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival to rave reviews and distribution deals. Writer-director Barry Jenkins (BFA '03) landed on the cover of *Filmmaker* magazine last year for his feature “Medicine for Melancholy,” a critically acclaimed film made by a team of six Florida State graduates and distributed theatrically and on-demand by IFC.

“This latest honor by Cannes is a shining example of how the college is fulfilling the mission given to us by the Florida Legislature to prepare men and women for successful careers in the motion picture industry,” Dean Patterson said.

“The Myth of the American Sleepover” made its debut in March at the [SXSW Film Festival](#) in Austin, Texas, where it took home a Special Jury Award. Kate X Messer of the *Austin Chronicle* described the film as a “last-night-of-summer ode” that is “sweet and sticky and frisky and true to the awkwardness of adolescence, but with a healthy dose of tenderness.”

Like the Directors' Fortnight, the Cannes Critic's Week is a prestigious sidebar to the Cannes Film Festival, one of the world's oldest and most important festivals. Critics' Week showcases only first and second feature films by directors from all over the world for the purpose of discovering new talents. Other competitors in the feature film category include filmmakers from France, Sweden, Denmark, Singapore, Vietnam and South Korea.

One of the youngest and most prominent film schools in the nation, Florida State's College of Motion Picture Arts has been recognized by the Directors Guild of America for its “distinguished contribution to American culture through the world of film and television.”

For more stories, visit our news site at [www.fsu.com](http://www.fsu.com).

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## FLORIDA'S TOP STUDENT FILMMAKERS WALK THE RED CARPET AT THE STUDENT SHOWCASE OF FILMS AWARDS CEREMONY

### “Burt Reynolds Presents his Scholarship and Offers Film Industry Advice to Students”

Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. (April 29, 2010) — A crowd of more than 800 talented students and film enthusiasts gathered on April 23 to celebrate Florida's finest in student filmmaking at the Palm Beach International Film Festival's 15th Annual Student Showcase of Films (SSOF) awards gala. Competition finalists walked the red carpet – Hollywood style – as they entered the Palm Beach Gardens Community High School's new theater.

The ceremony opened with a high-energy fashion show featuring styles from Amanda Adams Couture and Dillard's, choreographed by Palm Beach Fashion Camp and modeled by Palm Beach County high school students, followed by a hilarious Lady Gaga and movie parody performed by local comedian Frank Licari. He and Jesse Furman, both from The Jove Improv in Jupiter, served as hosts of the show.

Palm Beach County Commissioner and longtime film industry supporter Burt Aaronson announced the notable presenter and area native Burt Reynolds, who awarded his eponymous scholarship to local high school senior Paul Halluch. Nationally known sixth grader and Pahokee resident Damon Weaver – renowned for his interview with President Barack Obama and appearances on CNN, Fox and MSNBC – presented the PSA award during the show and conducted pre-show interviews on the red carpet. Other presenters included Dean Lyon, visual effects supervisor of Academy Award winning films like *Armageddon*, *Independence Day*, *Jerry Maguire* and the *Lord of the Rings Trilogy*; members of the pop-rock band Easton, Palm Beach International Film Festival Chair, Yvonne Boice; documentary filmmaker Suzanne Niedland; and WPTV News Channel 5 anchor Tonia Rogers. “Smitty” and “Batnails” from 103.1 The Buzz radio station were also in attendance. Live music at the event was provided by Smitty's band, Ladies and Gentlemen. The entire show can be viewed on [WebCast-TV.com/TheStudentShowcaseOfFilms](http://WebCast-TV.com/TheStudentShowcaseOfFilms).

“Bringing the Student Showcase to Palm Beach Gardens High School's brand new theater allowed us to elevate the ceremony to a whole other level and open it up to about 100 more people than years past,” said Michelle Hillery, Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission's Director of Operations and Programs and the Student Showcase of Films' Executive Producer. “Both on stage and behind the curtain, these students continue to amaze us each year, and we're so happy to provide them an exciting and entertaining outlet to present their artistry to peers and industry professionals like Burt Reynolds, while encouraging their continued education and careers in film and the arts.”

Top student filmmakers were recognized in five film categories, a screenwriting competition, a poster contest and two scholarships. SSOF awarded more than \$15,000 in cash prizes and scholarships to the students and their schools. The 2010 winners are:

1st Place College Feature/Shorts: \$1,000 – Ken Adachi, *Picture Day*, Florida State University;

2nd Place College Feature/Shorts: \$750 (tied) – Stephen Bell, *The Quartering Act*, Florida State University; Anjali Hinds, *Zimbabwe*, Florida State University.

1st Place High School Feature/Shorts: \$1,000 – Lori Perry, *Love Story*, G-Star School of the Arts;

2nd Place High School Feature/Shorts: \$750 – Kenzie Cooke and Marcos Gasc, *Sunder*, G-Star School of the Arts;

3rd Place High School Feature/Shorts: \$500 – David Harrison, *Lost and Gone Forever*, Design & Architecture High School.

1st Place Documentary: \$750 – Sophie Green, *Nanny's Untold Story*, Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

1st Place Music Video: \$750 – Aaron Kurlander, Savannah Bailey, Jessica Davis and Sophie Green, *Sleepyhead*, Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

1st Place Commercial/PSA: \$750 – Jared Mizel, Adam Greenstein and Jordan Greenstein, *Listen Up*, Spanish River High School.

1st Place Screenwriting: \$750 – Michael Chasin, *Death & Life*, Miami Film School.

1st Place Poster Award: \$1,000 – Hailey Mears, Seminole Ridge High School.

1st Place Audience Award: \$1,000 – Tyler Rabinowitz, *A Piece of Cake*, Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Burt Reynolds Scholarship Winners: \$5,000 – Paul Halluch, G-Star School of the Arts.

Sara Fuller Student Scholarship Winner: \$500 – Alexander Mitchell, Suncoast Community High School.

The Student Showcase is funded by the PBIFF, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office and the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission. For more information about the Student Showcase of Films, please visit [www.pbfilm.com](http://www.pbfilm.com) or the [Facebook group page](#).

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## CENFLO CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 5th Annual Central Florida Film Festival, which will take place over the Labor Day weekend (September 3-6, 2010) at the West Orange 5 Theaters in Ocoee, Florida is accepting entries in Short Film, Feature Film and Documentary categories. The regular entry deadline is May 10, 2010. Special consideration is given to Florida Filmmakers.

To enter go to [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com), and for more information visit the CENFLO website at [www.CentralFloridaFilmFestival.com](http://www.CentralFloridaFilmFestival.com).

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## FILM FLORIDA HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL LEGENDS AWARD TO FETE INDUSTRY PIONEERS ON JUNE 22 IN JACKSONVILLE

JACKSONVILLE (April 2010) -Film Florida Legends announced today that Belton Clark, Jerry Smith, and Richard Norman (posthumous) have been unveiled as the 2010 Legend Award recipients. They will be honored at the Legend Awards event on Tuesday, June 22nd in Jacksonville.

The Legend award - launched in 2006 - honors Sunshine State pioneers in the film, television and production industry.

The recipients have made major contributions to the industry, including:

**Belton Clark, Clark Film Company.** Belton Clark's career as a prolific film distributor spans 40 years and continues to flourish as recently as the academy award winning film *Inglourious Basterds*. In his role, Belton counts The Weinstein Company among his clients, working with brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein. The Florida-based Clark Film Co. started after Belton and his brother Harry acquired the rights to Allied Artists Films. Under his leadership, he has handled releases including *Pulp Fiction*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Kill Bill*, *Good Will Hunting*, *The English Patient*, *Sling Blade*, *Bridget Jones Diary*, *My Left Foot*, *Stanley* and more. Belton continues to work every day at his office. Now by his side is his nephew, Troy Clark, who serves as the company's vice-president. The tradition continues, the company moves forward and Belton is looking forward to the release of this summer's *Pirhana 3D*.

**Jerry Smith, founder and CEO of PineRidge Film & Television.** Jerry Smith is an internationally recognized writer, producer, and director of lifestyle television programs, TV commercials, corporate communications and online content. For over 35 years, Jerry has specialized in the design and execution of Emmy award-winning content and especially programs for cable TV networks, PBS and syndication. Jerry has created and directed promotional campaigns for nearly every major television ownership group in America, including Post-Newsweek, Hearst-Argyle Television, Scripps Networks, PBS, Discovery Networks, CBN, Home and GardenNetwork (HGTV), Fine Living, Food Network plus ABC, NBC and CBS-Owned Television Stations. Corporate clients include Johnson & Johnson, Walgreens, Miller Brewing Corporation, G.E. X-Ray Division, The Waldorf Astoria Hotel and the Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. Since 2000, PineRidge has become increasingly identified with entertaining and informative travel series for cable networks. Such series as *Great Hotels*, *Passport to Europe*, *Passport to Latin America*, *Girl Meets Hawaii*, and *Great Vacation Homes* have played to as many as 400 million households in just one day. PineRidge has been the recipient of six national Emmy awards and 11 nominations.

**Richard Norman (posthumous).** Born in rural Middleburg, Florida, Richard Edward Norman (1891-1960) began his film production career in 1912. Norman settled in Jacksonville at the height of the town's heyday as the "Winter Film Capitol of the World" and began making full-length feature films. His first, *The Green Eyed Monster* (1916) was an all-white drama weaving love and deceit in the railroad industry. As the movie industry's first black filmmakers, including Oscar Micheaux and the Lincoln Motion Picture Company, were creating a stir, producing films made with all-black casts in non-stereotypical roles, Norman, who was white, saw a largely untapped business market among black filmgoers and talent. His films included *Regeneration* (1923) starring Stella Mayo of the famed Mayo Family Magicians; *Black Gold* (1928), a greed- and love-fueled story surrounding the oil business; and *The Flying Ace* (1926), Norman's most celebrated film (restored and housed at the Library of Congress today). Richard Norman's legacy is that of a man who sought to integrate an industry long before the mainstream would embrace it.

Screenings of *The Flying Ace* at the 2001 Jacksonville Film Festival and at New York's Lincoln Center in 2009 had audiences laughing out loud and left them in awe of the production values of a nearly century-old film.

Today, Norman's five-building silent film studio complex still stands in the heart of Jacksonville's historic Old Arlington neighborhood. Working in tandem with the City of Jacksonville, the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. and Old Arlington, Inc. (nonprofit organizations dedicated to the preservation of the Norman property and other Arlington historic spots) aim to support the restoration and reopening of the Norman studio as a museum and a film education center for students of all ages.

Nominees for the Film Florida Legends Award were open to those who have made a significant impact on film in Florida - whether behind the scenes or in front of the camera.

For tickets and more information, please visit [www.filmflorida.org](http://www.filmflorida.org). Sponsorships are also available. For more info, please email [legends@filmflorida.org](mailto:legends@filmflorida.org).

Previous honorees include underwater film and television veteran Ricou Browning Sr. (*The Creature from the Black Lagoon*); Egon Stephan Sr. (posthumous) and Jordan Klein Sr., Ralph Clemente; The Fuller Brothers - Brad Fuller and Mike Fuller; and Last Stage Out of Town (Digger Wilson, Eddie Harvey and Danny Harvey); filmmaker Bill Grefe; producer Errol Falcon; cinematographer Mike McGowan, Sr. (posthumous); and the DGA's Michelle Marx.

Film Florida is a not-for-profit corporation that provides a leadership role in Florida's film and entertainment industries by representing a coalition of interests, including private industry, local film commissions, industry associations and labor organizations. Its purpose is to offer to businesses and individuals the benefits of a statewide trade association to promote the creation of jobs in the film and entertainment production industries and to promote economic development and tourism. For more information on Film Florida, please visit [www.filmflorida.org](http://www.filmflorida.org).

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## **DIGITAL DOMAIN HOLDINGS HIRES DISNEY FILM DIRECTOR AARON BLAISE**

“Move represents return home for Florida native and Ringling graduate”

Port St. Lucie, FL – April 26, 2010 – Digital Domain Holdings announced today the hiring of filmmaker Aaron Blaise, who will be working as a director on the company’s upcoming animated feature film projects in its new Port St. Lucie studio.

“We are thrilled that Aaron has chosen to join us as we launch our Port St. Lucie studio,” said John Textor, CEO and Chairman of Digital Domain Holdings. “He’s a native Floridian returning home, who brings with him remarkable experience in filmmaking.”

During his 21-year tenure at Disney, Blaise co-directed “Brother Bear,” which received an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature Film and grossed more than \$250 million at the worldwide box office.

Before making his debut as director, Blaise was a supervising animator on such films as “Aladdin,” “Mulan” and “The Lion King.” He was also an animator on “Beauty And The Beast” and “Pocahontas,” among others.

Blaise is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and a graduate of the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

“Obviously this is a great opportunity for me,” Blaise said. “After leaving Florida six years ago, I never thought I’d get a chance to come back home and be able to make movies again.”

### About Digital Domain Holdings

Digital Domain Holdings, formerly known as Wyndcrest DD Florida Inc., is the parent company of California-based Digital Domain, an Academy Award®-winning digital production studio focused on visual effects for feature film and advertising production. In 2009 Digital Domain Holdings received incentive grants from the state of Florida and the city of Port St. Lucie to support the creation of a 150,000 square foot digital production studio, which will focus on animated feature films.

Founded in 1993, Digital Domain has built a legacy of achievement, listing *Titanic*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* among its more than 75 film credits. A creative giant in advertising, Digital Domain has created some of the world’s most memorable spots. The studio works with top directors and is being recognized for its pioneering work in photo-real digital humans, as well as projects that cross traditional media boundaries. Digital Domain is based in Venice, California and opened a studio in Vancouver, British Columbia earlier this year.

For more information, visit [www.digitaldomain.com](http://www.digitaldomain.com).

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## **FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

### **SOUNDSTAGE, ACT II**

Sarasota Tribune © Apr 26, 2010

Larry Thompson's decision to drop a proposal to turn Sarasota's Municipal Auditorium into a filmmaker's soundstage ended another controversy in the city. But the recent decision by the Ringling College president need not end the community discussion over whether Sarasota would benefit from investment in a soundstage for film production.

### **PORTLAND'S LIVING ROOM THEATERS PLANS FLORIDA SEQUEL**

California Chronicle Apr 27, 2010

The result: Living Room Theaters will open a state-of-the-art, digital movie complex with four screens and

a cafe on the Boca Raton campus this fall. The theater, part of a \$19 million complex that also features classrooms and offices, would be used by film students during the day, then become a venue for the kind of independent and foreign films Living Room specializes in on nights and weekends.

### **MICHAEL JACKSON 3D FILM "CAPTAIN EO" RETURNS TO WALT DISNEY WORLD IN FLORIDA**

AHN | All Headline News © Apr 28, 2010

After months of rave reviews, great attendance, and all-important merchandise sales following its return to Disneyland, "Captain EO," the 3-D space fantasy film starring Michael Jackson, has been confirmed to head to Walt Disney World in Florida as well. It's been regarded as the first "4-D" film, which combines 3-D film with in-house theater effects.

### **WEDU NAMES NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO: SUSAN HOWARTH TAKES HELM**

PR Web (press release) © Apr 29, 2010

The Board of Directors of Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting, Inc. - Wedu - announced today its selection of Susan Howarth to become the organization's fifth president and chief executive officer in the station's 52-year history. Wedu, one of the largest public media organizations in the state of Florida, serves 16 counties on the west coast including the Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota areas.

### **UF'S DOCUMENTARY INSTITUTE SCREENS FOUR FILMS FROM ITS FINAL CLASS**

Gainesville Sun © Apr 30, 2010

The University of Florida's Documentary Institute will have its last hurrah tonight when it screens four student films from its final graduating class, including "Bound by **Haiti**," which gained national attention after a controversy over whether its directors could use footage shot after the devastating earthquake in January.

### **FILM INCENTIVES PASSES FOR FLA.**

Orlando Sentinel © Apr 30, 2010

\$242 million in transferable tax credits will induce over \$1.2 billion in direct spending by productions choosing Florida for their film, TV and digital media projects. The change from the current cash rebate incentive program, which required fighting each year for an annual appropriation, to a five year transferable tax credit program, addresses our clients' needs for continuity and certainty.

## **ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:**

### **NEW YORK TO CHARGE FOR FILM, TV PERMITS**

CBC.ca © Apr 27, 2010

New York City will soon start charging \$300 US to television and film productions that want to shoot in the city. The permit charge marks a major change from a city that until last year was offering incentives to shoot locally. Permits have been free since the city established a film office in 1966.

### **LA STREAMLINES FILM PERMIT PROCESS**

Contra Costa Times © Apr 28, 2010

Extending another incentive to the entertainment industry, Los Angeles launched a paperless permitting system on Wednesday that is designed to expedite the process of filming on city streets. The system will allow for the Bureau of Street Services and the Department of Transportation to coordinate street closures and signage to allow the companies to film in neighborhoods.

### **HOLLYWOOD RETURNS TO UTAH -- AGAIN**

Salt Lake Tribune © Apr 28, 2010

Utah Film Commission director Marshall Moore's plane had just landed at LAX on his way to a trade show last year when he got an important phone call. "There was a message from Disney," Moore said. "They said, 'Marshall, because you created this tax credit, we're now allowed to scout Utah for our next tentpole project.' She said, 'Do you want it?' I said yeah."

## **MICHIGAN A STAR IN HOLLYWOOD**

Detroit Free Press © Apr 29, 2010

Although the state's reputation has taken a hit from job losses and budget woes, that's not the case in Hollywood. More than two years after rolling out the most generous film tax breaks in the country, Michigan has emerged as a key player in the movie industry.

## **NEW ORLEANS CONTINUES TO FLOURISH AS A FILMING DESTINATION**

The Location Guide © Apr 29, 2010

New Orleans no longer has the blues, production-wise at least. Could it be something to do with the fact that already generous Louisiana incentives have been raised to a whacking 30%? Studio capacity has just been expanded with the new USD32 million, three sound-stage Second Line Studios in the Garden District of New Orleans, and Raleigh Studios in Baton Rouge is expanding to eight soundstages from four, and will occupy 200,000 square feet.

## **GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

### **LIONS GATE GOES ROGUE ON MOVIE FUTURES TRADING**

TheWrap © Apr 22, 2010

Lions Gate has broken ranks from the Hollywood opposition to movie futures trading, coming out in support Thursday to proposed markets based on box-office projections. And apparently, Lions Gate isn't alone. The studio's maverick position was voiced during Congressional testimony Thursday, as officials on both sides of the controversial issue convened in front of a House Agriculture Committee panel.

### **MOVIE FUTURES TRADING BAN INCHES CLOSER IN SENATE**

TheWrap © Apr 26, 2010

Congress has moved a step closer to banning trading of movie box office futures. The ban has been incorporated into the final version of Wall Street reform legislation now on the Senate floor. The legislation calling for the trading restriction is not its own bill but part of a broad package of Wall Street reforms submitted by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

### **FCC LOOKS TO TAKE SPECTRUM FROM TV PROVIDERS, GIVE TO SMARTPHONE CARRIERS**

DailyTech © Apr 27, 2010

After all, while it will attempt to deliver a reasonably-priced national competitor to overpriced local cable internet offerings, it will also give telecoms extra bandwidth in order to pay for the national offering. For some TV providers, who lack wireless offerings, though, the situation could be decidedly worse.

### **PEACEMAKER? TROUBLED MPTF NAMES PISANO BOARD CHAIR**

TheWrap © Apr 28, 2010

The troubled Motion Picture and Television Fund has named Bob Pisano, currently the acting chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America, to be the chairman of its board of directors. Picking Pisano - a veteran negotiator who headed the contentious Screen Actors Guild before joining the MPAA - may be a sign of a desire to negotiate an end to the controversy that has besmirched the fund's image over the past year.

## **STATEWIDE EVENTS:**

### **"GLADES" CASTING DIRECTOR LORI WYMAN GIVES FREE LECTURE**

From Lori Wyman:

I am excited to let you know that I am casting the new FOX television series in South Florida entitled "The Glades." We will be shooting 12 episodes down here. I am excited because I will have the opportunity to cast many actors from all over the state of Florida.

I am always suggesting that you stay on top of your acting game. Study and act as much as you can. Work in student films, Indies, low budget projects to keep your acting skills sharp. Take workshops and

classes when you aren't working. Once the projects come to town, and you get a call for the casting, then it's too late to start brushing up on your acting ability. You have to keep it sharp at all times.

I want to answer any and all questions you may have, but it is hard at this time to answer all of the emails and Facebook messages I am receiving. That is why I will be conducting a FREE LECTURE Friday night, April 30, 2010 from 7-9pm. All of the information is below. If you are available and interested in hearing some great tidbits about our film industry in South Florida, Friday night is for you. You will be entertained and educated. My lectures are always a lot of fun.

I hope you'll be able to join me. Here's to a successful series for all of us.

\* Lori Wyman is giving a free lecture at Palm Beach Atlantic College TONIGHT – April 30, 2010 from 7-9pm. Lori has begun casting the new television series "The Glades" to be shot in South Florida. Get all of your questions answered. Find out what it takes to get a speaking role. Learn how to break down sides. Bring headshots and acting resumes.

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## **BLACKBURST ENTERTAINMENT LLC TO SPEAK AT THE SPACE COAST FMPTA MAY MEETING**

Brevard County, Fla. - The Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Motion Picture and Television Association (FMPTA) excitedly announces the May 10, 2010 chapter meeting at Café Unique located at: 607 Florida Avenue, Cocoa Village, FL presenting creators of Blackburst Entertainment LLC as our guest speakers.

In April of 2001, John DeMaio, Joe Dorsey and Walter Lowe launched Blackburst Entertainment LLC. Blackburst provides their clientele with various elements of Television/Video production ranging from episodic television series" to corporate video. Blackburst, located in Longwood, FL, shoots a variety of their productions in their 1500 square foot studio. Last year DeMaio created the ProductionApprentice.com website as a way to give back to the production community through free education. The website features tips and tricks, industry news, career interviews, and articles on all sorts of production related issues.

The May meeting begins with networking at 6:30 PM and the meeting commencing at 7:00 PM. Free to members, non-members \$10.00. Some food and drink items are available to order from the Café Unique menu. For further information, contact Bill at: [Bill@ACutAboveVideo.com](mailto:Bill@ACutAboveVideo.com). FMPTA is dedicated to the promotion of Film, Television, Recording, Print and Digital Media in Florida.

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## **SCFEO MAY FILM MIXER**

Join us for networking and to hear the inside scoop on film incentives, the "jobs bill" and other recent action by the Florida Legislature affecting the film industry. The mixer will be held May 10, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m at the Venice Theatre (140 W Tampa Ave., Venice). Legislative action is the focus of this mixer.

Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Admission is \$10.00 for pre-registration and \$12.00 at the door. The pre-registration deadline is May 6. Click [REGISTER NOW!](#) to reserve your spot!

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## **PROFESSIONAL SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP & CLINIC BY ALYN DARNAY**

What: Professional Scriptwriting Workshop

When: Four Tuesday Evenings, April 20, 27, & May 4, 11 from 6:30-9:30pm

For four weeks, you'll get the opportunity to interact and study under the guidance of teacher, author, and multi-award winning scriptwriter, Alyn Darnay. The four-evening intensive workshop and clinic is designed to help struggling, discovered or undiscovered screenwriters, enhance their ability to develop

and execute a superior marketable script while striving to improve their ability to create imaginative and emotionally layered characters, expressive and dynamic dialogue, controlled and pivotal plot twists and turns, and the all important creation of sequences that generate a life experience of their own.

The workshops are sponsored by David Posnack Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Davie, Florida. Price of attendance is \$175, \$150 for JCC members, and \$125 for students up to 25 with an ID or Seniors 65 and over with an ID.

Class size is limited, so register early. For more information, or to register, call 954-434-0499.

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## **SONGWRITER'S SHOWCASE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Please mark your calendars to join us for the May 18, 2010 Songwriter's Showcase "One Year Anniversary at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts!" It is amazing that one year has passed by already, and it's been filled with some truly memorable shows, amazing songwriter's and very appreciative and supportive audiences! I look forward to many more years to come! Thank you all for supporting live original music.

- Chrystal Hartigan -

Chrystal Hartigan presents...Songwriter's Showcase: Showcasing local, national and international Songwriters "in the round" style 3rd Tuesday of every month. Open Mic is at 8pm sharp with sign-up no later than 7:50pm. The featured songwriters begin at 9pm. There is a \$10 cover, payable at the door only.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 "One Year Anniversary @ the Broward Center" Line-up:

### Featured songwriter's

David Shelley, [www.davidshelleyband.com](http://www.davidshelleyband.com)

Joel Zoss, [www.joelzoss.com](http://www.joelzoss.com)

Tony & Mireya Medina, [www.myspace.com/medinatheband](http://www.myspace.com/medinatheband) The Baron Sisters (Kimberly & Kelsey)  
"Winners of Alex Nelson's Songwriter Nights @ the Bierbrunnen on Ft. Lauderdale Beach"  
[www.myspace.com/thebaronsisters](http://www.myspace.com/thebaronsisters)

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located at 201 SW Fifth Ave. Downtown Fort Lauderdale, FL, Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District. For more information about the center, you can call (954) 462-0222 or visit them on the web at [www.browardcenter.org](http://www.browardcenter.org).

There is a parking garage across the street from BCPA and additional parking along the streets at the parking meters and the surrounding area, as well as a \$3 parking lot near the IMAX Theater. Plus there is a parking garage east of the RR tracks. You can also come by boat and dock on the New River or come by Water Taxi!

Join the "Evolution" support live original music!

Event Photographer, Donna Paul

Photos will be available for viewing &/or purchase at:

[www.dpstudios.smugmug.com](http://www.dpstudios.smugmug.com)

[www.myspace.com/tentalicious](http://www.myspace.com/tentalicious)

Event Videographer, Robert Rutherford

[www.gingerman309.com](http://www.gingerman309.com)

Singer/Songwriter Alex Nelson, Sound & Staging  
[www.alexnelsonmusic.com](http://www.alexnelsonmusic.com)

Please check out these sites of Good Causes!  
[www.cadenzacenter.com](http://www.cadenzacenter.com)  
[www.danielpearl.org](http://www.danielpearl.org)  
[www.playingforchange.com](http://www.playingforchange.com)

Event Producer  
[www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan](http://www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan)  
[www.facebook.com/chrystalhartigan](http://www.facebook.com/chrystalhartigan)

For consideration to perform send bio/picture/video to Chrystal Hartigan at [hlwdmusic@aol.com](mailto:hlwdmusic@aol.com) or Myspace & Facebook sites. Perfect place for Publishers, record labels, producers - to send your writers to perform their songs to an appreciative crowd! Outlet for Film & Television Music Directors to search for new songs!

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## **CASTING CALL:**

### **EDUCATIONAL TRAINING VIDEO - CASTING ACTORS AND ACTRESSES**

An educational video needs multiple Actors/Actresses for two law enforcement scenarios. The video will be used in a classroom training DVD for St. Pete College's law enforcement school. These are paid positions. Each role has a different rate and will be based on your experience and audition. The audition will be held the First weekend of May in St. Petersburg.

Casting for:

- #1 - Primary Officer Full Day AGE: 20-30
- #2 - Supervisory Officer Full Day AGE: 40-50
- #3 - Main Suspect / Former Military Full Day Male 20 – 30, He has returned from the theatre of war in past year. Needs to still be in good physical shape.
- #4 - Wife Half Day Age: 20-30 Emotionally Stressed
- 5 - Neighbor Half Day Male - Any Age 6- Paramedics Half Day Male or Female Any Age

Please submit headshot and experience if possible. If you cannot attend the audition in person, video submissions will be considered. For more information, contact David Berggren at [david@creativecarbon.tv](mailto:david@creativecarbon.tv). You can view more information about David online at: <http://www.mandy.com/home.cfm?c=ber245>.

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### **FULL TIME PRODUCER NEEDED**

The Center for Faith and Freedom in Sarasota, FL is seeking for full-time producer to create issue-based documentaries and other projects. Candidate must be local to Sarasota, Florida or surrounding areas. Candidates must be very creative, self-motivated and passionate about documentary film making in a small team environment.

Producer will be involved hands-on in every aspect of production and will be expected to develop creative concepts within the organization's guidelines. Excellent conceptualization, organization, shooting and editing skills a must.

Candidates must submit resume and portfolio demonstrating excellent shooting and editing skills.

Patty Dodson  
Office Manager  
The Center for Faith and Freedom, Inc.  
7357 Merchant Court  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
Office 941.487.4061  
Fax 941.487.4062  
[pattydodson@faithandfreedom.org](mailto:pattydodson@faithandfreedom.org)  
[www.faithandfreedom.org](http://www.faithandfreedom.org)

**PLEASE NOTE** – If you have a press release, event or an educational function that you would like included in our News & Events, please contact our communications office via e-mail at [Film1@MyFlorida.com](mailto:Film1@MyFlorida.com). The Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment reserves the right to edit or exclude any content not deemed appropriate.

If you wish to be removed from this newsletter please reply with "**Remove**" in the subject line.

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**Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment  
The Capitol, Suite 2001  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
(877) FLA-FILM**