

From: [Film1](#)
To:
CC:
Subject: News & Events- Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
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Attachments:



NEWS:

THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FILM & ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 1ST AND 2ND FOR THE HOLIDAY. HAVE A SAFE, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

MARLEY AND ME BROUGHT THE HOLIDAY GIFT OF SOUTH FLORIDA SCENERY TO NUMBER 1 ON THE BIG SCREEN

Marley and Me, which was filmed in South Florida, opened up at number 1 at the box office over the long holiday weekend, grossing \$51.8 million!

Over the two months spent shooting in the region this spring, the film pumped more than \$10 million into area businesses and paid wages for nearly 1,400 local film industry workers.

Check out the articles section below for more great info about the film.

FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY RETURNS AS PRESENTING SPONSOR OF OTRONICON FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

WINTER PARK, FL, December 22, 2008 – Full Sail University, will be returning for the fourth year as presenting sponsor for Otronicon (www.otronicon.org), the renowned gaming event held in partnership with the Orlando Science Center (OSC) that draws nearly 20,000 guests each year. This year, Otronicon will again include numerous video games and simulations, as well as Full Sail offering exclusive game development workshops and for the first time, Full Sail's Artronica, a traditional gallery exhibition to celebrate the art of the game.

Otronicon opens to the public on January 16, 2008. Full Sail workshops beginning on this date are open to the public and offer guests the opportunity to work with staff from the [Game Development](#) department of Full Sail University. Other Full Sail workshops are specifically designed with a special focus to give students, ages 12-18 as well as their parents, insight into the creation of video games. "Participants will be introduced to the workings, development, art and production of a game which provides an exceptional arena for discussion, learning and play," said Rob Catto, Director of [Game Studies](#) at Full Sail.

In addition to workshops, Otronicon offers a wide variety of video gaming entertainment including: a hands-on virtual simulator Army experience exploring the reality of the military; a Machinima film festival showcasing productions that were created using film tools and video game resources; game play on some of today's most in-demand video games, plus networked multiplayer formats including a game featuring a custom-designed OSC racecar; daily tournaments that will culminate in championship bouts on the eight story Dr. Phillips Cinedome Screen; and a once-in-a-lifetime *Halo* wedding event which will be covered by MTV News. Visitors are also invited to experience newer games and engage in the social aspect of the popular *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band* displays.

"It is Full Sail's mission to share our knowledge and passion for gaming and digital media with the community," added Catto. "Otronicon is the perfect environment to educate individuals of all ages on the career possibilities and to experience the enjoyment of game play that lives within the gaming industry."

For more information about Full Sail, please visit www.fullsail.edu.

YBOR FILM FESTIVAL CALL-FOR-ENTRIES

The 7th annual HCC-Ybor Festival of the Moving Image (April 1-5, 2009) invites all filmmakers from around the world to present authentic, innovative and meaningful work to be considered for screening at the festival.

This year's theme is "humor and satire" and the festival is looking for works in two specific areas:

Works that the filmmaker/director considers to be funny, satirical, humorous, and/or comedic. All approaches are welcome and will be

considered, from the sacred to the profane. Material can range from suitable for all ages to adult only, from tender and sweet to aggressive, dark and edgy. The works can be in any genre and of any length. If not in English please provide subtitles if possible. Works must be in DVD format (NTSC or PAL) with Blu Ray projection available.

The festival is also looking for 'trailers' (short advertisements) for fictional or imaginary films. These can be of any length up to 120 seconds or so. By their nature satirical at the very least, these 'trailers' can be approached in any capacity as mentioned in the first section. Prize money will be given to the top five trailers and will be featured on opening night (Tampa Theatre). Currently, the award is \$100 per winner for the top five. The festival will also screen as many of the 'trailer' entries as possible at an "audience awards" event on April 3, to open the judging to the public. All entries will be notified of the results.

The absolute deadline is February 28, 2009. In consideration of the new economic environment, the festival offers all filmmakers a special flat entry fee of \$10.00 U.S. Please provide the basic information of Title, Running Time, Director, Website (if available) and Contact email. DVD's will be returned only if requested and a mailer with correct postage and address are provided. Filmmaker or person entering work are responsible for all copyright issues and content.

Please send preview DVD's to, David Audet, Hillsborough Community College, 2112 N. 15th Street, Tampa, FL 33605. Make checks or money orders payable to Hillsborough Community College.

For more info see www.yborfilmfestival.com.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES

The mission of *Embracing Our Differences* is to use art as a catalyst for creating awareness and promoting the value of diversity, the benefits of inclusion and the significance of the active rejection of hatred and prejudice.

Embracing Our Differences will be displayed throughout the month of April 2009 at Island Park along Sarasota's beautiful bayfront. The exhibit will contain 39 bill-board sized (16 feet by 12 feet high) artworks. An additional 6 honorable mentions will be displayed. The exhibit will again be displayed in North Port, Florida throughout the month of May 2009. Since 2004, more than 550,000 visitors have viewed the exhibit.

We invite you to participate in creating a society that is more inclusive for all by submitting your work reflecting the theme of "*embracing our differences*".

What Is The Theme?

Artists are asked to submit their interpretation of the theme "*Embracing Our Differences*" in the required format detailed in the [2009 Call to Artists submission form](#).

Who Can Enter?

Artists, photographers, professionals, amateurs, teachers, students - all ages - everyone can participate. You may submit more than one entry; however, no more than two images per artist will be chosen for display. National and international submissions are encouraged.

What Is The Criteria?

Final selections will be chosen based on artistic excellence in reflection of the theme "*embracing our differences*". The artwork will also be evaluated on how effectively it will read outdoors when enlarged to billboard size - 16 feet wide by 12 feet high. Artists are encouraged to use bold saturated colors and strong lines. Final selections will be made by a panel of professional artists, curators and art professionals. There is no submission fee.

What Is The Timeline?

Submission deadline - January 12, 2009

Judging will take place during February 2009. Only artists selected will be notified. Winning selections will be listed on our website, www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org, in late March 2009. "*Best In Show*" winners will be announced in late March 2009. The event will open on Sunday, March 30, 2009. People's Choice Awards will be announced in May 2009.

Cash Awards

Best In Show (Adult): A single \$1,000.00 cash award will be made to one submission deemed "*Best In Show*" (adult category) by our judges. College students will be judged in this category.

Best In Show (Student): A \$1,000.00 cash award will be made to one submission deemed "*Best In Show*" (student category) by our judges. Entries for this category must be received from students high school-age and below. The award money will be given directly to the student's school.

People's Choice: A \$1,000.00 cash award will be presented at the end of the exhibit to the submission which receives the most votes from visitors to the Sarasota exhibit.

[Click here to download 2009 Call to Artists](#)

FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

CANEMAKER ANIMATES SOUTH BEACH FEST

Animation Magazine © December 19, 2008

The South Beach Int'l Animation Film Festival announced that Oscar-winning animation legend John Canemaker will be a guest of honor at the next annual event in Miami, Fla. The four-day event is hosted by the Miami Beach Cinematheque Theater in the heart of South Beach's famed art deco district, and will spill into other nearby venues between April 2 and April 5, 2009.

DIGITAL ARTS CENTER TO BE CREATED AT ARTCENTER/SOUTH FLORIDA

Art Daily © December 20, 2008

ArtCenter/South Florida will open the John S. and James L. Knight Center for the Digital Arts in December 2009, a cutting-edge technology program and lab that will allow the public to explore digital arts in a dynamic, inclusive environment. Digital media has been, for many, a voice that embraces modern technology as part of human expression. The ADA-accessible center, to be located at ArtCenter's 924 Lincoln Road building, is being made possible by a \$150,000 Knight Foundation Arts Partnership grant.

FLORIDA'S STAR IS DIMMING AS OTHER STATES LURE MOVIE STUDIOS

Sun-Sentinel.com © December 24, 2008

But Florida is beginning to fall off studios' radar. A fund the state provides to attract big film productions was slashed from \$25 million last year to \$5 million as the state struggled with its fiscal crisis. Now in its fifth year, Florida's budget for incentives is being dwarfed by other states, such as Louisiana, New Mexico and Michigan.

LOCAL PRODUCTION COMPANY HELPS SHINE WORLDWIDE LIGHT ON AREA NONPROFIT

Jacksonville Daily Record © December 24, 2008

The nonprofit arm of the Northeast Florida Builders Association has worked with Jacksonville-based DeepLight Television to produce marketing materials and original programming chronicling the efforts of the organization and the message has reached Northeast Florida homes.

ENZIAN, FILM FESTIVAL HIRES FUNDRAISER

Bizjournals.com © December 24, 2008

Enzian Theater has named Mara Shorr as the organization's director of development and community relations. According to a release, Shorr will manage all fundraising activities for both Enzian and the Florida Film Festival starting Jan. 5.

'MARLEY AND ME' FILMED AT LOCAL FAMILY'S FLORIDA HOME

Petoskey News-Review © December 25, 2008

The filming took place for about seven days in March, and required much cooperation from the neighborhood. Bondy and family went down to watch some the filming, and he said he was able to meet Clyde, the dog which plays Marley, the director of the film and Owen Wilson.

FLORIDA FACES COMPETITION IN BEING SITE FOR MOVIES

WFLX Fox 29 © December 25, 2008

"Marley & Me," a star-studded film shot in South Florida, is opening in theaters amid concern that Florida has started to fall off the radar of studios.

"MARLEY & ME" DIRECTOR CALLS MIAMI HOME

CBS 4 © December 26, 2008

In "The Devil Wears Prada" director David Frankel's big challenge was to keep the fashion current and the stars happy. In his new movie, "Marley & Me," his biggest challenge was to keep the 'top dog' from eating the sets.

PROPOSED LAW WOULD REVISE FILM INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

Orlando Business Journal, FL © December 26, 2008

A new bill filed by Florida Rep. Stephen Precourt, R-Winter Garden, aims to revise the current entertainment industry incentives program by turning it into an upfront tax credit.

'MARLEY' LEADS HOLIDAY BOX OFFICE PACK

Variety © December 28, 2008

Twentieth Century Fox's canine comedy "Marley and Me" was the surprise pick of the litter at the crowded Christmas box office -- grossing a hefty \$51.8 million for the long weekend.

MAYBE EVERY DOG SITTER HAS HER DAY

South Bend Tribune © December 29, 2008

For Kathy Laskowski, the release of the movie "Marley & Me" is very special because the character of the baby sitter in the film is fashioned after her as Kathy, aka, Debby the dog sitter.

FILM INDUSTRY LEADERS LOBBY FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PASS STRONGER FILM INCENTIVES

Miami Today © December 31, 2008

After cuts reduced Florida's filming incentives by 80%, members of the industry are lobbying the Legislature to pass a bill to restore

Florida's competitive edge.

RUSTIC FILMING LOCALE JIMBO'S PLACE 'SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED' BY VIRGINIA KEY PLAN

Miami Today © December 31, 2008

The local film community, stressed already by deep slashes to the state's film incentive budget, can rest easy about losing one of its most popular shooting locations, a city official says.

TELEVISION SPECIAL "THE BEST OF SOUTH FLORIDA" HOSTED BY JESSIE ALEXANDER IS SCHEDULED TO AIR ON THE CW NETWORK

PR Web © December 31, 2008

Jessie Alexander the CEO of the television production company Oscar Empire and the Executive Producer of the magazine style TV show "The Best of South Florida," will be hosting a special edition of style and luxury.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

A 'GRAN' BAILOUT PLAN IN MICHIGAN

Variety © December 19, 2008

But [Clint Eastwood's](#) "Gran Torino," about a retired autoworker and his titular car, which isn't even in production anymore, has already provided another kind of bailout, one that is directly boosting locals in need of employment. Ironically, given the significance the Detroit setting plays in the film, the original story didn't even include Michigan in it. But a hefty state incentive bill passed last spring provided all the lure Eastwood and the production needed to make the switch.

INCENTIVES FOR FILM INDUSTRY ON HOLD

Akron Beacon Journal © December 21, 2008

Gov. Ted Strickland is going to veto the 25 percent transferable film-production tax-credit legislation passed during the lame-duck session of the Ohio General Assembly, but the concept is far from dead.

'BUTTON' SEWN ONTO FABRIC OF NEW ORLEANS

Baltimore Sun © December 21, 2008

Louisiana offered a more aggressive production-incentive program than Maryland; the decision was ultimately a financial one. Roth admits, "Once you write in a script - 'Exterior: New Orleans: Day' - a whole character emerges. But Baltimore would have been equally fine."

NANCY CASSIS TAKES ON HOLLYWOOD CREDITS

Mirror, MI © December 21, 2008

Michael B. Chait is trying to crack into the movie business. And he doesn't like his chances if State Sen. Nancy Cassis is successful in capping film industry tax credits to \$50 million.

HOPE FOR A HOLLYWOOD ENDING

The Gazette (Montreal) © December 22, 2008

There is no way of putting an upbeat spin on this. It was a downright disastrous year for Hollywood film shoots in Montreal. Just how bad was it? Well, there hasn't been a single American flick made here since April...

LOUISIANA FILM INDUSTRY HAS RECORD YEAR IN 2008

Forbes © December 22, 2008

Landing such films as Oliver Stone's "W" and Universal Pictures' "Cirque du Freak," Louisiana set a production record in 2008 with more than 80 major film and television projects. The total eclipsed the state's previous record, 56 projects, set in 2007.

EC APPROVES ITALIAN TAX BREAKS

Variety © December 22, 2008

The European Commission has approved Italy's eagerly awaited film production incentives, paving the way for tax breaks amounting to up to 25% of a film's budget for local, but also U.S. and other foreign shoots, to go into effect in early 2009.

MICHIGAN FILM FINANCING AIMS TO HELP STATE'S FILM PRODUCTIONS OBTAIN FUNDING

MLive.com © December 23, 2008

A new Michigan company hopes to maximize the film production incentive tax credit and create new jobs in the state. Michigan Film Finance LLC, which will collaborate with producers and out-of-state lenders in financing firms to the tune of \$10 million, is the only Michigan-based company providing this type of financing, according to [S3 Entertainment Group](#) in Ferndale.

WOODY ALLEN SAYS HE HOPES TO FILM A NEW COMEDY IN PARIS

AFP © December 23, 2008

"Now that there is a new tax incentive in Paris we are returning and trying to see if it is possible to come again to do it," he said after meeting with French Culture Minister Christine Albanel.

BC TAX CREDIT CHANGES TO TAKE EFFECT IN NEW YEAR

Georgia Straight © December 23, 2008

A further change is planned to be effective for principal photography that begins after Dec. 31, 2008. At the start of the new year, eligibility for the Film Incentive B.C. tax credit will expand from B.C.-controlled to Canadian-controlled corporations.

STATE LACKS INCENTIVES FOR FILM PROJECTS

Montgomery Advertiser © December 28, 2008

Alabama lost the project -- only the latest in a string -- aft-er legislators failed to pass tax incentives to attract the film in-dustry back to the state during their last session.

FILM TAX CREDITS CREATE GOOD ECONOMIC 'ACTION' IN YEAR ONE

Janesville Gazette, WI © December 29, 2008

After almost one-year, the tax incentives for the film, television and video game industry in Wisconsin are creating jobs, positive visibility for the state and attracting permanent investment in production infrastructure. In short, the incentives are working. In challenging economic times, this is one of the few bright sectors that has shown growth in Wisconsin.

FILM INDUSTRY REACHES RECORD NUMBERS

New Orleans CityBusiness © December 29, 2008

"Five hundred million dollars is a very conservative estimate of the 2008 revenue expenditures," Havens said. "That estimate is based on applications to the motion picture incentive program during 2008."

VETO PUTS OHIO TAX CREDIT ON CUTTING-ROOM FLOOR

MSNBC © December 29, 2008

Republicans believe the governor's decision to veto the bill jeopardizes Ohio's competitive stance and, in particular, Cleveland's attempt to attract filmmakers. But Strickland says the credit would wind up costing Ohio tax revenue and should be considered in the context of state government's bleak budget outlook.

HOLLYWOOD HITS IOWA'S RED CARPET

DesMoinesRegister.com © December 30, 2008

"Ticket Out," as the new movie is called, is the latest of several big-budget projects that have been filmed in Iowa since May 2007, when legislators passed a law that offers tax credits of up to 50 percent for films shot in Iowa with budgets of at least \$100,000. That applies to commercials, documentaries and music videos, in addition to more expensive feature films.

GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

RIAA STOPS PIRACY LAWSUIT STRATEGY

Variety © December 21, 2008

The Recording Industry Assn. of America said Friday that it has abandoned its policy of suing people for sharing songs protected by copyright and will work with Internet service providers to cut abusers' access if they ignore repeated warnings.

SAG DELAYS STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE

Variety © December 22, 2008

Facing growing internal dissent, leaders of the Screen Actors Guild have postponed SAG's divisive strike authorization vote for two weeks.

STATEWIDE EVENTS:

FFEAC TELECONFERENCE CALL JANUARY 8TH

The Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council will convene in a teleconference call. This meeting is open to the public.

DATE AND TIME: January 8th at 2 PM.

PLACE: Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
The Capitol, Suite 2001
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

CALL IN #: (888) 808-6959

CONFERENCE CODE: 4104765

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made with respect to the above referenced meeting, he/she may need to ensure verbatim recording of the proceedings in order to provide a record for judicial review. Pursuant to Chapter 286.26, Florida Statutes, any handicapped person wishing to attend this meeting should contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to request any special assistance.

FFEAC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE CALL JANUARY 29TH

The Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council Legislative Committee will convene in a teleconference call. This meeting is open to the public.

DATE AND TIME: January 29th at 2 PM.

PLACE: Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
The Capitol, Suite 2001
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

CALL IN #: (888) 808-6959

CONFERENCE CODE: 4104765

Should any person wish to appeal any decision made with respect to the above referenced meeting, he/she may need to ensure verbatim recording of the proceedings in order to provide a record for judicial review. Pursuant to Chapter 286.26, Florida Statutes, any handicapped person wishing to attend this meeting should contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to request any special assistance.

Please Note: If you have a press release or an educational event, you can post it on our website www.filminflorida.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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