

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



NEWS:

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Florida's Film and Entertainment Movers and Shakers "Rally in Tally"!

Yesterday's Florida Film Day was a great success. Proactive industry members and leaders spent their own resources and took time the time to exercise their civic rights and duties by directly participating in their government. Organizations, coalitions and industry workers from all around the state came to Tallahassee to meet with legislators and show their support for restoring Florida's film incentive. Film Florida, The FSU Film School, The Governor's Office of Film and Entertainment, and Electronic Arts set up exhibits in the Rotunda.

Governor Charlie Crist praised the industry at a roundtable discussion held with industry leaders and critical stakeholders that morning. "I can not thank you enough for what you do, the amount of people that you employ, the job creation that you stimulate. The great advertising indirectly that you create for Florida is extraordinary," said Governor Crist.

Bookmarked by poster displays for *Marley and Me*, and *Burn Notice*, the Governor heard testimony from Suzy Spang Allen (FFEAC), Greg Kasper (IATSE), Maria Chavez (FFPC), Dr. Rick Harper, UWF Haas Center, Jud French (DMAF) and Graham Winick (Film Florida). The roundtable was covered by reporters from the Palm Beach Post, AP TV, Gannett, NPR, the Florida Channel, and the Capital News Service.

Immediately following the roundtable Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and Film Florida announced in a press conference that the Don Davis Film Finishing Fund is providing its first year of completion funding to aspiring Florida filmmakers. The fund is named in honor of industry champion and former Florida Representative Don Davis, who passed away in 2008. In addition to Lt. Governor Kottkamp, Graham Winick, Film Florida President, Representative Jennifer Carroll and Senior Director/General Manager of Universal Studios Florida Production Group, Pamela Tuscany-Warren spoke in support of the fund. Senator Frederica Wilson (Miami Gardens), several film and entertainment industry representatives, and I joined them in support for the announcement.

In addition to the exhibits and activities, Film Florida and film industry members and supporters walked the halls – meeting with legislators to talk about the impact of Florida's film and entertainment industry, the loss of production in the state, and the importance of restoring the incentive program. Legislators were also honored with a Walk of Fame in the Capitol. Representatives Stephen Precourt, Richard Steinberg, Debbie Boyd and Oscar Braynon II, as well as Senator Nancy Detert had their pictures taken with the Hollywood stars Film Florida members created in their honor. Movie refreshments, such as popcorn, candy, and soda, were served throughout the day.

Bravo to everyone who organized and participated in this important day! Each individual can make a difference.

Lucia Fishburne
State Film Commissioner

Governor Crist Hails Florida's Film and Entertainment Industry as a Powerful Economic, Workforce Driver

TALLAHASSEE (Thursday, March 19, 2009) – Governor Charlie Crist, continuing his focus on Florida's economy, today applauded the most recent film and entertainment industry figures showing that film and entertainment in Florida is a \$17.9-billion-a-year industry that generates 207,000 industry and related jobs. The Governor met with Florida Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne and industry leaders to discuss the importance of film and entertainment in Florida, which is projected to grow jobs faster than any other targeted industry in the Sunshine State.

"As we continue to seek growth opportunities for Florida's economy, it is important to remember the significant role film and entertainment plays in our state, generating more than 200,000 Florida jobs," said Governor Crist, who hosted the roundtable in Tallahassee. "Today's roundtable highlighted how important it is for Florida's businesses and workforce to ensure this revenue stream continues flowing into our state."

The Office of Film & Entertainment, within the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, recently conducted an independent study showing that in 2007, Florida's film and entertainment-related spending accounted for:

\$17.9 billion in Gross State Product (GSP);
\$8.5 billion in income to Floridians; and
\$498 million in tax revenue

The study also found that film and entertainment in Florida directly employed nearly 102,000 people with an average wage of \$57,700. The industry also generated some 105,000 related spinoff jobs in construction, retail, and professional services.

Florida is currently home to hit television series *Burn Notice*, filmed in South Florida. The Emmy-nominated show infused more than \$28.6 million into South Florida's economy during the first two seasons and has created more than 2,700 jobs for its residents. They are currently in production on their third season and plan to spend an estimated additional \$17 million in Florida.

The film and entertainment industry is unique in that the economic benefits extend into other industries, such as restaurants, lodging, retail, construction and tourism. Because of this, Florida-based productions help bolster job creation and generate revenue for an increased number of residents and businesses. Every \$1 spent on a production within Florida generates an additional 95 cents, giving the film and entertainment industry a total economic impact of \$29 billion statewide.

In July 2004, Florida began offering cash rebate incentives through the Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment to attract additional productions to the state in order to foster growth in the industry and boost local and state economies.

Also joining Governor Crist today were Gabe Sheheane, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Richard Turner, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association; Amy Evancho, Florida Economic Development Council; Chris Hart IV, Workforce Florida; and film and entertainment industry representatives from throughout the state.

The roundtable was immediately followed by a press conference where industry advocates announced that the Film Florida Don Davis Film Finishing Fund to support Florida filmmakers is now open for submissions. The late representative was a strong advocate for film and entertainment during his tenure with the Florida Legislature.

About the Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment

Overseen by the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the Governor's Office of Film and Entertainment builds, supports and markets the high-wage, high-growth motion picture and entertainment industry sectors in Florida. With offices in Tallahassee and Los Angeles, Florida is able to implement innovative strategies to attract world-class productions to the state that provide economic benefits to residents and businesses. For additional information on the Florida Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment, please visit <http://www.filminflorida.com>.

DON DAVIS FILM FINISHING FUND HONORS LATE LEGISLATOR, OFFERS SUPPORT TO FLORIDA FILMMAKERS

TALLAHASSEE, FL (March 19, 2009) — Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp and Film Florida announced today that the Don Davis Film Finishing Fund is providing its first year of completion funding to aspiring Florida filmmakers. The fund is named in honor of industry champion and former Florida Representative Don Davis, who passed away in 2008. Representative Jennifer Carroll, Florida Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne and several film and entertainment industry representatives joined in support for the announcement.

"Representative Davis's legacy continues to shine as a positive example of the difference we can make when we put our minds to it," said Lieutenant Governor Jeff Kottkamp, who joined Governor Charlie Crist earlier in the day to meet with industry advocates and representatives for a roundtable to discuss the film and entertainment industry's impact in Florida. "This scholarship will help pave the way for a new generation of filmmakers, and serves as a powerful reminder of the opportunity we have to improve the lives of Floridians and move our economy forward with industries like film and entertainment."

Rep. Davis passed away in 2008 after years of support for Florida's film and entertainment industry. During the 2007 legislative session, he helped spearhead efforts to increase Florida's incentives appropriation to \$25 million to help attract productions to the state, and the program was renamed the Don Davis Entertainment Industry Economic Development Act. The funding enabled Florida to secure 53 productions that year, infusing \$7 into Florida's economy for every dollar spent through incentives. Although funding was reduced to \$5 million for the present fiscal year, the Governor's current budget recommends \$10 million for incentives to attract productions to the state.

"Today is a day for Film Florida and the entire production industry to honor Rep. Davis's memory," said Graham Winick, President of Film Florida. "He helped Florida gain a critical advantage in the competition for productions. We are grateful for the support of people like Governor Crist and Representative Carroll as we strive to live up to Davis's vision in making film and entertainment a strong economic generator for Florida. The Don Davis Film Finishing Fund is an important step toward this goal."

The program funds filmmakers working in both short and long formats in all genres—documentary, dramatic, educational, narrative, animated and experimental—whose films demonstrate advanced and innovative skills and whose works relate to the goals of Film Florida. These goals are to promote the creation of jobs in the film and entertainment production industries; and to promote economic development and tourism for the State of Florida.

According to a study by the Haas Center for Economic Development at the University of West Florida, the film and entertainment industry directly and indirectly supported more than 207,000 jobs in Florida in 2007, supplying \$8.5 billion in wages to residents the same year. The study also shows the film and entertainment industry is forecasted to grow faster than other targeted industry clusters, with a projected employment growth rate of 20 percent.

Available cash grants through the Don Davis fund will range from \$1,500 to \$5,000, with the number of grants varying from year to year. In its first year of inception, the Fund kicked off with seed money of \$10,000 from Universal Studios Florida Production Group (USFPG) and its parent company NBC Universal. The first recipient will be honored during Film Florida's annual meeting in Miami Beach in June. The full criteria for scholarships from the Don Davis Film Finishing Fund are available at <http://www.filmflorida.org>.

Miami Film School Student Wins Award

Jhonny Obando, Hollywood, Florida resident and student at the Miami Film School in Hollywood, Florida won First place in the Florida Focus section of the 2009 Miami International Film Festival. Jhonny's movie, "Suddenly the Sunrise", competed in the Student College Short Film category.

Jhonny wrote, directed and edited his film. The movie stars: Cecilia Huete, Edgar Caraballo, Victoria "Vika" Zapata, Fernando Vieira, Boo Spence, Juan Jose Gonzalez and Gustavo Gonzalez. It is the story of Dafne, a woman who lost her husband and with him her faith in life. In a vision, he returns to teach her a lesson in hope.

The production was under the supervision of Miami Film School teacher and Line Producer Matt Miller.

Jhonny's instructors at the Miami Film School on Hollywood, Florida: Dr. Herb Sennett, Screenwriting; Joe Gallagher, Camera; Irv Goodnoff, Lighting; Bob Carter, casting and acting; Larry DeCarmine, Sound and Reid Van Voris, Final Cut Pro editing.

Jhonny's classmates and crew members were: Vivi Pineda, Wisler Josaphat, Ricky Rodriguez, Josue Georges and Lazaro Colado.

The Miami Film School and Palm Beach Film School teach students of all ages to write, shoot, direct and edit their own short, character-driven drama, comedy or horror films in 8 or 16 weeks at an affordable tuition. Visit www.miamifilmschool.net or call 954-989-2737 or www.palmbeachfilmschool.com or call 561-242-9190 for more information.

SPRING BLING RETURNING TO RIVIERA BEACH PENDING CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

The Associated Press

Riviera Beach, Fla. -- Spring Bling will return to Riviera Beach for a third year if the city council approves an agreement with Black Entertainment Television.

City staff recommended the city approve the agreement Wednesday for the invitation-only beach party and television production event that BET throws for college-age viewers on in late March.

Under the proposed agreement, the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council would give the city a \$75,000 grant to offset expenses.

A city staff analysis says the economic impact of last year's Spring Bling was estimated at \$2 million. Hotel sales alone brought in more than \$600,000.

Last year's Spring Bling drew an estimated 8,350 people to South Florida.

FILM LEGEND JON VOIGHT TO HEADLINE FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL'S CLOSING NIGHT EVENT

ENZIAN announced Monday, March 16th that Academy Award-Winning actor Jon Voight will attend the 18th Annual Florida Film Festival's closing night event, "An Evening with Jon Voight," April 5th at 6:45 pm.

As the final component of the Festival's Forbidden Film showcase, "An Evening with Jon Voight," will include a 40th anniversary screening of the three-time Academy Award winning film, "Midnight Cowboy" (1969), directed by John Schlesinger and the first X-rated film to win an Oscar®. Voight received a Best Actor nomination for his portrayal of Joe Buck, the handsome, aspiring stud for hire from small-town Texas who arrives in New York City. The Festival is proud to present a beautiful and recently struck 35mm print of this late sixties classic. A question and answer session will follow the screening, allowing the audience to get up close and personal with Mr. Voight.

"Seeing "Midnight Cowboy" again in 35mm, a film which pushed the boundaries of its time and featured two incredible lead performances by Voight and Dustin Hoffman, will be an experience in itself," said Matthew Curtis, Programming Director. "Then to witness Jon Voight speak candidly after this ground-breaking movie screens will make Sunday night one of the most exciting Closing Night Retro events in Festival history."

Individual tickets for "An Evening with Jon Voight" (\$30) and Platinum Passes, which grant holders access to all Festival films including guaranteed admission into all "Evening/Afternoon with" events (\$600), are available at www.FloridaFilmFestival.com or by calling the Festival information Hotline at (407) 629-1088 ext. 225, Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

PRIMARY SPONSOR: FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY

Since 1979, Full Sail University has been recognized as an award-winning institution with over 31,000 alumni, and has served as an educational leader for those pursuing careers in the entertainment industry. For more information about Full Sail, please visit: www.fullsail.edu.

The 18th Annual Florida Film Festival, March 27 through April 5, is sponsored by Full Sail University and a core program of ENZIAN, a nonprofit organization serving the Central Florida community for more than 24 years. ENZIAN exists to entertain, educate, inspire, and connect the community through film.

CENTRAL FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL MOVES TO ORANGE COUNTY

The Central Florida Film Festival is moving its 4th Annual event from Osceola County to Orange County. The film festival which drew films from nine countries and seventeen states for the past three years has been held at the Osceola Center for the Arts in Kissimmee. This year the Labor Day Festival (September 4-6, 2009) will be held at the West Orange 5 theater and at the Best Western and Marriott Courtyard hotels in Ocoee.

"This is something I've wanted to do for some time," said CenFlo Executive Director, Bob Cook. "Our festival is not only about the filmmaker but the film watcher as well, and what better place to watch a movie but in a movie theater with the smell of popcorn!"

Screenings will take place daily at the West Orange 5 and seminars and parties will be at the resorts. Cook also said, "It is my belief that residents as well as businesses in Ocoee, Winter Garden and Windermere will benefit from our weekend event."

For more information about the festival, visit their website at www.CentralFloridaFilmFestival.com.

2009 GLOBAL PEACE FILM FESTIVAL CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 2009 *Global Peace Film Festival* will take place around Central Florida on September 22nd – 27th.

The *Global Peace Film Festival* is accepting films related to the topics of peace. Shorts, mediums and feature length in live action, documentary and animated genres welcome.

There are two ways to submit films – electronically through *Without a Box*, or with a manual form. Both options are accessible website at www.peacefilmfest.org.

FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

[UCF Professor Brings Experimental Films To Downtown Orlando](#)

University of Central Florida © Mar 13, 2009

Hosted by UCF Film Professor Chris Harris, the event will showcase several works from this year's Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival, or FLEX FEST, which celebrates alternative forms of filmmaking.

[Florida film industry losing ground to states with better tax incentives](#)

Sun-Sentinel.com © Mar 15, 2009

But such activity in South Florida is rare these days after the state slashed the fund to attract film and TV production to Florida from \$25 million last year to \$5 million. Other than *Burn Notice*, production has drifted away, moving to Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico and other states that offer better breaks.

[Florida city looks to its past to draw visitors](#)

The News Journal © Mar 15, 2009

Long overlooked in favor of hot spots like Orlando and Miami, Pensacola hopes a yearlong 450th birthday bash will lure visitors to this city on the western edge of Florida's Panhandle.

['Marley and Me' tops foreign B.O.](#)

Variety © Mar 16, 2009

"Marley and Me" fetched the spot at the weekend's international box office, edging the second frame of "Watchmen" with \$13.9 million at 2,708 playdates in 34 markets. "Marley" mauled rivals in the U.K. with a \$6.5 million launch -- more than triple the second frame of "Watchmen" -- and finished tied for first in Russia with \$1.7 million.

[Film industry had \\$29.2 billion impact in Florida](#)

Tallahassee.com © Mar 17, 2009

Florida benefited from a film and entertainment industry that had an estimated economic impact of \$29.2 billion in 2007, up from \$27 billion in 2003, according to an independent study of the business.

[Technology developed in Scripps Florida gets a cameo on 'CSI: New York.?'](#)

Palm Beach Post © Mar 18, 2009

The episode will air at 10 p.m. on CBS, locally on Channel 12. Busby said their big scene lasts about two minutes, and you can clearly see the Scripps Florida logo.

[Tallahassee Film Festival showcases artists](#)

Famuan © Mar 18, 2009

The Tallahassee Film Festival is gearing up to present its third annual event at Florida A&M University and hopes to attract more African-American students and industry professionals.

[Governor Crist Hails Florida's Film and Entertainment Industry](#)

Chipley Florida Online Newspaper - Foster Folly News © Mar 19, 2009

The Governor met with Florida Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne and industry leaders to discuss the importance of film and entertainment in Florida, which is projected to grow jobs faster than any other targeted industry in the Sunshine State.

[Florida Film Industry Suffers Economic Downturn](#)

WMBB-TV © Mar 19, 2009

The Legislature has slashed the budget for attracting TV and movie production to Florida from a high of \$25 million to \$5 million this year. Industry reps say they need more money so they can offer incentives to encourage filmmakers to come to Florida.

[Full Sail University Is Proud To Return As Primary Sponsor of The 18th Annual Florida Film Festival](#)

PR Web © Mar 20, 2009

Full Sail University (www.fullsail.edu) will be returning as primary sponsor of the 18th Annual Florida Film Festival (www.floridafilmmfestival.com), March 27 through April 5. This year marks the return of Full Sail University's fifth year as the primary sponsor and twelfth year with the Festival.

[Daytona State College cuts digital media](#)

Daytona Beach News-Journal © Mar 20, 2009

"At the moment, when we are bleeding heavily," Hosseini said, "we have to cut anything that is going to help us with our budget." Digital media has been inefficient, losing \$300,000 annually, while producing diminishing numbers of graduates, college administrators said.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

[Utah passes pointless, worthless underage game sales bill - TechChuck](#)

Techchuck.com © Mar 13, 2009

A Utah bill that will open retailers to fines if they sell M-rated games to children (as long as they advertise beforehand that they won't) has now passed the Utah Senate. The bill made little sense originally, was completely defanged as it passed the House, and the Utah Senate has passed it with a 25-3 vote.

[BAG OF BONES movie sets its sights on Maine](#)

FANGORIA © Mar 13, 2009

Currently, Maine reimburses production companies for 12 percent of wages paid to Maine residents and 10 percent of wages for non-Maine residents. The program also offers an income tax rebate for investors, no state sales tax on production items and reimbursement of lodging taxes for long-term stays.

[Communities Work To Bring Hollywood To Michigan](#)

WNEM © Mar 13, 2009

The Michigan Film Commission recently released information on how the refundable tax credit -- up to 42 percent -- benefited the state. It said producers spent \$65 million and directly employed nearly 3,000 Michigan residents in 2008.

[ESA prez asks Texas to extend tax incentives for game developers](#)

Joystiq.com © Mar 13, 2009

Gallagher states that the game industry accounts for more than one third of the \$345 million invested in the state by the entertainment industry in 2007. He says further that video games are an extension of Texas' "rich cultural past" as represented by SXSW, which begins its 2009 show this week.

[Arizona needs better incentives to woo movie makers, say industry](#)

Inside Tucson Business © Mar 14, 2009

"There's a lot more competition nowadays, a lot of states have stepped up and decided they want to be on this playing field as well — 43 states with different kinds of incentives to attract filmmakers to their locale," Tate said.

[NY entertainment industry urges action on tax credit](#)

Lower Hudson Journal news © Mar 15, 2009

When the 30 percent tax credit for entertainment companies making movies or TV shows in the state was in full swing, Stevens was fielding 30 to 40 calls a week. "I haven't had a single location call today," she said on Friday. "Yesterday, I had one. Earlier in the week, I had two and they both canceled."

[Jerry Springer gets expected Connecticut backlash](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#) © Mar 15, 2009

In light of parishioners' complaints, DiGiovani told the AP that he plans to talk to church lawyers to see if the planned move, which will be fueled by state tax incentives, can be thwarted.

TV BIZ FLEES CALIFORNIA

[Variety](#) © Mar 16, 2009

The pilot flight comes just as the Golden State has approved a \$500 million, five-year production tax credit incentive program (*Daily Variety*, Feb. 20). But that program is seen by many in the TV biz as too little too late, and with too many strings attached.

Film industry looking for bigger tax incentives from North Carolina

[WWAY NewsChannel 3](#) © Mar 17, 2009

If the state legislature would raise that incentive to 25%, both Vassar and Griffin feel Wilmington would once again be in the driver's seat.

Oregon filmmakers want more Hollywood dough

[KATU](#) © Mar 17, 2009

One bill would offer incentives to small, independent filmmakers and the other would extend the amount of time that projects filmed in Oregon would be eligible for tax breaks.

City leases film company free studio space

[The Plain Dealer \(Ohio\)](#) © Mar 19, 2009

Nehst Studios has signed a lease with the city that will allow the company to create a permanent Hollywood-caliber film studio in the Cleveland Convention Center, said Nehst founder Larry Meistrich. But production on the films -- and later, a television series -- won't start until a bill is passed that gives tax incentives to television and film productions that work in Ohio.

Film Office Report Violates Michigan Law and the Spirit of Sunshine Week

[Mackinac Center for Public Policy](#) © Mar 19, 2009

In stark contrast to the government transparency celebrated during Sunshine Week, the Michigan Film Office has issued a report that is "sorely lacking in key information required by state law," Mackinac Center Senior Legal Analyst Patrick J. Wright said today.

Louisiana Film Tax Credit Extension Picks Up Legislative Support

[MediaSyndicate](#) © Mar 19, 2009

Most legislators agree that the program should be extended but the current economic problems and increased pressure from other states has fueled discussion about whether or not changes are needed to the program, which has generated over \$2 billion in revenue for the state since 2002.

MSU study finds film industry big hit in Michigan

[MSU Today](#) © Mar 19, 2009

The study, conducted by MSU's Center for Economic Analysis, found that in 2008, 32 film productions were completed, generating more than \$65 million in spending and creating more than 2,700 jobs. And this was just in the eight months since the law was enacted in April of 2008.

The state needs to protect New York's marquee value

[New York Daily News](#) © Mar 20, 2009

In 2007, the entertainment industry created approximately 19,500 jobs in New York. If this tax incentive disappears, so will New York City productions. Without state action to support this much-needed tax relief, many shows and movies, especially independent films, will consider locations outside New York.

GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

WGA cutting 10% of employees

[Variety](#) © Mar 16, 2009

The Writers Guild of America West has notified its staff that it will cut at least 10% of its 185 employees as a result of an operating deficit of more than \$2 million. The WGA West had no comment Monday evening about the job cuts, expected to be announced in coming weeks.

Used video-game market likely to grow, study finds : Personal Finance

[By MarketWatch.com](#) © Mar 17, 2009

Investors in GameStop Corp. may have panicked earlier this month on the news that Amazon.com was entering into the used video-game space, but a new study suggests that the slumping economy may help make room for plenty of competitors in the market.

Online music retailers slash prices

[Boston Globe](#) © Mar 18, 2009

As the music industry watches in horror while physical CD sales tumble and digital sales fail to bridge the gap, online MP3 retailers are trying to stem the bleeding with an age-old technique: slashing prices.

Actors picket Obama's 'Leno' taping

[Variety](#) © Mar 19, 2009

About 100 SAG actors picketed outside NBC Burbank studios Thursday while President Obama was inside with Jay Leno for a taping of "The Tonight Show." The protest was organized in hopes of bringing the issue of SAG's contract stalemate to Obama's

attention.

February Gaming Sales: Still a Growing Industry

Seeking Alpha © Mar 20, 2009

Based on NPD data released Thursday, February video game sales showed sequential and year over year growth. For the month, the total tally climbed from \$1.33b in January to \$1.47b in sales. Year over year it was a ten percent gain.

STATEWIDE EVENTS:

FFEAC 1st Quarter Meeting

The Florida Film & Entertainment Advisory Council will hold their first quarter meeting via teleconference Friday, March 27th, 2009 from 10am – 11:30am.

The call-in number is 1-888-808-6959 and the conference code is 4104765.

This meeting is open to the public.

IATSE 477 March Meeting

IATSE 477 will hold its next membership meeting Saturday, March 21st, at 7:00p.m. The meeting will be held at the Local 477 office, located at 10705 NW 33rd Street, Suite 110 Miami, FL 33172. All 477 members are encouraged to attend.

Contact Fred Moyses by e-mail at fmoyses@ia477.org or via phone at 813-546-3177 with any question or for more information.

Sunscreen Film Festival to host actors' track Workshop

Sunscreen Film Festival Actors' Track will take place April 30th and May 1st, 2009 at the Sunscreen Film Festival in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Learn from Hollywood casting directors! Audition for Hollywood feature films! Get noticed by big name casting directors!

Space is limited. A special price is available for advance purchasing. Signup for the workshop now and receive an All Access Films Pass or VIP Parties and Films Pass for free!

This is the premiere showcase of screen acting talent in the Southeast. The Sunscreen Actor's Track (S.A.T.) is the best acting/auditioning workshop outside of L.A.

Learn and work with these prestigious instructors:

John Jackson: Well connected and longtime casting director of *Sideways*, *About Schmidt*, *Election*, and *Citizen Ruth*. As his interest in acting diminished, his work in casting grew. Current casting projects include feature films: *The Objective* with writer/director Daniel Myrick (*Blair Witch Project*) and *Shoe At Your Foot* with French film maker Jennifer Devoldere. Recent films include *Expired*, *American Zombie*, *The Host*, *Humboldt County* and *Otis*.

Mark Durso: Miami-based longtime screen-acting guru, Mark teaches private workshops throughout the United States and Europe. His students are working SAG, AFTRA and AEA members with film and TV starring and co-starring roles, national tours and commercials to their credit.

Latanya Potts: veteran L.A.-based television and film casting director for independent features with a variety of actors from, Terrence Howard, Bernie Mac, Louis Gossett Jr., Samuel Jackson and Snoop Dogg. Her credits include, *Moesha*, *The Steve Harvey Show*, and *Soul Men*.

[For More Info and to Signup Click Here](#)

SARASOTA FILM FESTIVAL SCREENS "THE MESSENGER" OPENING NIGHT

The Sarasota Film Festival is proud to present Oren Moverman's [The Messenger](#) as our 2009 Opening Night Film. SFF will dedicate this special opening night screening to the honor of active duty and retired service men and women and their families. Because the themes of this powerful drama honor the service of our men and women in uniform, the festival will be partnering with the filmmakers and MacDill Air Force Base to host over 400 members from all four branches of our armed forces as our special guests for this screening.

The Festival is offering the opportunity for members of the community to "[Send a Soldier To Opening Night](#)" by donating tickets to the film and to the [Opening Night Gala](#). For each ticket donated, SFF will "match" with a complimentary ticket for a soldier. In

addition, veterans from all branches of the service will be offered a special 25% discount (in person, at the festival's Box Office at 1991 Main Street).

For more information, visit www.sarasotafilmfestival.com.

CASTING CALL:

STARS NORTH ACCEPTING CAST SUBMISSIONS FOR "Crooked"

Orlando-based STARS NORTH is now accepting headshots for its upcoming production "Crooked". Written and directed by Todd Thompson, the film is an "edu-taining" tale about the importance of good dental hygiene and brushing and flossing your teeth. It is told through the eyes of Samantha, a young girl obsessed with losing her last "crooked" baby tooth in order to obtain the perfect smile and win the heart of the new boy at school. Kendall Ganey (The Little Princess) and Bo Mitchell (October Road) are slated to star.

Headshots and resumes can be sent to:

STARS NORTH CASTING
P.O. Box 470181
Celebration, FL 34747-0181

Cast Breakdowns are as follows:

Kids (ages 8-13)

Dentist Dan 40's or 50s; distinguished

Jessica 10-12 years old; pageant queen in the making

Suzy McGee 10-12 years old; bookworm type

Tommy Gunn 12-13 years old; an underaged prince charming

Lonnie 10-12 years old; part of the brat pack

Checkout Girl 30s-40s; working class gal

Coach Charlie 40's; athletic has-been

Tommy's Mother 40s; mom-type

The Lunchbox Rockers 10-14 years old; Triplets preferred

Submissions are due no later than March 31st. For more information, please visit www.starsnorth.com.

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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