

**From:** [Film1](#)  
**To:**  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** News & Events - Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2009 5:21:30 PM  
**Attachments:**



## News & Events

### NEWS:

#### DIRECTOR'S CUT

The House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee and Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee announced their budget recommendations for the Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment this week.

The House has included the following budget recommendations for the Film & Entertainment office:

The Operations' Budget has been recommended at \$453,296, a reduction of \$300,000 compared to the Governor's budget recommendation for the Film Operations of \$753,296. This was equal to the current year funding prior to special session cuts. The source is Non-Recurring General Revenue.

The Film and Entertainment Incentive has been recommended to receive \$12,000,000, an increase of \$2,000,000 compared to the Governor's budget recommendation of \$10,000,000 for the Film Incentive. This is for the cash rebate program as it exists today. The source is Non-Recurring General Revenue.

The Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee has included the following budget recommendations for the Film and Entertainment office:

The Office of Film and Entertainment Operations' budget has been recommended at \$753,296. This is equal to the Governor's budget recommendation for the Film Operations of \$753,296.

The Film and Entertainment Incentive has been recommended to receive \$5,000,000, a decrease of \$5,000,000 compared to the Governor's budget recommendation of \$10,000,000 for the Film Incentive. This is for the cash rebate program as it exists today and equivalent to last year's appropriation.

The incentive number started as \$5,150,000 however Senator Storms did not want to see anyone get more than they got last year if others got less. It's a good start. Last year at this point we had \$0 for the incentive in the Senate budget.

Two things to keep in mind are:

- 1) This is a starting point for the budget negotiations between the House and the Senate and the Governor.
- 2) This is the appropriations budget. The tax credit bill is a separate issue. It has not been in any House of Senate committees this week.

All of the film tax credit bills (HB43, HB47, SB312, SB350) were revisited this morning during the Office of the EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference at 8:15 a.m., located at 117 Knott. No votes were taken.

A new "Legislative Update" page has been added to the website that contains useful links and up-to-date information about the current legislation affecting the film and entertainment office and industry as it happens.

Thank you to everyone that has been supporting our efforts to restore the incentive to a level that will allow Florida to remain competitive in the film and entertainment industry.

Lucia Fishburne  
State Film Commissioner

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**UF Documentary Institute graduates win Best Documentary in 2009 Academy of Television Arts and Sciences College Television Awards**

*Standard Deviation*, directed by Chris Brannan and Dave Randag, won Best Documentary in the 2009 Academy of Television Arts and Sciences College Television Awards. The winners were announced in a televised ceremony in Los Angeles on March 21. The documentary was filmed on location in Florida, California and Illinois.

*Standard Deviation* tells the extraordinary story of Billy Cottrell, a brilliant but troubled young physicist whose world collapses when the FBI arrests him as an eco-terrorist. To the shock of his family and colleagues, Billy was caught sending anonymous e-mails to the Los Angeles Times claiming involvement in a series of arsons and the vandalism of over 130 SUVs in the Los Angeles area. Billy's family and colleagues examine Billy's past to try to understand how such a promising young genius could end up behind bars.

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences College Television Awards is a national competition conducted by the Academy Foundation. Each year, several hundred college and university film and video students from all over the United States compete for awards and cash prizes totaling nearly \$50,000.

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### **SCC pilots digital media program that gives students real-world projects**

Seminole Community College is recruiting students for a cohort program in digital media that will include a collaboration of real-world projects integrated into the curriculum by the Digital Media faculty and a local digital media company. Starting in Fall 2009, the cohort, a group of about 40 students, will enter the program together, directly from area high schools. The students will take the same courses at the same time and graduate together.

"We want to have full-time students who are committed to the program and dedicated to learning previous and future trends in the digital media field," says Digital Media Program Manager Michael Kappers. The students will be working together toward their Associate in Science degrees in Graphics Technology, with a Digital and Interactive Media Design specialization.

Besides receiving priority scheduling and registration, the students will gain experience working in their chosen industry – all as part of their classroom work.

"We want to create a model where industry can play a bigger role in the way we teach our future work force," Kappers says. "We won't be changing the curriculum but rather supplementing it with an industry partner who will provide students with live projects and then critique their work. When the students leave SCC, they will have a portfolio of pieces that have been reviewed by digital media professionals."

The industry partner is Digitec, an Orlando digital media production company that specializes in online learning.

"The apprentice-style model will be a continual process," says Jack McGrath, president of Digitec. "Students will actually be involved in projects as they move through development in the real world. We're going to throw them curves."

Students will benefit from direct contact with their chosen industry, Kappers says, and the industry will benefit as well. The program will be based at SCC's Heathrow Campus.

"There are concerns that our local digital media companies are contracting overseas because of cheap labor costs," Kappers says. "Because Central Florida is growing rapidly in the area of digital media, our mission is to provide a rich talent pool of individuals in hopes that the digital media companies will look here first." With the cohort program, "Digitec will be grooming these students" for jobs with companies throughout Central Florida.

SCC hopes its pilot program will evolve into a steady source of candidates for digital media jobs. "We want to be *the* place to go for local talent."

The program also will work with the Employee Florida Banner Center for digital Media, a statewide work force education and training center that opened in 2008 at SCC's Heathrow Center for Economic Development.

The center will use the new program as a pilot project for an industry-mentored program, said Jud French Jr., the center's director. The center researches best practices and will examine the cohort program to determine which aspects can be replicated elsewhere in the state.

Last fall, SCC's Wharton-Smith Center for Construction launched a similar cohort program with 35 students in the construction management program.

SCC is a statewide leader in digital media training. In 2008, the College opened the \$1 million Employ Florida Digital Media Banner Center for Digital Media, a statewide education center to support the state's digital media industry.

For more information, please visit <http://www.scc-fl.edu/digitalmedia/>, or call 407.708.4505.

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### **"Bart Got a Room" - opening April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Hollywood, FL native Brian Hecker's wonderful comedy "Bart Got a Room," filmed in Florida using the Florida Film Incentive, opens Friday April 3 at AMC Sunset Place and Aventura theaters. Please support Brian and the Florida cast and crew by seeing it

opening weekend (Friday and Saturday preferably). Like "Boynton Beach" club before it, a strong opening in this market (it is also opening in NY and LA) will likely boost its release to a wider platform.

The film, shot in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties in 2007, stars Stephen Kaplan, Alia Shawkat and Florida natives William H. Macy and Cheryl Hines. Film Florida honored its premiere at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival as well as its selection as the closing night film and part of the Sunshine Celluloid program of the 2008 Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival.

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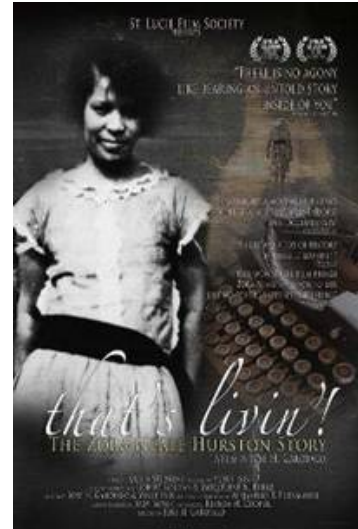
**“that’s livin’!” Premieres at 2009 zora fest**

“that’s livin’!, The Zora Neale Hurston Story” premieres on Sat. April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Sunrise Theatre in Downtown Fort Pierce and is the culmination of the 2009 Zora Fest events.

Festivities begin with the red carpet arrival at 5 p.m. and the premiere screening beginning at 6 p.m. with special guests Lucy Anne Hurston, Zora Neale Hurston’s niece, and Evelyn Champaigne King. *that’s livin’!* stars Karen Stephens, produced by Yusuf Isin and is written and directed by award winning Jose ‘Joe’ H. Garofalo and is not the film you may remember premiering last April.

Last April’s screening at the Sunrise Theatre included Lucy Anne Hurston. Such an impression was made by the professionalism of Garofalo and team that she asked to be a part of the project. The finished project has been further enhanced by her vision and collaboration.

The screening will be followed by a black tie optional after party at the Fort Pierce Community Center. The party will include many dignitaries, buffet dinner, cocktails and The Coasters with special guest Carl Gardner and Bobby & The Blisters will provide entertainment.



Tickets for the film are \$10 for students, \$20 for general admission, \$35 for orchestra or \$75 for orchestra and after party. Tickets can be purchased at the Sunrise Theatre Box Office.

The Saint Lucie Film Society will promote filmmaking in St. Lucie County; Fort Pierce and Port St Lucie. It is dedicated to the promotion of independent and foreign films as an art form and to bring films of artistic and cultural importance to the community. Its mission is to develop events that will expose their neighbors to culturally diverse films. It will also assist in the education of future filmmakers through educational programs, scholarships, and other forms of support.

For more information please visit: [www.StLucieFilmSociety.com](http://www.StLucieFilmSociety.com).

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**2009 AMERICAN BLACK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILM SECTIONS, DEADLINES AND AWARDS**

Film Life's 13th Annual American Black Film Festival (ABFF) has announced its film sections, competitions and festival awards. The ABFF is the premier international marketplace for films made by and about people of African descent. The festival will be held from June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in South Beach, Miami. HBO® is the festival's founding and title sponsor.

Founded in 1997, the ABFF was born out of the need to facilitate distribution opportunities for quality Black cinema, showcase the top echelon of emerging artists and promote cultural diversity within the motion picture industry. Since its inception, the ABFF has premiered over 500, films positioning it as the leading film festival for Black and urban content. "Our mission is to cultivate the careers of the most talented emerging filmmakers and facilitate the distribution of their commercially viable work," said Melanie Sharee, festival director.

The competition categories are comprised of Narrative Features, Documentaries and the HBO Short Film Competition. Narrative

Features are eligible to compete for the Grand Jury Prize for Best Film, Grand Jury Prize for Best Actor and the Melvin Van Peebles Award, an award for the festival's most innovative film. Entry deadline for Narrative Features is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Documentary Features are eligible to win the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary; the entry deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Entry deadline for the HBO Short Film Competition, which includes a prize of \$20,000 in cash, is April 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the independent films, the ABFF will open and close with special screenings of upcoming studio releases targeted to African American audiences.

The ABFF also features special contests presented in association with its corporate partners. Official Sponsor Allstate® will once again be sponsoring the Beyond February "Be Reel" Film Contest. Entrants must submit a film between 15-90 seconds in length based on the following themes: "Through All This Change, My Change Adds Up" and "What's Next?" Contest rules and guidelines can be found at [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com) and [www.allstate.com/beyondfebruary](http://www.allstate.com/beyondfebruary).

Festival registration information is available online at [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com), via phone at 646-375-2144, ext. 1, or by e-mail: [abff@thefilmlife.com](mailto:abff@thefilmlife.com).

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## **FLORIDA MOTION PICTURE & TELEVISION ASSOCIATION'S 20<sup>TH</sup> CRYSTAL REEL AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES**

The Crystal Reel Awards, created to honor outstanding achievement in the Motion Picture, Television and Recording Industries in the State of Florida, recognizes outstanding projects created in Florida.

The competition is open to any one who produced or participated in projects produced in the state of Florida between the dates of January 1, 2008 to March 15, 2009. Any questions concerning eligibility should be referred to 321-632-7488.

You got to [www.fmpta.org](http://www.fmpta.org) for entry information and to enter. The form may be copied and used for other entries and/or categories. Forms must be submitted one per entry along with the appropriate fees. Fees for multiple entries may be combined, however each entry must have a separate entry form attached to the entry for each area to be judged. The forms must clearly indicate the Category and Subcategory for which it is to be considered. Incorrect entries will not be judged.

The deadline for entries is June 1, 2009 except scripts. Script deadline is May 15, 2009. Last minute entries can be accepted through the use of overnight, express or personal delivery as long as the Entries Chairman receives them by midnight on the deadline of June 1, 2009.

The Crystal Reel Awards will take place Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Red Rose Inn & Suites in Plant City, Florida.

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## **INTERNATIONAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Eligibility Requirements:

Films entered into competition, whether international or from the US must be directed, produced, written or principally acted by an artist of African Descent. Film must have been completed by June 2007.

All entries must be submitted on DVD for judging, evaluation, audience feedback, and competition. Upon acceptance you may send a 35mm, 16mm film print (sent on shipping reels, heads out, with countdown leader), DVD, Blu Ray, or Beta by the final copy deadline of July 31, 2009. Filmmaker must make arrangements with festival staff to screen all formats other than DVD. The primary contact listed on the application will receive the letter of acceptance via email.

\$30 per entry. Only one form per entry. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. Fees are non-refundable.

International Entries:

All international entries must be seen "free domicile" to the festival address, with all transportation charges, duties and taxes prepaid by the shipper. We cannot accept entries shipped via air-freight if customs and delivery fees have not been paid. All entries from outside the US should be sent Air Mail Registered or by a parcel or express service. Non-English films must have English subtitles.

All International and American submissions will be considered in one of the following genres:

- Documentary (Short/ Long)
- Feature Narrative
- Short
- Stage Play (See Instructions below)

Submission Deadlines:

- Early Submission Deadline: April 1, 2009
- Regular Deadline: April 30, 2009

- Final Deadline: May 31, 2009
- Deadline for Receipt of Final Copy of Film (Upon Acceptance): July 31, 2009

For more information, visit us online at: <http://www.ibffnashville.com/>.

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### **IFP Independent Filmmaker Labs – Call for Narrative Rough Cut Features**

*A National Program Connecting Mentors and Projects Before They Are Submitted to Festivals*

Led by experienced producers, the Labs assist filmmakers in tackling the creative challenges of completing their modestly-budgeted, independently produced films - getting a leg-up before industry exposure.

The five-day mentorship program in NYC challenges filmmakers to realize the full potential of their footage and stories with ongoing dynamic feedback and advice on technical & creative issues and distribution methods. The Labs are for first-time, narrative feature directors in the late stages of post-production.

Narrative Lab Submission deadline is April 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information & application please visit <http://labs.ifp.org>.

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### **@15 short film contest call for entries**

Film Independent is proud to announce the launch of the @15 Short Film Contest, a new initiative designed to increase the opportunities for young filmmakers to get their films seen by a wider audience.

Presented by Best Buy, the @15 Short Film Contest is open to filmmakers ages 13-18, and there is no entry fee.

Go to [www.at15.com/film](http://www.at15.com/film) to find detailed information about the submission requirements and the fantastic prizes that will be given to the top 15 finalists and to the audience-award winner. The final deadline is April 15.

Please contact [futurefilmmakers@filminddependent.org](mailto:futurefilmmakers@filminddependent.org) if you have any questions.

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### **2009 Austin Film Festival Film Competition Call for Entries**

Categories: Narrative Feature, Narrative Short, Narrative Student Short, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short & Animated Short

Postmarked Deadlines: June 3<sup>rd</sup> & July 3<sup>rd</sup>

3 Ways to Enter: Mail, Withoutabox or at [www.AustinFilmFestival.com](http://www.AustinFilmFestival.com)

For questions or more information email: [programming@austinfilmfestival.com](mailto:programming@austinfilmfestival.com)

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### **1ST CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL (CALDOCFEST) ANNOUNCES WORLDWIDE CALL FOR ENTRIES**

The San Joaquin Film Society has announced its global Call for Entries for its inaugural California International Documentary Film Festival (CalDocFest), to be held October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Stockton, California.

The new CalDocFest - the first global festival in California's vast 400-mile Central Valley devoted to documentary cinema - will feature a world showcase of new works, new directors, American and international documentaries, a spotlight on California documentarians, special projects, works-in-progress, panels, tributes to celebrated storytellers, creative conversations with guest artists, galas, and other unique programs.

All information, registration, rules and regulations are available at [www.caldocfest.org](http://www.caldocfest.org).

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### **FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

#### **[South Florida theater groups try to play through tough times](#)**

[Sun-Sentinel.com](#) © Mar 21, 2009

Cuts in admission prices are on the table, too, although ticketing for nonprofit arts and culture programming is already subsidized through donations. But the Miramar center, which received \$2 million from the county and \$500,000 from the state, is pressing

ahead with theater, opera, world music and ballet.

### **Broward schools incorporate digital technology in lessons with GLIDES**

Sun-Sentinel.com © Mar 21, 2009

Forget the simple report or project on a display board. These students seamlessly integrated technology and their regular lessons to produce work for the Global Learning Initiative through Digital Education for Students. The program is in 76 Broward County schools.

### **Music industry descends on Miami**

EDGE Boston © Mar 21, 2009

At the same time, South Florida is gearing up for one of the most publicized events in the music business, the Miami Beach Winter Music Conference (WMC) March 24-28th. The WMC is regarded as one of the biggest networking events in the dance music industry.

### **A reel celebration: Tallahassee Film Society marks decade on city's cinema scene**

Tallahassee Democrat © Mar 22, 2009

Ten years ago today, the Tallahassee Film Society came into being as a non-profit group and soon began showing offbeat, arty, Indie, foreign and classic movies anywhere and everywhere around Tallahassee.

### **Making movies? Florida wants you**

Bradenton Herald © Mar 22, 2009

But Florida's draw in the industry has been threatened by state budget cuts that have slashed incentives to lure projects. Its \$25 million incentive program was reduced to just \$5 million, and production companies are turning to other states to find financial breaks.

### **FILM FESTIVAL | Florida-centered film panels**

Bradenton Herald © Mar 22, 2009

The panel will feature Florida film professionals from across the state. They will discuss the state of film production in Florida and the recent "Rally in Tally," where they lobbied for the reinstatement of Florida film tax incentives.

### **Casting film in a new light**

Sarasota Herald-Tribune (FL) © Mar 22, 2009

This may be the year of the underappreciated filmmaker during the 11th annual Sarasota Film Festival. The 10-day mix of film screenings and star-studded parties includes more than 100 feature films and 58 shorts.

### **Jolie's first movie to release after 27 yrs**

Economic Times © Mar 23, 2009

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie's first movie role in a forgotten 1982 comedy is set for release, 27 years after it was made. The director's cut of the film, which also features Ann Margret and "Rocky" star Burt Young, will debut at the Sarasota Film Festival in Florida next month...

### **BET's 'Spring Bling' Heads Back to Riviera Beach for Another Round of Red Hot Tapings That Are Sure to Blow the Sand off the Beach on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29**

PR Newswire (press release) © Mar 24, 2009

NBET returns to beautiful Riviera Beach in West Palm Beach, Florida for the network's signature spring break music extravaganza SPRING BLING '09. Viewers should prepare to get drenched by the hottest performances and sun-soaked competitions ever to hit one dynamic stage.

### **New Florida Television Program Will Show Viewers How to 'Do' Florida**

Emediawire (press release) © Mar 24, 2009

A Lake Mary, Florida, television production company is producing an innovative new television show that features how-to segments on outdoor activities across the state. The show will be broadcast across Central Florida and aired on cable networks throughout the state. The first show will feature how to surf, shrimp and kayak in the New Smyrna Beach area.

### **FLORIDA INDIE BAND GOES FROM 60-PERSON AUDIENCES TO ACCLAIMED DIGITAL RELEASE TO LETTERMAN AND LENO**

The Free Lance-Star © Mar 26, 2009

Once, Black Kids were known only to those in their sunny hometown. But since the release of "Partie Traumatic," their first full-length album, last July, the band has been on the fast track to fame, with help from the blogosphere.

### **Seminole Community College partners with Digitec Interactive**

Orlando Business Journal © Mar 26, 2009

Digital media occupations in the state are expected to grow by 11 percent in the next 10 years, with multimedia artists and animators growing at the fastest rate. In addition, there are about 1,200 digital media firms in Central Florida, said a 2004 Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission study.

### **He's not Bart, but Brian Hecker knows how he feels**

Orlando Sentinel © Mar 26, 2009

The story this Hollywood (Fla.) native came up with was an embarrassing prom night, one based on his own experiences and humiliations. Bart Got a Room is about a teen, a son of divorced parents who thoroughly botches prom night by ignoring his best friend and asking out every other girl he can think of.

#### [Tap dancers hope to soft-shoe right onto TV show](#)

Naples Daily News © Mar 26, 2009

NBC is holding tryouts at the Hyatt Regency Miami on Saturday and Sunday, but ReCreation Tappers may hold a special edge over their competition: A week ago, the president of the club, JoAnn Zehner, received a phone call from one of the show's producers specifically asking them to audition.

#### **ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:**

#### [Mixed Views On California Filming Incentives](#)

SHOOT Online © Mar 20, 2009

"But an effective incentives program," concluded Miller, "needs to go beyond this and take into account the everyday production like commercials that is so vital to the economy."

#### [Think Michigan, think Autos, think Music, but now think Movies](#)

Examiner.com © Mar 21, 2009

Soon from home, those desiring to upgrade their skills can do so online, with the fully accredited Anaheim University Akira Kurosawa School of Film. The school strives to incorporate the principals of environmental and social responsibilities in its online Digital Film programs slated for September this year.

#### [Cast Corpus Christi, movie makers urge](#)

Corpus Christi Caller Times (TX) © Mar 21, 2009

It would happen here more often, film industry officials say, but for the lack of tax incentives. Cities throughout the state have missed out on millions and millions of dollars in recent years to neighboring states New Mexico and Louisiana, which share landscapes with Texas but offer bigger incentive packages.

#### [Incentives offered to stimulate SF's ailing movie industry](#)

The San Francisco Examiner © Mar 22, 2009

The loss of movie magic in San Francisco comes with an economic toll. Between 2001 and 2006, 1,099 film-industry jobs were lost, along with more than \$123 million in spending and more than \$8.4 million in tax revenue, according to a Film Commission report.

#### [Residents race to reality TV audition](#)

KRQE (NM) © Mar 23, 2009

Hundreds from across the state raced to Sky City Casino this past weekend to try their luck at securing a spot on the CBS hit show "The Amazing Race." Amazingly, New Mexico's audition race to secure a spot on the reality T.V. show attracted some teams from California, Arizona and even Florida.

#### [Louisiana film industry in high gear](#)

Opelousas Daily World © Mar 23, 2009

The comeback of Louisiana's film industry continues - and appears to be gaining momentum. For many years, the state's Office of Film and Video was a busy agency with several major films shot here.

#### [Huntsman signs film incentive, \\$115M bond bill](#)

Salt Lake Tribune (UT) © Mar 24, 2009

The governor also approved \$115 million in state bonds, to construct nine buildings, mainly on the state's college and university campuses. SB14 dangles about \$15 million over two years, meant to entice film, television and commercial productions to the state.

#### [Ark. panel backs incentives for film, TV projects](#)

Forbes © Mar 24, 2009

The Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development committee advanced a proposal Tuesday to create a 15 percent rebate on expenditures in Arkansas for producers who shoot their films, television shows or commercials in the state.

#### [Wisconsin should not eliminate film tax credits](#)

Milwaukee Small Business Times © Mar 25, 2009

The following letter was sent by actress Jane Kaczmarek, a Milwaukee native, and her husband, Bradley Whitford, a Madison native, to Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle. They are trying to convince Doyle to drop his plan to eliminate state tax credits to support the film industry in Wisconsin.

#### [LA Council Backs Incentives for Film Industry](#)

Los Angeles Business Journal © Mar 25, 2009

The incentive package includes measures to reduce parking costs for film crews and the installation of power modules in often-used film locations to eliminate the need for expensive, noisy and highly-polluting portable generators.

#### [Made in Texas](#)

Hollywood Reporter © Mar 25, 2009

The Drew Barrymore-helmed indie was written by an Austinite (Shauna Cross), and tells the tale of a girl who discovers her dreams on a Texas-based roller derby circuit. But, other than a few days in Austin, "Whip It!" filmed in Michigan.

#### [West Virginia Tax Incentive Program Sets the Stage for Two Film Productions](#)

WOWK © Mar 26, 2009

Two new feature film productions will start shooting in West Virginia this year, thanks to help from the West Virginia Film Industry Investment Act, which the Legislature enacted and the Film Office began implementing last year.

#### [Why NOT in live, work and play in New Orleans?](#)

Net2no.com © Mar 26, 2009

The Digital Interactive Media Tax Credits provide a sellable tax credit for up to 20% of in-state expenditures for Digital Media productions, including salaries for certified projects investors that are calculated as a percentage of the total base investment dollars certified per production project.

#### **GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

#### [Video Games Continue Strong Sales in February](#)

TipAdept Dot Com © Mar 20, 2009

In an e-mail to media late Thursday, NPD Group analyst Anita Frazier said that despite the tough economy, "the U.S. video-game industry continues to post strong year-over-year comps. Unit sales increased even more than dollar sales did, reflecting a slightly lower average retail price for all categories as compared to last year."

#### [Time Warner Taps Film Archive](#)

Wall Street Journal © Mar 23, 2009

As part of a plan to squeeze all it can out of its film library, Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. Entertainment is initiating a plan to sell vintage movies previously unreleased on DVD directly to consumers at \$19.95 apiece.

#### [Gen2Media Premieres First Three Episodes of 'HIP HOP 360' on Xbox LIVE](#)

FOXBusiness (FL) © Mar 23, 2009

This visually stunning and pulsating reality series marks the first show in Gen2Media's growing line-up of planned original programming produced specifically for the online social entertainment and gaming network's 17+ million Xbox LIVE subscribers.

#### [GDC'09 to highlight video game sector's health](#)

Nudjit Press Office © Mar 24, 2009

Because videogames cost less than \$50 but provide hours of entertainment, analysts and industry executives expect them to show strength even in a severe economic slump that has punished the entire consumer technology sector.

#### [China vs Hollywood in boxoffice battle](#)

Hollywood Reporter © Mar 25, 2009

John Woo and Feng Xiaogang, the only two directors to break the 300 million yuan (\$44 million) boxoffice barrier in China, said the country's movie business is in a battle with Hollywood that will require it to honor the past while embracing the cutting-edge production values of today.

#### [WGA CUTS STAFFERS AMID DEBT WOES](#)

Variety © Mar 25, 2009

"The guild has not escaped the effects of the global financial crisis and as a consequence has had to make the difficult decision to lay off some of its employees, less than 10 per cent of the total staff," Sacharow said. "We regret that we were forced to take this action and we wish those affected well in the future."

#### [DreamWorks Animation's Monsters vs. Aliens Opens in IMAX\(R\) 3D Theatres on Friday, March 27](#)

PR Newswire (press release) © Mar 26, 2009

The film will also open in five IMAX theatres internationally day-and-date and another 51 IMAX international theatres in the days and weeks to follow, for a total of 199 IMAX theatres, a record for a Hollywood film. Monsters vs. Aliens is the third release of a five picture partnership between DreamWorks Animation and IMAX, and the first to be presented in IMAX(R) 3D.

#### [Are ISPs the Music Industry's New Guns for Hire?](#)

E-Commerce Times © Mar 26, 2009

The RIAA reportedly has enlisted some ISPs' cooperation in fighting piracy by cutting off the Internet access of customers guilty of three file-sharing transgressions. In the past, the RIAA has mounted expensive lawsuits against individuals engaged in illegal file-sharing activities, with limited success.

#### [Box Office Tracking: Monsters vs. Aliens is the Widest Non-Summer Release Of All Time](#)

/FILM © Mar 26, 2009

Monsters Vs. Aliens will debut with 4,104 playdates. That makes it the 13th-widest release in modern film history, and it becomes the biggest non-summer debut of all-time. If Monsters Vs. Aliens scores big, it will be a strong incentive for theatre-owners to convert more theatres to digital.

## **N.Y. TIMES CO. TO LAY OFF 100**

Variety © Mar 26, 2009

In the face of rapidly declining subscription and advertising revenues and a series of fiscal missteps, the New York Times Co. will lay off 100 workers from the business side of the org and has mandated a 5% pay cut for all of its employees.

## **STATEWIDE EVENTS:**

### **South Beach International Animation Festival**

The South Beach International Animation Festival is taking place Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Screening and event locations are the MB Cinematheque, Tower Theater, Miami Science Museum.

See the entire program and schedule of events at [www.southbeachanimationfest.com](http://www.southbeachanimationfest.com).

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### **Miami Filmmaker Project Seminar Series With Filmmaker Brian Hecker**

The next Entertainment Industry Incubator Miami Filmmaker Project Seminar will be "A Conversation with Brian Hecker." This FREE seminar will take place on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Miami Science Museum, 3280 S. Miami Ave, Miami (across from Vizcaya). Ample free parking is on-site.

Brian Hecker grew up in South Florida, the setting of his new autobiographical feature film *Bart Got a Room*, which opens April 3<sup>rd</sup> at AMC Sunset Place and Avenutra. The film stars William H. Macy, Jennifer Tilly and newcomer Steven Kaplan in an off-beat coming-of-age comedy shot entirely in Florida.

Hecker received an MFA at the American Film Institute, where he was awarded 'Director of the Year'. His short thesis film "Family Attraction," starring Martin Sheen and the late Chris Penn, earned over a dozen national and international film festival awards. Paramount Pictures has recently hired Hecker and his writing partner to write a biopic for Leonardo DiCaprio about the 29-year-old rebel-genius Nolan Bushnell who, in 1972, created Pong and started Atari. Hecker recently joined the Miami Filmmaker Project Advisory Board.

For more information, please visit <http://www.eincubator.org/homepage.html>.

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### **PALM BEACH FILM SCHOOL STUDENT FILMS SCREENING**

The Palm Beach Film School is presenting a public screening of student films on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 5:00 PM at the BMC Cinema, 4076 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens (561) 776-4001.

We strongly encourage you and your family and friends to attend and show support to these creative, emerging filmmakers. Admission is only \$5.00.

The following short films will be shown (not the final order):

"238 Days," Written directed and edited by Seandee Means

"Archie's Funeral," Written directed and edited by Ian Oliver

"Good Luck, Bad Fortune," Written directed and edited by Wally Valenti

"The Conversation," Written directed and edited by Greg Goyins

"A Matter of Power," Written directed and edited by Linda Guarducci

"Oceanhead," Written directed and edited by Phil O'Brien

"Lost & Found," Written directed and edited by Jason Burke

"Alternate," Written directed and edited by Kyler Taustin

"Remorse," Written directed and edited by Peabo Powell

"The Hole," Written directed and edited by Brooks Rich

"Apparition," Written directed and edited by Jodes Elevus

"Trap," Written directed and edited by D.S. Ullery

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## Summer Camp for Film Makers

The Sunscreen Film Festival will present a summer camp for youngsters. The two-week program will teach the kids how to concept, write, shoot and edit movies. The camp will end with a mini-festival to showcase the creative output of the campers.

The camp will meet at Studio 620, 620 First Ave. South in St. Petersburg. It will run Mon. through Fri. from July 6 to July 17 from 9-5. The cost for the instruction and special equipment is \$500.00.

"A kid with a camera and a passion can bring a special energy to film," said Tony Armer, Executive Director of the Sunscreen Film Festival. "We want to provide youngsters with the knowledge to create good work with a beginning, middle, and an end that the audience can't wait to see."

In the first week of the camp, students will study the story structure that makes films compelling. They will use exercises to create and try short vignettes to learn what works and what doesn't. They will also take an immersion course in cinematography with instructors demonstrating and sharing setting camera angles, lighting, and sound issues that the students will face when making their movies.

The first three days of the second week will be for shooting film. The instructors will divide the class in to teams. Each team will shoot its own original film. During the last two days students edit the movies and prepare them for exhibition.

Finally, on the last day of camp, the students will show their movies to family and friends at the camp film festival.

For more information or if you have any questions, contact Harry Chittenden via email at [harryc@harryc.net](mailto:harryc@harryc.net) or by phone at 727-420-0566.

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## Chrystal Hartigan presents "Women Who ROCK South Florida" Songwriter's Showcase

Starting Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and continuing every 3rd Tuesday of each month, Laffing Matterz (219 Andrews Avenue downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida 954-763-5236) will be holding "Women Who Rock South Florida."

The showcase starts at 8pm, and there is a \$5 Cover. Featured songwriters will be performing "in the round" style.

For more information or if you have questions, contact Chrystal Hartigan at [hlwdmusic@aol.com](mailto:hlwdmusic@aol.com) or 954-465-7020. Visit her online at [www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan](http://www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan) or on Facebook ([chrystalhartigan](http://facebook.com/chrystalhartigan)).

## CASTING CALL:

### You and your dog could be chosen to be in new feature-length motion picture "Destiny and the Bulldozers!"

On Saturday, March 28, 2009 an open audition for dogs aspiring to be Destiny, the star in the movie "Destiny and the Bulldozers," will take place at the G-Star Studios at 2030 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs, Florida from 11 AM to 4 PM.

In addition, over 100 dogs are needed to appear on screen. The dog owners will appear in the movie also. Auditions open to all types of dogs. Entry fee is \$5.00.

Audition your dog to star in a new motion picture...and meet the 'supercars' starring in the movie!  
Go to [www.gstarschool.org](http://www.gstarschool.org) for details and to read the storyline.

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**Please Note:** If you have a press release or an educational event, you can post it on our website [www.filminflorida.com](http://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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