

From: [Andrews, Frank](#)
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NEWS AND EVENTS, April 11, 2008

THE FILM & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY MORNS THE PASSING OF FL REP. DON DAVIS

Florida House Speaker Marco Rubio announced to House members that FL Rep. Don Davis, R-Jacksonville, died yesterday morning after a long bout with a debilitating illness. He was 76.

Rubio said, "It was my honor to serve for eight years in the Florida Legislature with Don Davis. He was a keen student of government and public service, a loving father and husband, and a gentleman. As colleagues and friends, we mourn his loss and extend our deep sympathy and prayers to his family."

Governor Charlie Crist has asked all state and local government agencies to join him in honoring Rep. Davis by lowering their U.S. and state flags to half mast. He issued the following statement yesterday morning:

"It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Representative Don Davis, a great public servant. He served the people of Jacksonville as well as the people of our state with honor and dignity. He will be remembered for his efforts to raise the quality of life for our people by growing and attracting businesses to Florida."

As you know, Representative Davis has always been a strong advocate of the film and entertainment industry, and was a pivotal figure in the creation of our industries incentive program, named *The Don Davis Entertainment Industry Economic Development Act of 2007*. His contributions to our industry and to the State of Florida will not be forgotten.

<http://news.jacksonville.com/justin/2008/04/10/state-lawmaker-don-davis-dies/>

THERE'S STILL TIME TO TELL YOUR STORY!

As you know, we have made progress in educating our policy makers on the role Florida's film, TV, and digital media industry sector plays as part of both the short and long term solution to Florida's economic strength and competitiveness. That was confirmed last year with the passage of the Don Davis Entertainment Economic Development Act that funded our production incentive program.

Sharing talking points has tremendous strategic value, however we are in a different environment now - competing with other industries and priorities for diminished state revenues. Now it is time to share the human story and put a real face on our industry. The face of our industry is the face of the hard working Floridian, the struggling Florida homeowner, working parents trying to ensure a safe and secure future for their children.

The face of our industry is the face of the future - the people with the skills and talents so critical to a creative and innovative economy. Many of the innovations in other industries are supported and driven by film and entertainment technologies created by our workforce. We must keep our workforce in Florida to not only attract more film and entertainment production but to build our state's overall competitiveness through world

class talent.

As workers and professionals in this industry you must tell your representatives, in your own words, and in your own voice, about how increased production has allowed you and others to stay in Florida. Explain how our primary tool - the \$25 million production incentive - has helped bring production and jobs back to the state. We know that the bottom line is that our workforce must follow the jobs.

By continuing to offer strong incentives for our industry, Florida makes it possible for working families to continue calling Florida their home and be part of Florida's economic recovery. We want film, TV and digital media productions to stimulate *Florida's* economy - not Louisiana's or New Mexico's economy.

Contact your representatives and senators at their district offices as well as their Capitol offices. Access legislative information and calendars at the Online Sunshine website located at: www.leg.state.fl.us.

LEGISLATION APPROVED IN ILLINOIS & NEW YORK

ILLINOIS is now back in the game, as the Illinois Senate just approved legislation to reinstate the 20% incentive, which expired at the end of 2007. The Governor is expected to sign quickly.

NEW YORK, also today (APRIL 11, 2008), has passed a major increase in its production credit, jumping it to 30% (from 10%) with a \$75 million cap. The legislation is not yet signed, but it is anticipated that this will happen very soon.

[Recount with Laura Dern as Katherine Harris debuts May 25](#)

Six months after shooting in Tallahassee and Jacksonville, HBO Films announced this week that *Recount*, a movie recapping the 2000 presidential election controversy in Florida will debut on May 25. The film debuts at 9 a.m., May 25 on HBO. It is set to play another 12 times through May on HBO and HBO2.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080402/BLOG01/791850471/-1/RSS1001>

STATEWIDE EVENTS:

[3rd ANNUAL DELRAY BEACH FILM FESTIVAL "COME EXPERIENCE INDEPENDENCE"](#)

MAY 6-11, 2008

The third annual Delray Beach Film Festival returns this year from May 6-11, 2008, leaner and more exciting than ever, bringing high-quality independent short and feature-length films and documentaries, panels and workshops, concerts, screenwriter and filmmaker contests, actors, celebrities, and parties, to the picturesque village by the sea.

The opening night film will be Director Mark McLaughlin's documentary film *'Hollywood Singing and Dancing: A Musical Treasure'*, hosted by Academy Award-winning stage, screen and television icon, Shirley Jones.

For more information on the festival, visit www.dbff.us

[3rd annual Sicilian Film Festival 2008](#)

Presented by Emanuele Viscuso, the 2008 Sicilian Film Festival will be held April 8 - 13 at various locations in Miami and Miami Beach. Events include film screenings, awards, parties, lectures, live performances, and discussions. For more information, contact Emanuele Viscuso Communications at (305) 710-4593, or visit <http://www.sicilianfilmfestival.com>

10th Annual Sarasota Film Festival, April 4-13, 2008

Among the 'names expected to be seen at the various festival events and parties are.

Governor Charlie Crist, Paula Wagner, Rick Nicita, Charlize Theron, Liv Ullmann, Stanley Tucci, Ted Hope, William H. Macy, Jason Ritter, Steve Buscemi, Norman Lloyd, Michael Badalucco, Steven Schachter, Stuart Townsend, Michael Barker, Florian Henckel Von Donnersmarck, Michelle Rodriguez, Martin Henderson, Jeremy Renner, Nora Dunn, Jennifer Ehle, Mark Burton, Ian Ziering, Juha Wuolijoki, Bela Fleck, Elvis Mitchell, David Darcy, Joe Sirola. AND MANY MORE. For full details, go to <http://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com/2008/>

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, APRIL 10-17, 2008 TO INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR FILMMAKERS

Congratulations to Palm Beach Film School graduates: "Pull" directed by Gabby Garcia, "Gone" directed by Garry Messick, "Jogger's Run" directed by Chris Ng Mon, "Wanna Ride" produced by Pat Price and Director of Photography Matt Miller, whose films were selected for screening in the Voices of Local Films category of the Palm Beach International Film Festival. All of these films will be shown on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 6:45PM at the Mizner Park Theater in Boca Raton. Also premiering on April 12th @ 9:00PM will be the short titled 'DUSK' by Orlando based IWonder Films.

In addition to screenings and parties, filmmakers attending this year's film festival are welcome to take advantage of the panel discussions on Saturday thru Wednesday. For the full schedule, go to www.pbifilmfest.org/2008/schedule.

FILM FLORIDA 2008 ANNUAL MEETING June 9 - 11, Grand Bohemian Hotel, Orlando

Join Film Florida for three full days of exciting events and meetings including the 1st annual Sara Fuller Khaki and White Casino Night; The 3rd annual Film Florida Legends Awards, Film Florida's Annual Meeting and the Florida Film & Entertainment Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Room reservations now being accepted at the Grand Bohemian Hotel. Call 888.472.6312 and ask for the "Film Florida" rate of \$149. Overnight parking \$20. Reservations must be made by May 26, 2008.

SAVE-THE-DATE!

FILMSLAM AT ENZIAN THEATER IN ORLANDO

Sunday's FilmSlam at Enzian Theater in Orlando will showcase shorts including "Relay For Life: St. Cloud" created by Jen Vargas, (www.relayforlife.org), as well as more created by Florida Filmmakers Banks Helrich, Art D'Alessandro, Albert Pergande, and others make up the seven film line-up of this Sunday's Film Slam at the [Enzian](#).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

STUDIOS PRESSURE SAG WITH LETTER

Majors want pact to mirror WGA, DGA deals: In a move designed to pressure the Screen Actors Guild into making a deal, the majors have told the performers union to forget about asking for sweeter terms than those secured by the WGA and DGA.

<http://email.variety.com/cgi-bin7/DM/y/e4TK0DgLbu0Xlv0GoNc0EM>

AFTRA sets date for negotiations

The American Federation of Television & Radio Artists will launch negotiations with the majors for a new primetime contract on April 28 -- less than two weeks after the Screen Actors Guild starts bargaining, saying

the window gives SAG "significant time" to work out a deal. See full article posted on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at www.variety.com

PROSIEBENSAT1, IBM JOIN FORCES

ProSiebenSat1 and IBM are joining forces to set up the first pan-European digital platform as part of a E200 million (\$315 million) agreement that allows the IT giant to takeover part of the broadcaster's production unit, ProSiebenSat1 Produktion.

<http://email.variety.com/cgi-bin7/DM/y/e4TP0DgLbu0UUW0GoPr0EM>

'The Grid' Could Soon Make the Internet Obsolete

The Internet could soon be made obsolete. The scientists who pioneered it have now built a lightning-fast replacement capable of downloading entire feature films within seconds.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,347212,00.html>

DISNEY RACKS UP MIP TV DEALS

Studio increases international focus: The Mouse House is building new wings all over the world and discovering fresh ways to dice up its cheese.

<http://email.variety.com/cgi-bin7/DM/y/e4TK0DgLbu0Xlv0GoNk0EU>

Films To Be Produced Exclusively for Xbox

Thinking outside the Xbox, Microsoft is planning to make available to subscribers to its Xbox Live service short scripted shows from established Hollywood producers created exclusively for the Xbox 360 consoles. Since most of the consoles are connected to TV sets rather than to computers, the films would compete directly with currently available on-demand TV shows. Heading up the Xbox production company, Microsoft said, will be veteran Hollywood producer [Peter Safran](#). Safran told today's (Monday) *New York Times* that he plans to seek out top directors and writers for his projects but expects to eschew high-priced screenwriters and actors.

YAHOO AGAIN REBUFFS MICROSOFT BID

Web portal wants tech giant to sweeten offer: No means no. That was Yahoo's message to Microsoft on Monday, as the Web portal reiterated its rejection of the tech giant's acquisition bid.

<http://email.variety.com/cgi-bin7/DM/y/e4TK0DgLbu0Xlv0GoNt0Ed>

Rough Cut Labs for Narrative & Documentary Features

Work with Mentors to complete your film before you submit to festivals. IFP Narrative & Documentary Rough Cut Labs support low-budget, independently produced films in the rough assembly stage that can benefit from the mentorship of experienced film professionals. The four-day program challenges filmmakers to realize the full potential of their footage and stories prior to industry exposure, providing a dynamic system of feedback and advice on technical, creative and post-production issues. The program is specifically geared towards assisting first-time feature filmmakers prior to their submissions to film festivals. <http://market.ifp.org/newyork/labs/>

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Stay tuned!

We will be making improvements in the content and distribution of the "News & Events" as well as our website over the next few weeks. Thank you for your patience during the transition.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have a press release, event or an educational function that you would like included in our News & Events, please contact our communications office via e-mail at Film1@MyFlorida.com.

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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