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Attachments:



News & Events

NEWS:

Business, community leader input sought for update of Florida's strategic economic development plan

Regional meetings to gather feedback for state's economic development Roadmap

ORLANDO, FL (May 20, 2009) - Enterprise Florida is calling on Florida's business, education, government and economic development leaders to provide input into an update of the state's strategic plan for economic growth.

Enterprise Florida's board is charged with developing the plan and submitting it to the governor and legislative leaders. Every three years, the *Roadmap to Florida's Future* – the state's blueprint for economic development -- is updated following competitiveness analysis and feedback from a broad base of community representatives. This approach enables the consideration of new ideas and strategies emerging from the "grassroots." The final plan details Florida's priorities for furthering its economic expansion and diversification.

Half-day workshops in eight Florida regions serve as the venue for discussion, viewpoints and recommendations.

"Perspectives from a wide range of industries and service areas can be fuel for sparking further growth and diversification of our economy," explained former Florida House Speaker Allan Bense, who serves as vice chairman of Enterprise Florida's board of directors. "This valuable feedback will help us focus on the most important needs and set the right goals for making Florida more competitive and economically, much healthier."

The workshops will enable high-level Florida officials to work with regional business and community leaders to determine economic priorities. Topics will run the gamut: from retaining, creating and attracting high-wage jobs to cultivating a talented and highly skilled future workforce; from upgrading infrastructure to increasing Florida's global competitiveness.

Enterprise Florida is partnering with regional and local economic development organizations to present the workshops. "It's important that we have involvement from all business and community sectors," said John Adams Jr., Enterprise Florida's president & CEO.

"This is a grassroots effort, so, we want to hear the voices and opinions of everyone, whether they're leaders in the arts, transportation officials or workforce providers, as well as from those who work in economic development."

The priorities in the current *Roadmap* reflect input from more than 1,000 participants in the last series of workshop, held in summer 2006. Attendees were an eclectic cross-section of stakeholders in Florida's future – from educational organizations to chambers of commerce.

For meeting times, locations, agendas, etc. in your region visit http://www.eflorida.com/Floridas_Future.aspx?id=7644.

The Film, Recording and Entertainment Council will honor Michele Pommier with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2009 Star Gala

(Miami, Florida (May 21, 2009) -- Michele Pommier has been named the Film, Recording and Entertainment Council's Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. Ms. Pommier will receive the honor at the annual FREC Star Gala to be held on November 14, 2009 at the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming in sunny South Florida.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to individuals who made outstanding contributions to the betterment of their community and had an economical impact in the development of South Florida in their life. In order to be eligible, candidates must have made innovative contributions in their industry and community which have had an impact on the way South Florida's entertainment industry develops; putting Miami on the map. Past recipients have been Music Industry Icon Mel Haber, Distinguished Film Director William Greffe, and Legendary Producer Jonathan D. Krane.

Into this morass stepped Michele Pommier, a supermodel turned entrepreneur. Pommier took one look at all that the fleeing youngsters waved away – the sunshine, the palm trees, that ocean – and saw opportunity. She envisioned a future where others

saw a void. This Westport, Connecticut native was one of the most recognized models in the "70s. She started out with the esteemed Ford agency in New York City. Later, having accomplished as a model what she wanted to accomplish, she set out to be an agency owner. Pommier moved to Coral Gables and opened an agency and prepared for the deluge she knew would follow. It did, she stayed, and thousands have made their careers off of her vision back in 1979. The Film, Recording and Entertainment Council recognize Pommier for being the first to open a modeling agency in Miami in 1979. She recognized South Beach as a viable photo location, extolled its virtues, and challenged others to join her. She raised the bar of the fashion and beauty industry of this area, bringing it up to international standards.

The 2009 FREC Award and Star Gala is sponsored by the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming, Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine, Tropical Chinese Restaurant, Catering by Lovables, Big Chef, and Visual Vanguard Media Specialists. To obtain ticket for the Star Gala, log on to www.StarGala.org, click on registration. Reservations may also be made by calling 786-234-7697 or emailing MBravo@FRECouncil.org.

About FREC: The mission of the Film, Recording and Entertainment Council is to promote economic development for the industry in South Florida and to create a climate that enhances economic vitality for industry businesses. FREC helps to improve the quality of life for all members by providing networking and business opportunities and by positioning South Florida as the premier industry Hot Spot. The Council is a membership driven not for profit 501(c) (6) organization.

INDIEFEST! NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!

INDIEFEST! is a 4-day, family-inclusive event that showcases the very best in independent features, shorts, documentary and student-made films in addition to celebrating the Hollywood favorites that audiences have come to know and love. The spirit of INDIEFEST! is one of friendship and universal collaboration. Our aim is to focus attention and celebrate works of quality that unquestionably contribute to the progress of the motion picture arts and to encourage the development of the film industry throughout the world.

INDIEFEST! officially went "live" on withoutabox.com last month and film submissions have already started pouring in from around the globe. If you are a filmmaker or know a filmmaker who has a film completed within the last two years, we encourage you to submit. Our mission is to introduce upcoming filmmakers to an audience of film lovers and industry professionals in a prestigious forum that celebrates creativity and collaboration as well as provides for professional growth and advancement.

All films submitted will be considered for competition and eligible for both award and \$40,000 in cash prizes!

For more information, please visit: www.celebrationfilm.org.

G-Star School Films Their First Full Length Motion Picture

PALM SPRINGS, Fla. (May 30, 2009) – G-Star School, the nation's largest film and TV production and acting high school, is proud to announce the start of filming for their first full length motion picture, *It's a Dog Gone Tale: Destiny's Stand*. G-Star students will be involved in all aspects of production, including acting, set design and more. A team of award winning industry professionals including actors, directors, writers and special effects supervisors, have donated their time and services in support of G-Star and the film. This is the first of many movies that G-Star will be filming and producing. The goal is to produce four such movies per year. The movie will be filmed at the G-Star Studios on the G-Star School campus in Palm Springs, in addition to several other sites around Palm Beach County.

The star of the film is G-Star School alum, Shay Roman, who has acted in other films including *Sex Drive* and *TWO*. Shay, currently a student at Sarah Lawrence College, graduated from G-Star last year. Co-starring with Roman is Tony and Golden Globe winner Barry Bostwick (*Hannah Montana: The Movie*, *Ugly Betty* and *Spin City*), as well as Ron Palillo (*Welcome Back Kotter*, *The Guardians*, *Hellgate*). Other notable crew members include Academy Award winner Bobby Moresco, Co-writer & Co-producer of *Crash* and *Million Dollar Baby*, Dean Lyon, the Special Visual Effects Supervisor of the Academy Award winning *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Armageddon*, *Independence Day*, and *Air Force One*, Writer Amanda Moresco (*Crash*, *The Black Donnelly's*), and Director Joe Reilly (*The Prince and the Pauper*, *Kings of Appletown*). Several Floridians will be featured in the movie as well, including Florida Governor Charlie Crist and Save-A-Pet Founder, Gertrude Maxwell.

The premise for the movie is; a quiet summer community erupts in turmoil as progress, fueled by power and greed, threatens not only their way of life but the future of hundreds of abandoned pets and the shelter that protects them. Lead by the most unlikely of heroes, the teenaged residents and their parents much choose sides or watch their beloved community and their homes disappear forever.

According to Greg Hauptner, CEO of the G-Star School, "We are excited to be bringing real world, practical experience to our students." Hauptner continued, "What better professionals to learn from than some of Hollywood's most celebrated and decorated actors, directors and crew members."

A special contest will be held by the G-Star School to have a local person's dog be in the movie, simply go to www.gstarschool.org/destiny.htm to submit a photo and information about your dog to have your dog in the movie.

ABOUT G-STAR SCHOOL:

The G-STAR School of the Arts for Motion Pictures and Broadcasting is the largest Film, TV Production and Acting high school in the nation and the only high school in the world with a real Motion Picture Studio on its campus, the G-Star Studios. G-Star is a nationally accredited high school awarded by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-CASI). Students assist on multi-million dollar feature films working side by side with the cast, crew, Producers and Directors as interns, thus receiving hands-on, real-world experience in the film industry. For more information visit, www.gstarschool.org.

Omni Advertising is the Official Media Partner of G-Star School; providing pro-bono advertising, marketing and public relations support to further the mission of G-Star and help transform Palm Beach County into a destination for motion picture filming and production. For more information, please visit www.omni-advertising.com.

tampa-st. petersburg 48-hour film contest

Hello Filmmakers,

Please allow us to introduce ourselves, we are Coco and Kerri Bermudez, and we are the Producers of the Tampa - St. Petersburg 48 Hour Film Project.

This is the third year we are having the 48 Hour Film Project in the Tampa - St. Petersburg area and are extremely excited to extend an invitation to consider competing in the Tampa - St. Petersburg event. We will be holding our event on the weekend of July 17th through the 19th and screening our films on July 22nd.

If you are interested and looking for more information please go to <http://www.48hourfilm.com/tampa-stpetersburg>. Kerri and I look forward to hearing from you and look forward to your team participating in the Tampa - St. Petersburg 48 Hour Film Project.

Sincerely,
Coco & Kerri

Got any questions? Feel free to email us...your friendly city producers, Coco and Kerri, at tampa-stpetersburg@48hourfilm.com

Florida Film awarded Dove's prestigious "Family-Approved" Seal

The "Independent Review" gives the feature documentary film The Oscar Lose Story 4 out of 5 Doves

The Oscar Lose Story... A Dog's Life was shot primarily in Florida with an all Florida cast & crew and was co-produced by two Florida companies: The Pamplin Film Company and Nemours Marketing, Inc. The film was picked up by Tapeworm Video and is now available for sale & rental through NetFlix, Target.com, BestBuy.com, Amazon, FilmBaby & other outlets. The film is also available overseas with Japan being one of the first territories to sell the film.

The Dove Foundation was created in 1990 when a group of fathers began looking for a way to identify movies that were compatible with their families' values. In 1991 The Dove Foundation incorporated as a not-for-profit organization and began its work producing the first list of movies with the Dove "Family-Approved" Seal which independent film makers and even the largest studios like 20th Century Fox strive for. Based in Grand Rapids Michigan, The Dove Foundation carries on almost 20 years later with its same mission statement: "To encourage and promote the creation, production, distribution and consumption of wholesome family entertainment."

Below is the independent review from Edwin L. Carpenter of Anchor Bay Entertainment which led to veteran Director Rick Pamplin getting his latest film (which he also wrote and produced) this illustrious & most distinguished award a film maker & father can receive.

"Dove Worldview: This is a fascinating documentary about Dr. Phyllis Lose, one of the first women veterinarians in the country and the many lives she touched over the years. The documentary leads to her recent life and her ownership of a dog named Oscar, who wins first prize in a Purina contest, lands a role in a movie and winds up on TV and becomes a celebrity. His amazing tricks and personality make him a popular dog. This DVD is a good one for the entire family with something to offer just about everyone. We gladly award this DVD our Dove 'Family-Approved' Seal."

For more info about The Dove Foundation & this review on the recent award presented to *The Oscar Lose Story... A Dog's Life*, visit: http://www.dove.org/reviewpopup.asp?Unique_ID=77821

3rd San Joaquin International Film Festival Announces Worldwide Call for Entries and Festival Dates February 20-27, 2010

Stockton, California, USA - The Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Film Society announces the global Call for Entries for the 3rd Anniversary Edition of the San Joaquin International Film Festival, to be held February 20 to 27, 2010, in Stockton, California.

Film submissions are open to filmmakers, artists and production companies worldwide. Entry fees start at \$15.00.

Call for Entries begin: Thursday, June 4, 2009
Early Deadline: Friday, September 25, 2009
Primary Deadline: Friday, October 2, 2009
Late Deadline: Friday, October 9, 2009

All information, registration, rules and regulations are available at official festival site: www.sjiff.org/sjiff3

FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

[\\$10.8M in Florida film incentives](#)

[Bizjournals.com](#) © May 29, 2009

The \$66.5 billion 2009-10 budget signed by Gov. Charlie Crist May 27 includes \$10.8 million worth of incentives to attract films to the state. Although the amount is more than double the \$5 million made available to the industry in 2008, it is one fourth of the \$25 million available in 2007.

[Movie filmed in area to premiere in Naples](#)

[The News-Press](#) © May 30, 2009

Director Jon Artigo's last film, "Freedom Park," won awards at World Cinema Naples and the Marco Island Film Festival in 2004. That's another reason why the filmmakers chose Southwest Florida for their location.

[FAMU Alumnus Takes Vision to TV in 'Harlem Heights'](#)

[Black College Wire](#) © May 29, 2009

The new series, which launched March 2, explores the lives of eight unique recent college graduates trying to make a name for themselves in one of New York's most historic neighborhood, Harlem. Sturrup had humble beginnings as an SBI student and felt he obtained a great foundation for success in SBI.

[FAU plans for indie film theater](#)

[Sun-Sentinel.com](#) © June 02, 2009

The building is 73,200 square feet and will have 14 classrooms, conference rooms and office space. As part of a public/private partnership, it also will house "a state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly digital movie complex with four separate theaters and an upscale cafe," FAU officials said.

[Before Hollywood, films were made in Jacksonville](#)

[Akron Beacon Journal](#) © June 04, 2009

Blessed with lots of sunshine and with diverse architecture suitable for different kinds of movies, Jacksonville played host to hundreds of movies, says the University Press of Florida, publisher of Bean's book. Director D. W. Griffith, Mary Pickford and the Barrymores all made movies in Florida. But the publisher says competition from California and "political upheaval, simmering racial tensions, disease, and World War I" led to the decline of Jacksonville as a movie center.

[Miami is 1 of the characters on TV's 'Burn Notice'](#)

[The Associated Press](#) © June 03, 2009

By setting the show in Miami — and actually filming it here — producers have been able to make the city itself a character. "Burn Notice," whose third season begins Thursday, is the top-rated cable show and the first scripted television series to shoot at least three seasons primarily in South Florida since "Miami Vice" more than two decades ago. Shows like "CSI Miami" are mostly filmed in Los Angeles.

['Burn Notice' Keeps South Florida Sizzling](#)

[Tampa Tribune](#) © June 04, 2009

In a recent telephone interview, Donovan, 41, said he fell in love with Florida and relocated here in February. "We have been shooting here for about six months each year but now this is going to be my home full time," he says. "I've been kicking around Hollywood for years and this is the best thing that has happened to me. I love the scripts and they just keep getting better.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

[Incentives recommended for 4 Wyoming film projects](#)

[Billings Gazette](#) © May 29, 2009

Three documentary films and a wildlife television series are in line to receive the first-ever payments under Wyoming's 2-year-old film incentive program. Michell Howard, film manager for Wyoming Travel and Tourism, says a subcommittee has recommended awarding incentives to the projects.

[Film set to shoot in Seattle got boost from higher tax incentive](#)

[Seattle Post Intelligencer](#) © June 02, 2009

"Having a high-profile independent film like 'The Details' shooting in Seattle is evidence that the legislation taking the return from 20 percent to 30 percent is really working," said Amy Lillard Dee, executive director of Washington Film Works, in a statement.

Ill. steps up efforts to lure film money, jobs

Chicago Tribune © June 02, 2009

Looking to bolster Illinois' standing as an alternative to Hollywood, legislators made the state's tax breaks beefier and permanent. As of Jan. 1, qualified filmmakers can get a 30 percent tax credit, up 10 percent, for money spent for Illinois goods -- things like costumes, equipment, trucks and lighting -- and services, including in-state wages.

Analysis: Pa. would lose film work without tax credit

Philadelphia Inquirer © June 04, 2009

"In the current economics of the industry and the highly competitive landscape at state levels, the presence of a film tax credit for producers can be considered the price of admission for being considered for such activity," the report said, noting that only eight states don't offer such credits.

Lawmakers debate limits to Michigan film incentives

The Detroit News © June 04, 2009

Michigan upstaged 28 other states competing for Hollywood's attention when lawmakers and Gov. Jennifer Granholm approved tax refunds as high as 42 percent on production costs for motion pictures shot here.

Colo. film commission to be a state agency again

Forbes © June 04, 2009

The nonprofit commission that works to bring film productions to Colorado is moving back under the state umbrella. Gov. Bill Ritter signed legislation Thursday that converts the three-employee Colorado Film Commission into the Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media within the state Office of Economic Development as of July 1.

Louisiana legislators favor movie production incentives, but differ on how much

The Times-Picayune © June 04, 2009

While movie makers are pressing for larger credits to keep Louisiana on par with newly competitive states such as Georgia and Michigan, Gov. Bobby Jindal generally has favored bills for a continuation at the current level.

GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Lionsgate revenues roar

Variety © June 01, 2009

Driven by strong box office, homevid and library sales, Lionsgate reported its second-highest quarterly revenue of \$463.2 million for its fourth quarter ended March 31 — but that wasn't enough to save it from a \$163 million loss for the fiscal year.

SAG contract battle almost over?

Variety © June 01, 2009

Monday's meeting at the DGA Theatre — the final of 13 such events organized by SAG to promote ratification — contrasted sharply with the first town-hall meeting in Hollywood on May 21, when a capacity crowd 600 thespians attended a raucous session that featured booing of interim national exec David White and standing ovations for SAG president Alan Rosenberg for opposing the deal.

Hollywood workers settling in tax-friendly states

The Associated Press © June 02, 2009

A 25-year veteran of the film industry, William Gilpin lived in Los Angeles his entire life until he moved to New Mexico at the end of 2007. Like many TV production workers, Gilpin, 55, followed the jobs that left California and relocated to states that offered generous tax breaks to lure film shoots. New Mexico offers a tax rebate of up to 25 percent of qualifying production expenses, including actors' salaries.

Vidgame biz is getting a replay

Variety © June 02, 2009

The videogame biz has caught sequelitis. Nintendo and Sony will rely mostly on new installments of proven franchises rather than launching new properties to drive their videogame businesses through the end of next year.

Video Games Growing As Family Affair

Investors.com © June 03, 2009

Families see video games as a better value than cinema, sporting events and amusement parks, Gallagher said in a speech at the three-day E3 show in Los Angeles, which ends Thursday. Video games can entertain families for many hours and have great replay value, Gallagher said.

STATEWIDE EVENTS:

Florida Premiere for Hollywood Film Shot in Naples

The premiere for the feature film "Still Green" will be held at the Pavilion Cinemas 10 in Naples, FL at 7:00pm. Still Green was shot in south west Florida and has a mix of Hollywood actors along with locally cast actors. The movie will run from June 19th through the 25th. For more information visit www.StillGreenMovie.com.

"Still Green" tells the story of a group of high school graduates who rent a beach house the summer before going their separate ways. An accident in the gulf tests their friendship, and the teens respond in a way some people find disturbing and others see as a beautiful act of loyalty.

"Still Green" stars five young actors from Florida, including Naples resident Gricel Castiniera, along with Hollywood talent such as Sarah Jones ("Big Love," "The Riches," "Love Comes Softly"), Noah Segan ("Brick," "Cabin Fever II," "The Brothers Bloom"), Ryan Kelley ("Mean Creek", "Smallville", "Prayers for Bobby"), and Douglas Spain ("Band of Brothers, But I'm a Cheerleader"). Fort Meyers' Vonzell Solomon ("American Idol 2004") also has a cameo in the movie.

The crew was also a Hollywood / Florida mix as Cinematographer Brian Crane ("House MD", "Entourage", "The Office") worked along with local art director Susan Rooch Dolgin, First Assistant Director, Kristin Carman, Script Supervisor Jodi Dixon, and Promotions Coordinator Bill Schulte. Director Jon Artigo's last film, "Freedom Park" won awards at World Cinema Naples and the Marco Island Film Festival in 2004. "Still Green" won Best Narrative Feature at the New England Film/Video Festival, Best Ensemble Cast at the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, and was rated Best Film Not Yet Released by Boston Film Critic TC Kirkham. It recently sold to Osiris Entertainment.

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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