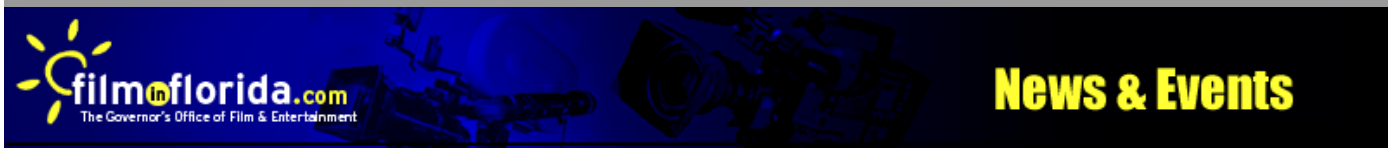


From: [Film1](#)
To:
CC:
Subject: News & Events - Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
Date: Friday, July 17, 2009 7:18:06 PM
Attachments:



NEWS:

governor's office of film & entertainment news

State Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne Appointed to VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors

State Film Commissioner Lucia Fishburne has been appointed to the VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors as an ex-officio member. This appointment will strengthen the partnership between government and the private sector to market tourism in Florida. This partnership originated over thirteen years ago when the Governor and legislature established the Florida Commission on Tourism, a 17-member body charged with providing policy direction and expertise to the state's Division of Tourism in an effort to better market Florida as a tourist destination. Since 1996, the Commission has grown to 34 voting members, plus the Governor who serves as chair.

FFEAC Committee Meeting Reminder and Applications Due for Vacant Positions

The Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council Membership Committee will hold a teleconference on Friday, July 24th to review applicants for open seats on the council and make their recommendations to the relevant appointment offices. Those interested in applying for vacant seats should notify the Office of Film & Entertainment of their interest by emailing their resume and bio to Adam.Madlinger@MyFlorida.com no later than this upcoming July 21, 2009. Their information will then be sent to the FFEAC Membership Committee for review. It is important to know that the committee does not make the final decision regarding appointment but does provide its recommendation to the relevant appointment staff.

Required paperwork must also be sent to the relevant appointment offices via the links below. For more information, you may contact the Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment at (850) 410-4765.

1) There will be two seats open on August 20, 2009 for Governor's appointments.

Info for Governor's Appointments:

Contact info, (vacancies by month/year), as well as the questionnaire that must be completed and filled out by individuals interested in being considered are located at: http://www.flgov.com/2007_boards_commissions.

2) There will be one Senate appointment on July 1, 2009.

Info for Senate President's Appointments:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Legislators/index.cfm?Mode=President's%20Page&Submenu=4&Tab=legislators&CFID=69296000&CFTOKEN=72683198>

3) There is one open House appointment due to a resignation. There will be one House Appointment on April 30, 2010.

Info for Speaker of the House Appointments:

http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File=Applications_and_Opportunities_Legislative_Appointments_To_Boards_And_Commissions.html

Governor Crist Applauds Success of Florida's Digital Media Industry

ORLANDO - Governor Charlie Crist recognized Florida's renowned digital media industry Monday, July 13th in Orlando in his ongoing effort to focus on economic development. The Governor highlighted the importance of innovation and industry growth during his tours of Electronic Arts Tiburon, Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy and the Employ Florida Banner Center for Digital Media.

"Orlando's digital media community demonstrates the power of innovation in Florida's economy," said Governor Crist. "Florida continues to stand out as a national leader in terms of our greatest resource - our People."

Governor Crist first toured the Electronic Arts Tiburon facility, viewed a video game programming demonstration and, while meeting with company employees, discussed the importance of digital media to Florida's overall workforce. Alongside Governor Crist for his tour of Electronic Arts Tiburon was Electronic Arts Governmental Relations Director Craig Hagen.

"Today's visit to EA Tiburon by Governor Crist highlights his commitment to the future of the digital media industry in Florida," said

Craig Hagen. "With the incentives he has supported, our industry will continue to create high-skilled, higher paying jobs for Floridians in a competitive international environment."

Since 2007, the Florida Film, Television & Digital Media Incentive Program has incentivized the production of six interactive video games and six interactive digital programs. Created by five interactive digital media companies in Florida, these games and programs resulted in 671 jobs and more than \$35 million paid in wages to employees. Florida-produced EA Sports video games Madden NFL 2009 and 2010, NCAA 2009 and 2010, and Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2009 and 2010 have worldwide distribution and are highly popular around the world. The Florida Film, Television & Digital Media Incentive Program was established by the Don Davis Entertainment Industry Economic Development Act of 2007 and is administered by the Governor's Office of Film and Entertainment.

Later today, Governor Crist will visit the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy at the University of Central Florida and the Employ Florida Banner Center for Digital Media where he will continue to stress the importance of maintaining a talented workforce through quality higher education and increased economic opportunity. Governor Crist will lead a roundtable discussion between business leaders, students and teachers on topics ranging from digital media industry expansion strategies to increasing Florida's overall global competitiveness in the world market.

Orlando's film, digital media and entertainment production industry accounts for \$845.5 million in total sales, according to the Metro Orlando Film and Entertainment Commission. Growth in the region has primarily been focused on the production of regional, national and international commercials, as well as digital media content. More than 383 businesses in the area are engaged in the production industry and employ an estimated 3,400 direct employees. In terms of square miles and number of cities, the Metro Orlando Film & Entertainment Commission represents one of the largest regions for permitting in the nation.

From "Fireproof" to Florida

Producer of Fireproof and Facing the Giants forms own Christian studio in Orlando, begins shooting his first movie, Letters to God, due in 2010.

ORLANDO-Coming off the improbable box-office success of his last two films-*Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*-producer David Nixon felt as though he had stumbled onto an underserved market: Christian filmgoers.

So Nixon founded an independent production company, switched from the producer's chair to the directors, and set out to make a series of three more faith-based films. The first, *Letters to God*, is the based-on-a-true-story tale of Tyler, a 9-year-old boy stricken with brain cancer who writes his prayers to God in the form of letters.

CT Movies recently visited the set of [Letters to God](#), now shooting near Orlando, where we spoke with Nixon and others affiliated with the family film, scheduled to release in spring 2010.

The venture marks a departure from Nixon's work with Sherwood Pictures, the small-and almost all-volunteer-studio at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., behind the indie hits *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*.

"We said, if we're going to continue to make all these movies, let's find a way to pay the crew," Nixon says. "Sooner or later you need to find real actors."

Sherwood did not have the resources to take part in *Letters to God*, says Nixon, so he drew on the fundraising prowess of executive producer Tom Swanson. Swanson pulled together 15 Christian investors to raise \$10 million for the first three films from Nixon's new studio, Possibility Pictures.

Now Nixon has a production budget of \$3 million, a cast of professional actors, and an ambitious goal to reach families of cancer patients across the U.S.

He says *Letters to God* isn't a "cancer movie," but a movie about prayer. "I love the idea that if a boy going through a horrible disease would have the strength to write a prayer, why not anybody?" says Nixon.

In the story, Tyler's letters wind up in the hands of a disillusioned mail carrier, Brady McDaniels (Jeffrey S. S. Johnson), who is assigned to a new route in Tyler's neighborhood. As McDaniels wrestles with his own demons, he also tries to figure out what to do with the letters. Ultimately, Tyler's faith profoundly affects McDaniels and others in his community.

Read more about Tyler's story and the making of *Letters to God* online at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/global/printer.html?/movies/news/2009/fireproofoflora.html>.

Miami World Cinema Center New Website

The Miami World Cinema Center, the first non-profit film studio, are proud to launch our brand new website! Please visit www.miamiworldcinemacenter.org to discover independent film in South Florida.

Films Bring Money To Central Florida, Universal Studios Says More Projects Wanted

ORLANDO, Fla. -- The film production industry is growing in Central Florida as the tourism industry continues to slump.

Orange County's hotel tax revenue fell for the 12th straight month, down 18.5 percent since May 2008. Film production, however, continues to increase, and each movie brought to Central Florida brings hundreds of thousands of dollars to the area.

The filming of "Letters to God," which was shot in Florida in part because of incentives offered by the state of Florida's Film Commission, made Central Florida home for its crew of hundreds for about a month.

"When a show comes here, they will spend \$6 or \$7 to a Florida resident or Florida business. They get back \$1, and they get that dollar back after they've spent the money," said Paul Simon, the movie's producer and the former head of the Florida Film Commission.

He said last week that the commission approved nearly \$11 million in spending to a dozen projects -- all of which will be shot in Florida within the next year. The commission's incentive program began in 2005, and officials hope to bring more feature-film productions to the Sunshine State.

Universal Studios said they're ready for more projects.

"We have a state of the art soundstage to support that, and we continue to grow those facilities," said Pam Tuscan-Warren of Universal.

The film commission's budget is decided by the legislature.

FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

'NCAA Football 2010' Video Game Unveiled

WESH.com © July 13, 2009

The governor said the video game and entertainment industry is an important key to Florida's economy. "It's just great," said Crist. "It's great for our economy. This is the knowledge-based economy we want to continue to build throughout the state."

Last Call For South Florida Bands Applying to CMJ - Hit Up Sonicbids

Miami New Times © July 14, 2009

So, time is running out to submit material through the site to win a spot playing an official showcase at the CMJ Music Marathon in New York this October. Like SXSW, it's a big-deal industry shebang that's super-competitive, and puts bands in front of bloggers, journalists, publicists, label people, and so on.

Florida Motion Picture and Television Asso. Meeting

FloridaTrend © July 16, 2009

Lucia Fishburne, Florida's Commissioner for the Office of Film and Entertainment, and Bonnie King, Brevard County's Film Commissioner, will be the featured speakers for the July meeting of The Space Coast Chapter of the Florida Motion Picture and Television Association.

Brevard wants to be in movies

Tallahassee.com © July 16, 2009

Brevard County has in the past been a backdrop for films, television shows and commercials over the years, but that has decreased in recent years due to film directors being lured to other states by bigger incentives.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

West Virginia Working to Attract Movie Productions

WOWK © July 10, 2009

They discussed the state's new 31-percent tax incentives for filming. The film office says the new tax incentive will help increase the states opportunity to cash in on the more than \$8-billion industry.

As the Hollywood machine abandons LA, its supporting workers struggle

Los Angeles Times © July 12, 2009

"I've been doing this for 25 years and I've never seen such a sustained downtime," said Lance Sorenson, president of 24/7 Studio Equipment, who recently had to lay off two of his drivers and has imposed three- and four-day workweeks for the rest of his 44 employees.

Arkansas film incentives may soon see rewards

The City Wire © July 15, 2009

The Act creates a 15% rebate on qualified production expenditures made in Arkansas. An additional payroll rebate of 10% is available if Arkansas-based cast members and technical crews are used. Projects must exceed \$50,000 within a six-month period to qualify.

Ontario luring film, TV productions with sweeter tax credits

Vancouver Sun © July 15, 2009

On Tuesday, the U.S. producers of an \$11-million feature film project that appeared a lock for Vancouver changed their minds, and will now go to Toronto to take advantage of the better tax, said Shawn Williamson, producer and partner at Vancouver's Brightlight Pictures, which was involved on the project.

South Africans want more incentives

Variety © July 16, 2009

"Visiting the Locations Expo in Los Angeles, it dawns on you that there are hundreds of options for producers that all offer incentives, and that the \$1.25 million we offer is just a drop in the ocean compared to the 30%-40% uncapped rebates available in other territories," says Film Afrika producer Vlokkie Gordon...

GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

SAG adds David Jolliffe

Variety © July 14, 2009

SAG's Hollywood division board has tapped activist David Jolliffe to fill the remainder of Justine Bateman's term on the guild's national board of directors. Jolliffe, one of the leaders of the hardline Membership First faction, served as chairman of SAG's feature-primetime negotiating committee for a year until the panel was abolished last January.

Video game sales still expected to see decline MarketWatch

MarketWatch © July 14, 2009

Analysts expect sales of game software to fall more than 20% compared to the same month last year, when NPD Group reports sales data for the month of June on Thursday. This will be the fourth straight month of sales declines for the sector, which faces the dual challenge of a slowing economy and difficult comparisons with last year.....

Emmy nominations announced

Variety © July 16, 2009

As with the Academy Awards' more dramatic shift to 10 best-picture contenders, part of the rationale for the procedural tinkering is to allow a few more commercially successful series to break through - thus boosting interest in (and ratings for) the kudocast. By that measure, the results appear to be a mixed bag.

DGA to Rosenberg: Go away already

Variety © July 16, 2009

The Directors Guild of America has told Screen Actors Guild president Alan Rosenberg to shut up and go away. That's the sentiment expressed by outgoing DGA president Michael Apted in a blunt letter responding to Rosenberg's request for a summit meeting of the town's unions about the 2011 round of negotiations.

STATEWIDE EVENTS:

DAYTONA BEACH FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 DATES AND VENUE CHANGE

Announcing the 7th Annual Award Winning Daytona Beach Film Festival to be held October 9, through October 11, 2009 at the Bookstore Café, 410 S. Nova Road, Ormond Beach, the year-round venue of Cinematique of Daytona.

DBFF 2009 will have many upgrades including a special programming partnership with the Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival, bigger stars, parties and special VIP access including a lounge for all filmmakers and sponsors.

The festival will open with a film and fund-raising gala on Friday October 9 and continue with films and parties all weekend. The DBFF is committed to showing films made in and by Florida film makers, and will give special recognition to the winning film entry made right here in the sunshine state.

Saturday night is Surf Night, featuring a surfing film and beach party. Sunday morning kicks off with a student filmmaker competition offering an opportunity for future filmmakers to showcase their talents. DBFF 2009 is sure to be a weekend filled with great films, events and special guest stars you won't want to miss!

Filmmakers submit your films today, information on-line at www.dbff.org. DEADLINE JULY 30.

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are now available also.

Cinevideotech's Red Digital Cinema "Red One" cameras and Quantel's 4K system workflow event

Cinevideotech, Inc. and Quantel are delighted to invite you to join us for an innovative, end-to-end RED workflow demonstration at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale on Tuesday July 21st. The demonstration will take you right through from shooting on RED 4K to dailies, editing, grading and deliverables production on the Quantel Pablo 4K color correction system. It's the slickest RED workflow there is. Don't miss this great opportunity to see how it could benefit your business.

Session times are presented at 12pm, 3pm and 6:30pm. Just choose the one that suits you best for the event. We look forward to seeing you in Ft Lauderdale on the 21st. If you have any questions please contact Dave Black by email at david.black@quantel.com or phone at (727) 776-9997, or contact Egon Stephan, Jr by sending and email to info@cinevideotech.com or calling (305) 754-2611.

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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