

**From:** [Film1](#)  
**To:**  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** News & Events - Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2009 4:51:41 PM  
**Attachments:**



## NEWS:

### central florida Film Named Best in Florida

This Man's Life, which filmed on locations including the historic Amtrak Station in downtown Orlando and the Inland Lakes Railways Station in Mount Dora, has been named BEST FLORIDA FILM at the 2009 Rhode Island International Film Festival. The production company behind the film, Stars North, is based in Celebration, making this company another Central Florida success story.

Directed by Todd Thompson, the film stars Michael Rooker, Bill Cobbs, and Betsy Brantley. It follows the story of a man traveling home to claim his father's inheritance when he meets a stranger who seems to know everything about his life. Smithy Sipes co-produced the film with Thompson, who also penned the screenplay with the help of co-writer Peter Raymundo.

The EDC's Film & Entertainment Commission worked with filmmakers throughout production, assisting with site location and permitting.

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### 2010 Gasparilla International Film Festival Call for Submissions

Dear Filmmaker:

Another festival season is upon us! We are accepting submissions now through December 15, 2009 for the 4th annual Gasparilla International Film Festival, taking place from Thursday, March 18 through Sunday, March 21, 2010. The early bird deadline is September 15, 2009; the regular deadline is November 15, 2009; and the late deadline is December 1, 2009.

We are proud to partner with a new venue, CineBistro, in Tampa's hip and happening Hyde Park. This brand new theatre will bring film and fine dining together for an unforgettable fest! The parties will be bigger and the 4-day festival will be more filmmaker friendly than ever.

GIFF is truly an international festival, accepting film from all around the globe, along with our popular Cuban selections. Categories for 2010 include:

- Horror
- Comedy
- Documentary
- International
- Young Filmmaker (under 25 years old)
- North American Drama
- Short Film
- Florida Focus

Informative filmmaker panels and workshops and networking opportunities with industry leaders and film supporters, always a staple of our film festival are all held together by our renowned parties and fiestas. This is a fest you won't forget!

We hope that you will consider submitting and returning to see us again. For more information, please visit our website at [gasparillafilmfestival.com](http://gasparillafilmfestival.com).

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### POSSIBILITY PICTURES, LLC WRAPS "LETTERS TO GOD" On Stage 25 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA PRODUCTION GROUP

*"State Incentive / Use of Stages / 95% Florida Crew Base Moves Movie to Florida"*

Orlando, FL, August 12, 2009 - "The first film from Possibility Pictures is an ideal example of producers using our facilities, our state incentive dollars and our talented crew base to every advantage," says Pamela Tuscany-Warren, Vice President / General Manager of Universal Studios Florida Production Group. *Letters to God*, one of three faith based films from Possibility Pictures,

completed production on Stage 25 after 28 days of filming on the lot and at Central Florida area locations.

*Letters to God* was directed by David Nixon - one of the producers of *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants* (created and produced by Sherwood Pictures) and he teams again with Director of Photography Bob Scott *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants*, *Bourne Identity*.) It is the first project for the team of Nixon and his partners Kim Dawson (*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles I, II, Bobby Jones: Stoke of Genius*) and Tom Swanson (*Come Away Home*). Inspired by true events and originally written by Patrick Doughie, the story is filled with laughter, love, hope and triumph.

Producer Kim Dawson notes the series of elements that resulted in moving the film from Tennessee to Florida.

"Pamela Tuscany-Warren mounted an ongoing campaign to inform and encourage us to apply for the State incentive funding, explaining, as she does to everyone - that even though funds appear to be 'gone' there are times when a project falls away or gets moved and it's hugely important to already be in the queue! We also had first hand knowledge of what Universal Orlando has to offer. Many people aren't aware that producer Wayne Morris (*Bring It On: In It To Win It; Beethoven's Big Break, Ace Ventura Jr., Final Destination 4*) has maintained a sophisticated movie set and set dressing that became available on Stage 25." Morris and Paul Sirmons - who served as Supervising Producer and Line Producer, respectively, on the film - rounded out the expertise needed to complete the ambitious production on time and nearly on-budget. "We made the decision to increase our investment by about six percent because we were not willing to compromise on certain elements," acknowledges Dawson.

Dawson also gives credit to the Universal Studios Florida Production Group team including Steve Montrowl and Katrinka VanDeventer, Jack Somerville and Julie Gibson who, he says, solved problems before they could occur. "We had nothing but the highest level of professionalism from Pamela's team...oh, and fabulous meals from The Cookie Jar!" grins Dawson.

Rounding out the writing team were co-writer Art D'Allessandro, co-writer/producer Sandra Thrift and first time screenwriter Cullen Douglas, Production Designer Mark Garner and Costume Designer Beverly Safier. The key role of Tyler, the young boy who writes the letters, was awarded to Tanner Maguire. Additional filming was done at Give Kids the World, Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital, and in Winter Garden. Over 25 children from various cancer organizations were cast as extras in three different scenes of the movie. The producers want people to know that people, especially children, with cancer are not alone and people who have gone before them can really help and bring hope. "It was a life-changing privilege to work with these terrific and talented young people," Nixon said.

Universal Studios Florida Production Group is the east coast's premiere production facility that includes sound stages, studios, 100 + backlot locations and production vendors. Please visit [www.universalorlando.com/studio/florida](http://www.universalorlando.com/studio/florida) or inquire at 407/363-8400 or via email at [productiongroup@unviersalorlando.com](mailto:productiongroup@unviersalorlando.com).

The Universal Orlando resort destination ([www.universalorlando.com](http://www.universalorlando.com)) includes two dramatically distinct and adjacent theme parks, the Universal Studios motion picture and television theme park and Islands of Adventure, Orlando's most thrilling and exhilarating theme park. Universal Orlando also includes CityWalk, a 30-acre dining, shopping, club and live-entertainment venue as well as premier on-site Loews hotels and world-class film and television production facilities.

Possibility Pictures is a newly formed production company, headed by Orlando-based filmmaking team Tom Swanson, David Nixon and Kim Dawson, which is dedicated to creating world-class Christian content for mass distribution. The gifted team of veterans boasts decades of film production experience including key creative roles in *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof*, the highest grossing independent film of 2008. Find more information online at [www.letterstogdthemovie.com](http://www.letterstogdthemovie.com).

## **CONTACTS**

### **Universal Studios Florida Production Group**

Terri Hartman / Publicity

Cell: 813/767-7915

[Terri.Hartman@universalorlando.com](mailto:Terri.Hartman@universalorlando.com)

### **Letters to God**

[info@letterstogdthemovie.com](mailto:info@letterstogdthemovie.com)

407 224-6958

Amy Baker

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## **FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

### **Budding filmmaker brings stories to life in Princeton**

[MiamiHerald.com](http://MiamiHerald.com) © Aug 07, 2009

Phil Marraccini is thinking on the same lines. After filming wraps up at the end of the summer, he intends to enter the film into the Miami International Film Festival as well as the Sundance and Slamdance festivals. He also plans to hold free screenings of Poor Lenny in Homestead and Florida City.

### **USA viewers take 'Notice'**

[Variety](http://Variety.com) © Aug 09, 2009

"Burn Notice" ended the first half of its third season run on fire, with the USA Network skein's Thursday night episode drawing the most viewers for any telecast in the history of the cabler. Episode drew 7.6 million total viewers and 2.8 million in the 18-49 demo, making it the top scripted show of the night.

### [John Paul II International Film Festival to be celebrated in Miami](#)

PitchEngine (press release) © Aug 10, 2009

The John Paul II International Film Festival, modeled after the vision of the late pope, will be taking place in Miami, Florida, the weekend of October 30 to November 1, 2009. The Festival will showcase high quality films, professional and amateur, from around the world featuring stories that celebrate the struggles and triumphs of the human person.

### [Universal Orlando has begun discussions to address potential Spielberg buyout](#)

Orlando Sentinel © Aug 10, 2009

Universal Orlando says it has begun discussions to address a potentially lucrative buyout clause in the consulting contract it has with famed director Steven Spielberg, a provision that, if exercised, could cost the resort several hundred million dollars.

### [Robin And The Giant Release 8th Album In Ocala](#)

PR Web (press release) © Aug 11, 2009

Recording artists Robin And The Giant have released their eighth CD album titled, "In Ocala." The album contains fourteen songs, including the title song, "In Ocala." The collection pays homage to the city in Florida that the duo calls home.

### [Local Film Named Best in Florida](#)

Orlandoedc.com © Aug 10, 2009

This Man's Life, which filmed on locations including the historic Amtrak Station in downtown Orlando and the Inland Lakes Railways Station in Mount Dora, has been named BEST FLORIDA FILM at the 2009 Rhode Island International Film Festival.

### [UCF Alum's Film Festival a First for Troops in Iraq](#)

University of Central Florida © Aug 12, 2009

Capt. Miguel Lima, who graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Film, used a collection of UCF student films to stage the first-ever independent film festival in Iraq for U.S. troops. The July festival featured 12 short movies selected by Lima.

## **ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:**

### [Lawmakers approve NC film incentive bill](#)

WECT-TV6 © Aug 9, 2009

Advocates point to a Miley Cyrus movie that Walt Disney planned to film in Wilmington but moved to Georgia, which offers incentives of up to 30 percent. "We've been getting slaughtered by Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Michigan who have been offering extremely high incentives," said Vassar.

### [Hank Williams film would be shot in Tennessee](#)

The Tennessean © Aug 11, 2009

A film about the legendary Hank Williams could become one of more than a dozen movies shot in Tennessee over the next five years, Nashville-based media company 821 Entertainment will announce today.

### [Lights, Camera, Production...What Alabama's new entertainment incentives bill means for Birmingham](#)

Examiner.com © Aug 12, 2009

With the stroke of Governor Riley's pen on the Entertainment Industry Incentive Act of 2009, a state that was virtually written off by production companies is now seeing the writing on the wall in the form of renewed interest.

### [California pays to lure filmmakers back to Hollywood](#)

Reuters © Aug 13, 2009

"In 2008 the worst numbers ever were recorded and the first six months of 2009 show a 50 percent drop from that. That can only be described as a disaster," said Paul Audley, president of FilmLA, the non-profit organization which coordinates film, TV and commercial production in and around Los Angeles.

### [Ontario, Quebec incentives lure filmmakers from BC](#)

CBC.ca © Aug 13, 2009

B.C. offers its incentive on labour costs alone - traditionally only half the budget of a feature film. It also has a special incentive for digital animation and special effects work. The Ontario and Quebec incentives effectively double the film tax credits in those provinces. As a result, business is now moving east.

### [Utah offers movie a \\$30000 rebate](#)

Deseret News © Aug 13, 2009

Utah will offer a movie company a cash rebate of up to \$30,000 to film "Root Beer Christmas" in Utah. The board of the Governor's Office of Economic Development approved the measure Thursday as part of its "Under 1 Million" incentive program to attract smaller motion-picture projects to Utah.

## **GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

### [Gaming sector wants mid-career workers](#)

AsiaOne - Singapore © Aug 09, 2009

Skilled hands for the fast-growing gaming industry, which Singapore has pegged as one of the next big growth areas for the country. To boost numbers, working professionals in non-related jobs, such as engineering, are now being courted. To sweeten the deal, full-time, heavily subsidised gaming courses are being offered to those who want to make a mid-career switch.

### [AFTRA in no hurry to merge](#)

Variety © Aug 09, 2009

AFTRA president Roberta Reardon, speaking Sunday after the union's national convention wrapped in Chicago, doused speculation that leaders of the performers unions will make a third attempt to combine any time soon. Efforts to merge in 1999 and 2003 were voted down by SAG members.

### [SAG hopefuls list is official](#)

Variety © Aug 10, 2009

The Screen Actors Guild on Monday released its official list of candidates for its upcoming board and officers election. Contenders vying for the national prexy post are Cassel, Ken Howard,

### [Redbox lands Lionsgate DVDs](#)

Variety © Aug 11, 2009

Lionsgate has signed a five-year, estimated \$158 million deal to distribute its DVDs to the kiosk operator on a film's initial street date, according to an SEC filing by Redbox parent Coinstar.

### [July Video Game Sales Drop 29%; Save Us, Mario!](#)

Tech Trader Daily © Aug 13, 2009

U.S. video game sector sales fell 29% in July to \$848.9 million, down from \$1.19 billion a year ago, according to market research firm NPD Group. That include a 37% drop in video game hardware, a 26% drop in software sales and a 12% decline in video game accessories.

### [Guitar legend Les Paul dies at 94](#)

Variety © Aug 13, 2009

Les Paul, the guitar virtuoso who pioneered the design of the solid-body electric guitar and was an innovator of recording techniques embraced by the rock 'n' roll generation, died Thursday of complications from pneumonia. He was 94.

## **STATEWIDE EVENTS:**

### **film florida quarterly meeting schedule**

#### **Tuesday, September 1**

9 a.m. - noon - Council Meetings, followed by Lunch on own

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Marketing Workshop

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Legislative Launch

RSVP required, please go to [www.visittampabay.com/meetings](http://www.visittampabay.com/meetings).

#### **Wednesday, September 2**

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - Noon - Film Florida Quarterly Meeting

Committees can choose to meet via phone before the meeting, opt for Tuesday breakfast meeting before council meetings; or over lunch on Tuesday.

Look forward to seeing you all soon! Hotel accommodations can be made at

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tpasr-renaissance-vinoy-resort-and-golf-club/>.

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## **ENZIAN AND ORLANDO HARLEY-DAVIDSON TO HOST MOTORCYCLE MOVIE EVENT**

*"Enzian Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EASY RIDER With HOG Bikes and Barbeque"*

Orlando, FL - (Aug. 10, 2009) - In honor of the 40th anniversary screening of the two-time Academy Award nominated film, EASY RIDER, HOG motorcycles will be on display at Enzian on Sunday, August 23 at 1 p.m. during an Orlando Harley-Davidson sponsored Southern barbeque celebration. A legion of riders from the Orlando HOG Chapter will embark on a journey throughout Central Florida and arrive at Enzian to join movie-goers and celebrate the film with a rip-roaring outdoor family-friendly festivity featuring, live music, Orlando-Harley Davidson giveaways and home-style barbeque.

"This energetic and colorful event allows film lovers to connect with motorcycle riders, aficionados and admirers during the commemorative screening of this landmark movie, which stars Florida Film Festival friends, Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda," said Mara Shorr, Enzian Development and Community Relations Director. "We're thrilled with this wonderful opportunity to celebrate the movie with a newly struck 35mm print, and to celebrate summer with the community as well."

The outdoor event is free to attend and open to the public with \$10 southern barbeque entrees available to purchase. Admission into the film is \$5 and tickets can be purchased in advance online at [Enzian.org](http://Enzian.org), in person at the Enzian box office during regular box office hours, or by calling (407)-629-1088 extension 230. EASY RIDER will screen twice in August on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 p.m.

Enzian's presentation of EASY RIDER is part of its Cult Classic movie series, a year-round program that showcases alternative classic revivals twice monthly.

Directed, co-written, and co-starring Dennis Hopper, EASY RIDER stars Peter Fonda who also co-wrote this American counterculture classic. EASY RIDER received two Oscar nominations, including Best Supporting Actor to Jack Nicholson and Best Screenplay.

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### **G-Star Founder gives free business seminar**

Dear Friends of G-Star,

G-star is the most successful charter school in the nation. We are now building the largest motion picture sound stage in Florida. Each year I give a two-hour seminar on the on the business philosophy that the G-Star School of the Arts and the G-Star Studios is governed by; and you are invited to join us! This philosophy was developed by W. Edwards Deming on systems, systems thinking, and the Theory of Profound Knowledge. Deming was the man responsible for taking the entire nation of Japan from a bombed out economy after WWII to where it is today. His business philosophy also was used by Walt Disney to create Disneyland and Disney World; and today companies all over the world adhere to his systems thinking, including the wildly successful Pixar movie production company that has produced the most incredible string of hits in movie industry history.

This seminar is usually given to new members of our Board of Directors and our new employees. However, I have been asked to open the invitation up to all friends of G-Star. We will be having a notable TV star and an Academy Award winner attending the seminar as well as local business people who have asked to attend. All you need is a pencil or pen and you may bring as many friends as you like. There is no charge.

DATE: Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 9 am - 11 am

LOCATION: G-Star School of the Arts (2030 Congress Ave., Bldg. J, Palm Springs, FL 33406) - 3 blocks south of Forest Hill Blvd.

CONTACT: Greg Hauptner 561-386-6275

Please RSVP so that I can have the proper number of workbooks. Thank you!

Greg Hauptner  
Founder/CEO/CFO

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### **Scriptapalooza Television Writing Competition OPENS**

Hey all you TV writers, this is your chance to change the way you watch TV! Scriptapalooza TV has seen major success in their 10 years. Two writers won Emmys, numerous writers have gotten agents, managers and meetings.

The four categories include:

Existing one-hour shows like "True Blood" and "Merlin"

Existing half-hour sitcoms like "The Office" and "Two and a Half Men"

Original pilots and reality shows (for reality shows, Scriptapalooza would like a one- to five-page synopses only)

Supported by the Writers Guild of America west and the Writers Guild of Canada. Find more information online at <http://www.scriptapaloozaTV.com>, call (323) 654-5809, or send an email to [info@scriptapalooza.com](mailto:info@scriptapalooza.com).

FINAL DEADLINE: October 15th, 2009

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### **Chrystal Hartigan presents...Songwriter's Showcase**

We will be showcasing local, national & international Songwriters "in the round" style. The Songwriter's Showcase is held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Showtime starts at 8pm, and the \$5 cover is payable at the door only!

This event is held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts (201 SW Fifth Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL). You can find more information about the center at [www.browardcenter.org](http://www.browardcenter.org) or by calling 954-462-0222.

This month's showcase is on 8/18/09, and the featured songwriters are:

- § Bob Gaffney & Sherri Smith ([www.myspace.com/bobgaffneyandsherrismith](http://www.myspace.com/bobgaffneyandsherrismith))
- § Karla Vega ([www.myspace.com/karlagvega](http://www.myspace.com/karlagvega))
- § Giovy Jimenez ([www.myspace.com/giovyjimenez](http://www.myspace.com/giovyjimenez))

Plenty of parking is available in the surrounding area. You can also come by boat and dock on the New River or take the Water

Taxi! Thank you for supporting live original music! For additional information visit [www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan](http://www.myspace.com/chrystalhartigan) or [www.facebook.com/chrystalhartigan](http://www.facebook.com/chrystalhartigan).

## CASTING CALL:

### "THE MARRIAGE REF" IS NOW CASTING

Jerry Seinfeld, NBC, the Executive Producer of The Oprah Winfrey Show and the producers of "Super Nanny" now bring you... "The Marriage Ref," a comic, reality series where celebrities and a relationship referee help squabbling married couples make peace. Created by Seinfeld himself, this is relationship advice... with a comic twist.

"The Marriage Ref" casting team is searching the country for outgoing and opinionated MARRIED couples in long-term relationships, willing to appear on national television, who have a long standing argument or issue that must be resolved. No problem is too small!

Is there an object, a person, or a habit (e.g. computer, pet, a friend, the remote control) that is a third wheel in your relationship and causes a problem? Does your partner have an annoying obnoxious habit or item that causes fights? Couples across America . we want to hear what absolutely makes you nuts when it comes to your partner! Tell us your beef and you might just get the chance to state your case on TV. Wouldn't it be great to settle the issue once and for all?!!

If this sounds like you or someone you know, please contact the Casting Team IMMEDIATELY at: [marriagerecasting@shedmediaus.com](mailto:marriagerecasting@shedmediaus.com). Please include your contact info, city you live in, photos, and a paragraph about why you are the perfect couple for this show. Be sure to include a brief explanation about your arguments and tell us why you are right and your partner is wrong!

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### PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS NEEDED FOR "The Marriage Ref"

We are currently LOOKING TO HIRE amazing enthusiastic, professionals and well organized Production Assistants for the extent of our time in Tampa Bay. No production or behind the camera experience is required, but is helpful. We are hiring ASAP. The position begins Friday, August 14th and will continue through the weekend at a rate of \$150/day. If you could recommend some one that fits the criteria, that would be wonderful.

Please send a resume and jpg photo to:  
Rayna Apploff, Casting Producer ([rapploff@shedmediaus.com](mailto:rapploff@shedmediaus.com))

For more information about the show, please visit us at: <http://www.nbc.com/the-marriage-ref/>.

**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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