

From: [Film1](#)
To:
CC:
Subject: News & Events - Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
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Attachments:



News & Events

NEWS:

Legislative Update

It has been a frustrating week in Tallahassee as we await budget conference meetings while budget discussions continue behind closed doors. There are many late emerging and polarizing issues (election reform, lifting the ban on off-shore drilling, etc.) coupled with the ongoing differences that legislators are focused on with regard to higher education funding, Seminole Compact, cigarette tax, etc. The large appropriations gap between the two chambers remains. I'm sure everyone has been monitoring the many newspaper and online articles about the ongoing saga, so I won't belabor the point.

More pressure has now been added to the mix with the news of the placement of the state's top level bond rating on a downgrade watch list by Moody's Investor Services citing the state's dwindling budget reserves and increasing reliance on one-time money for recurring costs.

The unusual circumstances however, have not slowed down the efforts of the government liaisons and lobbyists working hard to keep the film issues (tax credit and appropriations) top of mind among key legislators. Messaging related to the tax credit approach has been modified to present the tax credit approach to key legislators as an enhancement to the current program and an opportunity to pilot a performance-based tax credit. The Governor continues to support the incentive whether tax credit or appropriation.

We are all rolling the dice regarding the chances that the legislature will be able to wrap up negotiations and deliver an appropriations bill within the required time frame. Although rumor has it that they will continue working until midnight tonight, we are not aware yet of an budget conference meetings on the horizon.

Stayed engaged and stay tuned.

Lucia Fishburne
State Film Commissioner
Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment

MPAA reaches out to lawmakers

WASHINGTON -- In Hollywood, as in D.C., image is everything, and a slew of showbiz heavyweights stormed Capitol Hill to convince lawmakers that, contrary to popular misperception, the entertainment industry is central to the nation's economy and even its recovery. The occasion: the second biennial summit sponsored by the industry's chief lobbying arm, the Motion Picture Assn. of America.

The cast: an all-star gathering including Fox Filmed Entertainment co-chairman Jim Gianopulos, Paramount Pictures topper Brad Grey, Sony Pictures Entertainment's Michael Lynton and Jeff Blake, Universal Pictures prexy Ron Meyer and vice chairman Rick Finkelstein, Walt Disney Studios chairman Dick Cook and Warner Bros. Entertainment topper Barry Meyer.

The unspoken event hovering over the gathering: In February, the industry lost \$246 million in tax breaks when the Senate altered the economic stimulus bill, eliminating a key provision. The reason: Republican lawmakers agreed that Hollywood didn't need the bailout given the previous month's record-breaking B.O.

Tuesday's event was a daylong series of meetings at the National Portrait Gallery designed to combat the image that Hollywood's elites are impervious to the economic struggles in the rest of the world. And to show that the hard-working showbiz folk stimulate the income wherever they go.

The events attracted congressional and administration aides, reps from area think tanks and other behind-the-scenes powerbrokers.

A delegation of execs trekked to Capitol Hill later in the afternoon to meet with congressional leaders. Other activities included a luncheon where Dwayne Johnson, star of Disney's "Race to Witch Mountain," spoke, and a private dinner that featured remarks by Vice President Joe Biden and the presentation of the Jack Valenti Humanitarian Award to director Martin Scorsese.

To underscore the boon that entertainment can be to a far-flung number of congressional districts, the MPAA released a report with a state-by-state rundown of the wages produced by the entertainment industry in 2007. While California and New York dominated, Texas, Florida, Georgia and Illinois each posted between \$1 billion and \$2 billion in wages from the biz.

Those figures were hailed by Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, who said he witnessed first hand the economic impact of film and TV production in communities throughout Washington state while serving as its governor. He agreed that the ability to trade in a rules-based system around the world is critical to the industry's success. He also said President Obama is concerned about the impact of counterfeiting and piracy.

Locke's views about the impact of location filming on local economies were echoed during the opening panel discussion. Film office execs from Chicago, Philadelphia and Georgia were among panelists who shared their experiences about the fast-growing location production biz. The lively panel was moderated by broadcaster and educator Nick Clooney, who explored the experiences of film-induced tourism throughout the U.S.

For example, some 70,000 people per year continue to visit the Iowa corn field featured in the pic "Field of Dreams," said panelist Georgette Blau, CEO of On Location Tours. She said, "Film it, and they will come."

The pro-industry message began in the morning with MPAA prexy Dan Glickman's opening remarks. "The American film and television industry is a national community of diverse, talented, hard-driving and creative people who are driving this country's economy forward," said Glickman. "All we ask for is policies that value creative jobs in creative industries."

He urged the gathering of creative and policymaking communities to jointly focus on the future and pledged the industry's support in the country's economic recovery. But he warned that historic intellectual property principles must be maintained and enforced throughout the world, while the environment at home must foster ingenuity and creativity.

In Washington, meanwhile, "It is important that people understand who we are," said Glickman. "Too often in our politics, Hollywood is cast as a stock villain in a tired tale."

Source: <http://www.variety.com/article/VR1118002688.html?categoryid=18&cs=1>

Read the report at http://www.mpa.org/press_releases/econreport2009.pdf.

FILM FLORIDA ANNOUNCES MAY 8 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FOR FIRST DON DAVIS FILM FINISHING FUND AWARD

TALLAHASSEE, FL (April 23, 2009) - Film Florida announced last month at Florida Film Day in Tallahassee that applications for the Don Davis Film Finishing Fund were being accepted. The deadline to submit applications for the first award is May 8, 2009, with the first recipient honored at Film Florida's annual meeting on June 23 in Miami Beach.

The fund provides completion funding to aspiring filmmakers in the state. Available cash grants will range from \$1,500 to \$5,000, with the number of grants varying from year to year.

Film Florida created the fund to honor Rep. Davis, a longtime champion of the production industry, who passed away in 2008. In 2007's session, the state revamped the entire incentive program and renamed it the Don Davis Entertainment Industry Economic Development Act increasing the incentive to \$25 million.

The Don Davis Film Finishing Fund annually provides cash and in-kind production services to deserving filmmakers needing help to complete their film projects. The projects submitted have a broad range of subject matter and are judged by a committee of top industry professionals.

The full criteria and directions on how to apply are posted at http://www.filmflorida.org/about/dondavis_fund.aspx.

"Film Florida and the entire production industry lost our best champion, and we created this fund to honor his legacy, and help those films and filmmakers indigenous to our state complete projects to elevate the industry for generations to come," said Graham Winick, President of Film Florida. "Representative Don Davis revived our industry by spearheading legislation that truly took our state into a more level playing field with other states also competing to bring in production business."

He added: "Right now, there are huge shoes to fill when it comes to finding a champion for the industry, to help push incentives and legislation to the forefront. Florida is literally camera ready - we have the infrastructure and crews to support work, now we just need to maintain incentives to keep productions coming to our state, spending money and creating jobs."

The program funds filmmakers working in both short and long formats in all genres-documentary, dramatic, educational, narrative, animated and experimental-whose films demonstrate advanced and innovative skills and whose works relates to the goals of Film Florida. These goals are to promote the creation of jobs in the film and entertainment production industries; and to promote economic development and tourism for the State of Florida.

In its first year of inception, the Fund kicked off with seed money of \$10,000 from Universal Studios Florida Production Group (USFPG) and its parent company NBC Universal. "We are saddened that our industry has lost a trailblazer, and want to continue his legacy with the Don Davis Film Finishing Fund that will assist filmmakers for generations to come. We think the creation of this fund will serve as a tribute to him, and that's why we didn't hesitate to contribute," said Pamela Tuscany-Warren, Vice President of USFPG.

For more information, please visit http://www.filmflorida.org/about/dondavis_fund.aspx.

FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FEATURED IN THE FLORIDA RESTAURANT AND LODGING MAGAZINE

The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association featured Florida's film and entertainment industry in their most recent edition. The article focused on the benefits that the restaurant and lodging sector receives from filming that is done in Florida. For example, in the case of the recent blockbuster "Marley and Me" that was shot in South Florida, the production booked 360 room nights at the Mandarin Oriental in Miami, totaling more than \$95,000 in revenue. The article then continues by discussing the state of Florida's current incentive program and the need for current legislation to return it to a competitive level.

You can read the article on pages 18-20 of the magazine at http://www.restaurantandlodging.com/content/38/File/FRL_14-01.pdf.

Independent Film Week's Project Forum call for entries

Formerly known as the IFP Market, Independent Film Week is the oldest and largest forum in the U.S. for the discovery of new projects in development and new voices on the independent film scene. It is qualitatively and quantitatively the best and biggest opportunity for an independent filmmaker to connect with industry professionals – including producers, funders, distributors, broadcasters, sales agents and festival programmers.

We are now accepting applications for the 'Spotlight on Documentaries' section, a program for filmmakers in production or post-production seeking financing partners, broadcast/distribution, and festival invitations. The deadlines and fees are as follows:

Early Deadline May 1st
Submission Fee \$50

Final Deadline May 21st
Submission Fee \$60

For more information and to submit your entry, visit <http://www.independentfilmweek.com/>.

ABFF Call for entries

The American Black Film Festival is accepting submissions for their 2009 Allstate Beyond February Be Reel Contest. Vie to become one of three finalists who will win a trip to the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) where your film will be screened and one grand prize winner will be selected to receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a career coaching session from the festival founder or executive director.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about how to enter and entry requirements.

Please note entries must be delivered by May 8, 2009. No entries will be accepted after the deadline, regardless of postmark.

jacksonville 48-hour film contest call for entries

The 48 Hour Film Project is returning to Jacksonville. In a wild, sleepless weekend, you and a team of friends will make a movie. Your team will write, shoot, edit and score an original 4 - 8 minute film in just 48 HOURS.

On Friday, June 5, your team will get a character, a prop, a line of dialogue and a genre, all to include in your movie. By Sunday, the movie must be complete and turned in. All completed films will be screened the following week at the Florida Theatre on a big screen to about 1000 viewers.

There are three ways to be involved:

1. FORM A TEAM: Gather up your friends and fellow filmmakers and form a team. The project is open to professionals and amateurs alike. Jacksonville even has a special Student Film Prize. Register online at www.48hourfilm.com/jacksonville.

Register your team by May 11 and pay only \$135.00. There are only 30 slots so apply soon.

2. JOIN A TEAM: Interested in participating on a team? Excellent! We definitely need you.
 - a. Go to www.48hourfilm.com/jacksonville and click the "Join a Jacksonville team" link and follow the directions. This will put you in the volunteer database.
 - b. Send me your information (headshot, resume, etc) in electronic.
 - c. Come to our two Meet & Greet Parties at the River City Brewing Company. Saturday, May 2, from 2 - 4pm and Wednesday, May 13, from 7 - 9pm. In the past several teams have formed here.
 - d. And finally, be at the Jacksonville Landing on Friday, June 5. Many people have joined teams at the last minute during our Kick Off event.
3. COME WATCH THE MOVIES: Come to the screenings and vote for your favorites June 9 & 10 at the Florida Theatre.
 - a. Screening Group A (15 films) is Tuesday and Screening Group B (15 films) is Wednesday. Tickets are on sale now at the Florida Theatre Box Office for only \$10 each night (plus handling charges), or at Ticketmaster (additional charges apply). Come back June 24 to see who will win the prizes and title of Best in Jacksonville 48 Hour Film 2009 and go on to compete against films from over 80 cities nationwide and cities internationally. Tickets for the Award Screening are only \$10 and are on sale now.
 - b. You can also purchase 48 Hour VIP Tickets (both screenings plus awards night!) for only \$25 (plus handling charge) at the Florida Theatre Box Office and you'll save. Also at Ticketmaster (additional charges apply).

Entry instructions can be found at: <http://www.48hourfilm.com/jacksonville>

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION RATE: Register a team by May 11 and save \$20

PALM BEACH FILM SCHOOL GRADUATE "AUDIENCE AWARD" FINALIST AT PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Palm Beach Film School graduate Kyler Taustin whose movie "Alternate" starring John McGlothlin, Jane Rumbaua and Bob Carter, had been selected as a finalist for "Audience Award" in the 2009 Student Showcase of Films, Palm Beach International Film Festival. In order for Kyler to win, you must vote for his movie online. The deadline is fast approaching.

The voting procedure is as follows:

1. Go to www.pbfilm.com.
2. Click on "Student Showcase of Films" (top right side of page).
3. Click on "Audience Award Voting" on right side of group photo (do not click on "Student Video Voting" in the left brown horizontal box).
4. Click on the red letters "Vote here for your favorite film."
5. Type in your email address in the box.
6. Your access code to vote is now being emailed to your email address.
7. Go to your email and open "PB Survey system."
8. Write down your access code.
9. On the same access code page, click on "PBIFF student showcase." Be sure to "enable links" for this message.
10. Type in your access code.
11. Type in your first and last name and your email address.
12. Vote for PBFS graduates Kyler Taustin's film "Alternate."
13. Click the submit button.
14. Congratulations, you just voted!

"Alternate" is a film about a compulsive writer who rewrites the scenes of his life that have gotten him to the horrible place he is at today. In order to be freed of the schizophrenic confines in which others have placed him, the writer grants himself the personalities necessary to dominate the people who once controlled him and manipulate the character of his life who are the cause of his demise. They, however, will not follow his script. It stars John McGlothlin, Jane Rumbaua and Bob Carter and was shot at the Atlantic Arts Theatre in Jupiter, Florida through the kindness and generosity of Frank Licari. The Line Producer was Michael Lobsinger and the crew consisted of Peabo Powell, Brooks Rich, Kyle Johnson and Ian Oliver.

It's take one for new Miami film studio

BY DANIEL CHANG (dchang@MiamiHerald.com)

If Miami filmmakers Andres and Diego Meza-Valdes were stuck in an elevator with, say, George Lucas, they would likely pitch the mega producer their first feature film: Victims, a horror movie about a serial killer who torments a group of friends running an illicit

parking lot during Art Basel Miami Beach.

Since an invitation to Skywalker Ranch is unlikely -- and the brothers are committed to making movies in South Florida -- they have turned to the Miami World Cinema Center, a nonprofit film studio that launched this month.

Victims is among the first development projects for the Cinema Center, which keeps an office in Miami's Fashion District neighborhood fitted with computers, an editing bay, a screening room, cameras and lighting equipment.

"They give us the facilities to work, to write, to edit shorts," says Andres, 24. "We can do sound here. And they even said they're willing to transform the space into a set."

"It's awesome. It breeds creativity," adds Diego, 23. "Everyone's here to work and share ideas."

It is often easier for budding filmmakers to make films in their hometowns than in New York or Los Angeles. They rely on friends and family who volunteer to build sets, work cameras, lend lighting equipment, and even act.

"The difference between Hollywood and Miami is no one charges (in Miami) because everyone thinks it's cool to be in a movie," Andres says.

But if the Meza-Valdes brothers want to take the next step toward becoming professional filmmakers, they need access to professional-grade cameras, lighting equipment and crews. And it wouldn't hurt to get advice from an old hand who's been through it before.

Patrick de Bokay, a former advertising and distribution executive for Hollywood studios, says he wants to teach young filmmakers the process for developing movies, from concept through merchandising and licensing.

"Scriptwriting, packaging, production -- studios have mastered that process," he says.

De Bokay, who moved from Los Angeles to take a job as director of the Miami International Film Festival in 2007, says launching the Cinema Center is the next stage in his career. After leaving the film festival in 2008, de Bokay says he remained captivated by the way that cultures collide in Miami to create something unique.

"Miami is a cultural farm," he says, "a place where a lot of culture is being made."

But unlike Southern California, Miami lacks what de Bokay calls "a center" around which filmmakers can come together to share ideas, work on projects, and harness their collective energy to create a buzz for local filmmaking.

So foremost in the Cinema Center's mission is the creation of a filmmakers' community center. And like a community center counselor, de Bokay plans to nurture young filmmakers and push them to stretch their creative talents.

"Our role is to give the energy, the means and the will to artistic talent to push their creations to the maximum," he says.

MONEY MATTERS

In order for the Cinema Center to gather steam, though, it must build community support in the form of private donations, corporate sponsorships, strategic partnerships with colleges and arts groups, and a volunteer base.

To that end, de Bokay has formed the Miami Film Group, whose members volunteer at the center and donate money. He also launched an Adopt a Program campaign, soliciting donations from \$5,000 to \$400,000 to produce educational outreach programs and to provide other services.

The Cinema Center will earn other revenue through production partnerships with filmmakers who use its resources, and potentially by renting its equipment and studio space.

The measures of the Cinema Center's success will be the quality of the creative material that it helps to produce, the community support it engenders, and, perhaps less quantifiable, "when every young filmmaker in South Florida is going to come knock on our door before going somewhere else," de Bokay says.

It's an old saw: Miami's creative young talent invariably leaves for New York or Los Angeles to launch their careers.

Joshua Miller, 23, and Sam Rega, 23, are filmmakers who got their first break in the business through de Bokay. While students at the University of Miami film school, the pair produced, directed, wrote and edited the feature documentary, *Miami Noir: The Arthur E. Teele Story*, which premiered in the 2008 Miami International Film Festival.

De Bokay first saw a trailer for the film on YouTube, contacted Miller and Rega, and told them, "If you can make this film live up to the trailer, I'll put it in the festival," says Miller, who hails from Atlanta.

"He kind of gave us a home here in Miami. I'm a filmmaker now because of the experience."

Though Miller and Rega credit UM teachers and faculty with helping them to develop and finance *Miami Noir*, they believe the film could have benefited from an organization such as the Cinema Center.

"To tap into the filmmakers that were already established in Miami would have been a great asset," says Rega, who grew up in Sarasota. "Film is an extremely collaborative effort. . . . Obviously, sometimes it's the vision of only one person, but it takes a lot of people to carry out that vision."

TOGETHER AGAIN

Miller and Rega, who are now the Cinema Center's chief creative officers, joined forces with de Bokay again when they applied for a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a Miami-based charitable group that awarded them \$750,000 in seed money to launch the Cinema Center.

De Bokay, Miller and Rega are not interested in developing only films. The Cinema Center also has lent its resources to co-produce the Borscht Film Festival, a showcase for the works of local filmmakers under 30 years old who tell Miami stories that go deeper than the typical portrayal (think Miami Vice).

"Everytime we saw Miami on film it was the same strip on South Beach, the same old stories," says Lucas Leyva, 22, a festival co-founder. "Miami is so rich and so weird we thought it was a shame not to tell these stories that inspired us so much."

The festival began in 2005 as an informal gathering of friends who made and commissioned movies, and then screened them in Miami. Having outgrown the Tower Theater, where last year's edition was presented to an overflow audience, its founders have partnered with the Cinema Center and plan to take the event to the larger Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center.

"They help us do a lot of things we couldn't do on our own as a bunch of 20-somethings who got together to make a film festival: raise sponsorships, provide space for us to constantly meet, just collaborating with us, giving us feedback and advice," Leyva says.

Jeff Peel, director of the Miami-Dade Office of Film & Entertainment, sees the Cinema Center and events such as the Borscht festival as a potential platform to help not just filmmakers but audiences to develop an appreciation for independent films made in Miami, "sort of in the way that Art Basel Miami Beach made art popular in South Florida," he says, "and now we're known as this art center."

"Film is not there," he says. "There are filmmakers. There are film festivals. But there's not a general sense that these are the kinds of things that people will support or invest in, and we need to get to that stage."

Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami-dade/story/1009531.html>

FLORIDA ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Palm Beach International Film Festival

Sun-Sentinel.com © Apr 19, 2009

It's quality over quantity at this year's Palm Beach International Film Festival, with more than 120 films including features, documentaries and shorts set to screen at venues throughout Palm Beach County from Thursday through April 27.

Tallahassee Film Festival makes a big 'Deal' of British flick

Tallahassee Democrat © Apr 19, 2009

"A Deal is A Deal," which stars Mackenzie Crook (the gaunt buccaneer in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies) and Colm Meaney ("Layer Cake"), won the Best Narrative Feature during the festival's awards ceremony at Tallahassee Community College on Saturday night.

Local student creates Film Festival poster

WPTV © Apr 19, 2009

A South Tech Academy graphic artist student won the 2010 poster contest for the Palm Beach International Film Festival. Helen Ticas will receive a \$1,000 prize April 28, 2009, at the Duncan Theatre on the Palm Beach Community College Campus in Lake Worth during the 2009 Student Showcase of films.

Naples film festival to be held at Silverspot cinemas in November

Florida Weekly © Apr 22, 2009

For four days, NIFF will showcase the extraordinary on Silverspot's screens, showing the finest films, shorts, and documentaries from around the world, with a special focus on Southwest Florida's filmmakers. Silverspot will offer NIFF attendees and moviegoers the finest cinematic accommodations, and will also host a number of events, galas and award ceremonies surrounding the international festival event.

Florida gains ground in movie-TV production

Tampabay.com - © Apr 22, 2009

Florida is a rising state in a movie and TV industry that nationwide contributed 2.5 million jobs and \$41.1 billion in wages to the U.S. economy in 2007, according to a Motion Picture Association of America report out this week. Florida has had a busy couple of years, the study indicates. Combined, 41 movies and TV shows were filmed in the state in 2007, with total wages paid in Florida that year of \$1.47 billion.

NOTE: This growth happened during a period when Florida's incentive was at a competitive level.

Milk Screenwriter Speaks at FIU

Sun-Sentinel.com © Apr 22, 2009

But the casually clad Oscar-award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, 34, soon captivated the FIU crowd on April 16 when

he discussed his personal struggles as a young, gay Mormon and the screenplay he wrote for Milk. The film starred Sean Penn portraying Harvey Milk and his election as a San Francisco City Supervisor in 1977 amid sometimes violent, political turmoil.

Wakulla High School Television Production a Winner at Tallahassee Film Festival

Wakulla.com © Apr 23, 2009

The 2nd Annual Tallahassee Film Festival rolled through north Florida this past week, and a surprise winner took a top award in the 48 Hour film challenge. Three students (and their instructor) from local Wakulla High School captured the 1st place prize in the professional category for their short film "Animo".

Florida high school theater students in Tampa to act up

Tampa Tribune © Apr 23, 2009

They sport T-shirts saying: "Upstage Me," "Dare to be Scene," and "Save it for the Stage." This is the 2009 edition of the Florida State Thespians competition and festival, and it is host to 7,200 of the state's most talented high school actors, directors, playwrights, stagehands and costume designers.

What's on at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

MiamiHerald.com © Apr 23, 2009

Organizers of the 11th annual Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival say they've learned their lesson -- this year's program won't be headlined by dark, weird, experimental movies that two years ago drove away some filmgoers.

St. Pete producer gets 'Obsessed' with Beyonce

Tampabay.com © Apr 23, 2009

Packer, a graduate of St. Petersburg High School, was approached by Screen Gems to produce the suspense thriller Obsessed, which stars Beyonce Knowles as a wife fighting to keep Ali Larter's femme fatale character from stealing her husband, played by Idris Elba. It opens Friday.

Two FSU Colleges Merge

WCTV © Apr 23, 2009

Seizing an opportunity to strengthen their traditional programs and explore new interdisciplinary offerings, the faculties of the College of Communication and the College of Information at The Florida State University have voted to merge their programs.

ARTICLES ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

EUE/Screen Gems Studios Urges NC Lawmakers to Increase Film Incentive to 25 Percent

Carolina Newswire © Apr 17, 2009

EUE/Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington, N.C. is urging North Carolina lawmakers to increase the film incentive from 15 to 25 percent to remain competitive in the film industry. Last week, Walt Disney Pictures walked away from the negotiating table in North Carolina to film in Georgia.

Video game industry pushes for tax credit

Wisconsin Radio Network © Apr 20, 2009

However, Brian Raffel of Madison-based Raven Software, a video game developer, says the credits could actually help his industry attract high paying permanent jobs. He says the credits could provide the incentives needed to start more projects in Wisconsin and make the state a growing location for game development.

EXPANDED INCENTIVES TO BOOST THE MOVIE INDUSTRY IN IOWA

IowaPolitics.com © Apr 17, 2009

Expanding the current incentive program, as this legislation does, is intended to attract bigger film projects. It will make Iowa's program more competitive with other states that offer incentives, including Wisconsin, Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona and North Carolina.

WV On The Small Screen

West Virginia MetroNews © Apr 20, 2009

In addition to giving West Virginia some national attention, the production companies who are shooting footage or taking photos, are giving the state an economic boost as well. "These companies are contributing to the state's economy by hiring our work force and spending money on equipment rentals, location rentals, food, travel, accommodations and more," said Pam Haynes, West Virginia Film Office director.

Washington State Increases Tax Incentives

MovieMaker Magazine © Apr 21, 2009

On April 15th, governor Christine Gregoire signed the SBH 2042 bill, which increases the Motion Picture Competitiveness program tax incentive from 20 to 30 percent. The increase to a 30 percent production tax incentive makes Washington State more competitive as a filming location and promises to bring significant economic development...

Tax incentives boost NY filming

Variety © Apr 21, 2009

Pat Kaufman is breathing a sigh of relief. The woman who heads of the New York Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development is already seeing dramatic results from the state's recent renewal of its tax incentive program for filming,

with \$350 million added...

[La. lawmakers revisit film tax credit program](#)

Forbes © Apr 22, 2009

"If it's reduced, it will kill the film industry in this state," said Daniel Forman, president of a new multimillion-dollar studio in Harahan. He said he's counting on the state to keep the incentive at 25 percent or raise it to compete with states such as Georgia, which has bumped its incentive to 30 percent.

[France Tries to Lure Hollywood](#)

New York Times © Apr 22, 2009

France this winter approved a plan under which, for the first time, foreign producers would be eligible for financial support to shoot in France. The proposal remains subject to approval by regulators at the European Commission in Brussels, but officials in the French film industry hope that will happen by the time this year's Cannes festival begins in May.

[Perry signs Texas law to lure movies](#)

Houston Chronicle (TX) © Apr 23, 2009

Surrounded by cheering film industry workers, Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation Thursday aimed at helping Texas lure more movies and television shows to the state. "Oh, you're going to be busy," Perry told the crowd. "We're going to move Texas to the top of the credits."

[Dallas-shot TV series may follow on heels of film incentives boost](#)

Dallas Morning News © Apr 24, 2009

Officials wouldn't confirm the title of the series, but said they expect official word as early as May. Two additional TV series, including an animated one, are also eyeing North Texas, according to Janis Burklund, head of the Dallas Film Commission. "Thanks to this bill, I don't have to shoot out of state," said Rodriguez, who hosted the signing of the bill at his Austin-based Troublemaker Studios.

GENERAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

[Nintendo's big challenge: letting others win](#)

Rivet 21 © Apr 18, 2009

Even during March — which turned out to be a relatively weak month for the industry — the Wii managed to outpace the combined sales of the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3. That has put Nintendo (4:00pm 04/17/2009 NTDOY 33.10, -2.70, -7.5%) in the driver's seat for the gaming industry, which is so far enjoying a relatively strong year compared to other sectors that have been thrashed by the economic meltdown.

[SAG national board approves tentative deal](#)

Variety © Apr 19, 2009

A badly split SAG national board approved a two-year tentative deal on its feature-primetime contract, triggering a ratification vote by the guild's 120,000 members. The board's approval came Sunday, two days after SAG execs and the congloms hammered out the final details of the pact.

[SAG battle likely to continue](#)

Variety © Apr 19, 2009

But the end of this tortuous yearlong negotiation process hardly means the end of strife within the Screen Actors Guild. The battles that raged internally and externally over the contract only heightened the intensity of the political and ideological conflicts that engulf SAG's various factions.

[Buzz builds home for 3-D](#)

Variety © Apr 19, 2009

Audiences are becoming interested in 3-D television, and the industry must satisfy that demand for 3-D movies to thrive. That was the message from a series of panels Sunday morning at the Digital Cinema Summit held at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

[Show business big for all 50 states](#)

Los Angeles Daily News © Apr 20, 2009

Show business is big business in all 50 states, generating 2.5 million jobs nationwide, a report released today says. The biannual report from The Motion Picture Association of America, the lobbying organization for Hollywood's major studios, shows that television and movie production has a significant impact on the economies of every state, not just California.

NOTE: Read the report at http://www.mpa.org/press_releases/econreport2009.pdf.

[Lionsgate blocks Carl Icahn](#)

Variety © Apr 20, 2009

In a move that may put a damper on any takeover effort by Carl Icahn, Lionsgate is refinancing \$66.6 million of its debt in a private deal. Meanwhile, Icahn had not indicated Monday afternoon whether he would extend his offer to buy \$350 million of the Lionsgate debt or allow it to expire.

[SAG to cut 35 jobs](#)

Variety © Apr 20, 2009

On the heels of declining dues and investment losses, the Screen Actors Guild plans to cut 35 of its 440 employees. SAG national exec director David White notified staffers about the cuts in a memo sent Monday, two days after the guild's national board approved a \$60 million budget for the fiscal year starting May 1.

Video Games: The top music talents

Variety © Apr 20, 2009

The next generation of bigscreen composers may just emerge from the videogame field. "I feel like an A&R person when it comes to discovering what I hope to be the next generation of composers that are coming from new mediums," says Steve Schnur, worldwide exec of music/marketing for Electronic Arts, a leading interactive-software publisher and distributor.

Obama Administration Lock(e)s And Loads Against Movie Piracy

Intellectual Property Watch © Apr 22, 2009

The Obama administration will fight for the movie industry and work to aggressively enforce its intellectual property protections both at home and abroad, United States Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said here Tuesday.

NAB attendance down but biz brews

Variety © Apr 22, 2009

Foot traffic is way down at the National Assn. of Broadcasters confab this year, but some of the smaller fry on the exhibition floor say they're still doing pretty good business. The big brands dominate the floor's skyline, but in between the sizable spreads mounted by Panasonic, Sony, Microsoft, JVC, Toshiba, Canon and Avid, among others, are hundreds of smaller shingles boasting all manner of specialties -- from the most intricate digital gizmos to the basic building blocks of broadcast towers.

Opponents: SAG could lose vote

Variety © Apr 23, 2009

Opponents of SAG's tentative feature-primetime deal have declared that guild members will vote the pact down -- as long as the turnout rate's higher than the traditional 30%. "The more people that we can get to vote, the better chance we have to get this voted down," said Scott Wilson, organizer of a last-minute antiratification rally Thursday.

Tribeca Buzz: Filmmakers Credit Crunch Woes

CNBC © Apr 23, 2009

Living in the shadow of the financial industry, indie filmmakers have benefited from the generosity of wealthy hedge fund angel investors, and now they're feeling the squeeze. It's harder than ever to raise financing for films and find distribution. Tribeca Film Festival is reacting to the recession by slimming down and getting more commercial. It's scaling back its slate of films to just 85, less than half the peak number of movies a few years ago.

Digital Media For Your Restaurant In The Digital Age

Etundra © Apr 23, 2009

Interactive touch screen monitors can collect information from customers quickly and in a way that engages and entertains the customer. Interactive digital media can even collect orders from customers and give them a direct line of communication to management.

Cannes unveils lineup

Variety © Apr 23, 2009

Last year, Cannes director Thierry Fremaux swore the competition would be "recentered and renewed," opening up to lesser-known helmers and left-of-field pics. Twelve months later, the competition of the 62nd Cannes Film Festival reads like a who's-who of revered Riviera regulars, including four previous Palme d'Or winners.

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STATEWIDE EVENTS:

The Sunscreen Film Festival and the Foundation for a Drug Free World present a special screening of ADDICT: Racing for Recovery, the Todd Crandell Story

There is no cost for the event, food and drinks will be available for sale.

Free valet or on-street parking

About Todd Crandell and Racing for Recovery:

ADDICT examines the life and struggle for sobriety of Todd Crandell...the scope of the film covers his childhood, the failed promise of a hockey career, his descent into the abyss of drug and alcohol addiction and his climb to independence.

From this, he began competing in Ironman Triathlons and started Racing for Recovery, a non-profit foundation with the mission of preventing substance abuse in adolescents and individuals and offering a positive alternative to those currently battling addiction.

Foundation for a Drug-Free World is dedicated to educating children and adults alike about the truth about drugs and what they are doing to our society.

PLUS - you get to see a fabulous performance by WD-Han!

Details

Ft. Harrison Hotel
210 S. Ft. Harrison Ave.
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Saturday, April 25, 2009

6:30 PM performance by WD HAN

7:00 PM film screening followed by
a Q&A session with Mr. Crandall

Come and support the Sunscreen Film Festival and help promote a drug free lifestyle. Book your reservation today by emailing sunscreenrsvp@gmail.com.

CASTING CALLS:

Spanish Speaking Actors Needed for an Interactive Prevention Film for the Tampa Bay Area. A screen test is required.

Please send a photo/resume to casting@wahimedia.com Roles must be filled by April 30. If selected, pay is \$50/hour. All film will be in Tallahassee, FL.

Available roles include: 2 single moms, and ex-gang member and a non-gang member, a restaurant owner, and an educator/ teacher. All roles are in Spanish.

To see a sample production visit: www.explorevirginiagangstory.com <<http://www.explorevirginiagangstory.com/>>

Thanks!

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Gina Hallam
Talent Development and Director of Operations

Wahi Media
850.766.2401
www.wahimedia.com <<http://www.wahimedia.com>>

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.

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**Governor's Office of Film & Entertainment
The Capitol, Suite 2001
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(877) FLA-FILM**