Governor Hosts Music Celebration

Photo: (L-R) Travis Tritt, Theresa Tritt, Governor Perdue and First Lady Mary Perdue.

On February 16th Governor Sonny Perdue and the Georgia Film, Video & Music Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), paid tribute to the many artists, producers, songwriters, conductors and other musical talent with Georgia ties many of whom were honored at the 47th Annual GRAMMY Awards. Governor Perdue hosted the music celebration at the Governor’s Mansion.

Atlanta Lensed Diary of a Mad Black Woman Opens

Photo: (L-R) Cecily Tyson and Kimberly Elise

Lions Gate Film’s Diary of a Mad Black Woman, based on the popular play by Tyler Perry, opened nationally on February 25th and by the end of the weekend finished in first place at the box office with ticket sales of $22.7 million. Shot last summer in Atlanta, Diary of a Mad Black Woman follows its heroine’s journey from heartbreak and vengefulness to recovery and renewal, blending intense emotional drama with raucous comedy and soaring gospel music.

Diary of a Mad Black Woman stars Kimberly Elise (The Manchurian Candidate), Steve Harris (The Practice), Tyler Perry (Madea’s Class Reunion), Cicely Tyson (Sounder), Shemar Moore (The Young and the Restless), Tamara Taylor (Introducing

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Extreme Makeover in Georgia

Photo: Ty Pennington

While design team leader Ty Pennington was preparing to film an episode of ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition in his hometown of Atlanta, he underwent surgery for a perforated appendix. Although he was still recuperating, Pennington did not want to let down the Harper Family.

The Georgia-lensed episode incorporated Pennington’s predicament into the show. It captured how he was able to do his part from his hospital bed and later in the week to participate in the reveal for the Harper Family from Lake City, Georgia. In the episode the design team was able to turn the Harper’s living nightmare of a house into a dream home come true.

The Extreme Makeover design team, Atlanta-based national homebuilder

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You Get The Picture

You Get the Picture is a bi-monthly publication of the Georgia Film, Video & Music Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Articles can be mailed to Brenda Brayton, Georgia Film, Video & Music Office, Post Office Box 1776, Atlanta, GA 30301, faxed to 404.962.4053 or sent electronically to bbrayton@georgia.org. Visit our website at www.filmgeorgia.org or call 877.746.6842.
The Newton County Courthouse was built in 1884 in downtown Covington, Georgia. The courthouse is one of only five in the state built in the Second Empire style, which was inspired by the architecture of France under Napoleon III and features a mansard roof.

Located 30 miles east of Atlanta, the city of Covington has one of the largest historic districts in the state. The city has been featured in numerous movies including *The Fighting Temptations* and *Remember the Titans*. Commercials, music videos and the television series *In the Heat of the Night* also shot in Covington.

Beazer Homes and hundreds of workers and volunteers worked to provide the Harpers with a clean and stable living environment. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy, a Georgia native, came by the home to lend a helping hand while the Harper Family vacationed at Disneyland.

The design team for the Lake City episode of *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* featured team leader Pennington, Paul DiMeo, Michael Moloney, Constance Ramos, Ed Sanders and Eduardo Xol. The series is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. It was executive produced by Tom Forman and co-executive produced by Denise Cramsey.

On the companion show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition: How’d They Do That?* the producers from *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* literally open every door to show how Pennington and his team of designers, workers and contractors change the lives of deserving families as they rebuild the entire interior and exterior of a run-down house in just seven days. Behind the scene vignettes from the Harper Family episode included designer Eduardo Xol translating the jokes of comedian Jeff Foxworthy to the non-English speaking Latino workers and Pennington taking a few items from the hospital for the youngest member of the Harper family’s new cardiology-themed bedroom.

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_Diary... continued from page 1_

*Dorothy Dandridge* and Lisa Marcos (*The Gospel of John*). The movie tells the story of Helen (Kimberly Elise) who, having been grievously wronged by her husband, must find a way to heal her wounds and move on with her life.

Director Darren Grant brings Tyler Perry’s vision to the screen by intricately weaving together a mix of drama and comedy to tell the universal experience of broken hearts, redemption, forgiveness, recovery, new found love, inner strength and the importance of family and faith as revealed through a cast of colorful and sometimes familiar characters. The film’s screenplay was written by Tyler Perry. *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* is produced by Tyler Perry and Reuben Cannon with co-producer Mike Upton. David Claessen served as DP.
“This is an historic opportunity to recognize the achievements of all those who make up the Georgia music industry, from artists, producers and managers to technicians, publicists and songwriters,” Governor Perdue said. “Together, they have made Georgia one of the pre-eminent centers in the world for creating music and attracting musical talent.”

In addition to the entertainment value of Georgia’s music industry, its economic impact was also lauded by state leaders. “Our mission includes not only encouraging the expansion of existing industry in Georgia, but also mobilizing state resources for additional, innovative means of economic development,” GDEcD Commissioner Craig Lesser said. “The recorded music industry is a great example of one of those non-traditional industries that represents significant business for Georgia, contributing nearly $1 billion to our state economy each year.”

Speakers at the event included Joel Katz, general counsel to the National Academy of Recording Arts & Science Inc. (NARAS) and GRAMMY award-winning producer Dallas Austin. As members of the Georgia Film, Video & Music Advisory Commission, both Katz and Austin spoke of the history and diversity of the state’s music industry and encouraged all present to continue making their music in Georgia and identify new ways of attracting talent to the state.

Among the GRAMMY nominees and winners present at the music celebration event were band members of Third Day. The Marietta-based Christian rock group brought home the 2005 GRAMMY in the category of Best Rock Gospel Album for their latest CD “Wire.” Georgia native Eric ‘Ricky’ McKinnie, drummer for the Blind Boys of Alabama whose “There Will Be a Light” won the GRAMMY for Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album, attended the event. Choral director Norman Mackenzie along with Allison Vulgamore represented the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, whose rendition of “Berlioz: Requiem” received this year’s GRAMMY for Best Choral Performance. Gospel singer Ann Nesby, nominated for her work on The Fighting Temptations soundtrack was in attendance as well as choral director Kevin Bond of Newbirth Total Praise Choir who was nominated for “Spirit & Truth” in the category of Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album.

The Governor presented a commendation to each of the 2005 GRAMMY nominees who attend the music celebration. This included engineers Blake Eiseman, John Horesco IV and Phil Tan and songwriter Manuel Seal. These four nominees all lent their talent to Usher’s “Confessions” album, named Best Contemporary R&B Album and recognized with Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for “My Boo,” performed with Alicia Keyes, and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for “Yeah,” featuring Atlanta artists Lil Jon and Ludacris.

Country music singer Travis Tritt and American Idol star Diana DeGarmo were on hand to offer their congratulations to fellow artists and pledge their continued support of the state’s industry.
Association Announcements:

• **Atlanta Urban MediaMakers Association, Inc.** (AUMAi) reflects the new generation of mediamaking. AUMAi’s mission is to empower people through cultural diversity in animation, film and video. For more information on AUMAi’s monthly meetings, visit www.urbanmediamakers.com or call 770.345.8048.

• **The Georgia Production Partnership** (GPP) is a statewide organization of filmmakers and film industry executives committed to keeping Georgia a film-friendly and competitive force in the film and video community. Meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of each month at noon. For membership information email info@georgiaproduction.org. Visit their website at www.georgiaproduction.org.

• **IMAGE Film & Video Center** offers filmmaking workshops and screenings. For more information, contact IMAGE at 404.352.4225 or check the website at www.imagefv.org.

• **National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences** (The Recording Academy): Established in 1957, the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. is dedicated to providing educational opportunities and improving the cultural environment and quality of life for music and its makers. For more information, please visit www.grammy.com/atlanta.aspx.

• **NATAS/Atlanta**, the local chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. For information please call 770.414.8777.

• **Women in Film/Atlanta** (WIF/A), a non-profit organization founded in 1974, is dedicated to the education, promotion, support and unification of women working in or studying film, video and related creative and business fields. For information check the website at www.wifa.org.

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**Siaggas’ Stiller Spots**

Director Peter Siaggas just wrapped on three national spots with Ben Stiller for Nickelodeon’s *Kid’s Choice Awards*. Stiller will host the live awards show in April. In the first spot we watch as Stiller prepares nervously for his appearance on the show. The second is a “spoof” of a shampoo commercial called *Smoother, Sexier, Stiller* where Stiller is wearing a wig that flies off by accident. In the third spot, Stiller delivers his entire speech within 30 seconds and all in one breath.

Nickelodeon producer Christina Augustinos said, “We needed a comedic director who works well with celebrities. Last year, we worked with Siaggas on a project with Brittany Spears that went flawlessly. So, naturally, he was our first choice.”

The spots will continue to run until April 2 when Nickelodeon’s *Kid’s Choice Awards* airs.

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**Promoting Georgia at Real Screen Summit**

In February 2005, locations liaison Craig Dominey represented the Georgia Film, Video & Music Office at the Real Screen Summit in Washington, D.C. Real Screen is a three-day international conference on the business of non-fiction programming. The opening keynote presentation was “In Conversation with Academy® Award-winning filmmaker Errol Morris.”

The Georgia Film, Video & Music Office sponsored a booth at Real Screen Summit in order to promote the state directly to the decision makers behind documentary, lifestyle and reality-television programming.

The summit connects producers, distributors, programmers and industry suppliers and forges the business relationships that drive the factual programming business forward. Participating production companies and networks included the Discovery Channel, A&E, MTV, The History Channel, National Geographic, Court TV, Turner South, HGTV, BBC Worldwide, The Food Network and many more. Panel discussions with notable producers, pitching sessions and networking parties were also offered at the summit.

For more information please visit www.realscreensummit.com.
The feature road-trip comedy *29 Reasons to Run* was written and produced by Georgia native Gary Weeks who also stars in the film. The comedy filmed in Morris, Cuthbert and Georgetown, Georgia as part of a 30-day shoot that also included locations in California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Alabama and Louisiana.

Murphy’s Law takes over when slacker Jack Paradise runs out of couches to sleep on and decides to take a road trip to find his lost love. But first he has to trick his novel-challenged writer and best friend Peter Jonson into coming along.

Damon O’Steen (*Waiting on the Lost*) directs *29 Reasons to Run*, marking the third film that he and Weeks have worked on together. The film stars Gary Weeks (*A Perfect Husband: The Laci Peterson Story*) as Jack Paradise, with Branden Waits (*Waiting on the Lost*) as Peter Jonson. Philip Boyd (*First Daughter*), Michael Ensign (*Seabiscuit*), Adam Kendrick (*Friends*), Thomas Alan Beckett (*ER*), Scott Casperson (*Never Die Alone*) and Dru Updegraff (*November Falls*) co-star with Atlanta actors Tara Frix and Eric Zwieg. The film is produced by Jamie Milhoff (*The West Wing*) with DP Todd Tidwell (*Forgotten Hope*) and features the music of singer/songwriter Tony Weeks. Currently in post production *29 Reasons to Run* is scheduled to be released this spring. The film’s website is www.29reasonstorun.com.

*Road Crew Visits Brunswick & Golden Isles*

No matter what we do or where we go, the weather is always with us, impacting our lives in ways we might never consider. That is the premise behind *The Weather Channel* weekly *Road Crew* segments. *The Weather Channel Road Crew* visited Brunswick and The Golden Isles in January to tape four stories for the popular segment. Each story discussed a different aspect of local life, with a weather tie-in.

The *Road Crew* began its visit with commercial fisherman David Karwacki, discussing crabbing and how it is affected by changes in the weather. On Sea Island, Road Crew host Kelsa Kinsly interviewed Sea Island staff naturalist Stacia Hendricks about barrier island ecology and the role the weather plays on local landscape and wildlife.

Spud Woodward, assistant director for Marine Fisheries with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, discussed marine life during a segment taped aboard the research vessel, “Anna.” On Jekyll Island, indoor climate control was the topic during an interview with Jekyll Island Museum curator John Hunter. The Jekyll Island segment was taped at Hollybourne Cottage, the subject of a research project involving weather and its impact on historic buildings. For *Road Crew* updates visit www.weather.com.
16th Annual Savannah Music Festival

The 16th annual Savannah Music Festival truly is “Southern, Soulful and Sophisticated.” This 17-day musical festival takes place March 18 through April 3, 2005 in one of America’s most historic cities. The festival offers a multitude of one-time-only performances and world premieres. The Savannah Music Festival’s distinctive line-up showcases indigenous music from the Deep South, originally conceived chamber music and ballet programs, and numerous internationally-renowned musicians representing different musical styles and genres. For information visit www.savannahmusicfestival.org.

Kathy T Wraps in Atlanta

Photo: (L-R) Mary Elise, Scotty Mullen and Tristan Towne.

In February 2005 Cinema Concepts’ feature film Kathy T Gives Good Hoover wrapped principal photography. Shot entirely in metropolitan Atlanta, the independent film’s cast includes Trent Gill (Little Black Book), Mary Elise (Popstar) and Greg Cipes (National Lampoon’s, Pledge This!).

When in the harsh light of the media center, Alex (Trent Gill), a quirky musician/songwriter, poli-sci-literature student reads the line of graffiti, “Kathy T gives good hoover” he is pushed on a quest he normally would never entertain. With some clever detective work Alex finds himself on the trail of the infamous Kathy T (Mary Elise) who in reality has a bigger secret to keep.

Kathy T Gives Good Hoover marks the fourth feature for writer/director Dr. Evan Lieberman (The Lady From Stockholm). The film was produced by Kim Turner, executive produced by Stewart Harnell, with co-producer and editor Mike Tremble and associate producer John Price. Bill Burton served as DP for the project, with art director Shaunan Wood Choyce and several members of the Atlanta-based production team Fake Wood Wallpaper.

Currently in post-production and scheduled for a 2005 release, Kathy T Gives Good Hoover is a Cinema Concepts feature in association with Kathy T Productions. For more information please call 770.956.7460.

Joint Venture for Green Valley

Green Valley Entertainment (GVE), a film development and production company, has reached an agreement with Institutional Finance Group (IFG) in order to extend its efforts into distribution, as well as produce at least three movies annually. With IFG’s assistance GVE will also convert to a public entity to accelerate its corporate growth.

This new partnership will also allow GVE to increase the budget of its next feature, Kiss of the Sun. The screenplay is based on a short story from Steve Antczak’s (GVE principal) critically acclaimed collection Daydreams Undertaken and was written by Antczak and Michael Valverde. The film will be directed by Valverde and Jon Hill and produced by Antczak and Valverde.

Green Valley Entertainment has been producing films since 2000 with four feature films under their belt: Losing Grace, No Witness (Corey Feldman, Jeff Fahey), Sex & Consequences (Joan Severance, Corbin Bernsen) and Fatwa (Lauren Holly). IFG and its affiliated companies IFG Private Equity and IFG Opportunity Fund specialize in providing strategic planning and funding solutions to publicly traded entities. For more information on GVE visit www.greenvalleyent.com.

A Few Notes from Tree

Tree Sound Studios was honored at the 2004 TEC Awards ceremony this past November in San Francisco. The studio received the Outstanding Creative Achievement Awards for Record Production/Single or Track for “Hey Ya” from OutKast’s “Speakerboxx/The Love Below.”

Two television specials were filmed at Tree in recent months. As Ben Taylor tracked his new “indie” record with producer Rick Beato, the film crew for A & E’s special broadcast Million Heirs loaded into Studio A. They filmed candid interviews and live footage of Taylor tracking in the studio.

VH1 also rolled in a film crew to capture footage of Mötley Crüé’s Vince Neil. Neil was at Tree tracking a new tune with producer Desmond Child and local producer Rick Beato as part of the network’s Remaking series.

GRAMMY® winning local artists OutKast were back at Tree cutting tracks for an upcoming release for Universal Records. GRAMMY® winner Matt Still was at the desk assisted by John Holmes.

Tree welcomed Universal recording artist Donnell Jones to Studio A to cut new tracks for his upcoming release. Engineer Blake Eiseman was at the desk assisted by John Holmes. For additional information visit www.treesoundstudios.com.
Veterans and newcomers to the music scene bunkered down at Patchwerk Recording Studios in January to get their hot ideas transformed into body moving beats, memorable vocals and mixed to perfection. Collectively, these artists booked 49 days of 12 hour lockouts between the 9000 and 995 studios. On many days the front desk staff and engineers were working around the clock.

David Banner, of Big Face Entertainment, spent five days working in the 995 Studio with Patchwerk engineer Steve Fisher. He tracked out beats and vocals (some with Jazze Pha) to various songs, including: “Gimme That Grey Goose (And Put That Yack Back)” with 8 Ball featuring Al Capone, “My Gun” which was produced by Miestro and featured 8 Ball, “Westside,” “Thinking About You,” “Can’t Change Me” and “For the Kids” with Alfa Mega. Banner also worked with engineer Nico Solis for a day on “I Get By,” “X-ed” and a sample of radio drops and possible album interludes. He followed up with three days in the 9000 Studio later in the month to mix “Rep to Death” and “DB” with mix engineer Leslie Brathwaite and assistant engineer Kori Anders. David Banner’s days put in at the studio in January totaled at eight.

Jazze Pha put in 10 days at the studio in January to work on his individual project. Under Sho Nuff Recordings Jazze worked with house engineers Nico Solis and Steve Fisher to create the beats and vocals for several songs in the 995 Studio. Among the song titles were: “Too Fly,” “Step In Da Club,” and “Like It”. Jazze also tracked beats for Slim Thug to lay vocals for “Callin Me,” and Amri to lay vocals for “Just In Case.”

The independent duo LJ was back again in January for seven days in 995. They partnered with their producer Angelo Ray to work on their upcoming album. With their mixture of “crunk” and “soul” they dropped vocals on songs such as “Out of Control,” “Moma,” “Hometown Girl,” “Strugglin,” “Tell me Why” and “Don’t Forget to Call.” The group worked with house engineers Steve Fisher, Mike Wilson and Josh Butler. For an additional eight days, LJ set up shop in the 9000 Studio to mix the songs they had tracked in 995, along with “Liftin Me Up,” “S.O.S,” “Highway 69” and “ATL.” All songs were tracked and mixed by Patchwerk engineers except for “Don’t Forget to Call” where LJ enlisted the skills of frequent guest engineer Leslie Brathwaite and Patchwerk assistant engineer Kori Anders. LJ put in 15 days at the studio in January.

And the hardest working artist at Patchwerk for the month of January…Bizarre! The artist know thus far by his affiliation with Eminem and his vocal contributions to the group D-12 (Sanctuary Management Group/Shady Records) was inclined to call Patchwerk “home” for 16 days in January. Working three days in 995, Bizarre tracked beats with producer Shondrae (Bangladesh) for “Rave” (engineered by Josh Butler). He also tracked vocals with engineer Steve Fisher for “Suicide Waiting to Happen” and additional freestyles with engineer Kori Anders. The majority of Bizarre’s work was accomplished in Studio 9000, where Bizarre spent 13 days tracking and mixing with Leslie Brathwaite and Kori Anders. He partnered with producers Sol Messiah and Erik Sermon to finish song titles: “Bad Day,” “I Need A Friend,” “Crush On You,” “Ghetto Music,” “Suicide,” “I Shot,” “Let the Record Skip,” “Scooby” and “Gospel Weed Song.”

2005 Sundance Film Festival

As a part of Georgia’s marketing efforts directed toward attracting independent filmmakers to the state, Georgia Film, Video & Music Office director Greg Torre recently represented the state at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival held in Park City, Utah. The festival, which ran from January 20 through January 30, provides a forum for independently produced feature films, documentaries and film shorts from around the world.

This year, the office co-hosted a Saturday evening networking reception that included Los Angeles-based producers, Georgia filmmakers attending the festival and members of IMAGE. The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) was also represented by Chris Clark, deputy commissioner for Public Affairs and Policy and Dee Ford, assistant to the commissioner. In addition to the networking reception, there were opportunities to meet filmmakers at post-screening receptions, seminars and panel discussions.

Kossover Shoots Cartoon Network Campaign

Avenue K Film and Television director Herb Kossover was tapped by the Cartoon Network to film their foray into the political arena with a series of spots aimed at the pre-voting age audience. Cartoon Network gave kids a chance to get involved with the political campaigns of 2004.

For the months heading up to November and while all candidates were looking for your vote, Cartoon Network characters were doing the same. The shoots were broken down into three teams. The teams ran their campaigns on three major platforms; introducing the characters, stating what they stood for and reminding all to go to Cartoonnetwork.com and vote.

The shoot took place at Radical Axis. They designed the graphic plates to be mixed with live action directed by Kossover. Amy Taylor executive produced with Jennifer Titus, Matt Shapiro and Kevin Mason writer/producers. Norman Andrews and Joe Clayton of Day One assisted. For further information call Amy Reed 770.509.0619.
Adventures Around the World Debuts

Atlanta-based Eyekiss Films announces the release of the new DVD series Baku the Travel Bug that encourages children to explore world cultures. The debut episode Making Friends Around the World was filmed in Atlanta’s Inman Park and includes both cast and crew of Georgia-based talent.

Atlanta native and Harvard Graduate School of Education alumnus Matt Crenshaw developed the show with London-based executive producer Peter Arndt. Their sole intent was to create an entertaining, educational program that would introduce young children (ages 3-8) to the wider world. Crenshaw contacted Eyekiss Films director David Edmond Moore and pitched the idea to him. Moore instantly came on board.

Baku is a lovable puppet who lives inside the travel bag of Aunt Sydney his best friend and travel partner. When children from the neighborhood visit Aunt Sydney’s house, Baku pops out of the travel bag to show them pictures of his travels which he keeps in a magical scrapbook. Every time the children say, “picture, picture, come to life,” Baku’s photos come alive and the children are transported into actual scenes from around the world.

The show’s star Baku was conceptualized by Atlanta’s Matt Jenkins of Green Studios who also handled the animation segments of the show. Baku was built by Atlanta puppet maker Chris Brown and brought to life by veteran puppeteer Lucky Yates.

To learn more about Baku the Travel Bug check out www.bakutravels.com. To learn more about Eyekiss Films visit www.eyekissfilms.com.