



Home > Entertainment

Font Size [A] [A] [A] [A]

Search Newsherald for stories, videos, photos, GO

### Film shot in Panama City premieres in Miami

March 14, 2012 06:35:29 PM

ShareThis | Print Story | E-Mail Story

TONY SIMMONS / PanamaCity.com  
@PCTonyS

**More info:**  
[Click for more information](#)

PANAMA CITY — The world premiere of "Born & Raised," an independent film shot in Panama City in 2009, was held Friday at the Miami International Film Festival.

"Filmed on location in Panama City, director/producer Joshua Dragge and writer/producer/star Nick Loritsch created this authentic, deeply Floridian production over a number of years, and the romantic use of our great state's setting gives this drama an atmospheric sizzle," said Jaie Laplante, reviewing the film for the festival. "The naturalistic performances ... contribute to the down-home, genuine sincerity of this sweet film."

"Born & Raised" is the story of a young man growing up in the St. Andrews area who learns a thing or two about love, luck and life from his well-traveled, outlaw grandfather. Described as a "tough coming-of-age drama with a lot of heart and a ton of laughs," the film deals with family, friends, love, forgiveness, small towns and the desire for something more.

"I am extremely proud of all the hard work, from crew to talent to all the related industry workers and businesses who tolerated — I mean helped make this beautifully written piece into a great film," joked Bay County Film Commissioner Julie Ann Gordon, who is credited as executive producer on the film and attended the premiere in Miami.

Dragge and Loritsch said the location was important to the film's story, and they added the movie would not have been made without Gordon's involvement.

"The reason Panama City has a film commissioner at all is because of the city's Spring Break element," the filmmakers said in a news release. "Typically, Julie handles productions from the likes of MTV, BET, VH1, etc. As we weren't them, wanted to shoot in the off-season, had hometown roots and, hopefully, a couple drops of artistic integrity, Julie was ecstatic when we chose to use the Florida Panhandle as our film's backdrop."

The choice of location also was important to Loritsch, who lived in Panama City for about four years while a teenager and attended both Surfside Middle School and Bay High School.

"In high school, my buddy's dad always had a knack for catching my friend and I red-handed," Loritsch said. "He'd always say, 'If Nick hears me out, I won't tell his folks.' That worked for me, so I did. (He) came from very humble beginnings and you really didn't know what making mistakes were until you heard his version of it. ... These moments heavily influenced (the film's) grandfather character and his relationship with his grandson."



[enlarge](#)

JERRY RIGGED FILMS | Special to The News Herald

Jackson Pyle, left, and Nick Loritsch co-star in "Born & Raised," an independent film shot in Panama City in 2009. Loritsch also wrote and produced the film.

0 tweets  
tweet

1  
+1

#### Recommendations

**Sign Up** Create an account or **log in** to see what your friends are recommending.



**Teacher charged with having sex with student**  
20 people recommend this.



**Club owner charged with DUI, leaving scene of accident**  
53 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

#### Most Viewed Stories

- > Updated: Wednesday night fire at port warehouse still smoldering
- > Rape victim's family speaks out
- > Thunder Beach economic impact could be in the millions
- > U.S. military launches first overseas mission for F-22
- > Thunder Beach Spring Rally hits high gear

**TODAY'S DEAL** deal of the day

**Cook Whitehead Ford**  
50% off! The Works Fuel Saver Package  
Normally \$40 ONLY \$20 from Cook Whitehead Ford!

[MORE DETAILS](#) [Like](#) 1

**Weather** Live Cams Military News Directory

Mostly Cloudy - Winds East at 9.2 MPH (8 KT)  
Last Update: 2012-05-03 16:20:02  
[Click Here for More Weather](#)  
Sponsored by Freedom-Florida.com

Learn > Scriptwriting Storytelling Character Creation

**Creative Writing**  
MASTER'S DEGREE  
ONLINE

**FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY.** [INFO](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

**National top videos**

- » U.S. news
- » Entertainment
- » Business
- » Lifestyle
- » Sports
- » Health

**Things to do in Panama City**

Events Movies Venues Dining

**Featured Events**

1. Bay County's 27th Annual...
2. Cinco De Mayo Party at...
3. Panama City POPS...
4. Boston
5. Jim Gaffigan

[Click for More Events](#) [Add Your Events](#)

While scouting locations for the production, Gordon introduced the filmmakers to locals who later would become crew members, including production designer Trent Dion Soto, gaffer Craig Griffin, second assistant camera operator Jordan Marking, hair and makeup artist Andrea Ferrell and local actors Ashley McElhaney, Jillian Silcox and Ford Seeuws (who also served as a grip).

All of the locations were secured through Gordon's relationships with the property owners or managers, including The Shrimp Boat, Uncle Ernies, St. Andrews Marina, the Canoe Shop, Tan Fannies, Newby's Too and several sailboats.

"We're beyond grateful for everything that Julie and the city did for us, as this film wouldn't have been made without them," the filmmakers said.

Upon wrapping up production in late December 2009, the crew returned to California to begin post-production work with an eye toward a 2011 release. They instead got on festival schedules for 2012. At the premiere Friday, cast and crew were informed that the film has been accepted into two more festivals, the Sun Screening in Tampa and Bare Bones in Muscogee, Okla.

Find an Event

what	when	where	Go
------	------	-------	----



ADVERTISEMENT

Poll

Are you satisfied with the new redistricting maps in Florida?

Yes

No

Vote!

[See the trailer](#)

[See archived 'Entertainment' stories »](#)

Ads by Google

[Free ADT® Alarm System](#)

Home Alarm System Deal: Save \$850 Free \$100 Gift Card 888-603-4991  
www.weknowalarms.com

[Home Alarm in 15 Minutes](#)

Install Your Own System. Easy, Safe Leading Brand Based On Reviews  
www.FrontPointSecurity.com

[ADT® Home Security](#)

\$35.99 ADT® Monitoring Special! Installation Special. ADT Auth Co.  
www.SecurityChoice.com/Specials

[LA Home Security Safe](#)

Get the Best in Home Protection. Check Out Our Secure Safes Today!  
BundysLockAndSafe.com

