

LIVING *Palm Beach County*

SCHOOL NEWS

G-Star students find success

Students at the G-Star School of the Arts for Motion Pictures and Broadcasting are busy working and collecting awards.

They recently set a precedent for Florida high schools when Lions Gate Films held its annual Florida \$150,000 incubator contest. In the first eight years of the contest, no county had produced more than one winner. But this time, G-Star students earned first, second and third place awards. The awards banquet, industry seminars for the winners and private meetings with the heads of Lions Gate Films were held at the Mayfair Hotel in Coconut Grove.

But that's not all, G-Star drama students scored the highest percentage of "Superiors" in the District X Thespian Individual Events Festival in Port St. Lucie, including the coveted Critics Choice Award. Of the 31 students performing, 16 students scored "Superior" and a Critic's Choice Award and 11 students scored "Excellent." Several of the students who won awards in the Lions Gate Films contest also won "Superiors" in the Thespian Festival. They performed in Port St. Lucie during the day and drove to Miami to receive their awards from Lions Gate that same evening.

Days later, three more G-Star student films scored big in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. The three winning G-Star films have moved on to the next level in the national competition.

Many of the the same students recently returned from shooting a feature film, *Dancin' On The Edge* with producer Jonathan Krane (*Face/Off, The General's Daughter, Swordfish, Look Who's Talking I, II and III*) and choreographer/director JoAnn Jansen (*Pirates of the Caribbean, Rumor Has It, Elizabethtown, Take The Lead*). Twenty-five G-Star students worked on the film crew and one starred in it during a five-day shoot on the Carnival Cruise Ship Imagination which sailed to Cancun, Mexico.

Film students also have been commissioned by the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission and the Career Education Business Leadership Committee of the School District of Palm Beach County to create a half-hour television show profiling the opportunities and programs for film and television throughout Palm Beach County. The students received a budget of \$3,000 and have worked with industry expert Alex Marquez to shoot more than 30 hours of footage for the production. It is scheduled to be broadcast on Channel 20 and other outlets including the G-Star TV Show on WXEL.

The G-Star students are also participating in the filming of the high-definition feature-length motion picture *Hiding Victoria* that has been filming on the back lot of the G-Star Studios and various locations about the Palm Beaches. For additional information, visit www.gstarschool.org.