

21 Popular Movies Made in Florida

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By [Mike Miller](#) Updated June 24, 2024

[Jacksonville](#), Florida was a major film making location in the early 1900s. It had the title of “**Winter Film Capital of the World.**”

More than 30 movie studios operated in Jacksonville at one time.

THE NORMAN FILM MFG. CO.
PRESENTS



BILL PICKETT

WORLD'S COLORED CHAMPION...IN

'THE BULL-DOGGER'

*Featuring The Colored Hero of the Mexican Bull Ring
in Death Defying Feats of Courage and Skill.*

THRILLS! LAUGHS TOO!



Norman Films Poster Advertising Bill Pickett in "The Bulldogger"

The first silent film studio opened in 1908. The others that followed included Metro Pictures that evolved over the years into MGM.

In 1914, **Oliver Hardy** began his career in Jacksonville. Other stars included **Rudolph Valentino**, **Lionel** and **Ethel Barrymore**, and others.

An interesting operation was **Norman Studio**. It was one of the first to produce "race films" starring African American actors.

Unlike the many stereotypical roles usually played by blacks, the Norman films portrayed them in positive roles.



Oliver Hardy

The Norman Studios five building complex in Jacksonville's Arlington area has been preserved and is currently in the process of being turned into a museum and educational complex.

Although Florida was just as important as California in the beginning of the industry, many studios began moving to Hollywood in the 1920s.

Even though most of the studios bailed out, there continued to be a lot films made in Florida.



Silver Springs Monkeys

The climate and vegetation was perfect for jungle movies like Tarzan and the many murky ponds, lakes, and rivers were a great home for **"The Creature from the Black Lagoon."**

The many wild monkeys living along Silver Run and the Ocklawaha River near Silver Springs were early movie actors who escaped and have lived happily ever after pestering boaters along the rivers.

Many of the movie posters shown on this page are part of the Museum of Florida History's permanent collection of Florida movie memorabilia.

1. THE YEARLING

WARNER BROS.  20th CENTURY FOX ENTERTAINMENT

The YEARLING



13
91

The Yearling was a Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, who lived and wrote in Cross Creek. The movie of the same name was filmed in the Ocala National Forest and features Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman, and Claude Jarman, Jr.

2. BENEATH THE 12-MILE REEF

YOU SEE IT WITHOUT GLASSES IN
CINEMASCOPE



20th CENTURY-FOX
presents

Beneath the 12-Mile Reef





This was filmed around Tarpon Springs and has some great scenes of what the city looked like when the film was made. It has sponge diving scenes and stars Robert Wagner, Terry Moore, and Gilbert Roland.

3. CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON



CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

Starring

RICHARD CARLSON · JULIA ADAMS

RICHARD DENNING · ANTONIO MORENO · NESTOR PAIVA · WHIT BISSELL



This film features **Ricou Browning** as the creature and **Richard Carlson** and **Julia Adams** as the hero and heroine. It was made in the 1950s and was filmed largely in Wakulla Springs. Two sequels were made of the film

4. THE ROSE TATTOO

PARAMOUNT Presents

BURT
LANCASTER

ANNA
MAGNANI

in
Hal Wallis'
Production

Tennessee Williams'

THE ROSE TATTOO

VISTAVISION

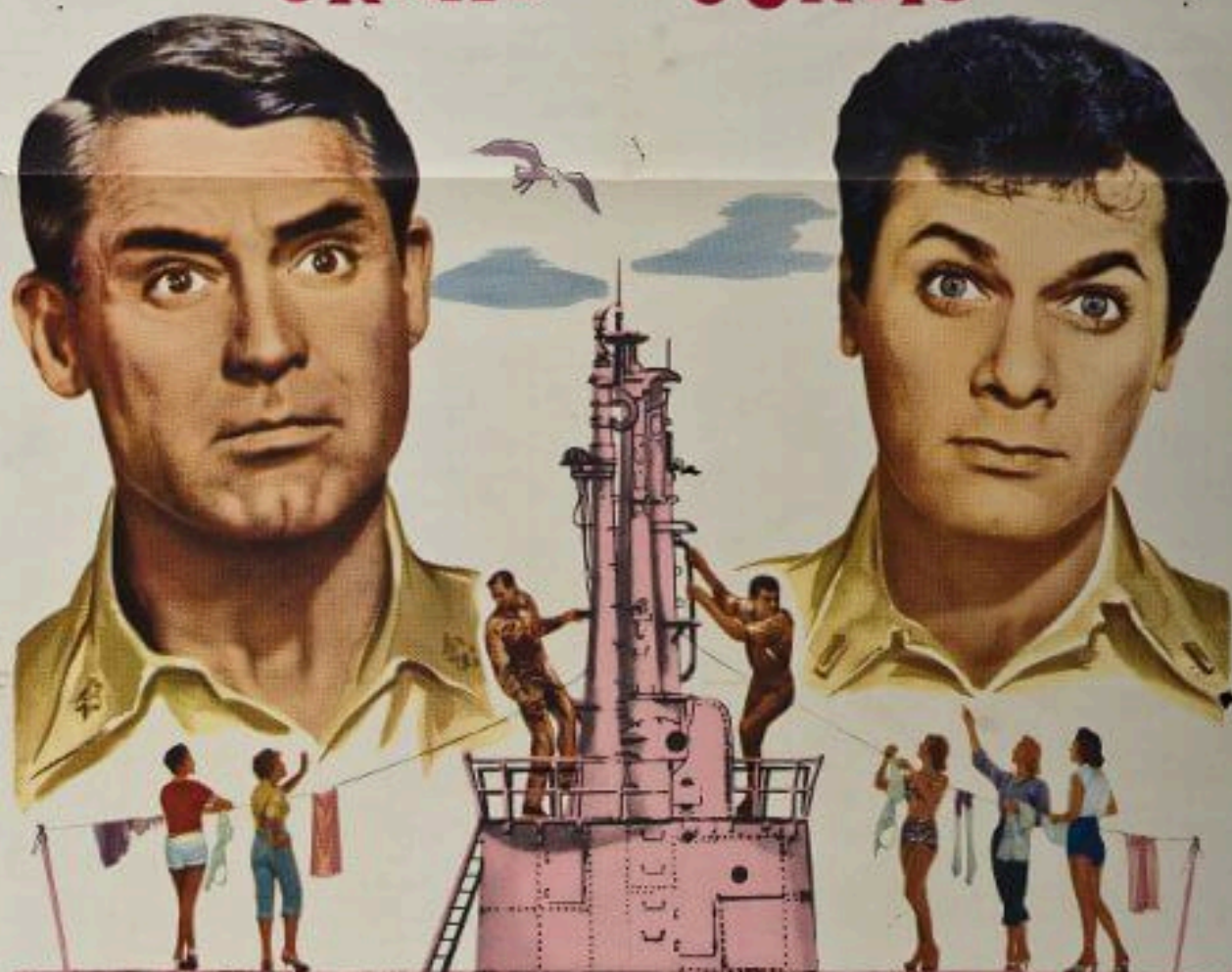
CASTING BY MARISA PAVAN • REN COOPER
MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS
EDITED BY JAMES H. HANCOCK
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JAMES H. HANCOCK
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES H. HANCOCK
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JAMES H. HANCOCK, JAMES H. HANCOCK
PRODUCED BY JAMES H. HANCOCK
SCREENPLAY BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
BASED UPON THE PLAY "THE BOYS IN THE TOWNS" BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY JAMES H. HANCOCK



The film was based on a play by Tennessee Williams, who lived in Key West. The film was made largely around Key West and starred Burt Lancaster and Anna Magnani. Anna won the only Oscar for Best Actress for any film made in Florida.

5. OPERATION PETTICOAT

CARY GRANT ★ TONY CURTIS



OPERATION PETTICOAT

in Eastman COLOR

Co-starring

JOAN O'BRIEN • DINA MERRILL • GENE EVANS with DICK SARGENT

and ARTHUR O'CONNELL

Directed by BLAKE EDWARDS • Screenplay by STANLEY SHAPIRO and MAURICE RICHLIN



Cary Grant and Tony Curtis were great comedic actors in this film that was one of the biggest box office hits of 1959. Most of the movie was filmed in Key West. Key West has many naval installations which were good backdrops for the film.

6. WHERE THE BOYS ARE

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER presents A EUTERPE PRODUCTION

The HILARIOUS **INSIDE STORY**
of these
RIP-ROARING SPRING VACATIONS

Where the Boys Are



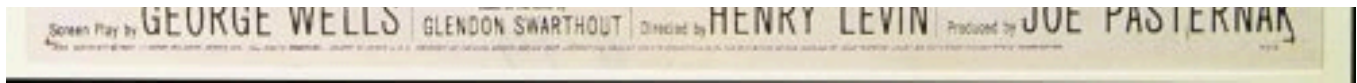
in CinemaScope
and METROCOLOR

starring
DOLORES HART • GEORGE HAMILTON
YVETTE MIMIEUX • JIM HUTTON
BARBARA NICHOLS • PAULA PRENTISS
with FRANK GORSHIN and introducing CONNIE FRANCIS

GEORGE WELLS

HENRY LEVIN

JOE DIETERMAN



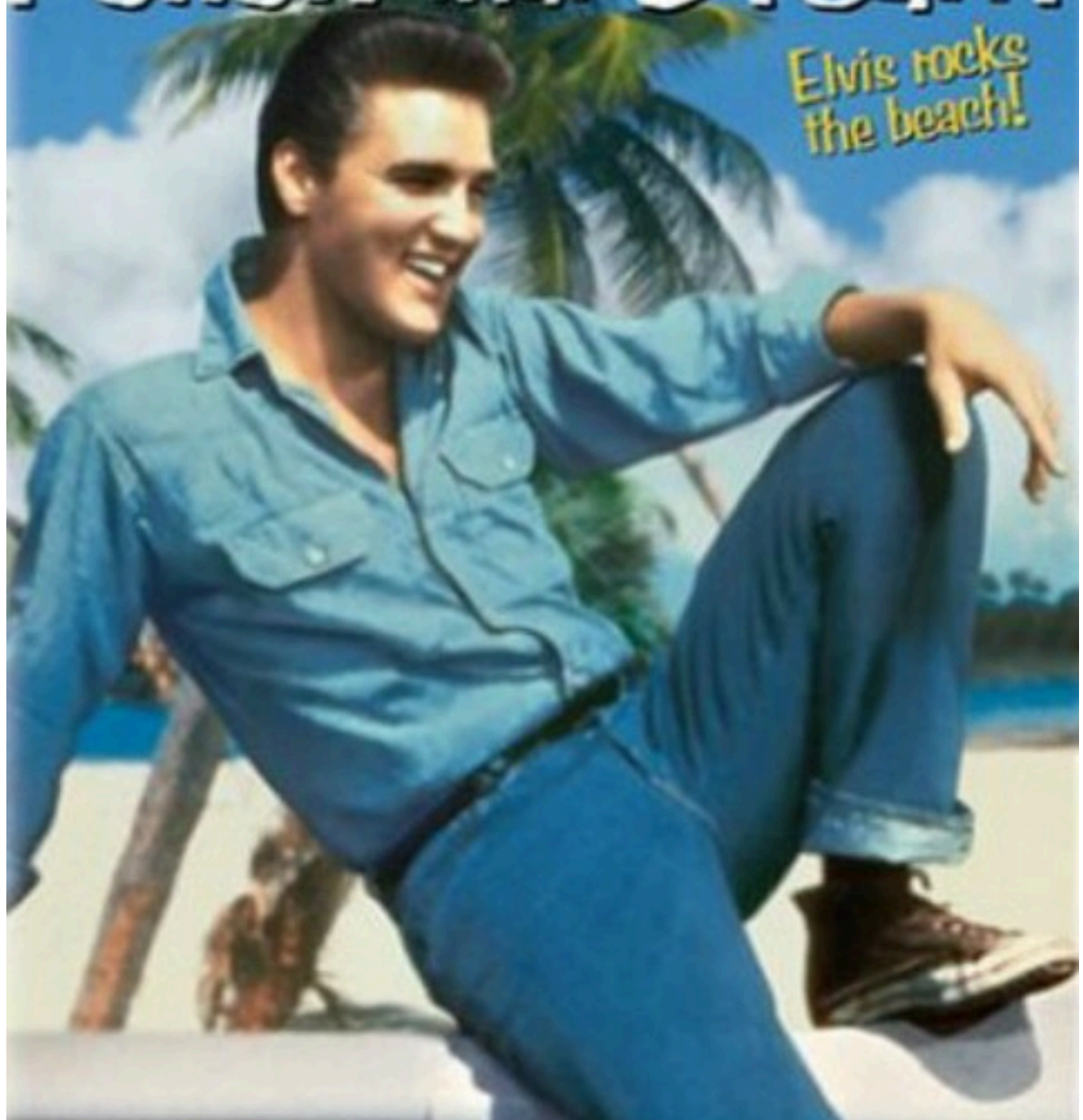
Fort Lauderdale splashed on the national scene with this movie starring George Hamilton, Connie Francis, Jim Hutton, Dolores Hart and others. The film was so popular that the year after its release Fort Lauderdale became the spring break destination for thousands of college kids and stayed so for many years.

7. FOLLOW THAT DREAM



Elvis Presley in Follow that Dream

Elvis rocks
the beach!



Elvis made this flick based on a Richard C. Powell novel, "Pioneer Go Home." It stars Elvis Presley and Joanna Moore along with Arthur O'Connell and others. It was filmed in Yankeetown, Ocala, and Inverness.

8. PT109

PT 109 was a grimy, battle-scarred veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign. Its skipper was a skinny, handsome and boyish lieutenant from Boston named John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

PT 109

THE STORY OF A BAND OF MEN LEFT FOR DEAD IN A FLAMING SEA AND THEIR EPIC OF HEROISM AND SURVIVAL



TECHNICOLOR® · PANAVISION®



STARRING
CLIFF ROBERTSON · TY HARDIN · JAMES GREGORY · ROBERT CULP
GRANT WILLIAMS · FROM THE BOOK BY ROBERT J. DONOVAN · PRODUCED BY BRYAN FOY
As the year's most talked-about novel! DIRECTED BY LESLIE H. MARTINSON · SCREENPLAY BY RICHARD L. BREEN · UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF JACK L. WARNER · PRESENTED BY WARNER BROS. 



The movie tells the true story of President John F. Kennedy's heroic actions during World War Two in the South Pacific. **Cliff Robertson** plays JFK (the President approved the choice) and it was filmed around **Little Palm Island** in the Florida Keys. The island is an upscale resort today.

9. GOLDFINGER

JAMES BOND IS BACK IN ACTION!



EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES



URNS TO EXCITEMENT!!!



The early scenes of this movie were filmed in the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. Sean Connery, Gert Frobe, and Honor Blackman starred. Most of the other scenes in the movie were filmed in England.

10. TARZAN FINDS A SON



TARZAN *Finds A SON!*

WITH *Johnny*

WEISSMULLER

Maureen **O'SULLIVAN**

**JOHN SHEFFIELD ·
IAN HUNTER ·
HENRY STEPHENSON ·
FRIEDA INESCORT ·
HENRY WILCOXON ·
LARAINÉ DAY ·**



TARZAN
at his
GREATEST

STORY BY EYRE BONE · ADAPTATION BY GEORGE CLYDE · SCREENPLAY BY EYRE BONE ·
DIRECTED BY RICHARD THORPE · PRODUCED BY LEO KATZ

A *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer*
PICTURE



This is the first movie where Boy shows up. The movie was filmed in Crystal Springs and Silver Springs. Boy's parents are killed in an airplane crash and Tarzan and Jane rescue him and raise him as their own.

11. THE GODFATHER PART II

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS

Francis Ford Coppola's PRODUCTION

The Godfather PART II



Al Pacino

AND Robert Duvall Diane Keaton Robert De Niro

Talia Shire Morgana King John Cazale

Mariana Hill Lee Strasberg

SCREENPLAY BY

Francis Ford Coppola AND Mario Puzo 'The Godfather' BY Mario Puzo

BASED ON THE NOVEL

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY

Francis Ford Coppola CO-PRODUCERS Gray Frederickson AND Fred Roos MUSIC SCORED BY Nino Rota

Color by Technicolor®

SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE
ON ABC RECORDS

A Paramount Picture

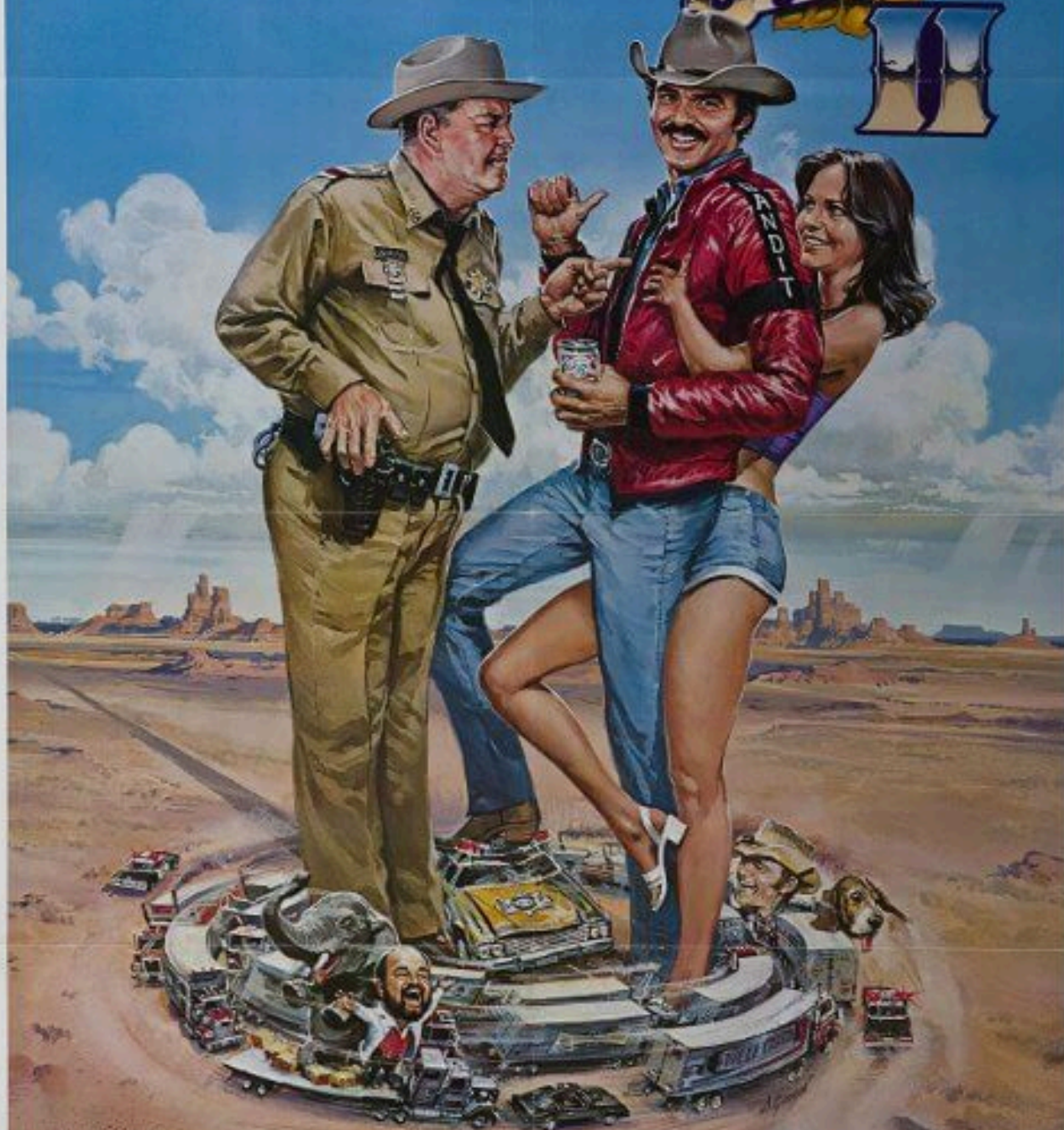


Some of the scenes in this movie were filmed in Hialeah. It stars Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Robert DeNiro and others. It is a long movie, so the Florida scenes are few and far between.

12. SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT II

The Bandit, Frog and Justice
are at it again in the all
new adventures of...

SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT II



BURT REYNOLDS • JACKIE GLEASON • JERRY REED • DOM DeLUISE and SALLY FIELD

A RASTAR/MORT ENGELBERG Production "SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT II"

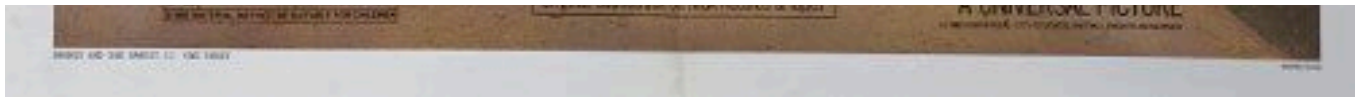
Also starring PAUL WILLIAMS • PAT McCORMICK • Screenplay by JERRY BELSON and BROCK YATES • Story by MICHAEL YANE

Music Supervision by SNUFF GARRETT • Produced by HANK MOONJEAN • Directed by HAL NEEDHAM

PG PARENTAL STRONG CAUTIONS REQUIRED

Original Soundtrack on MCA Records - 2 Tapes

A UNIVERSAL PICTURES FILM



Burt Reynolds lived near Jupiter, and some of the movie was filmed there. Other stars in the movie include Sally Field, Dom DeLuise, and Jackie Gleason. Burt is the Bandit and has to deliver an elephant from Florida to Texas.

13. CROSS CREEK



CROSS CREEK

The compelling portrait of a woman who,
at the edge of survival, found a world of meaning.

THORN EMI Films Presents A ROBERT B. RADNITZ/MARTIN RITT Production

MARY STEENBURGEN "CROSS CREEK"

RIP TORN PETER COYOTE and DANA HILL

Screenplay by DALENE YOUNG

Based on the book by MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS

Music by LEONARD ROSENMAN

Director of Photography JOHN A. ALONZO, A.S.C.

Co-Producer TERRY NELSON Produced by ROBERT B. RADNITZ

Directed by MARTIN RITT

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

Distributed by Universal Pictures and
Associated Film Distribution Corporation



The movie is based on the life of author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings who lived in Cross Creek for many years. It stars Mary Steenburgen, Rip Torn, and Peter Coyote. It was filmed in her actual Cross Creek home and in areas around Hawthorne, Cross Creek, and Micanopy.

14. SCARFACE

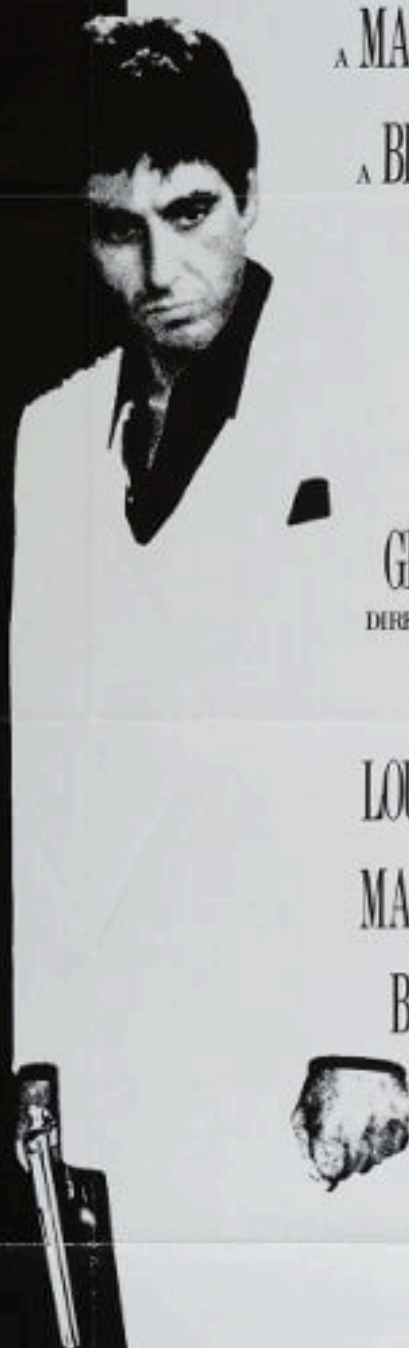
AL PACINO SCARFACE

In the spring of 1980,
the port at Mariel Harbor
was opened, and thousands
set sail for the United States.
They came in search
of the American Dream.

One of them found it on the
sun-washed avenues of
Miami...wealth, power and
passion beyond
his wildest dreams.

He was Tony Montana.
The world will remember
him by another name
...SCARFACE.

He loved the American Dream.
With a vengeance.



A MARTIN BREGMAN
PRODUCTION

A BRIAN DE PALMA
FILM

AL PACINO
"SCARFACE"

SCREENPLAY BY
OLIVER STONE

MUSIC BY
GIORGIO MORODER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
JOHN A. ALONZO
A.S.C.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
LOUIS A. STROLLER

PRODUCED BY
MARTIN BREGMAN

DIRECTED BY
BRIAN DE PALMA

SCREENPLAY AVAILABLE ON VHS RECORDS AND CASSETTES
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE/READ THE BERKLEY BOOK

R RESTRICTED
UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING
PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN
© 1983 UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS, INC.



Starring Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer, the earliest scenes in the movie were filmed in Miami and Miami Beach. Pacino portrayed Tony Montana, a fictitious Cuban-American gangster. This upset local leaders who were upset over the negative image of Miami. They encouraged the film makers to get out of town, so many of the later scenes were filmed in New York and California.

15. COCOON

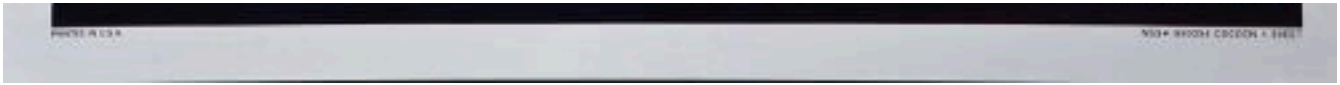
It is everything you've dreamed of.
It is nothing you expect.

COCOON

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX Presents A ZANUCK/BROWN Production A RON HOWARD Film • COCOON • DON AMECHE WILFORD BRIMLEY HUME CRONYN
BRIAN DENNEHY JACK GILFORD STEVE GUTTENBERG MAUREEN STAPLETON JESSICA TANDY GWEN VERDON HERTA WARE TAHNEE WELCH
Music Composed by JAMES HORNOR Director of Photography DON PETERMAN, A.S.C. Screenplay by TOM BENEDEK Story by DAVID SAPERSTEIN Produced by RICHARD D. ZANUCK
DAVID BROWN and LILI FINI ZANUCK Directed by RON HOWARD



© 1990 Twentieth Century Fox



This was the second film directed by Ron Howard, and it had a large cast including Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley, Hume Cronyn and Brian Dennehy. It focused on a fountain of youth brought to this world by aliens. It was mostly filmed in St. Petersburg and Tampa.

16. EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

THE DIRECTOR OF
"BATMAN" & "BEETLEJUICE"
INVITES YOU TO MEET
HIS NEWEST CREATION:

edward
SCISSORHANDS

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX presents a TIM BURTON film EDWARD SCISSORHANDS
JOHNNY DEPP • WINONA RYDER • IZABE WISET • ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL • KATHY BAKER • VINCENT D'ONOFRIO
and ALAN ARKIN • cast by DANNY ELFMAN • music composed by STAN WINDSOR • edited by RICHARD HALSEY, A.C.E.
producer JAMES W. WELCH • executive producer STEVEN CZAPSKY • executive producer RICHARD HASENBERG • director of photography TIM BURTON
CARRIE THOMPSON • costume designer CAROLINE THOMPSON • production designer DANIEL L. NORD • producer TIM BURTON
Directed by TIM BURTON



Much of this movie was filmed in Lutz north of Tampa. It starred Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder, Dianne Wiest, and Vincent Price. Johnny Depp stars as a weird boy invented by a mad inventor who dies before finishing his project. Johnny Depp in real life is from Miramar, Florida.

17. DOC HOLLYWOOD



DOC HOLLYWOOD

The man headed for Beverly Hills to be a plastic surgeon...

But he took an exit to a town that didn't take plastic.

ELVIN'S GARAGE

But he took an exit to a room that didn't take plants.

[illegible]



This summer's prescription for comedy.

This film featuring Michael J. Fox and Julie Warner takes place in the fictional small town of Grady. The film was largely shot in Alachua County, Florida including Micanopy, McIntosh, and Gainesville.

18. APOLLO 13

TOM
HANKS

KEVIN
BACON

BILL
PAXTON

GARY
SINISE

ED
HARRIS

"Houston, we have a problem."




A RON HOWARD FILM

APOLLO 13

IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A BRIAN GRAZER PRODUCTION
"APOLLO 13" KATHLEEN QUINLAN MUSIC BY JAMES HORNER COSTUME DESIGNER RITA RYACK
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALDRIC LA'AUU, PORTER PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BOSTICK AND MICHAEL HILL EDITOR DANIEL HANLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL CORENBLOTH PRODUCED BY DEAN CUNDEY, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TODD HALLOWELL
PRODUCED BY JAMES LOVELL AND JEFFREY KLUGER DIRECTED BY WILLIAM BROYLES, JR. & AL REINERT AND JOHN SAYLES
CASTING BY BRYAN GRAZER PRODUCED BY RON HOWARD A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

JUNE 30TH



This movie was filmed mainly in Titusville and Merritt Island. It is the true story of the almost fatal moon mission of Apollo 13. It stars Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, Ed Harris and others. The action features Kennedy Space Center as well.

19. JUST CAUSE

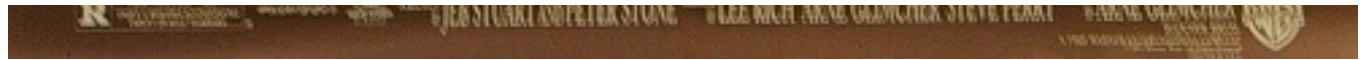
Buried deep in the Florida Everglades is
a secret that can save an innocent man
or let a killer kill again.

SEAN CONNERY
LAURENCE FISHBURNE

JUST CAUSE

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS

A LEE RICH PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH FOUNTAINBRIDGE FILMS AN ARNE GLIMCHER FILM SEAN CONNERY LAURENCE FISHBURNE "JUST CAUSE"
KATE CAPSHAW BLAIR UNDERWOOD RUBY DEE AND ED HARRIS WITH WILLIAM ANDERSON, ACE AND CLAIRE SIMPSON WITH PATRICIA VON BRANDENSTEIN
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LAJOS KOLTAI, A.S.C. EDITOR GARY FOSTER AND ANNA REINHARDT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES NEWTON HOWARD PRODUCED BY SEAN CONNERY WRITTEN BY JOHN KATZENBACH



This is a Sean Connery and Laurence Fishburne thriller that was filmed in Collier County, Lee County, Gainesville, Fort Myers, and Miami. Blair Underwood plays a black man sentenced to death for murdering a white girl. The movie is a real puzzler with a surprise ending.

20. THE BIRDCAGE

The Birdcage

ROBIN WILLIAMS
NATHAN LANE

A
MIKE NICHOLS
FILM

GENE HACKMAN
DIANNE WIEST



UNITED ARTISTS PICTURES PRESENTS A MIKE NICHOLS FILM ROBIN WILLIAMS GENE HACKMAN NATHAN LANE
AND DIANNE WIEST "THE BIRDCAGE" COSTUME DESIGNER NEIL MACHLIS AND MARCELLO DANON COSTUME DESIGNER ANN ROTH MUSIC BY JONATHAN TUNICK
EDITED BY ARTHUR SCHMIDT PRODUCTION DESIGNER BO WELCH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EMMANUEL LUBEZKI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ELAINE MAY PRODUCED AND
DIRECTED BY MIKE NICHOLS



Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 17

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The movie was filmed in Miami, Miami Beach, and Fort Lauderdale. Robin Williams and Nathan Lane portray a gay couple trying to play straight in front of some very conservative parents played by Gene Hackman and Dianne Wiest.

21. THE TRUMAN SHOW

J I M C A R R E Y

LIVE




DAY 10,909

the **TRUMAN** show

ON THE AIR. UNAWARE.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS A SCOTT RUDIN PRODUCTION A PETER WEIR FILM JIM CARREY "THE TRUMAN SHOW" LAURA LINNEY MO'NISH EMMERSON NATASHA MCELHINEY
HOLLAND TAYLOR AND ED HARRIS MUSIC BY DAVID JULYAN COSTUME DESIGNER LYNN PLESCHETTE EDITOR WILLIAM ANDERSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JENNIFER KASSNER PRODUCED BY PETER DOLAN WRITTEN BY ANDREW NICKOL
DIRECTED BY ANDREW NICKOL PRODUCED BY SCOTT RUDIN ANDREW NICKOL EDWARD S. FELDMAN ADAM SCHRIEDER PRODUCED BY PETER WEIR
www.trumanshow.com
IN THEATRES JUNE 5



Truman Burbank, played by Jim Carrey, is an ordinary guy living in an ideal town: at least that's what he thinks. He is actually the unwitting star of a TV reality show filmed by Ed Harris. Truman finally figures it out. The town is the real [Seaside, Florida](#) with some scenes also in nearby [Panama City](#).

[Other movies filmed in Florida from Wikipedia](#)

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<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/movies-made-in-florida.html>