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Green, white and ... gone?



By **Phillip Valys**
contact the reporter

SHARELINES

- A little more conservation at eco-friendly art exhibit in Miramar and Davie.
- Artists for Conservation teams up with Guy Harvey for art exhibit.

APRIL 29, 2015, 10:47 AM

On a recent expedition to Africa, artists Stephen Quinn and Jeffrey Whiting trekked deep into the Congo's Virunga Mountains, where forested lowlands are saddled between two smoking volcanoes, to retrace the footsteps of a man who saved mountain gorillas. Using a 100-year-old diorama made by naturalist Carl Akeley like a treasure map, Quinn and Whiting found the exact location depicted in the artwork: a cloudy slope 10,000 feet above sea level, home to the endangered gorillas.

While Whiting and a camera crew stood nearby, Quinn re-created Akeley's painting from scratch, adding gorillas and their modern plight: the threat of nearby refugee camps, along with patches of slash-and-burn deforestation. Akeley, whose diorama helped to establish Africa's first national park, is profiled in the short documentary "How an Artist Saved the Mountain Gorilla."

"It's a sad state," Whiting says. "While the 1920s world still viewed the gorilla as this big, beast Sasquatch who would carry people off into the wilderness, Akeley realized the vulnerability of these creatures and fought for them. Now, the valleys have been almost completely denuded. The human pressures are creeping up."

The short is screening as part of Whiting's "Artists for Conservation" exhibit, a showcase of nearly 50 eco-friendly paintings, drawings and films. Subtitled the "Green, White and Blue Festival" this year, the art show will continue through May 3 at the Ansin Family Gallery in Miramar, and move to the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University in Davie for a May 12-June 19 run. Each painting sold will benefit at least one national environmental charity, Whiting says.

Whiting's Vancouver-based nonprofit Artists for Conservation hitched up with the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation in Davie to operate the display, which he says champions awareness of "polar, marine and terrestrial" habitats. The exhibit kicked off as a pilot project in 2014, but has become more eco-festival than art show.

Antonio Fins, the foundation's executive director, says the AFC also added more short documentaries and school tours for hundreds of Broward County students.

"We got a great turnout last year — it was a home run — but not enough funding support to make this year a big festival. We didn't get the conservation message across enough," Fins says of Artists for Conservation, which last year envisioned a big blowout for 2015 with bands, symposiums and a film festival.

During a recent visit to the Ansin Family Gallery, Fins gestures to Michelle McCune's "Meeting of the Minds," a painting of two rhinoceros rubbing horns, as an example of a species rapidly becoming extinct.

"If we don't act quickly, in 30 years the only place you'll be able to spot a rhino is in a painting," Fins says.

Fins likewise points out Jan Lutz's "Tiger Walking," depicting a roaming Bengal tiger, a species whose population is estimated to be 2,500. In Carel Pieter Brest van Kempen's "Phototrope," a leatherback hatching sea turtle wading toward a seaside oil refinery is disoriented by the bright flames shooting from its smoke stacks.

Deborah LaFogg-Docherty, of Boynton Beach, chose to spotlight one of Florida's most endangered flora, the rare ghost orchid, in the painting "The Ghost and the Giant." Two months after LaFogg-Docherty spotted the wild orchid in the Everglades, shown in the painting growing on a tree branch next to a sphinx moth, an orchid poacher felled the branch and stole the plant.

"The orchid doesn't fare well in captivity, so it probably died," LaFogg-Docherty says. "We're so blessed to have this Everglades habitat around us, because there are things out here you would never know existed."

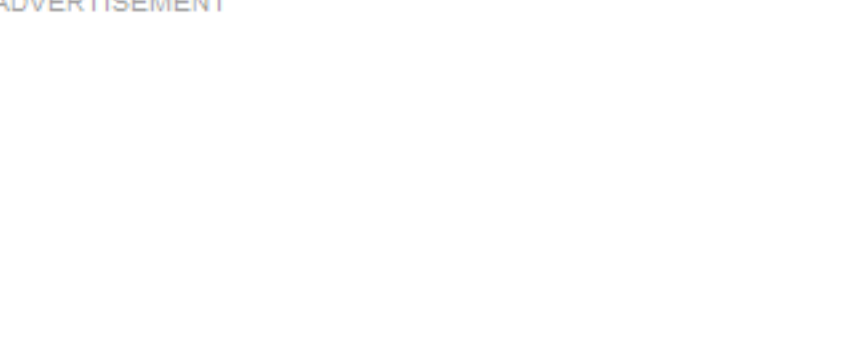
"Artists for Conservation: Green, White and Blue Festival" will be on view through Sunday, May 3, at Ansin Family Gallery at Miramar Cultural Center and ArtsPark, 2400 Civic Center Place, and May 12-June 19 at the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University, 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd., in Davie. Admission is free. Call 954-262-5477 or go to ArtistsForConservation.org/South-Florida.

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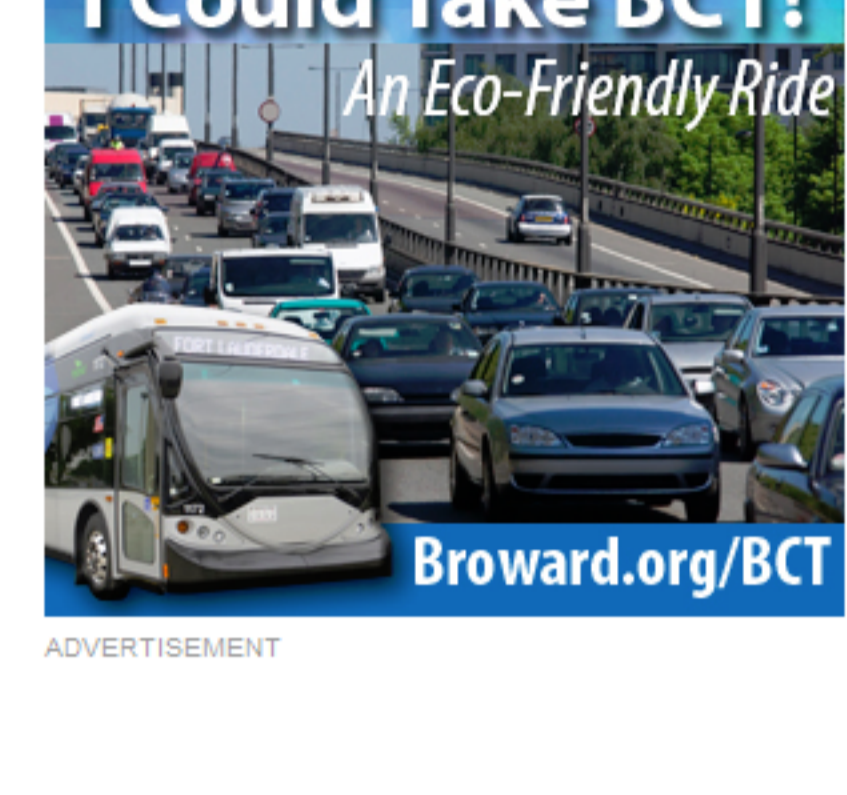
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AT 1:23 PM APRIL 29, 2015

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Movies



Actor Adam Sandler smiles during a September 2014 news conference for "Men, Women, and Children" at the Toronto International Film Festival. (Hannah Toon, AP)

'Ridiculous 6' flap again exposes Sandler's mean side

by Michael Phillips

In the 2007 comedy "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry," one man's quest for decent health insurance leads to a sham romantic coupling of the heterosexual firefighters played by Adam Sandler and Kevin James.

Review: 'The Avengers: Age of Ultron'

APR. 29, 2015

Review: 'The Forger'

APR. 23, 2015

Review: 'The Age of Adaline'

Hollywood long ago ceded 'love that stands the test of time' to the realm of science fiction and fantasy, so "The Age of Adaline" falls neatly into a genre that includes "The Time Traveler's Wife," "About Time," and even "Somewhere in Time."

Review: 'The Water Diviner'

Russell Crowe's feature directorial debut, "The Water Diviner," stems from an honest impulse to dramatize ordinary people who honor their dead. Yet the results are narratively dishonest and emotionally a little cheap. A single performance lifts the film above the level of mediocrity; more on that...

Review: 'Adult Beginners'

With an awful lot of American indies, there appears to be some sort of self-regulation in place preventing any serious highs or lows, any stylistic risks or surprises. Even if the scripts juggle comedy and drama in quick succession, it's as if they're under the influence of mood stabilizers. The...

Review: 'Little Boy'

"Little Boy" answers a question most tear-jerkers wouldn't have the nerve to ask: Can the bombing of Hiroshima be manipulated narratively, if briefly, into a position of warming our hearts?

Review: 'Welcome to New York'

APR. 17, 2015

Review: 'Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2'

Review: 'The Maffia Kills Only in the Summer'

APR. 16, 2015

Review: 'Unfriended'

More Movie Reviews

Review: 'True Story'

by Michael Phillips

"True Story" is a case of a well-crafted film, made by a first-time feature director with an impressive theatrical pedigree, that nonetheless struggles to locate the reasons for telling its story.

Review: 'Ex Machina'

by Michael Phillips

A grandly ridiculous theatrical tradition born in ancient Greece, *deus ex machina* meant, literally, a god borne by a machine descending from the sky to determine a story's outcome.

Review: 'Revenge of the Mekons'

by Michael Phillips

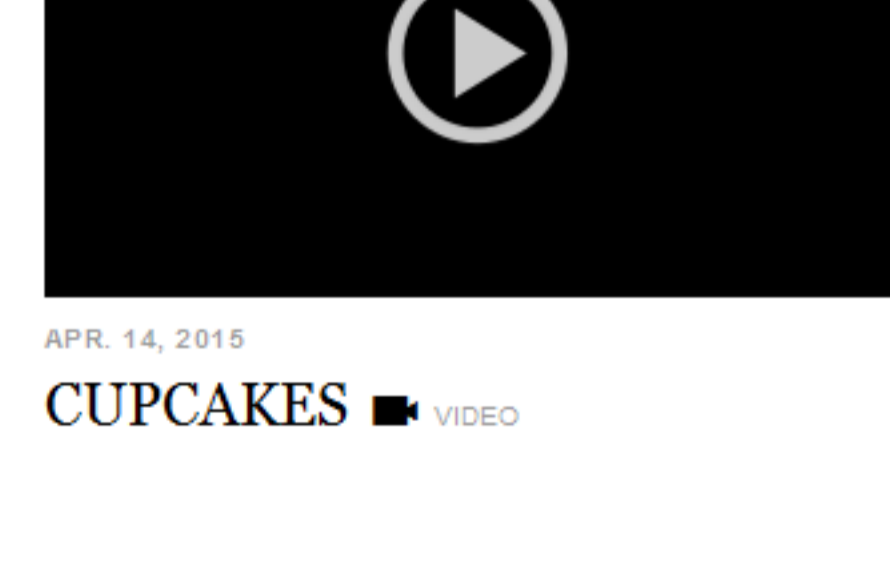
An extremely tasty slice of fanboydom, Joe Angelo's music documentary "Revenge of the Mekons" presents the amoeba-like wonder of the title band (the Mekons, that is, not revenge) as a creative anomaly in the music business.

Review: 'Child 44'

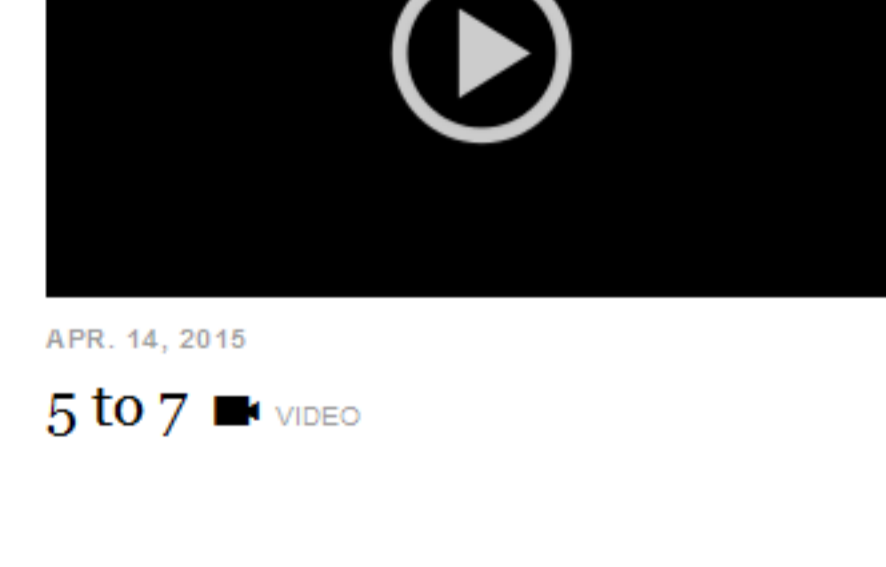
by Peter Debruge

Part serial-killer thriller, part old-school anti-Soviet propaganda, "Child 44" plays like a curious relic of an earlier Cold War mindset, when Western audiences took comfort that they were living on the right side of the Iron Curtain and relished on movies to remind them as much.

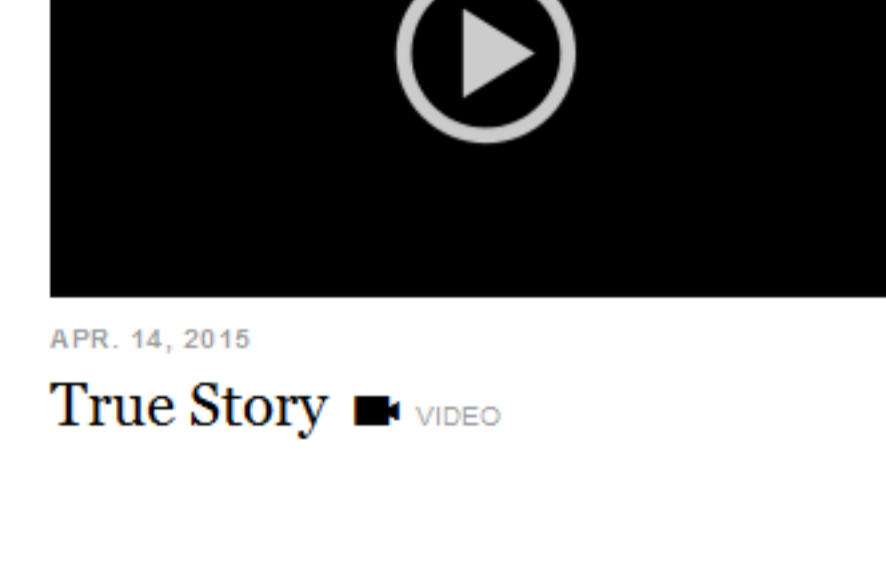
Movie Trailers



APR. 14, 2015
CUPCAKES VIDEO

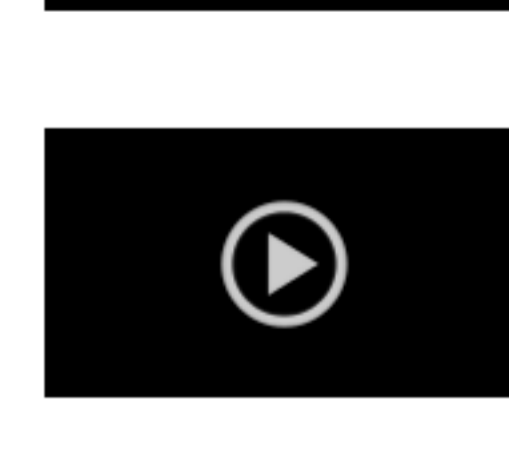


APR. 14, 2015
5 to 7 VIDEO



APR. 14, 2015
True Story VIDEO

More Movie Trailers



APR. 14, 2015
Child 44 VIDEO
Child 44



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Monkey Kingdom VIDEO
Monkey Kingdom



APR. 6, 2015
Eastern Boys VIDEO
Eastern Boys



APR. 6, 2015
Kumiko VIDEO
Kumiko

Latest Events

10:47 AM
Green, white and ... gone?
by Phillip Valys
Vanishing species get special attention at 'Artists for Conservation: Green, White and Blue Festival' in Davie and Miramar.

APR. 28, 2015
Indie Craft Bazaar to rock the stitch in Fort Lauderdale
by Phillip Valys
On Saturday, the monthly Indie Craft Bazaar will visit Revolution Live.

APR. 28, 2015
FAT Village Art Walk GALLERY
Galleries opened their doors, and vendors and food trucks took to the streets of FAT Village in Fort Lauderdale for the monthly art walk on April 25.

APR. 23, 2015
Wynwood Life street festival GALLERY
On April 24, the Wynwood Arts District was filled with arts, crafts, live music and local food. Twenty bands, 40 food trucks and 150 arts and crafts vendors participated. Wynwood Life will continue through Sunday, April 26.