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## **WEDU AWARDED 5 SUNCOAST REGIONAL EMMYS®** **Locally Produced Series and Documentary Honored**

**DECEMBER 3, 2012, Tampa, FL** — West Central Florida’s leading PBS station and source for public media, WEDU, was recently honored by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with **16 Emmy® nominations**. WEDU took home **five** of the coveted **Emmy® awards** during the Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards ceremony held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in Fort Lauderdale.

Jack Conely, Vice President of Content for WEDU, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the talented team that produce the station’s many local productions. “We are so very fortunate to work with an incredible team of professionals and this much deserved recognition of their work speaks volumes for the amazing efforts put in each and every day on behalf of WEDU and the communities we serve,” said Conely.

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is a nonprofit Florida corporation dedicated to excellence in television and offers the annual Regional Emmy Awards in television markets in the entire State of Florida; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans, La.; Mobile, Ala.; Thomasville, Ga.; and Puerto Rico.

Winning 4 Emmy® Awards, ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins*** brings the artful, innovative, sometimes odd and always interesting people and places of Florida’s west central coast to life. The fifth **Emmy®** was awarded to ***Away: A Story of Trash***, a collaborative production between WEDU and St. Petersburg College Digital Arts, Media and Interactive Web Design Program students and staff.

“We are proud to produce these quality local series and to be recognized by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is a nod to the dedicated and talented WEDU team,” said Susan Howarth, President and CEO of WEDU.

***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins***, underwritten by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, can be seen on WEDU at 8 pm every Thursday. All of the Emmy® Award winning and nominated programs can be viewed on WEDU’s website at: <http://www.wedu.org/about/awards/>.

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## **Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award Winners:**

### **HUMAN INTEREST - Program**

#### **Figuratively Speaking**

**Mark Harris, Jennifer Noble, Alex Gazio**

#### ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins***

Who knew a smile could change the world? Certainly not Scott Gerber, a yacht builder humbled by the recession. When business dried up, Scott and his foreman built a life-size metal stick figure to take their minds off their troubles. Scott didn't realize it at the time, but the birth of the first "Tube Dude" was a transformative moment in his life. The happy figures are showing up all over the Gulf Coast.

### **HUMAN INTEREST - Program**

#### **Llama Love**

**Mark Harris, Bradley Clore**

#### ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins***

Llamas may be the South American relative of the camel but for a Sarasota woman and her daughter, llamas are so much more. For Kathy and Karli Wilbanks, llamas are special animals that touch the heart. With their pet therapy llamas "Serendipity" and "Paint Ball Pete," Kathy and Karli have spent the past 14 years visiting hospitals, nursing homes and senior centers.

### **DOCUMENTARY - Topical**

#### **Away: A Story of Trash**

**Jeremy Peplow**

St Petersburg College students partner with WEDU to educate viewers about where their trash goes when they throw it "away", and what can be done to change current practices.

### **NOSTALGIA - Program**

#### **Outside The Box**

**Bradley Clore**

#### ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins***

Its taste is acquired. Its aroma distinct. But who knew a cigar's container could make amazing sounds? Meet a man who doesn't smoke, but his cigar box guitars creations are beauty for the eyes and the ears.

### **PHOTOGRAPHER - Program (Non-news)**

#### **Beach Yoga**

**Alex Gazio**

#### ***A Gulf Coast Journal with Jack Perkins***

Yoga for Life: It's the social event of the morning—every morning—on Venice Beach. Hundreds trek to the sand just after dawn to stretch, breathe, and simply "be" for Yoga with Elin. Instructor Elin Larsen leads up to 300 people who bend and flex in unison. The free class has led to invaluable changes in people's lives. Friendships have formed. Romance has sparked—even leading to marriages.

### **ABOUT WEDU**

WEDU is west central Florida's leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station's website, [wedu.org](http://wedu.org) and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America ((Harris Interactive Trust QuickQuery, February 2012).

For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit [wedu.org](http://wedu.org); WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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