

## **Fort De Soto Idol**

CLEARWATER, FL. (February 16, 2007) —“Grace is Gone,” a feature film starring John Cusack, shot at Fred Howard and Fort De Soto Parks the week of May 15 has been the buzz on the film festival circuit. Audiences from Canada to Sundance have been talking about the deeply moving and timely story of a family dealing with the death of a wife and mother as a result of the conflict in Iraq.

The peak scene was shot at Fort De Soto, as the sun was setting beneath the horizon. After persuading producers to scout the Gulf of Mexico beaches, the producers agreed that the parks of the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area were the perfect location for the crucial scene. The crew reported that the weather was perfect, and the sun set dramatically as the actors played out the scene.

“Grace is Gone proves that you can shot a good, moving film in this area at a very reasonable cost,” said Jennifer Parramore Pinellas County Film Commissioner. “Many people don’t realize how many commercials, educational films, television programs and independent films are shot in Pinellas County. The daily television and film industry in the area puts food on the table for many talented people. It is very clean, valuable and vital industry to the local economy.”

Plum Pictures is the Chicago-based film company that produced this mega movie. The film is slated for a fall release just in time for the critical 2007 Academy Awards nomination season.

A department of the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau , the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Film Commission markets the area to producers of film, television, commercial, print and digital media. From its picturesque beaches, variety of unique towns and the top beaches in the United States, the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area has unique and varied locations for film production. Film, television and print production have a direct impact of \$8.9 million annually to the Pinellas County economy.

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*HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS OF THE AREA ARE AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL OR ON CD-ROM. PLEASE REQUEST THEM FROM [jamesr@floridasbeach.com](mailto:jamesr@floridasbeach.com)*

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