



HOW DID SCOTT COME TO WORK AT THE NEW YORK TIMES? FIND OUT AT PALMBEACHILLUSTRATED.COM/AOScott

REEL TALK

A.O. Scott might just have the best job in the world. As chief film critic for *The New York Times*, Scott sees about 300 movies a year, penning reviews that reflect his love of film and his appreciation for the craft of criticism. Last year, he demystified the practice in his book *Better Living Through Criticism: How to Think About Art, Pleasure, Beauty, and Truth* (Penguin Press, \$17), which was recently released in paperback. On March 7, he'll visit **The Society of the Four Arts** in Palm Beach to discuss the intersection of criticism and creativity. He recently spoke with *PBI* about his work and his advice for those looking to follow suit. (561-655-7226, fourarts.org)

PBI: What's your process for watching a film you know you're going to review?

Scott: I try to see a movie with as blank a slate as I can manage. I might have opinions about the cast, the director, or the genre, but I really try to put that all aside. With very few exceptions I'll see it projected in a theater. About three-quarters of the movies I review I only get to see once, so I have to take good notes, pay close attention, and, in a way, see the movie twice in one sitting. I need to have the experience of

watching it and also be reflecting on that experience and analyzing it at the same time.

If you could time travel to one era of cinema, which would it be?

The late '50s, early '60s, what you think of as the New Wave period, because the art form was opening up and maturing. There was so much going on globally, like the French New Wave movies and directors like Akira Kurosawa, Federico Fellini, and Michelangelo Antonioni, as well as British films and Hollywood movies like *The Manchurian Candidate*. There was something thrilling, too, about how artistically adventurous a lot of those movies were.

What advice would you give a budding film critic?

See as much as you can. Read as much as you can, and don't only read film criticism, because that's how you'll find your own voice and figure out what you want to say. And even find a group of people and start your own thing. A lot of careers and good publications have started that way. With the internet and social media, the barriers to entry are lower in terms of getting your voice out there. Making a living is certainly not easier, not that it ever was.

PET PROJECT

On March 11, *Via Amore* will welcome four-legged fashionistas for the annual **Worth Avenue Pet Parade and Contest**. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and will take place at the entrance to *Via Amore*, across from *Tiffany & Co.* and *Chanel*. All varieties of pets can participate and costumes are strongly encouraged. The contest will begin at 10 a.m., with mistress of ceremonies **Sherry Frankel** awarding prizes in a variety of categories. (561-655-1996, worth-avenue.com)



LIFE AT SEA

Jack Lighton's love of the ocean is evident by looking at him. From his preference for blue clothing to the turtle on his lapel, Lighton, the president and CEO of **Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center** in Juno Beach, proudly presents his passion in his clothing and his actions.

Turtles first came onto Lighton's radar when, as a kid, his family moved from the suburbs of Detroit to Jupiter Island. He fondly recalls witnessing sea turtles nesting at night on the beaches near his home. "I became completely enamored by it," he says.

His parents fostered this interest, involving the family in what was then the Children's Museum of Juno Beach. It became The

Marinelifelife Center of Juno Beach in 1990 before moving to a new location and changing its name to **Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center** in 2007. In March 2013, after a lifetime visiting and supporting the organization, Lighton left his job as a business consultant in New York City to lead the team at **Loggerhead**.



TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

No one day at the center is the same, and Lighton likes it that way. "You never know if there'll be a brand new sea turtle patient being rushed into our hospital,"

he says. "You never know how many field trips and children might be on campus that you can say a few inspirational words to, and maybe in 20 or 30 years they'll be sitting in my chair."

On March 25, Lighton will welcome guests to one of his favorite events, **Turtlefest**. This free festival, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., will highlight **Loggerhead's** conservation efforts with hands-on activities, educational presentations, music, and art.

There are many reasons to celebrate at **Loggerhead**. Currently, the center maintains a sea turtle hospital and a research laboratory on its main campus, and also operates the Juno Beach Pier. It recently announced an expansion project that will increase its facilities and add new classrooms and presentation spaces. These efforts will allow

Lighton and his staff to host more visitors and share the vital message of ocean conservation. (561-627-8280, marinelifelife.org)



LIGHTON SHARES HIS TOP TIPS FOR CONSERVATION AT PALMBEACHILLUSTRATED.COM/JACKLIGHTON