Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Newsmax acquires Radio Mambi in Miami, enhancing and serving South Florida's Hispanic communities

Newsmax on Monday, November 9, 2026, announced the acquisition of Miami radio stations WAQI-AM Radio Mambí and WQBA-AM, marking a significant investment in South Florida and a renewed commitment to serving one of America's most vibrant and influential Hispanic communities.

November 9, 2026 - For generations, Radio Mambí — 710AM — has been far more than a radio station.

It has been a lifeline, a gathering place, and a trusted voice for Cuban exiles and their families throughout South Florida. From the earliest days of the Cuban diaspora to the present, Radio Mambí has provided a platform for those who cherish freedom, democracy, faith, family, and the enduring hope of a free Cuba.

Under Newsmax ownership, Radio Mambí will embrace that proud legacy while beginning a powerful new chapter.

"Radio Mambí is an institution," said Chris Ruddy, CEO of Newsmax.

"For decades, it has been the voice of a community that understands the value of freedom because it has fought to preserve it," he added. "We are honored to continue that tradition and ensure Radio Mambí remains a trusted source of news, information, and conversation for generations to come."

The acquisition also includes WQBA-AM, 1140AM, another well-known South Florida radio station. Together, the stations will expand Newsmax's growing audio platform while strengthening its connection to the Miami market and the broader Hispanic audience.

Newsmax plans to restore and enhance Radio Mambí's role as South Florida's premier destination for Spanish-language news, talk, commentary, and community engagement.

The station will continue to provide a forum for the issues that matter most to Cuban Americans and the broader Hispanic community while connecting audiences to the trusted journalism and national perspective that have made Newsmax one of America's leading news brands.

At the same time, Newsmax plans to make Mambi's content part of the national conversation online and across social media platforms.

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"WAQI and WQBA have deep roots in South Florida, and we look forward to building on their legacy while creating new opportunities to inform, engage, and connect with their audiences," added Renzi.

For many in Miami, the return of Radio Mambí's historic voice represents more than a business transaction.

It symbolizes the preservation of a cultural institution that has played a critical role in informing, connecting, and inspiring members of the Cuban exile community for decades.

Newsmax will invest in local programming, community outreach, and expanded news coverage designed to strengthen the stations' connection to listeners throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties.

Newsmax expects to bring its operations and programming for the stations in the coming months. The transaction is subject to customary FCC and other regulatory approvals and conditions.

Kalil & Co., Inc. was the exclusive broker for this transaction.

Newsmax Inc. is listed on the NYSE (NMAX) and operates, through Newsmax Broadcasting LLC, one of the nation's leading news outlets, the Newsmax channel.

The fourth highest-rated network is carried on all major pay TV providers.

Newsmax's media properties reach more than 50 million Americans regularly through Newsmax TV, the Newsmax App, its popular website Newsmax.com, and publications such as Newsmax magazine.

Through its social media accounts, Newsmax reaches 27 million combined followers.

World's longest continuously serving film commissioner Linn Sitler makes historic 40 year tenure...from sports-Ent. page 1

and handled promotions for the popular television program.

A later stint at NEWS TRAVEL NETWORK saw her producing, writing, and field producing as a consumer travel reporter, but also producing and writing promos that were syndicated – like her reports - to 40 U.S. Markets and Good Morning Australia.

Sitler's marketing skills propelled her path back home to Memphis in 1987 where, as Film Commissioner, she marketed Memphis Shelby County to the world of film and television – even though in a state still lacking production incentives until 2006.

"I returned to Memphis where my family was and where I'd gone to Central High School and U of M Graduate School and where I had begun my television career. However, I thought I would stay at the Film Commission for just for one year and return to television. Here I am – 40 years later and I don't regret a day of it..."

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"Forty years of service is more than a career. It is a legacy, and Linn Sitler has built an extraordinary one," stated Board Chair Gale Jones Carson. "When it comes to promoting Memphis and Shelby County, she doesn't take a back seat to anybody."

I've been so fortunate to be in this position and work with so many great clients, board members and dedicated professional staff: Deputy Film Commissioner/Project Specialist **Sharon Fox O'Guin** and Memphis Music Consultant/Community Outreach Coordinator **Al "Kapone" Bailey**. However, without our City and County Mayors' continuous support and that of the City Council and County Commission, nothing would have been possible. That's 40 years that's included 8 Memphis Mayors, 6 County Mayors, and 7 Board Chairs."

Current Board Chair **Gale Jones** Carson added, "Forty years of service is more than a career. It is a legacy, and Linn Sitler has built an extraordinary one," stated Board Chair Gale Jones Carson. "When it comes to promoting Memphis and Shelby County, she doesn't take a back seat to anybody."

Native Memphian **Ira Sachs**, internationally known filmmaker who now makes his home in New York City, remembers Sitler helping him with his second and most ambitious film at the time, the feature The Delta in 1995. Nine years later, Sachs was back again as a client making the feature Forty Shades of Blue. It later won The Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2005.

According to Sachs, "Linn Sitler is Memphis filmmaking. You can't separate the one from the other. For over forty years, she has been the soul and the heart of a vibrant filmmaking community in Memphis."

Famed television producer **Leslie Greif's** 2017 Sun Records CMT series left an estimated $17 million in Memphis. Since then, he has gone on to create other acclaimed series such as Paramount's The Offer, shot primarily in Los Angeles, and Amazon Prime's The Gray House, shot entirely in Romania.

He still ranks Sitler at the top: "Along the way, I've worked with many remarkable film commissioners, but few have left as lasting an impression as Linn Sitler. ...She's not a bureaucrat but a passionate advocate, embracing our work with the same conviction we bring to it as filmmakers. She was more than a film commissioner."

Former NBC-Universal Senior Vice-President **Richard Ross** praises Sitler's resourcefulness in creating incentives for the primetime NBC-TV series, Bluff City Law: "She brought in economic development specialist **Reid Dulberger,** who at that time headed up EDGE, the City/County economic development growth engine. He created a significant incentive worth over $1 million to our parent company Comcast. It truly helped land the $40 million primetime series. She also recruited Memphis Tourism's President **Kevin Kane** who added a nice bit of cash to the incentive pool."

Sitler's latest project is ongoing--to encourage international film co-production and cultural exchange through film with Memphis' Sister City, Porretta Terme. This December, the Porretta Film Festival's President **Luca Elmi** has designated December 12th, the closing day of the prestigious Festival as "Memphis Day." For the second year, a feature by a Memphis filmmaker will highlight the day, with the filmmaker present. Memphis filmmakers are also in touch with a Porretta film company -- writing together a feature set in both Porretta and Memphis.

According to Elmi, "Linn has been much more than a fellow traveler on this journey; she is a guide, a friend and an essential part of the cultural exchange through film. Porretta will always be her second home."

As Sitler's tenure draws to a close, the Film Commission can count among the City/County's client films in the last forty years:

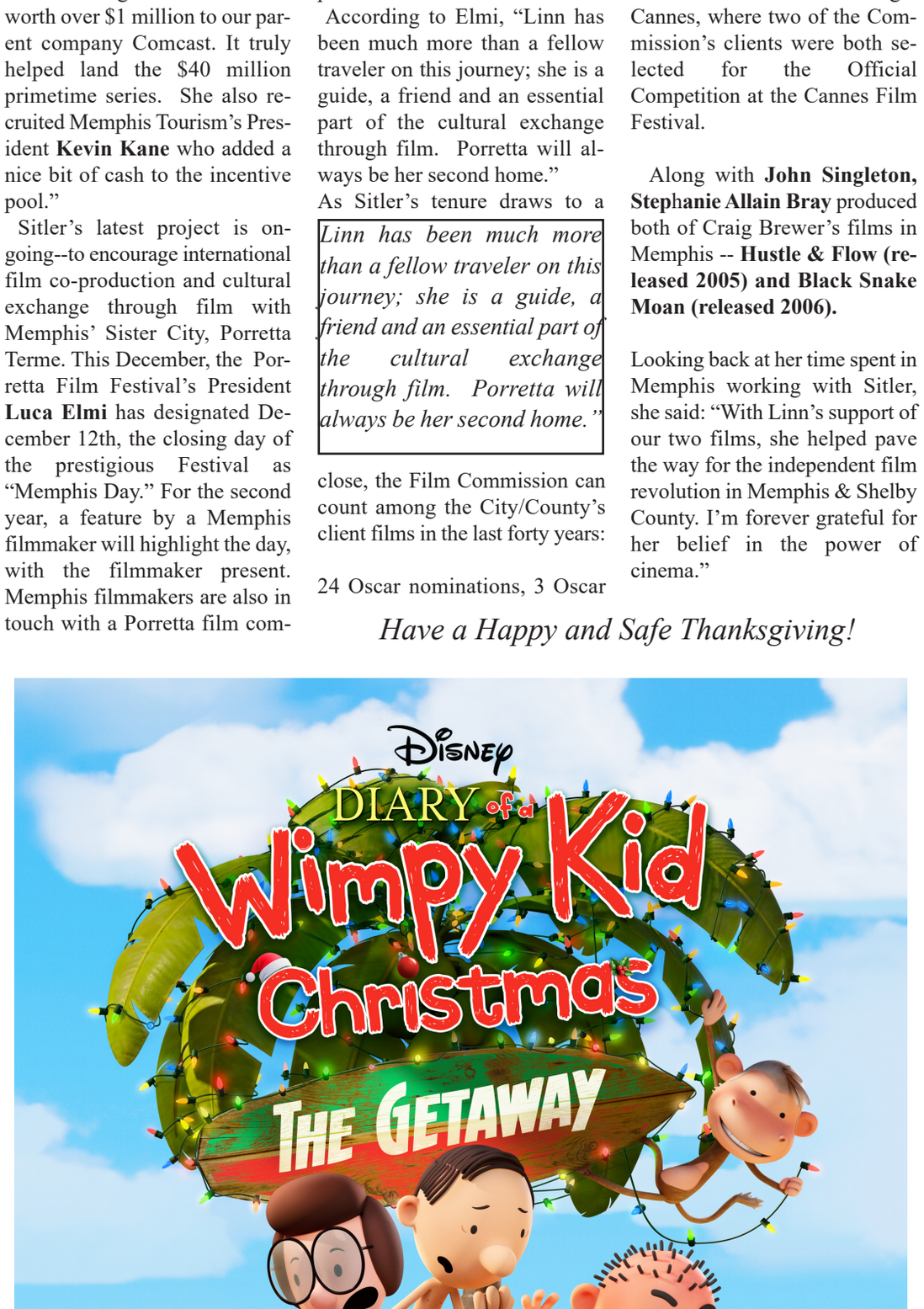
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24 Oscar nominations, 3 Oscar wins, 6 Indie Spirit nominations, and one Sundance Grand Jury Prize. And let's not forget Cannes, where two of the Commission's clients were both selected for the Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

Along with **John Singleton, Stephanie Allain Bray** produced both of Craig Brewer's films in Memphis -- **Hustle & Flow (released 2005) and Black Snake Moan (released 2006).**

Looking back at her time spent in Memphis working with Sitler, she said: "With Linn's support of our two films, she helped pave the way for the independent film revolution in Memphis & Shelby County. I'm forever grateful for her belief in the power of cinema."

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!



B2K's Eclipse surpasses 100,000 ticket-and-album bundle sales ahead of release

HOUSTON, Nov. 12, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- BPC Music Group bet its inaugural album release on B2K, the platinum-selling R&B quartet that hadn't released a studio album in nearly 24 years. Working with Black Promoters Collective, the label paired B2K's new album, ECLIPSE, with tickets to the nationwide Boys 4 Life Tour, selling 138,000 ticket-and-album bundles. That momentum carried into release week. ECLIPSE reached No. 1 on Apple Music upon its November 6 release, and B2K landed playlist covers on YouTube Music and Audiomack, an exclusive Rolling Out cover and a slate of new-music placements.

B2K and BPC Music Group call the approach "newstalgia." The tour brought Omarion, J-Boog, Lil' Fizz and Raz-B back together in front of fans who grew up with their music. By including ECLIPSE with tour tickets, B2K gave those fans a way to discover the new album through the same live experience that brought them back to the group's biggest hits. The collaboration carried into the studio, with tour co-headliner Bow Wow joining B2K on "Boyfriend."

For BPC Music Group founders Gary Guidry and Troy Brown, both partners in Black Promoters Collective, the campaign put an established sales tactic to work in the streaming era. The two companies used the arena tour as a direct channel for selling new music, reaching fans at the moment they bought their tickets. The 138,000 bundles measure the reach of that offer and give the label another way to gauge the success of a release alongside chart performance, playlist support and media coverage.

"We chose B2K for our first album release because we believed the connection they built with their fans could carry new music nearly 24 years later. The Boys 4 Life Tour gave us a way to make that music part of an experience fans were already excited about. That's what we mean by newstalgia. We want to broaden what a successful release looks like in the streaming era, and for B2K that starts with the fans who showed up," said Troy Brown, Co-Founder, BPC Music Group.

During release week, ECLIPSE and its tracks were available across more than 32 digital music services, including Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, YouTube Music, Pandora, Qobuz and Beatport. B2K appeared on the covers of YouTube Music's Grown Folks Choice and Audiomack's Verified: R&B.