



Former Miamian Shaun Brown will soon become a familiar face to film and TV lovers.

ONE TO WATCH

FULL SPEED AHEAD

With three new movies on his resume and a TV show on his plate, UM grad Shaun Brown is a busy star on the rise.

BY A.J. PELAEZ | PORTRAIT BY NATHANIEL TAYLOR

When **Shaun Brown** was pursuing his acting degree at the University of Miami a few years back, his extracurricular activities were few. "I was always in the practice room going over my monologues, my songs, my dances, so I didn't get to explore the city too much," he says. "I never got to fist-pump at the nightclubs that I heard were popping. I was so focused on making this a reality, I didn't let myself have any distractions."

"This" is a red-hot career that includes a role in the CBS sitcom *The Great Indoors* with Joel McHale and three very different parts in a trio of films set for release this year, starting with this month's *Wilson*, directed by Craig Johnson (*The Skeleton Twins*) and starring Woody Harrelson. "Working with Woody was a master class in acting," says Brown, whose short but pivotal scene with Harrelson at the start of the movie is being called one of its highlights. "I don't want to give too much away, but [our scene] establishes how much of a douchebag Woody's character is... it was crazy, but very funny." The feature, about a man trying to make amends with his disconnected family and friends, is just one of the ways we'll see Brown on screens this month.

In *FFC*, soon to be on-demand, he breaks out a British accent as the announcer of an all-female fight club. Later in the year, audiences will see Brown's dramatic side in *Heart, Baby*, the true-life story of George Lee Martin, a man who became a legend as an unbeatable boxer while incarcerated and shocked the world when he turned down the chance to compete in the 1984 Olympics. "I play the main character's childhood friend, which I loved because he goes from a boy to a man in the course of the film," says Brown. "That shoot was a beautiful experience."

And if Brown keeps playing his cards right, perhaps just one of many more to come. shaunbrown.net

NUMBER CRUNCH

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Can we get an olé? The always-popular **Flamenco Festival Miami** is hitting its decade mark, so expect those castanets to be louder than before. This year's programming is as bravo-worthy as ever with stars such as Juana Amaya, Patricia Guerrero, Rocío Márquez, Jesús Carmona and Olga Pericet hand-clapping and finger-snapping like there's no tomorrow. *March 2-5, times vary, \$35-\$500, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 305.949.6722, arshtcenter.org —Michael Muzquiz*



Dancer Olga Pericet returns for the 10th edition of the Flamenco Festival Miami.

FLAMENCO FESTIVAL PHOTO BY PACO VILLALTA