

CORAL GABLES

MAY 11 - 24, 2020

Connecting Communities

The Palace Coral Gables' exclusive entertainment airs on in-house TV



Entertainment that once was performed in the facility's theater is now recorded off-site for viewing on the Palace Coral Gables' in-house TV channel.

BY JANICE EHLERS

The “show must go on,” and this holds true at The Palace Coral Gables, even during the coronavirus pandemic.

To keep residents entertained and engaged, the active retirement community has found an innovative way to offer live entertainment. Since nonessential visitors are not permitted entry to the Palace Coral Gables, and residents no longer can use the community's theater, the challenge has been to provide live entertainment safely.

Pamela Parker, the community's social director, has turned to technology. She has arranged for entertainers, who typically appear live on stage, to tape their shows from their homes. The entertainers keep up their repartee

with the audience just as if they were performing on stage at The Palace and may even ask for requests.

“It's no different than what is happening with many of the network shows now on TV,” Parker said. “Since the most popular requested song by Palace audiences is *New York, New York*, regardless of who is appearing, the entertainer can launch into their rendition as though it is a resident request. Many of the entertainers have appeared at The Palace and can acknowledge residents' birthdays and anniversaries as part of their performance.”

The shows are replayed on The Palace's in-house TV channel 95 for residents to watch in the privacy of their residences.

“It's a win-win. We're giving our residents something special to look forward to and

continuing our tradition of providing great entertainment twice a week, including a Saturday night show,” she said. “The entertainers are paid, which are very important for these gig workers.”

Many of the entertainers typically work on cruise ships, such as Carl Evans, who usually is at sea in April. He recently has done a sing-along show for Palace residents. Prior to his performance, songbooks were delivered to every residence, and residents were encouraged to sing along while watching the show.

Other favorites include JayCee Driesen, who does a one-woman cabaret show from her living room, and Larry Brendler, the piano man.

“The concerts and shows will be archived so it's well worth the investment, and we're prepared for another crisis,” Parker explained.