



# Summer 2019 Press Tour Monday and Tuesday, July 29 & 30

*All sessions will take place in the International Ballroom. Meals will be served separately.*

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***\*\*\*Remember, no pictures or videotaping allowed in the ballrooms at any time\*\*\****

## **SUNDAY, JULY 28**

6:00 pm – 2:00 am – PBS CCTV programming, channels 75 & 76. See separate schedule.

## **MONDAY**

6:00 – 8:50 am – PBS CCTV programming, channels 75 & 76. See separate schedule.

8:15 – 9:00 Buffet breakfast in the International Ballroom – featuring illustrator Chris Eliopoulos drawing interested press as Xavier characters during the breakfast hour

### 9:00 **XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM (PBS KIDS)**

Inspired by the bestselling kids' book series *Ordinary People Change the World* by *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Meltzer and illustrator Christopher Eliopoulos, XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM follows the adventures of Xavier, Yadina and Brad as they tackle everyday problems by doing something extraordinary: traveling back in time to learn from real-life inspirational figures like Marie Curie, Harriet Tubman and Jackie Robinson when they were kids. Each adventure will help young viewers make the connection between the skills that made these historical figures heroes and those same qualities within themselves, helping them discover that they, too, can change the world.

- Brad Meltzer, co-creator & executive producer
- Jackie Joyner-Kersey, six-time Olympic medalist, heptathlon world record holder
- Margaret Washington, curriculum advisor, professor of history, Cornell University
- Linda Simensky, vice president, children's programming, PBS

PR Contact: Lubna Abuulbah, [labuulbah@pbs.org](mailto:labuulbah@pbs.org); 571-263-0386

Premieres November 11

9:45

**[PBS Executive Session](#)**

- Paula Kerger, President and CEO

PR contact: Jennifer Rankin Byrne, [jrbyrne@pbs.org](mailto:jrbyrne@pbs.org); 703-739-5487; Jeremy Gaines, [jmgaines@pbs.org](mailto:jmgaines@pbs.org); 703-739-5135

10:30

**[PBS NEWSHOUR](#) press conference**

- Richard Coolidge, senior content producer
- Amna Nawaz, national correspondent and primary substitute anchor
- Sara Just, executive producer
- Additional talent TBA

PR Contact: Nick Massella, [nmassella@newshour.org](mailto:nmassella@newshour.org); 202-286-8844

11:00

**[FINDING YOUR ROOTS Season 6](#) press conference**

The acclaimed series returns with Professor Gates exploring the mysteries, surprises and revelations hidden in the family trees of popular figures.

- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., host and executive producer
- Justina Machado, actor and featured participant
- Sasheer Zamata, comedian, actor and featured participant

PR contact: Olivia Wong, [owong@weta.org](mailto:owong@weta.org); 703-998-2086; Sara Serlen, [FindingYourRoots@id-pr.com](mailto:FindingYourRoots@id-pr.com); 212-774-6148  
Premieres October 8

12:00 pm

Buffet lunch in the Wilshire Ballroom

12:45

**[MASTERPIECE](#) “Sanditon” press conference**

Jane Austen’s final and incomplete novel, written only months before her death in 1817, “Sanditon” tells the story of the joyously impulsive, spirited and unconventional Charlotte Heywood (Rose Williams) and her spiky relationship with the charming, enigmatic Sidney Parker (Theo James). When a chance accident transports her from her rural hometown of Willingden to the would-be coastal resort of the eponymous title, it exposes Charlotte to the intrigues and dalliances of a seaside town in the making, and the characters whose fortunes depend on its commercial success. The twists and turns of the plot, which take viewers from the West Indies to the rotting alleys of London, expose the hidden agendas of each character and see Charlotte discover herself... and ultimately find love.

- Theo James, actor, “Sidney Parker” (*Divergent* movies; “Mr. Pamuk” in “Downton Abbey”)
- Rose Williams, actor, “Charlotte Heywood” (*Curfew*)
- Crystal Clarke, actor, “Miss Georgiana Lambe” (*Black Mirror* “Smithereens”)

- Andrew Davies, writer and executive producer (“Pride & Prejudice,” “Les Misérables”)
- Belinda Campbell, executive producer
- Rebecca Eaton, series executive producer

PR contacts: Ellen Dockser, 617-300-5338; [ellen\\_dockser@wgbh.org](mailto:ellen_dockser@wgbh.org); Laura Garvey, 617-300- 5342; [laura\\_garvey@wgbh.org](mailto:laura_garvey@wgbh.org)  
Premiere TBA

2:00

**[COLLEGE BEHIND BARS](#) press conference**

Explore the transformative power of education through the eyes of a dozen incarcerated men and women trying to earn college degrees – and a chance at new beginnings – from one of the country’s most rigorous prison education programs.

- Lynn Novick, director
- Sarah Botstein, producer
- Jule Hall, film subject, Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) alum
- Sebastian Yoon, film subject, BPI alum

PR contact: Stephanie Hirlemann, 212-981-5164;  
[stephanie\\_hirlemann@dkcnews.com](mailto:stephanie_hirlemann@dkcnews.com),  
Premieres November 25 and 26

2:45

**[FAMILY PICTURES USA](#) press conference**

Join host Thomas Allen Harris to explore American cities, towns and rural communities through the lens of the family photo album, unearthing rich personal stories that expand our understanding of history, diversity and common values.

- Thomas Allen Harris, host, director and executive producer
- Zulaika Quintero, principal of Immokalee Community School in Florida
- Clint Raulerson, a fifth-generation cowboy from Immokalee, Florida

PR contact: Cara White, 843-881-1480; 843-224-1442; [cara.white@mac.com](mailto:cara.white@mac.com)  
Premieres August 12

3:30

Coffee break

4:00

**[POV](#) “The Feeling of Being Watched” press conference**

In the Chicago suburb where journalist Assia Boundaoui grew up, most residents in her Muslim immigrant neighborhood believe they are under surveillance. Assia investigates and uncovers FBI documents about “Operation Vulgar Betrayal,” one of the largest pre-9/11 counterterrorism probes conducted on domestic soil, right in Assia’s hometown.

- Christina Abraham, attorney, film subject and co-executive producer
- Assia Boundaoui, director and film subject
- Iman Boundaoui, civil rights attorney and film subject
- Justine Nagan, series executive producer

PR contact: Keisha Salmon. [ksalmon@pov.org](mailto:ksalmon@pov.org); 212-989-7425 x333

Premiere date: October 14

4:45

**[COUNTRY MUSIC](#) press conference**

Explore the history of a uniquely American art form: country music. From its deep and tangled roots in ballads, blues and hymns performed in small settings, to its worldwide popularity, learn how country music evolved over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The series, directed by Ken Burns, features never-before-seen footage and photographs, plus interviews with more than 80 country music artists.

**COUNTRY MUSIC: LIVE AT THE RYMAN, A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE FILM BY KEN BURNS**

A concert hosted by Ken Burns, featuring clips from the series and performances by Dierks Bentley, Rosanne Cash, Rodney Crowell, Rhiannon Giddens, Vince Gill, Brenda Lee, Kathy Mattea, Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show, Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Asleep at the Wheel, Holly Williams and Dwight Yoakam, among others.

- Ken Burns, director
- Rosanne Cash, featured musician
- Dayton Duncan, writer and producer
- Julie Dunfey, producer
- Marty Stuart, featured musician
- Dwight Yoakam, featured musician

PR contact: Jordan Lawrence, 212-981-5220; [jordan\\_lawrence@dkcnews.com](mailto:jordan_lawrence@dkcnews.com); Joe DePlasco [joe\\_deplasco@dkcnews.com](mailto:joe_deplasco@dkcnews.com); 212-981-5125

COUNTRY MUSIC: LIVE AT THE RYMAN, A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE FILM BY KEN BURNS premieres September 8  
COUNTRY MUSIC premieres September 15

6:00 -8:00 Buffet dinner and country music performance by Austin McCutchen and his band in the Wilshire Garden

8:00 pm – 2:00 am – PBS CCTV programming, channels 75 & 76. See separate schedule.

## **TUESDAY**

*\*\*\*Please note: no pictures or videotaping allowed in the ballrooms at any time\*\*\**

6:00 – 8:50 am – PBS CCTV programming, channels 75 & 76. See separate schedule.

8:15 – 9:00 Buffet breakfast in the International Ballroom

9:00 **FRONTLINE “For Sama” press conference**

This traces the journey of a young woman, Waad al-Kateab, through love, marriage and motherhood across five years of the revolution in Aleppo, Syria.

An intimate, visceral documentary about the female experience of war, Waad faces an impossible decision: should she flee the city to protect her young daughter’s life? But to leave means abandoning the struggle for freedom for which she has already sacrificed so much. The film is the first feature documentary by Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts. Winner of the Cannes Film Festival 2019 Best Documentary Award.

- Waad al-Kateab, director, producer, cinematographer and film subject
- Edward Watts, director
- Raney Aronson-Rath, series executive producer

PR contacts: Pam Johnston, [pam\\_johnston@wgbh.org](mailto:pam_johnston@wgbh.org); 617-300-5327; Anne Husted, [anne\\_husted@wgbh.org](mailto:anne_husted@wgbh.org); 617-300-5312  
Premieres Fall 2019

9:45 **AMERICAN MASTERS “Raúl Juliá: The World’s a Stage” press conference**

AMERICAN MASTERS and Latino Public Broadcasting’s VOCES join forces to present the first documentary about Raúl Juliá, the brilliant and charismatic actor whose magnetic work on stage and screen took the world by storm. Juliá’s journey from his native Puerto Rico, to the creative hotbed of 1960s New York City, to prominence on Broadway and in Hollywood, was one of passion, determination and joy – a groundbreaking career tragically cut short with his untimely death. This revealing portrait features Rita Moreno, Edward James Olmos, Anjelica Huston, John Leguizamo, Jimmy Smits, Rubén Blades, James Earl Jones, Andy Garcia, Esai Morales and more.

- Ben DeJesus, director and producer
- Oskar Eustis, artistic director, The Public Theater
- Michael Kantor, executive producer
- Esai Morales, co-star of Juliá’s
- Edward James Olmos, co-founder and chairman, Latino Public Broadcasting; co-star and close friend of Juliá’s

PR contact: Ava Tews, 212-560-8153; [tewsa@wnet.org](mailto:tewsa@wnet.org)  
Premieres September 13

10:30

**VOCES “The Pushouts” press conference**

“I was in prison before I was even born.” So begins the story of Victor Rios, a high school dropout, Oakland gang member and three-time felon by age 15. But when a teacher’s quiet persistence, a mentor’s moral conviction and his best friend’s murder converge, Rios’s path takes an unlikely turn. Twenty years later, Rios, by then an award-winning professor, author and expert on the school-to-prison pipeline, rejoins his old mentor to work with young people who have been pushed out of school for reasons beyond their control. Featuring footage filmed over more than 25 years, “The Pushouts” weaves Rios’s inspiring dropout-to-professor narrative with stories from YO! Watts, a youth center serving 16-24 year-olds who are out of school and out of work.

- Edward James Olmos, co-founder and chairman, Latino Public Broadcasting
- Martin Flores, film subject
- Dr. Victor Rios, film subject
- Katie Galloway, director, producer and writer
- Dawn Valadez, producer and co-director

PR Contact: Mary Lugo, [lugo@negia.net](mailto:lugo@negia.net); 770-623-8190  
Premieres September 20

11:00

**[AMERICAN EXPERIENCE](#) “McCarthy” press conference**

“McCarthy” chronicles the rise and fall of Joseph McCarthy, the Wisconsin Senator who would test the limits of American decency and democracy. Free of restraint or oversight, he conducted a crusade against those he accused of being Communists and enemies of the state, a chilling campaign marked by groundless accusations, bullying intimidation, grandiose showmanship and cruel victimization. Finally, after years in the headlines, he was brought down by his own excesses and overreach. He died a broken man, but his name lived on. For more than half a century, it has been linked to an all-too-familiar phenomenon: the modern-day witch hunt we call *McCarthyism*.

- Jelani Cobb, staff writer, *The New Yorker* and Columbia University journalism professor who frequently writes about race, politics, history and culture
- Sharon Grimberg, writer, director and producer
- David M. Oshinsky, author, *A Conspiracy So Immense: The World of Joe McCarthy*
- Susan Bellows, series senior producer

PR Contact: Mary Lugo, [lugo@negia.net](mailto:lugo@negia.net); 770-623-8190  
Premieres January 7, 2020

**AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “Woodstock: Three Days that Defined a Generation”  
press conference**

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the concert that became a touchstone for a generation. This new film brings the three-day concert to life through the voices of those who were present at what became the defining moment of the counterculture revolution.

- Barak Goodman, director, writer and producer
- Joel Makower, author, *Woodstock: The Oral History*
- Joel Rosenman, conceived and co-produced the 1969 Woodstock Festival
- Susan Bellows, series senior producer

PR Contact: Mary Lugo, [lugo@negia.net](mailto:lugo@negia.net); 770-623-8190

Premieres August 6

12:00 pm Buffet lunch in the Wilshire Ballroom

12:45 **NATURE “Octopus: Making Contact” press conference**

Octopus intelligence is well documented. They are able to navigate complex mazes, use tools, learn from each other and solve all kinds of puzzles.

Octopus behavior has gone viral on the internet, showcasing their escape artistry with their ability to body morph and use camouflage. What is new in the world of octopus research is the extent to which these intelligent animals are individual personalities – able to recognize faces and interact with other individuals – all of which is an odd adaptation for an animal thought to live an asocial existence. NATURE follows this new science through the story of a pet octopus named “Heidi” and her evolving relationship with a passionate American marine biologist and his teenage daughter. Professor David Scheel of Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage links his discoveries to octopus findings from all over the world and explores how we and a creature so different from us could have so much in common.

- Anna Fitch, director
- David Scheel, professor at Alaska Pacific University and octopus expert
- Laurel Scheel, daughter of David Scheel and budding octopus expert
- Fred Kaufman, executive producer
- Octopus

PR contact: Chelsey Saatkamp, 212-560-4905; [saatkampC@wnet.org](mailto:saatkampC@wnet.org)

Premieres October 2

1:45 **GREAT PERFORMANCES: NOW HEAR THIS press conference**

Journey across Europe in a new four-part documentary miniseries that merges music, storytelling, travel and culture. Join acclaimed conductor and

violinist Scott Yoo as he chases the secret histories of Bach, Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Handel and some of the greatest music ever written. Throughout the series, Yoo meets and collaborates with world-renowned virtuosos, local musical heroes across many genres, artisan instrument makers, music historians and other charismatic characters on his travels through Italy, France, Germany, Spain and Morocco. He visits legendary concert halls, architectural masterworks, jazz jam sessions and never-before-filmed archives to connect the classics to the contemporary – finding time to explore and enjoy the culture along the way. Each episode focuses on a great composer, tracing the creation of their masterpieces and the profound, lasting cultural impact of their music, while exploring little known or recently discovered works and new music they inspired.

- Scott Yoo, host and executive producer; Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Mexico City Philharmonic (*via satellite*)
- Harry Lynch, filmmaker and executive producer
- David Horn, series executive producer

PR contact: Dorean Rose Pugh, 212-560-3005; [pughd@wnet.org](mailto:pughd@wnet.org)  
Premieres four Fridays beginning September 20

#### **GREAT PERFORMANCES “Much Ado About Nothing” press conference**

For the first time in over four decades, GREAT PERFORMANCES presents a Public Theater production recorded live at Free Shakespeare in the Park. Set in contemporary Georgia with an election race underway, this bold interpretation of Shakespeare’s comedic masterpiece features an all-black cast at the outdoor Delacorte Theater in New York City’s Central Park, featuring Danielle Brooks (“Orange is the New Black,” Broadway’s “The Color Purple”) and Grantham Coleman (“Buzzer,” “The Americans”) as the sparring lovers Beatrice and Benedick. Directed by Tony Award-winner Kenny Leon (“American Son,” “A Raisin in the Sun”), this groundbreaking production finds the community of Messina celebrating a break from an ongoing war, but not all is peaceful amid the merriment. Former rivals battle it out, revenge is sought and trickery runs amok in this timeless comedy of romantic retribution and miscommunication.

- Oskar Eustis, artistic director, The Public Theater
- Grantham Coleman, actor, “Benedick”
- Margaret Odette, actor, “Hero”
- David Horn, series executive producer and GREAT PERFORMANCES “Much Ado About Nothing” television director

PR contact: Elizabeth Boone, 212-560-8831; [BooneB@wnet.org](mailto:BooneB@wnet.org)  
Premieres November 22



3:00 Coffee break

3:15 **RETRO REPORT ON PBS press conference**

This new PBS series goes beyond the headlines to understand the present by revealing the past. By exploring often surprising historical roots and debunking widely believed myths, the program gives viewers a fresh perspective and a more complete picture of today's most important stories.

- Andy Borowitz, contributor
- Celeste Headlee, host
- Masud Olufani, host
- Kyra Darnton, executive producer

PR contact: Cara White, 843-881-1480; 843224-1442; [cara.white@mac.com](mailto:cara.white@mac.com)

Premieres Mondays and Tuesdays beginning October 7 and 8

4:00 **INDEPENDENT LENS “Made in Boise” press conference**

A surprising – and booming – industry has emerged in Boise, Idaho. In this idyllic, all-American city, nurses, nail technicians and stay-at-home mothers are choosing to become paid reproductive surrogates for people from around the world. "Made in Boise" goes inside the lives of four women as they build relationships with intended parents. They prepare for the rigors of pregnancy and navigate the mixed feelings of their own families, who struggle to understand the surrogates' choice to risk the physical and emotional complications of carrying babies for another family.

- Beth Aala, producer and director
- Cindy Floyd, surrogate, nurse and film subject
- Shannon Raynor, intended parent, current mother and film subject
- Nicole Williamson, co-founder of A Host of Possibilities, surrogate and film subject
- Lois Vossen, series executive producer

PR contact: Tanya Leverault, [tanya.leverault@itvs.org](mailto:tanya.leverault@itvs.org); 415-356-8383 ext. 317

Premieres October 28

4:45 **NOVA “Polar Extremes” press conference**

Renowned paleontologist and host Kirk Johnson takes us on an epic adventure through time at the “Polar Extremes” of our planet. Following a trail of strange fossils found in all the wrong places – beech trees in Antarctica, hippo-like mammals in the Arctic – Johnson uncovers the bizarre history of the poles, from miles-high ice sheets to warm polar forests teeming with life. What caused such dramatic changes at the ends of the Earth? And what secrets can they reveal about our future?

- Kirk Johnson, Sant Director, Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History
- Lucy Haken, producer and director
- Dr. Maureen E. Raymo, paleoclimatologist, marine geologist and Columbia University professor
- Dr. Jeremy Shakun, associate professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Boston College
- Julia Cort, series co-executive producer

PR contact: Eileen Campion, 646-325-6455; 212-966-4600; [Eileen@rc-pr.com](mailto:Eileen@rc-pr.com);  
Jennifer Welsh, 978-985-9835; 617-300-4382; [jennifer\\_welsh@wgbh.org](mailto:jennifer_welsh@wgbh.org)  
Premieres February 2020

5:30

**[NO PASSPORT REQUIRED Season 2](#) and [SOUTH BY SOMEWHERE](#)  
press conference**

NO PASSPORT REQUIRED Season 2 - Renowned chef Marcus Samuelsson returns for a second serving of the six-part PBS/Eater series that takes viewers on an inspiring journey across the U.S. to explore and celebrate the wide-ranging diversity of immigrant traditions and cuisine woven into American food and culture. The six cities featured include: the Filipino community of Seattle; West African soul food of Houston; Italian-American cuisine of Philadelphia; Portuguese-speaking world of Boston; Armenian community of Southern California and the Chinese culinary traditions in Las Vegas.

SOUTH BY SOMEWHERE - Award-winning television host and chef Vivian Howard returns to PBS in this new series for a culinary tour of the South. As both guide and student, Vivian digs deep into the lesser known roots of Southern food, cooking and living, tapping her neighbors, friends and family to delve into cross-cultural dishes.

- Vivian Howard, host, "South by Somewhere"
- Marcus Samuelsson, host, "No Passport Required"
- Pamela A. Aguilar, senior director, PBS programming development

PR contact: Cara White, 843-881-1480; 843224-1442; [cara.white@mac.com](mailto:cara.white@mac.com)  
Premieres Winter/Spring 2020

6:00 – 8:00 pm - Onsite reception featuring Marcus and Vivian's food on the rooftop Stardust Lounge with monitors for those who want to watch the debate.

— PBS Press Tour ends —