

Summer Virtual #PressTourPBS July 28, 29 and 30

(Final)

Three half days, 1:00 – 5:00 pm ET
(10:00 am – 2:00 pm PT)

All times Eastern below

[PBS Registration:](#)

To all TCA members and PBS-confirmed press, please **register in advance** for this virtual event using this link to start:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2uRcyS-fRN68-kMCgGor2w

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique access link and other details.

The same, single link works for all of the PBS sessions. See the email from Phil Piga (ppiga@pbs.org) for more details or send an email with any questions. Thank you!

Tuesday, July 28

1:00–1:55 pm

PBS Executive Session & 50TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL

As PBS marks its 50th Anniversary – amid a global pandemic, polarized nation and strained economy – the mission of public media has never been more important.

- Paula Kerger, PBS President & CEO
- Ken Burns
- Judy Woodruff
- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

PR contact: Eleanor Hawkins, 205-276-5252; emhawkins@pbs.org;
Jeremy Gaines, 703-739-5135; jmgaines@pbs.org

2:15–2:45 pm

PBS NEWSHOUR

- Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor
- Amna Nawaz, senior national correspondent and

primary substitute anchor

- Yamiche Alcindor, White House correspondent
- Lisa Desjardins, Capitol Hill correspondent
- Sara Just, executive producer

PR contact: Sydney Cameron, scameron@newshour.org; 954-478-0703

3:00–3:30 pm **PBS Election & News Coverage**

- Robert Costa, [WASHINGTON WEEK](#)
- Margaret Hoover, [FIRING LINE WITH MARGARET HOOVER](#)
- Bernardo Ruiz, VOCES “Latino Vote: Dispatches from the Battleground”
- Hari Sreenivasan, PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND and [AMANPOUR AND COMPANY](#)
- Margaret “Mishi” Ebrahim, senior director, General Audience Programming & Development, PBS

PR contacts:

AMANPOUR AND COMPANY

Lindsey Horvitz, 212-560-6609; horvitzl@wnet.org

FIRING LINE WITH MARGARET HOOVER

Dorean Rose Pugh, 212-560-3005; pughd@wnet.org

VOCES “Latino Vote: Dispatches from the Battleground”

Mary Lugo, 770-623-8190; lugo@negia.net

WASHINGTON WEEK

Cecily Van Praagh, 703-403-1985; cvanpraagh@weta.org

3:45-4:15 pm **FRONTLINE “The Choice 2020: Trump vs. Biden”**

In the midst of an historic pandemic, surging unemployment and growing economic uncertainty, American voters will head to the polls this fall to decide whether President Donald Trump or former Vice President Joe Biden will lead the country for the next four years. And as it has for every election since 1988, FRONTLINE’s acclaimed series “The Choice” will investigate the life stories of the two candidates: the roots of their drive to be president, the moments that shaped them, and the life method that has brought them to this point.

From veteran filmmaker Michael Kirk, who has made four prior installments of “The Choice,” this two-hour special will prepare Americans not just to vote in the election, but to understand what drives the president who will be sworn in on January 20, 2021 to lead a country in crisis. Premiere date TBA.

- Raney Aronson-Rath, series executive producer

- Mike Kirk, producer and director

PR contacts: Anne Husted, anne_husted@wgbh.org; 617-300-5312

DAY 2 – Wednesday, July 29

1:00–1:45 pm

MASTERPIECE: ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

James Herriot’s adventures as a veterinarian in 1930s Yorkshire get a glorious new adaptation in a seven-part series based on his beloved books. Exciting newcomer Nicholas Ralph will make his television debut as the iconic vet who became renowned for his inspiring humor, compassion and love of life. The 1970s adaptation, which aired on public broadcasting, was a favorite of millions of viewers. Premieres January 2021

- Anna Madeley, actor, “Mrs. Hall”
- Nicholas Ralph, actor, “James Herriot”
- Rachel Shenton, actor, “Helen Alderson”
- Samuel West, actor, “Siegfried Farnon”
- Callum Woodhouse, actor, “Tristan Farnon”
- Colin Callender, executive producer
- Susanne Simpson, series executive producer

PR contacts: Ellen Dockser, 617-300-5338; ellen_dockser@wgbh.org;
Laura Garvey, 617-300- 5342; laura_garvey@wgbh.org

2:00–2:30 pm

MASTERPIECE: ROADKILL

Ambition knows no bounds, nor does corruption in a political thriller starring Hugh Laurie as a scheming UK government minister. Scripted by two-time Academy Award nominee David Hare, “Roadkill” airs in four action-packed episodes and costars Helen McCrory, Saskia Reeves, Pip Torrens, and Patricia Hodge. Crime may not pay, but politics sure does. Premieres November 1

- Hugh Laurie, actor, “Peter Laurence”
- David Hare, creator, writer and executive producer
- Susanne Simpson, series executive producer

PR contacts: Ellen Dockser, 617-300-5338; ellen_dockser@wgbh.org;
Laura Garvey, 617-300- 5342; laura_garvey@wgbh.org

2:45–3:15 pm

PBS AMERICAN PORTRAIT

PBS AMERICAN PORTRAIT, a national storytelling project aligned with PBS’s 50th anniversary celebration, is the organization’s most ambitious multiplatform project in its history. A digital-first initiative produced by RadicalMedia,

PBS AMERICAN PORTRAIT captures expressions of American life and struggle, as it is happening, through the eyes of diverse voices that make up this country. In these stories, we witness people across America as they celebrate traditions, value work, faith and family and as they face the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic and come together against police brutality and racial injustices. Throughout the year, their stories have inspired social, digital and classroom content and engagement, a PBS Digital Studios miniseries, public art installations, virtual events in communities across America, three nationally televised broadcast specials and in January 2021, a four-part documentary series on PBS stations. Premieres January 2021.

- Craig D'Entrone, multiplatform showrunner, RadicalMedia
- Michele Stephenson, series producer, RadicalMedia
- Bill Margol, executive in charge & senior director, General Audience Programming & Development, PBS

PR contacts: Jordan Lawrence, 212-981-5220; jordan_lawrence@dkcnews.com; Joe DePlasco, joe_deplasco@dkcnews.com; 212-981-5125

3:30-4:00 pm

AMERICAN MASTERS “Laura Ingalls Wilder”

AMERICAN MASTERS enters the world of the “Little House” books and its unlikely author, a Midwestern farm woman who published her first novel at the age of 65, transforming her frontier childhood into a best-selling series. While Laura Ingalls Wilder emphasized real life and celebrated the simple and stoic, she omitted the grimmer and contradictory details of her personal history: grinding poverty, government assistance, death and deprivation. Wilder’s racist portrayal of American Indians and Black people in her books has made her less appealing to some contemporary readers, teachers and librarians, yet a rabid fanbase exists across generations. This documentary draws on never-before-published letters, interviews with Wilder experts, fresh perspectives from readers and writers, and never-before-seen photographs and family artifacts to explore the context in which she lived and wrote, as well as the true nature of her personality. Premieres December 29

- Melissa Gilbert, actor and producer; Laura Ingalls Wilder on the TV series, *Little House on the Prairie*
- Alison Arnglim, actor, comedian and author; Nellie Oleson on the TV series *Little House on the Prairie*
- Mary McDonagh Murphy, Emmy®-winning director and producer
- Lizzie Skurnick, film interviewee, author (“Shelf Discovery: The Teen Classics We’ll Never Stop Reading”)
- Michael Kantor, series executive producer

PR contact: Ava Tews, 201-841-3638; tewsa@wnet.org

4:15-4:45 pm

NATURE “Australian Bushfire Rescue”

Rising from the ashes of Australia’s devastating bushfires, animal survivors begin their challenging journey back to a wild existence. Iconic species like koalas, kangaroos, wombats and endangered species of parrots face a series of hurdles to recover from their trauma. Follow their stories of rescue, rehabilitation and eventual release, alongside the remarkable tales of human compassion and dedication from their rescuers and caretaker. Premieres October 28

- Adrina Selles, featured wildlife caretaker
- Anja Taylor, narrator and reporter
- Fred Kaufman, series executive producer
- Young wombats, wallabies and/or kangaroos under Adrina Selles' care

PR contact: Chelsey Saatkamp, 513-266-1748; SaatkampC@wnet.org

DAY 3 – Thursday, July 30

1:00-1:30 pm

PBS KIDS “Elinor Wonders Why”

This new animated series coming to PBS KIDS follows the adventures of Elinor (a very curious little bunny) and her friends as they ask the questions in every little kid's mind, exploring the wonderful and amazing ways that nature and science are connected to our everyday lives. Premieres September 7

- Jorge Cham, co-creator and executive producer
- Daniel Whiteson, co-creator and executive producer
- Linda Simensky, head of PBS KIDS content, PBS

PR contact: Lubna Abuulbah, labuulbah@pbs.org; 571-263-0386

1:45-2:15 pm

INDEPENDENT LENS “Feels Good Man”

“Feels Good Man” is the story of how artist Matt Furie, creator of a trippy, once-benign comic character named Pepe the Frog, fought an uphill battle to reclaim his iconic creation from those who turned it into a symbol of hate. An exploration of the power of online imagery and the fascinating spin cycle of memes in a culture where ownership and meaning can be wrested away from creators, “Feels Good Man” is a thought-provoking, wild ride through an Internet that transformed an unlucky cartoon frog, and then the rest of the world. Premieres October 19

- Matt Furie, artist & creator of Pepe the Frog
- Giorgio Angelini, producer
- Arthur Jones, director

- Lois Vossen, series executive producer

PR contact: Tanya Leverault, 415-356-8383 ext. 317; tanya.leverault@itvs.org

2:30-3:00 pm

NOVA “Human Nature”

Our DNA can determine attributes from eye color to medical predispositions. An extraordinary technology called CRISPR allows us to edit human DNA, possibly eliminating genetic diseases or choosing our children’s features. But how far should we go? Premieres September 9

- Adam Bolt, episode writer, director and producer
- Alta Charo, bioethicist, University of Wisconsin at Madison
- Tshaka Cunningham, molecular biologist, co-founder of TruGenomix, and a Baptist Deacon
- David Sanchez, rising high school senior with sickle cell disease
- Chris Schmidt, series co-executive producer

PR contact: Rebecca Weintraub, 917-723-0751;
rebecca_weintraub@dkcnews.com; Jennifer Welsh, 978-985-9835;
jennifer_welsh@wgbh.org

3:15-3:45 pm

GREAT PERFORMANCES “GRAMMY® Salute to Music Legends”

In collaboration with the Recording Academy®, GREAT PERFORMANCES presents the fifth annual all-star special showcasing 2020 Special Merit Awards recipients, including Lifetime Achievement Award honorees Chicago, Roberta Flack, Isaac Hayes, Iggy Pop, John Prine, Public Enemy and Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Ken Ehrlich, Philip Glass and Frank Walker receive Trustees Award honors, and George Augspurger is the Technical GRAMMY Award recipient.

Hosted by five-time GRAMMY Award winner Jimmy Jam, this year’s special pays tribute to these diverse music legends through classic performance footage and newly recorded acceptance speeches from honorees and the performers they have influenced. The originally planned April ceremony and concert was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, and Prine tragically died from complications of COVID-19 on April 7. Premieres Friday, October 16 at 9 p.m. on PBS.

- Jimmy Jam, host, five-time GRAMMY® Award winner
- Yola, four-time GRAMMY® nominee, including 2020 Best New Artist, who pays tribute to Sister Rosetta Tharpe
- David Wild, GREAT PERFORMANCES “GRAMMY® Salute to Music Legends” writer; author, Contributing Editor to Rolling Stone, producer
- David Horn, series executive producer

PR contact: Elizabeth Boone, 212-560-8831; BooneB@wnet.org

4:00-4:50 pm

[FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.](#)

The acclaimed series returns with Professor Gates exploring the mysteries, surprises and revelations hidden in the family trees of popular figures. Season 6 premieres October 13; Season 7 premieres January 19, 2021

- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., series host and executive producer
- Kasi Lemmons, actor and director
- Zac Posen, fashion designer
- Tony Shalhoub, actor

PR contact: Lauren Felsenstein, FindingYourRoots@id-pr.com; 212-774-6162; and Olivia Wong, 703-998-2086; owong@weta.org

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