



Final Schedule

Winter 2021 PBS TCA Press Tour Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, February 2, 4 and 5

(Via Zoom Webinar like last summer. All times Eastern/EST.)

TUESDAY:

1:00-1:30 **PBS Executive Session**

- Paula Kerger, President and CEO

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

1:40-2:20 **HEMINGWAY**

Ernest Hemingway, the iconic literary figure considered one of the greatest American writers and among the first to live and work at the treacherous nexus of art and celebrity, is the subject of this three-part, six-hour documentary series directed by filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.

The documentary paints an intimate picture of Hemingway the writer — who captured on paper the complexities of the human condition in spare and profound prose, and whose work remains deeply influential around the world — while also penetrating the myth of Hemingway the man's man to reveal a deeply troubled and ultimately tragic figure. *Premieres Monday-Wednesday, April 5-7*

- Ken Burns, filmmaker
- Jeff Daniels, voice actor, "Hemingway"
- Lynn Novick, filmmaker

PR contact: Jordan Lawrence, 201-396-6529; jordan_lawrence@dkcnews.com

2:30-3:00 **TULSA: THE FIRE AND THE FORGOTTEN**

This film examines the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre on the 100th anniversary of the crime. The film includes interviews with descendants of victims and probes how their families' devastating experiences affect their lives in today's America. TULSA: THE FIRE AND THE FORGOTTEN also documents the current excavation of potential mass graves from the massacre. Through the historical lens of white violence and Black resistance, this documentary explores issues of atonement, reconciliation and reparation in the past, present and future. *Premieres Monday,*

May 31

- DeNeen L. Brown, producer and journalist
- Oklahoma State Rep. Regina Goodwin, featured descendant
- Lesley Norman, executive producer
- Greg Robinson II, featured descendant
- Jonathan Silvers, producer and director
- Eric Stover, human rights investigator; founder, Human Rights Center, U.C. Berkeley School of Law; and producer

PR contact: Dorean Rose Pugh, 212-560-3005, pughd@wnet.org

3:10-3:40 **FRONTLINE "American Insurrection"**

A battle is being fought over America's political future. Set against the backdrop of the most rancorous presidential campaign in modern memory, political extremists are increasingly embracing violent action. As the country learns of militia plots to kidnap sitting Democratic governors, a murder in the streets of Portland and law enforcement officers gunned down in California, Americans are left to wonder what disasters may lie ahead. Veteran journalist A.C. Thompson investigates the individuals and organizations responsible for pushing the nation to the brink of chaos. *Premiere Tuesday, April 13*

- Raney Aronson-Rath, series executive producer
- Karim Hajj, producer
- Rick Rowley, director
- A.C. Thompson, ProPublica reporter and film correspondent

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

3:50-4:30 **THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN STORYTELLING** (topic panel)

Representing the full range of the American experience is core to PBS's work. Through our programming, we present many stories from many voices, and we seek out and amplify diverse storytellers. In this discussion, our panelists will highlight the importance of every part of the story – from who is in it, to who is making it, to how it gets made.

- Sylvia Bugg, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming, PBS
- Stacey L. Holman, director and producer, THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG
- Ursula Liang, director and producer, INDEPENDENT LENS "Down a Dark Stairwell"
- Bernardo Ruiz, director and producer, VOCES "Latino Vote: Dispatches from the Battleground"
- Sara Wolitzky, director, McGee Media, NOT DONE

PR contact: Eleanor Hawkins, emhawkins@pbs.org; 205-276-5252; Michae Godwin, 703-859-1827; mmgodwin@pbs.org

4:40-5:10 [NOVA](#) “Beyond the Elements”

Picking up where he left off in NOVA’s popular special “Hunting the Elements,” David Pogue sets out on a worldwide quest to find the key molecules and chemical reactions that have paved the way for human civilization, life, and even the universe as we know it. And along the way, he uncovers the simple principles that produce such a dizzying diversity of matter in this three-part-series. *Premieres Wednesdays, February 3, 10 and 17*

- Dr. Frances H. Arnold, Nobel Laureate and Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering, Bioengineering, and Biochemistry, California Institute of Technology
- Dr. Mandè Holford, Chemical Marine Biologist, Hunter College/The American Museum of Natural History
- Dr. Malika Jeffries-EL, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science and Engineering, Boston University
- David Pogue, host
- Chris Schmidt, series co-executive producer

PR contacts: Jordan Lawrence, 201-396-6529; jordan_lawrence@dkcnews.com; Jennifer Welsh, 978-985-9835; jennifer_welsh@wgbh.org

PLEASE NOTE: No Press Tour presentations on Wednesday, February 3

THURSDAY:

1:00-1:40 [MASTERPIECE](#) “Atlantic Crossing” (50th anniversary season)

A princess steals the heart of the president of the United States in an epic drama based on the World War II relationship of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Norwegian Crown Princess Martha. Two-time Emmy® nominee Kyle MacLachlan (*Twin Peaks*) stars as Roosevelt, opposite Swedish actress Sofia Helin (*The Bridge*) as the beautiful, politically astute Martha, who flees the Nazis with her three young children and lives under Roosevelt’s increasingly dotting protection. The eight-part series ranges back and forth across the Atlantic as diplomacy, romance, and jealousy embroil Norwegians and Americans alike. *Premieres Sundays, April 4-May 23*

- Alexander Eik, creator, director, scriptwriter and executive producer
- Sofia Helin, actor, “Crown Princess Martha” (*The Bridge*)
- Linda May Kallestein, scriptwriter
- Kyle MacLachlan, actor, “FDR” (*Twin Peaks, Sex and the City*)
- 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

1:50-2:30 **MY GRANDPARENTS’ WAR**

A new four-part documentary about the extraordinary life and death decisions that the grandparents of four celebrity actors faced during World War II. Told with remarkable access, MY GRANDPARENTS’ WAR is an emotional and deeply personal account of acts of heroism, family secrets, permanent scars — and ultimately of understanding and reconciliation with the past. *Premieres Sundays, April 4, 11, 18 and 25*

- Tom Anstiss, executive producer
- Helena Bonham Carter, presenter
- Lesley Norman, executive producer
- Mark Rylance, presenter

PR contacts: Dorean Rose Pugh, 212-560-3005, pughd@wnet.org; Cara White, cara.white@mac.com, 843-881-1480; Mary Lugo, lugo@negia.net

2:40-3:10 **DONKEY HODIE** (PBS KIDS)

Inspired by the funny, quirky side of children's TV pioneer Fred Rogers, this new puppet series for preschoolers follows the adventures of Donkey Hodie, the granddaughter of the original Donkey Hodie character (now known as "Grampy Hodie") from MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD. In every episode, Donkey Hodie and her pals, Purple Panda, Duck Duck and Bob Dog, empower kids ages 3-5 to dream big and overcome obstacles in their own lives—and to laugh themselves silly along the way. New, original music will be featured in DONKEY HODIE—along with reimagined versions of Fred Rogers' iconic songs. *Premieres Monday, May 3*

- Frankie Cordero, puppeteer, "Purple Panda"
- Ellen Doherty, chief creative officer, Fred Rogers Productions, and series executive producer
- Haley Jenkins, puppeteer, "Donkey Hodie"
- Adam Rudman, co-founder, Spiffy Pictures, and series executive producer and head writer
- David Rudman, co-founder, Spiffy Pictures, series executive producer, director, writer and puppeteer

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

3:20-3:50 **EXTRA LIFE: A SHORT HISTORY OF LIVING LONGER**

Discover the little-known story of the innovations in science and medicine that doubled the human lifespan in less than a century, and celebrate the unsung heroes of public health who believed change was possible and acted on it. Bestselling science writer Steven Johnson and historian David Olusoga explore whether public health triumphs of the past can provide a blueprint for the future in this new four-part series. *Premieres Tuesdays, May 11-June 1*

- Steven Johnson, co-host, science writer (HOW WE GOT TO NOW)
- David Olusoga, co-host, historian (CIVILIZATIONS)
- Jane Root, Founder and Chief Executive, Nutopia

PR contact: Jordan Lawrence, 201-396-6529; jordan_lawrence@dkcnews.com

4:00-4:30 **AMERICAN MASTERS** "Twyla Moves"

This film features never-before-seen interviews and select performances from Twyla Tharp's vast array of more than 160 choreographed works, including 129 dances, 12 television specials, six major Hollywood movies, four full-length ballets, four Broadway shows and two figure skating routines. The documentary provides a first-hand glimpse into the legendary choreographer's storied career and famously rigorous creative process. A pioneer of both modern dance and ballet,

Tharp will share intimate details behind her trailblazing dances (“Fugue,” “Push Comes to Shove,” “Baker’s Dozen”), her cinematic partnership with Miloš Forman (“Hair,” “Amadeus,” “Ragtime”) and her wildly successful Broadway career alongside such luminaries as Billy Joel, Frank Sinatra and David Byrne. Tracing her influential career, the film follows Tharp as she builds a high-profile work from the ground up with an international cast of stars (Misty Copeland, Herman Cornejo, Maria Khoreva) who rehearse by video conference during the coronavirus pandemic. *Premieres Friday, March 26*

- Steven Cantor, director
- Twyla Tharp, dancer, choreographer and film subject
- Michael Kantor, series executive producer

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

4:35-5:05 [AMERICAN MASTERS](#) “Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir”

In 1989, Amy Tan’s first novel, “The Joy Luck Club,” was published to great commercial and critical success. With the blockbuster film adaption that followed as well as additional bestselling novels, librettos, short stories and memoirs, Tan firmly established herself as one of the most prominent and respected American literary voices working today. Born to Chinese immigrant parents in 1950s America, it would be decades before Tan would come to fully understand how her mother’s battle with suicidal tendencies was rooted in a legacy of suffering common to women who survived the ancient Chinese tradition of concubinage. This very legacy, however, provided Tan an inexhaustible well of inspiration from which to work her literary magic. Archival imagery, artful animation and live performance from Tan form the basis for this documentary that journeys through Tan’s life and career in vivid, living colors. *Premieres Monday, May 3*

- Michael Kantor, series executive producer
- Amy Tan, author and film subject

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

FRIDAY:

1:00-1:40 [THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG](#)

Hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., this new two-part, four-hour documentary will reveal the broad history and culture of a living institution in African American life – the Black church. From enslavement to emancipation, the civil rights struggle to political action at every level of society, explore how African American faith communities have forged interracial ties and have been on the frontline of uplift and change.

Renowned participants in the series include media executive and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey; singer, songwriter, producer and philanthropist John Legend; singer and actress Jennifer Hudson; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of The Episcopal Church; gospel legends Yolanda Adams, Pastor Shirley Caesar and BeBe Winans; civil rights leaders Rev. Al Sharpton and Rev. William Barber II; scholar Cornel West; and many more. *Premieres Tuesday and Wednesday, February 16 and 17*

- Yolanda Adams, gospel legend and series participant

- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., series host and executive producer
- Stacey L. Holman, producer and director
- John Legend, executive producer and series participant **(EMBARGOED UNTIL FEB. 5)**

PR contact: Sara Serlen, 947-239-0829; blackchurch@id-pr.com

1:50-2:20 **GREAT PERFORMANCES “Romeo & Juliet”**

Two young lovers strive to transcend a world of violence and corruption in modern Italy where religious and secular values clash. Filmed over three weeks at the National Theatre and specifically staged for the camera to move from the stripped-down aesthetic of the rehearsal room to transform into a romantic epic, this new film interpretation of Shakespeare’s tragedy is a timely reminder of the power of true love. Directed by Simon Godwin, Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., the production stars Jessie Buckley (“Fargo,” “Chernobyl”) and Josh O’Connor (“The Crown,” “The Durrells in Corfu”) as Shakespeare’s immortal star-crossed lovers. *Premieres Friday, April 23*

- Jessie Buckley, actor, “Juliet” (“Fargo”)
- Simon Godwin, director
- David Horn, series executive producer
- Josh O’Connor, actor, “Romeo” (“The Crown”)

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

2:30-2:50 **INDEPENDENT LENS “Coded Bias”**

When MIT researcher Joy Buolamwini discovers that the majority of facial-recognition software does not accurately identify darker-skinned faces, she embarks on an investigation that uncovers widespread bias lurking in the algorithms that shape the technology powering our lives. *Premieres Monday, March 22*

- Joy Buolamwini, MIT researcher and film subject
- Shalini Kantayya, director and producer
- Lois Vossen, series executive producer

PR contacts: Tanya Leverault, 650-380-3097; tanya.leverault@itvs.org; Adrianna Paidas, 646-762-8704; adrianna.paidas@beckmedia.com

3:00-3:20 **INDEPENDENT LENS “Philly D.A.”**

In 2017, Philadelphia had one of the highest incarceration rates of any major city in the United States. When civil rights attorney Larry Krasner mounted a longshot campaign to become District Attorney, he ran on a bold pledge: to end mass incarceration by changing the culture of the criminal justice system. He shocked the establishment by winning in a landslide. Now, the bureaucrats he spent his campaign denigrating are his co-workers; the police he alienated are his rank-and-file law enforcers. Krasner’s unapologetic promise to use the power of the DA’s office for sweeping change is what got him elected; now that he’s in office, that same stubbornness threatens to alienate those he needs to work with the most. *Premiere date TBA*

- Lisa Harvey, Chief of the Philadelphia Family Court, Juvenile Branch and film subject

- Larry Krasner, District Attorney of Philadelphia and film subject
- Ted Passon, director
- Capt. Javier Rodriguez, Philadelphia Police Department, 25th District and film subject
- LaTonya Myers, activist, Bail Navigator and film subject

PR contacts: Tanya Leverault, 650-380-3097; tanya.leverault@itvs.org; Adrianna Paidas, 646-762-8704; adrianna.paidas@beckmedia.com

3:30-4:00 **AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “The Blinding of Isaac Woodard”**

In 1946, Isaac Woodard, a Black army sergeant on his way home to South Carolina after serving in WWII, was taken off a Greyhound bus after a heated exchange with the driver, who refused to let him off at a rest stop to use the restroom. The local chief of police savagely beat him, leaving him unconscious and permanently blind. The shocking incident made national headlines and, when the police chief was acquitted by an all-white jury, the injustice would change the course of American history. Based on Richard Gergel’s book *Unexampled Courage*, the film details how the crime led to the racial awakening of South Carolina Judge J. Waties Waring and President Harry Truman, who desegregated the military and federal offices two years later. It also ultimately set the stage for the Supreme Court’s landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which finally outlawed segregation in public schools and jumpstarted the modern civil rights movement. *Premieres Tuesday, March 30*

- Jamila Ephron, producer and director
- Cameo George, series executive producer
- Richard Gergel, U.S. District Court Judge, Charleston, South Carolina, and author of *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring*
- Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

PR contact: Cara White, 843-881-1480; cara.white@mac.com

4:10-4:40 **NATURE “Big Bend: The Wild Frontier of Texas”**

The majestic Rio Grande River cuts deep canyons between the United States and Mexico, creating staggering landscapes in one of the largest protected areas of its kind in North America. The most remote corner of this infamous borderland is Big Bend National Park – a vast, unspoiled wonderland of serene beauty and home to some of America’s most glorious wildlife. This is true frontier land, where horizons never end and stars blaze as they have for eons. In a journey narrated by Thomas Haden Church, uncover Western dramas as told by the animals themselves. Witness Black Bears as they re-settle these western peaks after facing a near-regional extinction, and see the extraordinary Pallid Bat stalking its insect prey on the desert floor. Marvel as the smallest owl in the world hunts food for its chicks, and catch a glimpse of the first-ever footage of Anna’s Hummingbirds nesting in Big Bend. *Premieres Wednesday, February 10*

- Skip Hobbie, cinematographer
- Fred Kaufman, series executive producer
- John Murray, director and producer

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

4:50-5:20 [ANTIQUES ROADSHOW](#) (25th Anniversary)

It's a year of innovation ahead at ANTIQUES ROADSHOW with the series' celebratory Season 25 featuring all-new episodes and specials to air in 2021. For the first time ever, three one-hour ROADSHOW specials have been reimagined as visits with popular personalities including an Olympic medalist, an iconic late-night talk show host, a noted broadcast journalist and more. Celebrities from the worlds of comedy, film, TV, literature, music, and sports share stories of favorite items—inherited, gifted, and collected—as ROADSHOW appraisers join them to provide expert insights and explore history through their personal stories. *Premieres Mondays, May 3, 10 and 17*

- Marsha Bemko, series executive producer
- Carson Kressley, television personality and featured participant
- Leila Dunbar, appraiser
- Jason Reynolds, author and National Book Award finalist, featured participant

PR contact: Demee Gambulos, 617-571-1112; demee_gambulos@wgbh.org

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