



**Summer 2021
Virtual PBS TCA Press Tour**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 10-12

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 PT / 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. ET

Via Zoom Webinar like last time

Final as of August 9

*For Press Tour planning purposes only
All information is embargoed until the session*

All times Eastern below

Access all program releases, screeners, bios and photos here:

<https://pressroom.pbs.org/Programs/Summer-2021-Virtual-TCA-Press-Tour>

Tuesday

12:30-1:00 **[PBS EXECUTIVE SESSION](#)**

- Paula Kerger, President & CEO

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

1:15-2:00 **[FINDING YOUR ROOTS](#) (Season 8) press conference**

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

- Erin Burnett, CNN news anchor
- Brittany Packnett Cunningham, activist and founder of Campaign Zero
- Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., series host and executive producer
- Rebecca Hall, actor
- Damon Lindelof, Emmy-winning writer and producer

PR contacts: Sara Serlen, 212-774-6162, FindingYourRoots@id-pr.com; and PR contact: Cecily Van Praagh, 703-998-2756, cvanpraagh@weta.org

2:15-2:45 **GENERATION 9/11 press conference**

Among the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, were 105 expectant fathers. Two decades later, their children are coming of age. On the 20th anniversary of the events, GENERATION 9/11 focuses on seven children whose fathers died that day. Born at the dawn of the 21st century, they landed in a world where the 9/11 attacks initially drew the nation together. But by the time they entered high school, America was more divided than ever. Now entering adulthood, they move into the world with a new sense of responsibility that stems from their own tragedy. Premieres Tuesday, August 31, 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

- Nick Gorki, featured participant
- Liz Mermin, director
- Dina Retik, featured participant
- John Smithson, creative director, Arrow Pictures
- Claudia Szurkowski, featured participant

PR contact: Lara Davidson, 703-739-5115, lkdavidson@pbs.org

3:00-3:30 **AMERICAN VETERAN press conference**

AMERICAN VETERAN illuminates the veteran experience with a stunning range of voices from today and across the arc of American history. This multi-platform initiative traces the veteran experience through a broadcast series, podcast, and digital shorts. Every voice featured is a veteran's. From the citizen-soldiers returning from the American Revolution to today's warrior class, they tell a deeply moving story, highlighting personal remembrances, drawing civilian viewers into an unfamiliar culture, and highlighting the evolving relationship between Americans who have served in the military and those who have not. TV episode hosts are: TV host and former Marine Drew Carey; Iraq War Army veteran Senator Tammy Duckworth; actor, Vietnam War veteran (National Guard) and Native American (Cherokee) activist Wes Studi; and actor, motivational speaker and Army veteran, J.R. Martinez. Broadcast premiere Tuesdays, October 26, and November 2, 9 and 16, 9:00 p.m. ET

- J.R. Martinez, Army veteran and Episode 4 host ("The Reckoning")
- Major General Angela Salinas, Marine veteran and featured participant
- Judith Vecchione, co-executive producer
- Leah Williams, director and producer

PR contact: Cara White, 843-881-1480, cara.white@mac.com; Mary Lugo, 770-623-8190, lugo@negia.net; and Bara Levin, 617-300-5391, bara_levin@wgbh.org

3:45-4:15 **FRONTLINE "American Reckoning" press conference**

Emmett Till, James Chaney, Medgar Evers, and four little girls from Birmingham — these are the stories we know. But the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act lifted the veil on many more victims of racially motivated violence for whom there still has been no justice. The federal legislation mandated that the Justice Department and the FBI investigate and, when possible, prosecute unsolved civil-rights-era murders, and it gave families new hope after years of disappointment. But since the Act was passed, the Justice Department has made no new indictments, and has closed the majority of cases of 151 known victims, leaving open wounds, and perpetuating a sense of injustice. In partnership with Retro Report, "American Reckoning" is the

story of one of those cases, the killing of NAACP leader Wharlest Jackson in Natchez, Mississippi in 1967, a family's search for answers, and the history and limits of a federal effort to right wrongs in our country's past. Premiere TBA

- Raney Aronson-Rath, series executive producer
- James Edwards, reporter and host, [Un\(re\)solved podcast](#)
- Brad Lichtenstein, writer, producer and director
- Yoruba Richen, writer, producer and director
- Tamara Shogaolu, creative director, [Un\(re\)solved podcast](#)

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

4:30-5:00 [GREAT PERFORMANCES](#) #PBSForTheArts press conference

GREAT PERFORMANCES celebrates the resiliency of the performing arts amid the age of COVID-19 with two concerts spotlighting the reemergence of revered artists and arts organizations from the classical music scene.

Recorded May 2021, GREAT PERFORMANCES AT THE MET “Three Divas at Versailles” features Isabel Leonard, Ailyn Pérez and Nadine Sierra performing from the Royal Opera of Versailles in a primetime concert singing timeless selections by Mozart, Offenbach, Bizet and more. Premieres Friday, October 8, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET.

GREAT PERFORMANCES also highlights a new work by legendary composer John Williams in “John Williams with Anne-Sophie Mutter at Tanglewood (w.t.),” a special concert recorded in July 2021 from Boston Symphony Orchestra’s summer home, Tanglewood, conducted by both Williams and BSO music director Andris Nelsons. Premieres Fall 2021

- David Horn, series executive producer
- Isabel Leonard, three-time Grammy-winning Met Opera soprano, “Three Divas at Versailles”
- John Williams, Emmy, Grammy and Oscar-winning composer, “John Williams with Anne-Sophie Mutter at Tanglewood (w.t.)”

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

Wednesday

12:30-1:00 [MASTERPIECE](#) “All Creatures Great and Small, Season 2” press conference

After a triumphant first season on MASTERPIECE, “All Creatures Great and Small” returns to the Yorkshire Dales to follow the adventures of veterinarian James Herriot in the 1930s. One of PBS’s biggest hits of 2021, the series captivated viewers with its quirky humor, lovable characters, and heartwarming stories. Premieres Winter 2022

- Colin Callender, Emmy-winning executive producer
- Anna Madeley, actor, “Mrs. Hall”
- Nicholas Ralph, actor, “James Herriot”

- Rachel Shenton, actor, “Helen Alderson”
- Susanne Simpson, series executive producer
- Ben Vanstone, writer and executive producer
- Samuel West, actor, “Siegfried Farnon”
- Callum Woodhouse, actor, “Tristan Farnon”

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

1:15-1:45 **ALMA’S WAY (PBS KIDS) press conference**

ALMA’S WAY is created by actor and writer, Sonia Manzano, who positively impacted the lives of generations as “Maria” on SESAME STREET. Produced by Fred Rogers Productions, the series stars 6-year-old Alma Rivera, a proud, confident Puerto Rican girl, who lives in the Bronx with her parents and younger brother, Junior, as well as a diverse group of close-knit and loving friends, family, and community members. Every episode gives children ages 4-6 the power to find their own answers to problems, express what they think and feel, and recognize and respect the unique perspective of others. Premiere TBA

- Jorge Aguirre, head writer
- Summer Rose Castillo, voice actor, “Alma”
- Ellen Doherty, executive producer and Chief Creative Officer, Fred Rogers Productions
- Sonia Manzano, creator and executive producer

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

2:00-2:30 **AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “Citizen Hearst” press conference**

In the 1930s, William Randolph Hearst controlled the largest publishing empire in the country. Comprised of 28 newspapers, a movie studio, a wire service, radio stations, and 13 magazines, Hearst used his media stronghold to achieve political power unprecedented in the industry, then ran for political office himself. A man of prodigious appetites and the model for Orson Welles’s *Citizen Kane*, his castle, San Simeon, was a monument to his extravagance. While married to his wife Millicent, with whom he had five sons, he also conducted a decades-long love affair with actress Marion Davies, his companion until death. When Hearst died in 1951 at the age of 88, he had forever transformed the role of media in American life and politics. Based on historian David Nasaw’s critically acclaimed biography, *The Chief*. Directed by Stephen Ives. Premieres Monday and Tuesday, September 27 and 28, 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

- Cameo George, series executive producer
- Stephen Ives, writer and director
- Gary Kamiya, author, journalist, *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist and historian
- Victoria Kastner, author and former official historian at William Randolph Hearst’s California estate at San Simeon

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

2:45-3:15 **LA FRONTERA WITH PATI JINICH press conference**

In this two-hour PBS primetime special, acclaimed chef and James Beard Award-winning host Pati Jinich takes us to the fascinating, yet vastly misunderstood U.S.-Mexico border region, to experience and celebrate its rich, diverse, and unique culture through the noble and illuminating lens of food. Jinich, who received a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, will draw on her vast experience as a political analyst and later as a leader in the culinary world as Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C., to conduct in-depth, interviews with an array of residents along the border. LA FRONTERA will follow Jinich as she travels the length of the border encountering people from all walks of life and sharing a plate with fascinating characters both in and outside of the food world. Jinich's charismatic personality can currently be observed as host of the three-time Emmy nominated series PATI'S MEXICAN TABLE on PBS. Premieres Fridays, October 15 and 22, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET

- Dan Connell, producer and director
- Pati Jinich, James Beard Award-winning host and executive producer
- Bill Gardner, vice president, PBS programming

PR contact: Stephanie Kennard, 571-319-7478, skennard@pbs.org; and Vanessa Santos; vanessa@monacreative.co, 202-308-1937

3:30-4:00 **WASHINGTON WEEK press conference**

Award-winning journalists gather every Friday night in a robust roundtable discussion of the week's major national news stories, moderated by Yamiche Alcindor. Ongoing, Fridays, 8:00-8:30 p.m. ET

- Yamiche Alcindor, moderator of WASHINGTON WEEK; White House correspondent for the PBS NEWSHOUR; and political contributor for NBC News and MSNBC
- Jeff Bieber, series executive producer

PR contact: Cecily Van Praagh, 703-998-2756, cvanpraagh@weta.org

4:15-5:00 **MUHAMMAD ALI press conference**

A film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon, MUHAMMAD ALI brings to life one of the best-known and most indelible figures of the 20th century, a three-time heavyweight boxing champion who captivated millions of fans throughout the world with his mesmerizing combination of speed, grace, and power in the ring, and charm and playful boasting outside of it. Ali insisted on being himself unconditionally and became a global icon and inspiration to people everywhere. Premieres September 19-22, 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET

- Rasheda Ali, actor and daughter of Muhammad Ali
- Michael Bentt, actor and former WBO heavyweight champion
- Ken Burns, co-filmmaker

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

Thursday

12:30-1:00 **AMERICAN MASTERS** “Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It”
press conference

Over a career spanning more than 70 years, Rita Moreno defied both her humble upbringing and relentless racism to become a celebrated and award-winning actor. This documentary explores the star’s rich, decades-long career using vérité footage of Moreno today, archival footage of her roles and appearances, reenactments of her childhood, animation and interviews with Moreno, those close to her and performers she influenced. Film interviewees include Gloria Estefan, Morgan Freeman, Mitzi Gaynor, Whoopi Goldberg, Eva Longoria, Justina Machado, Terrence McNally, Karen Olivo, as well as Norman Lear and Lin-Manuel Miranda, who are also executive producers on the project. Premieres Tuesday, October 5, 9:00 p.m. ET

- Michael Kantor, series executive producer
- Rita Moreno, EGOT winner, film subject
- Mariem Pérez Riera, director and producer

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

1:15-1:45 **CALL THE MIDWIFE (Season 10)** press conference

It's 1966, and it's a testing time for the midwives. But there's excitement, too, as the women's rights movement intensifies. Interesting challenges lie ahead for Nonnatus House, as well as great celebrations when England wins the World Cup. Premieres Sundays, October 3 through November 21, 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET

- Jenny Agutter, actor, “Sister Julienne”
- Megan Cusack, actor, “Nurse Nancy Corrigan”
- Ella Bruccoleri, actor, “Sister Frances”
- Stephen McGann, actor, “Dr. Turner”
- Heidi Thomas, creator and executive producer

PR contact: Lara Davidson, 703-739-5115, lkdavidson@pbs.org

2:00-2:20 **POV** “Not Going Quietly” press conference

A new father, Ady Barkan’s life was upended when he was diagnosed with ALS. After a chance encounter with a powerful Senator on an airplane catapults him to fame, Ady and a motley crew of activists ignite a once-in-a-generation movement for universal healthcare, in a journey that transforms his belief in what is possible for the country and for his family. *Winner, Audience Award, SXSW Film Festival.* Premieres January 24, 2022, 9:00-10:30 p.m. ET

- Nicholas Bruckman, filmmaker
- Erika Dilday, series executive producer
- Rachael King, featured participant
- Amanda Roddy, producer

PR contact: Matisse Bustos, 212-989-8121 x3351, mbustos@pov.org; and Adam Segal, 212-642-4317, adam@the2050group.com

2:25-2:45 **POV “Fruits of Labor” press conference**

Ashley Pavon, a Mexican-American teenager, dreams of graduating high school but increased ICE raids in her community threaten the family’s stability since her mother is undocumented. Forced to become the family’s primary breadwinner, she works long days in the strawberry fields and the night shift at a food processing factory while still trying to study. Set in a small agricultural town on the central coast of California, “Fruits of Labor” is a coming-of-age story about a determined American teenager traversing the seen and unseen forces that threaten to keep her family trapped in poverty. Directed by Emily Cohen Ibañez. *A co-production of POV and Latino Public Broadcasting, co-presented by POV and VOCES.* Premieres Monday, October 4, 10:00-11:30 p.m. ET

- Emily Cohen Ibañez, filmmaker
- Erika Dilday, series executive producer
- Ashley Pavon, featured participant

PR contact: Matisse Bustos, 212-989-8121 x3351, mbustos@pov.org; and Adam Segal, 2050 Group, 212-642-4317 adam@the2050group.com

3:00-3:30 **NOVA “The Cannabis Question” press conference**

A huge social experiment is underway. Fifty-five million Americans say they currently use cannabis, and that number is expected to grow as voters push for legalization in more and more states. Though many believe cannabis is benign, and even beneficial, the federal government classifies it—like heroin—as a Schedule 1 drug, one that has no medical uses and poses serious safety concerns. Because of its classification, research on the plant’s complex chemical makeup—and its effects on users—is lagging. Cannabis contains 100 different cannabinoids, chemicals that mimic ones found throughout our bodies. One is THC, which produces the high associated with cannabis use. Another, called CBD, shows promise for treating seizures, PTSD, opioid addiction, and insomnia. NOVA investigates the story of cannabis in the U.S., from the criminalization that has disproportionately harmed communities of color to the latest medical understanding of the plant. What risks does cannabis pose to the developing brain? How much do we know about its potential medical benefits? As cannabis becomes socially accepted, scientists are racing to understand its long-term health consequences. Premieres Wednesday, September 29, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET

- Julia Cort, series co-executive producer
- Kassandra Frederique, executive director, Drug Policy Alliance
- Sarah Holt, writer producer and director
- Dr. Yasmin Hurd, neuroscientist and addiction expert, Mount Sinai
- Dr. Catherine Jacobson, neuroscientist, and mother of son featured in the film, whose epileptic seizures were treated with cannabis

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

3:45-4:15 **INDEPENDENT LENS “Ferguson Rises” press conference**

Before the explosive global uprising condemning the murder of George Floyd, there was a small town in Missouri that erupted in protest after the August 9, 2014 killing of Black teenager Michael Brown, Jr. by a white police officer. “Ferguson Rises” explores the aftermath and protests following his death through diverse voices of community members and those who chose to say “enough is enough” by taking to the streets for a record 400 days straight. This varied chorus of perspectives is interwoven with a uniquely intimate portrayal of a Black father’s grief that reminds us of the human side of national news stories and lends insight into what it means to be a Black man in America. Premieres Monday, November 8, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

- Michael Brown, Sr., film subject, Michael Brown Jr.'s father
- Mobolaji Olambiwonnu, director
- David Oyelowo, film producer (star of “Les Misérables” on MASTERPIECE and “Selma”)
- Heather Taylor, film subject, retired St. Louis Police Sgt., Homicide Division
- Lois Vossen, series executive producer

PR contacts: Tanya Leverault, 650-380-3097, tanya.leverault@itvs.org

4:30-5:00 **“WICKED” IN CONCERT: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE ICONIC BROADWAY SCORE press conference**

PBS celebrates legendary composer Stephen Schwartz’s Tony Award-winning musical with an all-star concert version featuring songs from the beloved score, including “Defying Gravity,” “Popular,” “For Good,” “The Wizard and I,” “Wonderful,” “No Good Deed,” and “As Long As You’re Mine.” The orchestra arrangements by Luke Frazier with members of the American Pops Orchestra. Premieres Sunday, August 29, 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET

- Luke Frazier, conductor and arranger
- Baayork Lee, director (“Connie” in the original cast of “A Chorus Line”)
- Alex Newell, Grammy-nominated performer (“Glee,” “Zoey’s Extraordinary Playlist,” and Broadway’s “Once On This Island”)
- Gabrielle Ruiz, performer (“Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” Broadway’s “In the Heights”)
- Stephen Schwartz, Oscar, Grammy and Tony-winning composer

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