PBS Showcases Rich Collection of Stories to Celebrate

Black History Month

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| Carl Rowan (center right) with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, 1963. / Atlantic City, N.J., August 10, 1964. Fannie Lou Hamer and Bob Moses at Democratic Convention.Credit: (The Finnish Heritage Agency) / (1976 George Ballis, Take Stock, TopFoto) |

ARLINGTON, VA (January 18, 2022) – Today, PBS announced its slate of programming and digital content to mark Black History Month as part of its continued commitment to showcasing important stories, sourced from the people and communities that make up our nation. Lauding the victories and recognizing cultural contributions and sacrifices, these programs will unearth remarkable stories of African Americans across generations, from the famous to the lesser-known.

“PBS is thrilled to anchor this year’s Black History Month celebration with programs featuring powerful trailblazers including Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights worker Wharlest Jackson and Black diplomat, Carl Rowan, who were each major influences throughout history and their contributions still resonate today,” said Sylvia Bugg, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, General Audience Programming. “We present a variety of stories featuring and made by African Americans all year round and continue to highlight the breadth of these stories on PBS.org and the PBS Video app, in addition to our nationally scheduled broadcast programs.”

On Tuesday, February 8, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), **AMERICAN MASTERS** will premiere “**Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands**,” a new documentary providing an intimate look at the life, career and legacy of the African-American contralto and civil rights pioneer in her own words using rare archival interview recordings. The new program shows how her quiet genius and breathtaking voice set the stage for Black performers in classical music, not only in America but around the world.

**AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** premieres “**The American Diplomat**,” the story of three Black diplomats, Edward R. Dudley, Terence Todman and Carl Rowan, who broke racial barriers at the U.S. State Department during the Cold War. The new documentary, airing February 15, 2022, 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), portrays their lasting impact on the Foreign Service.

In collaboration with Retro Report, **FRONTLINE** presents “**American Reckoning**”: an extraordinary look at the civil rights era - the violence and resistance - through rare footage filmed more than 50-years ago in Natchez, Mississippi, and the still-unresolved killing of local NAACP leader Wharlest Jackson. Premieres February 15, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 p.m. ET ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)).

Produced in part by Fannie Lou Hamer’s great-niece, Monica Land, **FANNIE LOU HAMER’S AMERICA: AN AMERICA REFRAMED SPECIAL** from **WORLD Channel**, **American Documentary** and **Black Public Media** premieres Tuesday, February 22, 9:00 – 10:30 p.m. ET ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/))**.** Told through Hamer's public speeches, interviews, powerful songs and never-before-seen family photos and archival footage, the program is a unique portrait of the life and legacy of the Mississippi-born sharecropper whose harrowing encounters with injustice propelled her into leadership in the fight for voting rights.

In addition to these new broadcast programs, viewers can also stream a collection of programs on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS Video app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can also view the majority of programs via Passport ([contact your local PBS station for details](https://www.pbs.org/stations/)).

The [PBS Black Culture Connection](http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/home/) has curated contextual articles and a playlist on PBS.org to include programs such as **AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “The Murder of Emmett Till”** and **THE BLACK CHURCH: THIS IS OUR STORY, THIS IS OUR SONG**, the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America, available on-demand through the end of February. The PBS Black Culture Connection will also spotlight storytellers and amplify films on social media.

PBS Digital Studios has updated its [curated YouTube playlist](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1mtdjDVOoOqr3J4PoNbbP60f58B06Td3) that includes a collection of videos covering topics of Black history, culture, arts and politics from a range of PBS channels. This includes videos from [PBS Voices](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq6OAftTQOuUBRdtUDq5SUA), a channel from PBS Digital Studios dedicated to documenting our shared human journey and helping us to better understand each other.

Broadcast program highlights in order of premiere and encore airdates are listed below ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)). All titles are also available for streaming on the PBS Video app.

**Muhammad Ali "Round One: The Greatest (1942-1964)"**

*Encore – Friday, January 28, 2022, 9:00 – 11:30 p.m. ET*

Boxer Cassius Clay rises up the amateur ranks to win gold at the 1960 Olympics. He turns professional, sharpening his boxing skills and honing his genius for self-promotion. In 1964, he upsets Sonny Liston to become heavyweight champion.

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS “Chuck Berry”**

*Encore – Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00* – *10:00 p.m. ET*

Take a riveting ride on the Chuck Berry train, exploring the life of the man behind the music. By blending “hillbilly” music with R&B and writing impactful lyrics, Berry birthed a renaissance in popular music we now call rock and roll.

**MUHAMMAD ALI “Round Two: What’s My Name? (1964-1970)”**

*Encore – Friday, February 4, 2022, 9:00* – *11:00 p.m. ET*

Cassius Clay publicly joins the Nation of Islam and takes the name, Muhammad Ali. When he refuses induction into the Army, he is stripped of his title and forced into exile. After three years, he returns to the ring, but he's lost a step.

**INDEPENDENT LENS “Owned: A Tale of Two Americas”**

*Premiere – Monday, February 7, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 p.m. ET*

Is the "American Dream" of home ownership a false promise? Postwar housing policy created the world’s largest middle class, but it set two divergent paths – one of perceived wealth and the other of systematically defunded, segregated communities.

**FINDING YOUR ROOTS “Fighters”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 8:00* – *9:00 p.m. ET*

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. sits down with Terry Crews and Tony Danza, both guests who overcame adversity, to discover they aren’t the first in their families to beat the odds through sheer force of will.

**AMERICAN MASTERS “Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9:00* – *11:00 p.m. ET*

Discover an international singer who captivated royalty in Europe and defied the conscience of 1939 America. Watch rare archival footage and hear audio recordings exploring her life and career from the Metropolitan Opera to the State Department.

**MUHAMMAD ALI** **“Round Three: The Rivalry (1970-1974)”**

*Encore – Friday, February 11, 2022, 9:00* – *11:00 p.m. ET*

Muhammad Ali battles his fiercest rivals, Joe Frazier and the U.S. government, as he attempts to regain the heavyweight title. He first loses to and then defeats Frazier, but he will have to beat George Foreman to become champion again.

**FINDING YOUR ROOTS “Forgotten Journeys”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 8:00* – *9:00 p.m. ET*

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. helps John Leguizamo and Lena Waithe retrace the paths of their ancestors, uncovering crucial pieces of their own identities that were lost on the journey to America.

**AMERICAN EXPERIENCE “The American Diplomat”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. ET*

Discover how three Black diplomats broke racial barriers at the U.S. State Department during the Cold War. Asked to represent the best of American ideals abroad while facing discrimination at home, they left a lasting impact on the Foreign Service.

**FRONTLINE “American Reckoning”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00* – *11:30 p.m. ET*

An unsolved 1960s murder reveals an untold story of the civil rights movement and Black resistance. With Retro Report, the film draws on rarely seen footage filmed more than 50 years ago in Natchez, MS, and follows one family's search for justice.

**MUHAMMAD ALI** **“Round Four: The Spell Remains (1974-2016)”**

*Encore – Friday, February 18, 2022, 9:00* – *11:00 p.m. ET*

Muhammad Ali shocks the world by defeating George Foreman, winning back the heavyweight title and becoming the most famous man on earth. After retiring in 1981, he travels the world spreading his Islamic faith and becomes a symbol of peace and hope.

**FINDING YOUR ROOTS “Songs of the Past”**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 8:00* – *9:00 p.m. ET*

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. accompanies Broadway stars Leslie Odom, Jr. and Nathan Lane as they meet a cast of inspiring ancestors hidden in the branches of their family trees.

**FANNIE LOU HAMER’S AMERICA: AN AMERICA REFRAMED SPECIAL**

*Premiere – Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 9:00* – *10:30 p.m. ET*

Explore and celebrate the life of a fearless Mississippi sharecropper-turned-human-rights-activist and the injustices in America that made her work essential.

**JOHN LEWIS – GET IN THE WAY**

*Encore – Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 10:30*–*11:30 p.m. ET*

Follow the courageous journey of John Lewis, whose unwavering fight for justice spanned the past 50 years, from his youth in the segregated South, through his leadership within the Civil Rights movement, to his role as a powerful voice in Congress.

**AMERICAN MASTERS “Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool”**

*Encore – Friday, February 25, 2022, 9:00* – *11:00 p.m. ET*

Discover the man behind the legend in this two-time Emmy-winning and Grammy-nominated Stanley Nelson film featuring never-before-seen footage, including studio outtakes from his recording sessions, rare photos and new interviews.

Also available for broadcast in some markets February 1–7 (check local listings) is **Through the Banks of the Red Cedar** a heartwarming journey following the daughter of Minnesota Vikings football legend, Gene Washington, as she uncovers the story of the first integrated college football team in America; and **Just a Mortal Man - The Jerry Lawson Story,** celebrating the original lead singer of the legendary a cappella group The Persuasions.

**About PBS Digital Studios**

[PBS Digital Studios](https://www.youtube.com/user/pbsdigitalstudios) produces original, digital programming for YouTube and Facebook Watch, designed to engage, enlighten and entertain online audiences. The PBS Digital Studios network has more than 29 million subscribers, generating an average of 50 million views a month, and has acquired more than 3 billion lifetime views. Currently, the Studio has 18 original series streaming online, including eight series from PBS member stations. Series include the Webby Award-winning [It’s Okay to Be Smart](https://www.youtube.com/user/itsokaytobesmart), [Physics Girl](https://www.youtube.com/user/physicswoman) and [Crash Course](https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse), as well as popular series such as [BrainCraft](https://www.youtube.com/user/braincraftvideo) and [PBS Space Time](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7_gcs09iThXybpVgjHZ_7g).

**About PBS**

[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’ broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’ premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV – including a 24/7 channel, online at [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/), via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org/), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following[PBS Communications on Twitter](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR).

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