WETA & Florentine Films co-production premieres
October 16-17 at 8 p.m. on WETA PBS & WETA Metro
Stream the film on the PBS App
For four decades, WETA has teamed with our good friend Ken Burns and his colleagues at Florentine Films to bring to the American public some of the most compelling — and most viewed — historical documentaries on television. We are enormously proud of this productive partnership, which tells our nation’s stories and so perfectly complements our mission of service to the American people — and our goal to inspire lifelong learning. We are always excited when a new film from this wonderful collaboration comes to air, and this month we are very pleased to roll out Ken’s latest production, the fascinating new two-part film *The American Buffalo*.

The program presents a biography and history of the iconic animal, our national mammal, exploring how the swift decimation of the buffalo population over one century almost brought these creatures to extinction. The film also illuminates how a diverse and dedicated group of people set out to save the species and succeeded.

The superb team that created the film under Ken’s direction includes longtime collaborators. Writer Dayton Duncan, producer Julie Dunfey and cinematographer Buddy Squires have contributed to the artistry and success of an extraordinary array of Florentine Films projects over the decades. This project gives voice to the perspectives of Native American filmmakers, scholars and advisers; the American buffalo’s sacred and monumental role in the lives and culture of North America’s Indigenous people is a centerpiece of the film. The larger narrative of *The American Buffalo* is filled with unforgettable stories and characters — spotlighted are First People’s spiritual and practical relationship with the bison, the impact of the destruction of the great buffalo herds, and the individuals and groups that contributed to preserving the animals.

See pages 2-3 inside this month’s magazine for details about *The American Buffalo* and additional content surrounding the film — which includes the program *The American Buffalo: A Story of Resilience*, featuring a discussion with participants in the film, moderated by WETA’s Judy Woodruff.

Stay tuned for much more from Ken Burns, WETA and Florentine Films. We have many additional marvelous films in the works, with projects planned for years to come.

In other October programming, we have much to offer as well. Tune in to more new Season 2 episodes of our local restaurant series *Signature Dish*. Be transported by Sunday-night dramas, which present new episodes of several popular productions: *Hotel Portofino* and, from *Masterpiece*, the World War II series *World on Fire* and Scotland-set police series *Annika*. Learn about culture and natural history, respectively, in illuminating miniseries *Native America* and *NOVA: Ancient Earth*. And follow absorbing new *Frontline* reports on baseball, a titan of American business, and American politics.

So much awaits you — enjoy *The American Buffalo* and our other engaging October offerings, and thank you for your ongoing support of WETA.

*Sharon Percy Rockefeller*

President and Chief Executive Officer, WETA
Emmy Award-winning WETA series airs Mondays, October 2, 9, 23 & 30 at 9 p.m. on WETA PBS, 8 p.m. on WETA Metro; stream on the PBS App

Popular local restaurant series Signature Dish features four new episodes in October, spotlighting standout dishes at restaurants around the D.C. area. The Emmy-winning WETA production is hosted by Seth Tillman, who leads the culinary explorations:

- **October 2: Pizza Perfection** — Seth searches for the perfect pie as he heads to three restaurants in D.C.: La Casina in Capitol Hill, Shaw’s Motown Square and Martha Dear in Mount Pleasant.
- **October 9: Mediterranean Magic** — Savor rich culinary heritage as Seth visits Green Almond Pantry in Georgetown and makes two Maryland stops: Cedars of Lebanon in Greenbelt and Melina in North Bethesda.
- **October 23: Crossover Cuisine** — Explore fusion cuisine, where traditions collide and create something new. Seth stops by Imperfecto in D.C. and then crosses into Virginia to visit Mama Tigre in Oakton and Wooboi in Alexandria.
- **October 30: Just Desserts** — Skip the main course and dive right into dessert! Seth heads to the neo-bistro Lutecce in Georgetown; dessert shop Mr. Bake Sweets in Riverdale Park, Maryland; and Leesburg, Virginia’s The Conche, where chocolate infuses everything on the menu.

Stay tuned for more new Signature Dish episodes in November and February; and visit the online Signature Dish Restaurant Guide at wetaguides.org/restaurants.

**Film, Music and Live Events on WETA Arts**

Monday, Oct. 2, 9:30 p.m. on WETA PBS; 8:30 p.m. on WETA Metro; stream on the PBS App

This month’s WETA Arts program, spotlighting local arts and culture, introduces Grammy-winning musicians Marcy Marxer and Cathy Fink (pictured). The duo has been gigging, teaching, and making albums together for more than 30 years; and the artists are also producers of All Wigged Out, a concert film about Marxer’s experience with breast cancer. Viewers also join Arlington’s Ashley Tillery, a self-taught street photographer, as she goes out on a shoot on Independence Day. And Felicia Curry gets an inside look at the 9:30 Club with Seth Hurwitz, the club’s owner and the CEO of the largest regional concert promotion and production company in the nation. He guides her through the historic music hall and its transformation into the landmark it is today.

**It’s Academic**

Local high school quiz show returns October 14

It’s Academic is back for a new season of competition! Each week, host Hillary Howard welcomes accomplished high school students from around the Washington Metro area as they compete head-to-head and demonstrate their knowledge. Now in its 62nd season, It’s Academic is the longest-running high school TV quiz show in America. The program airs Saturdays, 10 a.m./7 p.m. and repeats Mondays at 3 p.m. on WETA PBS; and Saturdays, 10 a.m./7 p.m. and Fridays at 11 a.m. on WETA Metro. Major funding for It’s Academic is provided by MITRE.

For program and membership inquiries, visit weta.org or call 703-998-2724.
The near decimation — and ultimate return — of the U.S. national mammal, and the species’ connection to Indigenous communities and the land, are the subjects of a new two-part documentary from WETA and Florentine Films. Four years in the making, the film *The American Buffalo* was directed by longtime WETA partner Ken Burns; written by Dayton Duncan (*Lewis & Clark, The National Parks, The Dust Bowl, Country Music*) and produced by frequent Burns collaborator Julie Dunfey. Julianna Brannum (*Native America*, airing this month as well), a member of the Quahada band of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, served as consulting producer; and W. Richard West, Jr., a Cheyenne and founding director and director emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian, was senior advisor to the film.

The new four-hour program presents a biography of the iconic animal through North American history and across some of the continent’s most iconic landscapes, tracing the mammal’s evolution, its significance to the Great Plains and, most importantly, its relationship to the Indigenous People of North America.

“It is a quintessentially American story,” Ken Burns said, “filled with unforgettable stories and people. But it is also a morality tale encompassing two historically significant lessons that resonate today: how humans can damage the natural world and also how we can work together to make choices to preserve the environment around us. The story of the American buffalo is also the story of Native nations who lived with and relied on the buffalo to survive, developing a sacred relationship that evolved over more than 10,000 years but which was almost completely severed in fewer than 100.”

**Native American Scholars & Experts**

For millennia, buffalo have evolved alongside Indigenous people who relied on them for food and shelter, and, in exchange for killing them, revered the animal. The stories of Native people anchor the series, including the Kiowa, Comanche and Cheyenne of the Southern Plains; the Pawnee of the Central Plains; the Salish, Kootenai, Lakota, Mandan-Hidatsa, Aaniiih, Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet from the Northern Plains; and others.

The film includes interviews with leading Native American scholars, land experts and Tribal Nation members. Among those participating are Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa), George Horse Capture, Jr. (Aaniiih), Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet of Montana and Métis), N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), Marcia Pablo (Salish), Ron Parker (Comanche), Dustin Tahmahkera (Comanche) and Germaine White (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes). Additional commentary and perspective are offered by authors Steven Rinella and Michael Punke and historians Sara Dant, Dan Flores and Elliott West. Peter Coyote narrates the film.
“The story of American bison,” historian LaPier says in the film, “really is two different stories. It’s a story of Indigenous people and their relationship with the bison for thousands of years. And then, enter not just the Europeans, but the Americans...that’s a completely different story. That really is a story of utter destruction.”

The Brink and the Return
The American Buffalo documents the startling swiftness of the species’ near extinction in the late 19th century. Numbering an estimated 30 million in the early 1800s, the herds began declining for a variety of reasons, including the lucrative buffalo robe trade, steady westward settlement, and disease and drought. But the arrival of the railroads in the early 1870s and a new demand for buffalo hides brought thousands of hunters to the Great Plains. In just over a decade the number of bison collapsed to fewer than a thousand. By 1900, the American buffalo neared disappearing forever, and the Native people of the Plains entered one of the most traumatic moments of their existence. But the other, lesser-known part of the story, told in the film’s second episode, is about the people who set out to save the species and how they did it.

Both parts of the larger narrative are filled with fascinating stories and people, including the diverse and unlikely collection of Americans who brought the buffalo back from the brink. Today, there are approximately 350,000 buffalo in the U.S., most of them descendants of 77 animals from five founding herds at the start of the 20th century.

Educational Resources & More
The broadcast of The American Buffalo is accompanied by educational materials for middle and high school classrooms — available at the “Ken Burns in the Classroom” collection at pbslearningmedia.org. WETA is coordinating community engagement projects nationwide surrounding the film’s content. Join the conversation via #AmericanBuffaloPBS and learn more about the film, and the history it explores, at pbs.org/americanbuffalo.

Additional Program Content
In addition to the Ken Burns film, tune in to the companion program The American Buffalo: A Story of Resilience, airing Tuesday, October 17 at 10 p.m. at WETA PBS and WETA Metro. The discussion program, moderated by Judy Woodruff, features filmmaker Ken Burns and experts Jason Baldes, Rosalyn LaPier and Dan Flores exploring topics and lessons in the film The American Buffalo. The program, made possible by The Better Angels Society, is introduced by Georgetown University President John DeGioia as part of the university’s Ken Burns Civic Dialogue initiative.

On the PBS App, stream the short film Homecoming, available October 16. Directed by Comanche nation member Julianna Brannum, the documentary spotlights Yellowstone National Park’s Bison Conservation and Transfer Program and follows Eastern Shoshone and InterTribal Buffalo Council member Jason Baldes as he leads transfers of bison to Tribal lands.

Corporate funding for The American Buffalo was provided by Bank of America. Major funding was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and by The Better Angels Society and its following members: The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation fund at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation; Diane and Hal Brierley; The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment; John and Catherine Debs; Kissick Family Foundation; Fred and Donna Seigel, Jacqueline Mars; John and Leslie McQuown; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tudor Jones. Funding was also provided by The Volgenau Foundation. Local broadcast of the film is sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian.

Lower Photos, left-right: Bison Skull Pile, courtesy Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library; William T. Hornaday’s Bison Exhibit at the Smithsonian, 1902, Smithsonian Institution Archives; “The Last of the Buffalo” by Albert Bierstadt, 1888, courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Blessing Ceremony in Norman, Oklahoma, photo by Jared Ames; cinematographer Buddy Squires filming in South Dakota, courtesy Craig Mellish.
Hispanic Heritage Month continues — visit weta.org/hispanicheritage

WETA’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month extends through October with more programs on WETA PBS, WETA Metro and WETA World. WETA PBS programs include Part 3 of the miniseries Becoming Frida Kahlo (Tuesday, October 3, 9 p.m.); Independent Lens film El Equipo (Monday, October 9, 10 p.m.) about forensic investigations of the disappeared or slain; and American Masters biography Rita Moreno (Saturday, October 14, 8 p.m.)

• Little Bird — Thursdays at 10 p.m. starting Oct. 19 (WETA PBS only); and streaming on WETA Passport starting Oct. 12. The 2021 Canadian drama Little Bird follows a First Nations woman’s journey to find her Saskatchewan birth family and her identity after being taken under a 1960s government policy (coined “The Sixties Scoop”) and adopted as a child by a white family. Darla Contois and Lisa Edelstein (House) star. In the story, Bezhig Little Bird is adopted into a Jewish family at the age of five, being stripped of her identity and becoming Esther Rosenblum. Now in her twenties, she longs for the family she lost and to fill in the missing pieces. Her quest lands her in the Canadian prairies where she discovers that she was one of a generation of children forcibly separated from their heritage.

• Native America, Series 2 — Tuesdays, 9 p.m. Oct. 24–Nov. 14. on WETA PBS & WETA Metro. A four-part second season of the Native-directed series Native America offers a portrait of contemporary Indian Country, revealing the beauty and power of today’s Indigenous world. Casting aside stereotypes, it follows the creative engineers, bold politicians, and cutting-edge artists who draw upon Native tradition to build a better 21st century. Each of the four hour-long programs reveals a core tenet of Native heritage: the power of Indigenous design, how language and artistry fuel the soul, the diverse ways that Native women lead, and the resilience of the warrior spirit. Featuring dynamic stories, the episodes highlight foundational beliefs and traditions that Native Americans carry forward. Also tune in to Native America, Series 1, which airs Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 p.m.-midnight on WETA Metro.

Additional themed programming includes Bring Her Home, Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 10 p.m., and Next at the Kennedy Center: Embracing Duality: Modern Indigenous Cultures, Friday, Oct. 20 at 9 p.m., on WETA PBS & WETA Metro.

NOVA: Ancient Earth
Wednesdays at 9 p.m. starting Oct. 4 on WETA PBS & WETA Metro; stream on the PBS App

Witness the most dramatic events in Earth’s 4.5-billion-year history, from its birth to the emergence of humanity. How did a landscape of molten lava and barren rock transform into a lush, green, watery planet filled with life? With realistic animation based on the latest research, the miniseries brings to life long-lost worlds that ultimately led to the one we know today. Birth of the Sky (Oct. 4) explores how our familiar blue sky emerged above early Earth, which had no atmosphere at all. Frozen (Oct. 11) examines how, 700 million years ago, Earth was cloaked in ice; how did life manage to hold on? Life Rising (Oct. 18) illuminates how life teemed in Earth’s oceans — while the land was desolate and inhospitable — but then invaded land and transformed the planet. Inferno (Oct. 25) follows how a cataclysmic extinction 252 million years ago wiped out nearly 90 percent of all species, but life bounced back. And Humans (Nov. 1) explores how Earth gave rise to primates and the human species.

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New Seasons of Sunday Dramas Start Oct. 15
Weekly on WETA PBS & WETA Metro; stream on the PBS App; binge-watch each with WETA Passport as of the Oct. 15 premieres

After the conclusion of Sunday-night presentations Professor T, Series 2 and the latest seasons of Masterpiece productions Unforgotten and Van der Valk, the following week, WETA PBS and WETA Metro feature new Season 2 episodes of three additional popular dramas starting October 15. Each streams with WETA Passport. (And Thriller Thursday presentations continue each week on WETA PBS, featuring Press on Masterpiece and Midsomer Murders, Series 22.)

**Hotel Portofino, Series 2 (8 p.m.)**

Glamorous period drama series Hotel Portofino returns for a second season with six new episodes again starring Natascha McElhone and following the elite yet dysfunctional British family that opens a hotel for upper-class travelers on the beautiful Italian Riviera in the interwar years. Series 2 begins in the summer of 1927 as Bella Ainsworth is still devoting all her energy into making Hotel Portofino a success. Aside from her hotel duties, Bella is also concerned for her children — Lucian, whose marriage to Rose may face trouble, and Alice, who is in need of a break from her hotel responsibilities. Bella’s husband Cecil, who had been visiting England, shows up unannounced. With his return, and the messy private lives of her children and imminent visit of an influential travel guide whose impressions could affect the hotel’s future, Bella has her work cut out for her as she tries to keep all the plates spinning.

**World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece (9 p.m.)**

After production was interrupted by the pandemic, the second season of the 2019 Masterpiece and BBC hit drama World on Fire at long last comes to air, continuing the story of World War II through the eyes of ordinary people whose lives have been thrown into chaos. The second season, featuring six new episodes, again visits locations around the globe torn by the conflict. In the new programs, in late 1940, RAF pilots are sent up to destroy German bombers prowling the skies as the Northern Blitz begins, with rescue operations underway on the streets below — the reality of war has arrived in Britain. The story moves from the U.K. into occupied France, Nazi Germany, and to the North African desert, where Commonwealth troops struggle to adapt to a very different kind of combat. Returning are Lesley Manville, Jonah Hauer-King, Julia Brown and Zofia Wichlacz, and Mark Bonnar (Guilt; Shetland) is among those joining the cast.

**Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece (10 p.m.)**

Fishing bodies from the waters around Glasgow, Scotland, police inspector DI Annika Strandhed and her Marine Homicide Unit return in a new season of six episodes to tackle more murder investigations. Nicola Walker (Unforgotten on Masterpiece; River) stars as the title character who — breaking the “fourth wall,” confiding her thoughts directly to viewers — shares her wry insights on the crimes she is probing, offers literary references, and relates her parenting woes as she contends with her temperamental teenage daughter, Morgan. Jamie Sives (Guilt on Masterpiece) returns as DS Michael McAndrews, Annika’s colleague who resents being passed over for the DI job but performs at full throttle as her second-in-command. Paul McGann (Luther) portrays therapist Jake Strathearn, who is something of a soulmate for single mom Annika. In Series 2, the team looks into a brutal drowning, a man found dead in his own shark tank, and more.

For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org.
Stream with WETA Passport

Stream your favorite shows with WETA Passport, a member benefit that offers access to a vast library of superb programs available for streaming on demand. To learn how to access programming with WETA Passport, visit weta.org/passporthelp.

**World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece**
The World War II drama returns with new episodes this month starring Lesley Manville and Jonah Hauer-King, with Mark Bonnar (Guilt) joining the cast. Binge-watch 6 Season 2 episodes with WETA Passport as of Oct. 15.

**Hotel Portofino, Series 2**

**Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece**
The crime drama following the Glasgow Marine Homicide Unit returns with new episodes starring Nicola Walker and Jamie Sives. Binge-watch 6 Season 2 episodes with WETA Passport as of Oct. 15.

**Royal Flying Doctor Service, Series 1**
Catch up on the poignant, Outback-set Australian medical drama’s 8-episode first season, available now for binge-viewing with WETA Passport. Season 2 comes to WETA Passport in November!

**A Town Called Victoria**
A special early streaming opportunity from the series Independent Lens; this documentary chronicles the 2017 arson of a Texas mosque — and its rebuilding. Watch the 3-part program with WETA Passport as of Oct. 14.

**Indian Summers on Masterpiece**
A drama set in the twilight of the Raj examines the collision of the English ruling class and local people seeking independence for India. Julie Walters stars. Binge-watch 19 episodes now with WETA Passport.

Also streaming on WETA Passport beginning Oct. 12 is the 2021 Canadian drama **Little Bird**, which follows a First Nations woman’s journey to find her birth family in Saskatchewan after being taken under a 1960s government policy and adopted out to a white family as a child. Darla Contois and Lisa Edelstein (House) star.

6 OCTOBER 2023 • Stream select programs via the PBS App.
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<td><strong>1</strong> Sun</td>
<td>Professor 1, Series 2 (UK) (Pt 5 of 5: The Trial)</td>
<td>Unforgotten, Series 5 on Masterpiece (Pt 6 of 6)</td>
<td>Van der Valk, Series 3 on Masterpiece (Pt 5 of 6; Magic in Amsterdam, Pt 1)</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong> Mon</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow: Vintage Hartford 2023, Hour 1</td>
<td>Signature Dish, Ser 2: Pizza Perfection</td>
<td>WETA Arts</td>
<td>POV: Murders That Matter (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Tue</td>
<td>Finding Your Roots w/ Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: Encore: Family: Lost and Found</td>
<td>Becoming Frida Kahlo (Pt 3 of 3: A Star Is Born)</td>
<td>Frontline: Astros Edge: Triumph &amp; Scandal in Major League Baseball (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong> Wed</td>
<td>America Outdoors with Baratunde Thurston, Series 2 (Ep 5 of 6: Utah: Choose Your Path)</td>
<td>NOVA: Ancient Earth (Pt 1 of 5: Birth of the Sky)</td>
<td>Evolution Earth (Pt 5 of 5: Grasslands)</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong> Thu</td>
<td>Press on Masterpiece (Pt 2 of 6: Pure)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 22 (The Stitcher Society, Pt 1)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 3 (Death of a Stranger, Pt 1)</td>
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<td><strong>6</strong> Fri</td>
<td>Washington Week with The Atlantic: History with David Rubenstein, Season 2</td>
<td>American Masters: Max Roach: The Drum Also Waits</td>
<td>Next at the Kennedy Center: Mercury (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>7</strong> Sat</td>
<td>Hemingway (Pt 3 of 3: The Blank Page) (1944-1961)</td>
<td>Unforgotten, Series 5 on Masterpiece (Pt 6 of 6)</td>
<td>Van der Valk, Series 3 on Masterpiece (Pt 6 of 6: Magic in Amsterdam, Pt 2)</td>
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<td><strong>8</strong> Sun</td>
<td>Professor 1, Series 2 (UK) (Pt 5 of 6: Swansong)</td>
<td>NOVA: Ancient Earth (Pt 2 of 5: Frozen)</td>
<td>Secrets of the Dead: The Sunken Basilica</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong> Mon</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow: Vintage Hartford 2023, Hour 2</td>
<td>Signature Dish, Ser 2: Mediterranean Magic</td>
<td>WETA Arts</td>
<td>Independent Lens: El Equipo (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>10</strong> Tue</td>
<td>Finding Your Roots w/ Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: Encore: Chosen</td>
<td>Frontline: Elton Musk’s Twitter Takeover</td>
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<td><strong>11</strong> Wed</td>
<td>America Outdoors with Baratunde Thurston, Series 2 (Ep 6 of 6: Maine: Embrace the Cold)</td>
<td>NOVA: Ancient Earth (Pt 2 of 5: Frozen)</td>
<td>Secrets of the Dead: Jurassic Fortunes</td>
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<td><strong>12</strong> Thu</td>
<td>Press on Masterpiece (Pt 3 of 6: Don’t Take My Heart, Don’t Break My Heart)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 22 (The Stitcher Society, Pt 2)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 3 (Death of a Stranger, Pt 2)</td>
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<td><strong>13</strong> Fri</td>
<td>Washington Week with The Atlantic: History with David Rubenstein, Season 2</td>
<td>Next at the Kennedy Center: Robert Glasper’s Black Radio</td>
<td>Next at the Kennedy Center: Ballet Hispanico’s Doña Perón (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>14</strong> Sat</td>
<td>American Masters: Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It</td>
<td>Next at the Kennedy Center: Ballet Hispanico’s Doña Perón (to 11:30pm)</td>
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<td><strong>15</strong> Sun</td>
<td>Hotel Portofino, Series 2 (Pt 1 of 6: Returns)</td>
<td>World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 1 of 6)</td>
<td>Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 1 of 6)</td>
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<td><strong>16</strong> Mon</td>
<td>The American Buffalo (Pt 1 of 2: Blood Memory)</td>
<td>World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 2 of 6)</td>
<td>Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 2 of 6)</td>
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<td><strong>17</strong> Tue</td>
<td>The American Buffalo (Pt 2 of 2: Into the Storm)</td>
<td>The American Buffalo: A Story of Resilience</td>
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<td><strong>18</strong> Wed</td>
<td>Nature: The Platypus Guardian</td>
<td>NOVA: Ancient Earth (Pt 3 of 5: Life Rising)</td>
<td>Secrets of the Dead: Jurassic Fortunes</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong> Thu</td>
<td>Press on Masterpiece (Pt 4 of 6: Magic)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 22 (Happy Families, Pt 1)</td>
<td>Little Bird (Pt 1 of 6: Love Is All Around)</td>
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<td><strong>20</strong> Fri</td>
<td>Washington Week with The Atlantic: History with David Rubenstein, Season 2</td>
<td>Next at the Kennedy Center: Embracing Duality: Modern Indigenous Cultures</td>
<td>Behind the Strings</td>
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<td><strong>21</strong> Sat</td>
<td>Muhammad Ali (Pt 1 of 4. Round One: The Greatest 1942-1964)</td>
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<td><strong>22</strong> Sun</td>
<td>Hotel Portofino, Series 2 (Pt 2 of 6: Alliances)</td>
<td>World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 2 of 6)</td>
<td>Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 2 of 6)</td>
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<td><strong>23</strong> Mon</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow: Vintage Chattanooga, Hour 1</td>
<td>Signature Dish, Ser 2: Crossover Cuisine</td>
<td>Finding Common Ground on the Politics of Climate</td>
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<td><strong>24</strong> Tue</td>
<td>Finding Your Roots w/ Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: Encore: And Still I Rise</td>
<td>Native America, Series 2 (Pt 1 of 4. New Worlds)</td>
<td>Bring Her Home</td>
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<td><strong>25</strong> Wed</td>
<td>Spy in the Ocean, Series 1: A Nature Miniseries (Pt 1 of 4: Deep Thinkers)</td>
<td>NOVA: Ancient Earth (Pt 1 of 4: Deep Thinkers)</td>
<td>Secrets of the Dead: Effie’s Race to the Top</td>
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<td><strong>26</strong> Thu</td>
<td>Press on Masterpiece (Pt 5 of 6: Two Worlds)</td>
<td>Midsomer Murders, Series 22 (Happy Families, Pt 2)</td>
<td>Little Bird (Pt 2 of 6: So Put Together)</td>
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<td><strong>27</strong> Fri</td>
<td>Washington Week with The Atlantic: History with David Rubenstein, Season 2</td>
<td>Great Performances: New York City Ballet in Madrid</td>
<td>Frontline: The Songs We Share (Broadway)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28</strong> Sat</td>
<td>Muhammad Ali (Pt 2 of 4. Round Two: What’s My Name? 1964-1970)</td>
<td>Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America (to 12m)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>29</strong> Sun</td>
<td>Hotel Portofino, Series 2 (Pt 3 of 6: Coming Together)</td>
<td>World on Fire, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 3 of 6)</td>
<td>Annika, Series 2 on Masterpiece (Pt 3 of 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong> Mon</td>
<td>Antiques Roadshow: Thrills and Chills</td>
<td>Signature Dish, Ser 2: Just Desserts</td>
<td>American Experience: The War on Disco</td>
<td>PBS: Fire Through Dry Grass (to 12m)</td>
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WETA PBS in October

Listings are accurate as of press time. For latest schedules, visit weta.org/schedule or call 703-998-2724.

WETA PBS is devoted to children’s educational programming 8 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday–Friday. For 24 hours of children’s programming each day, tune in to the WETA PBS Kids channel. See page 15 for information.

Program Key
Blue type – WETA productions, co-productions and presentations.  R – Repeat of recent programming.

1 Sunday

6AM-9AM WETA KIDS SHOWS – New: Albie’s Elevator, 8 a.m. 9AM WHITE HOUSE CHRONICLE 9:30 TO THE CONTRARY WITH BONNIE ERBE 10AM THIS IS AMERICA AND THE WORLD WITH DENNIS WHOLEY 10:30 DW EUROMAXX – LIFESTYLE EUROPE – New to WETA PBS Deutsche Welle (DW), Germany’s international broadcaster, spotlights European culture and lifestyle. 11:00 FIRING LINE WITH MARGARET HOOVER – Repeats Saturdays, 2 a.m.

11:30 TO DINE FOR WITH KATE SULLIVAN 12N BEYOND THE CANVAS, SEASON 2 – Enjoy arts and culture reporting from PBS NewsHour’s Canvas arts series. Anna Nawaz hosts. Episode 5. Modern Mexico. Hear from some of Mexico’s most prominent figures as they highlight their country’s emergence as a global arts center. 12:30 AMERICAN MASTERS: A SONG FOR CESAR – Trace the life and legacy of labor activist Cesar Chavez and see how music and the arts were instrumental to the success of the social movement Chavez helped found, which mobilized U.S. farmworkers.

2:00 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT THE MET: DON GIOVANNI – Tony Award-winning director Ivo van Hove offers a new take on Mozart’s tragicomedy, re-setting the tale of deceit and damnation in an abstract architectural landscape. Maestro Nathalie Stutzmann makes her Met debut, conducting the cast led by baritone Peter Mattei.

5:30 A SEAT AT THE TABLE – A talk show series featuring hosts Denene Milner, Monica Pearson and Christine White gives voice to African American women’s diverse experiences, perspectives and challenges.

6:00 PBS NEWS WEEKEND – John Yang anchors. Repeats Monday, 7 a.m.


7:00 MIRIAM AND ALAN: LOST IN SCOTLAND, SERIES 1 – Actors Miriam Margolyes and Alan Cumming tour Scotland in a mobile home, mixing wit and memories as they uncover the country of their youth. Episode 1 of 3. Starting in Glasgow, the duo visits the street where Miriam’s Jewish family first lived in Scotland, then journeys north into the Highlands, Alan learns about his ancestral past at Cawdor Castle.

8:00 PROFESSOR T, SERIES 2 (UK) – Ben Miller stars. Part 5 of 6. The Trial. As a major trial gets underway, Professor T presents the case to his students—a caretaker is accused of shooting dead his rich employer. It seems an open-and-shut case, but the Professor turns expert witness to prove otherwise.

9:00 UNFORGOTTEN, SERIES 5 ON MASTERPIECE – Part 5 of 6. Sunny and Jess attempt a reset as they follow the clues in the case.

10:00 VAN DER VALK, SERIES 3 ON MASTERPIECE – Part 5 of 6. Magic in Amsterdam, Pt. 1. The team probes the death of a participant in a magical ritual invoking a demon. Is the cause for the death supernatural—or is the explanation earthbound?


2 Monday

WEEKDAYS IN OCTOBER:

6AM NHK NEWSLINE 6:30AM BBC NEWS 7AM (Mondays:) PBS NEWS WEEKEND 7:30 (Mon:) WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC – R 7AM (Tuesdays-Saturdays:) PBS NEWSHOUR – R 8AM-3PM WETA KIDS PROGRAMMING 5PM AMANPOUR AND COMPANY – Rpt of previous night 6PM BBC NEWS: THE CONTEXT 6:30 BBC NEWS: THE WORLD 7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR – Each weekday, the WETA production provides in-depth analysis of current events with a news summary, live studio interviews and discussions of domestic and international issues. Anna Nawaz and Geoff Bennett anchor. Visit pbs.org/newshour. Rpts next day, 7am

8:00 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: VINTAGE HARTFORD 2023, HOUR 1 – Travel with Roadshow to Connecticut’s capital for updated Season 13 finds. Repeats Mon 10/9, 4pm

9:00 SIGNATURE DISH, SEASON 2 – Hosted by Seth Tillman, WETA’s local series returns to spotlight more standout dishes at restaurants around the national capital area. Episode 2. Pizza Perfection. From the unique Roman-style “pinsas” of La Casa in Capitol Hill to the Detroit-style delights of Shaw’s Motown Square, and the Greek-influenced creations at Martha Dear in Mount Pleasant, Seth explores the artistry behind perfect pies.

SIGNATURE DISH, SEASON 2 – A WETA PRODUCTION

Mondays, Oct. 2, 9, 23 & 30, 9 p.m. WETA PBS; 8 p.m. WETA Metro

WETA’s local restaurant series Signature Dish features more new episodes showcasing standout meals at area establishments. Above: Host Seth Tillman with Mama Tigre chef/owner Renu Prakash.
5 Thursday

8:00 PRESS ON MASTERPIECE – Set in the world of newspapers in London, a drama explores the turbulent landscape and the ethical dilemmas that journalists and editors face. Part 2 of 6. Pure. Holly helps Leona investigate a lead at a hospital. Ed struggles with his conscience after a night working on the Post's showbiz desk.

9:00 MIDNIGHT MURDERS, SERIES 22 – Neil Dudgeon as DCI Barnaby returns from a holiday in France to discover an unidentified man has been killed in the woods near the village of Marshwood, and a young man has been arrested by retiring Supt. Ronald Pringle.

6 Friday

8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC – In WETA’s weekly production, journalist and The Atlantic editor-in-chief Jeffrey Goldberg moderates a roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories of the nation’s capital. Visit pbs.org/washingtonweek.

8:30 HISTORY WITH DAVID RUBENSTEIN, SEASON 2 – In this WETA presentation, Washington, D.C.-based author/interviewer, financier and philanthropist David Rubenstein talks with some of America’s top scholars and writers, illuminating how history is made. Episode 1: Ambassador Susan E. Rice.

9:00 AMERICAN MASTERS: MAX ROACH: THE DRUM ALSO WALTZES – Experience the groundbreaking sounds of bebop pioneer, virtuoso percussionist and bandleader Max Roach, whose ambitions were inspired and challenged by the inequities of the society around him. Roach’s political consciousness made him a fierce advocate for change at a time when the nation was steeped in racism.

7 Saturday

6AM WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC – R

6:30 FIRING LINE WITH MARGARET HOOVER – R

7AM PBS NEWSHOUR – R

8AM JOURNEYS IN JAPAN

8:30 RICK STEVES’ EUROPE

9AM THIS OLD HOUSE – New season starts Sept. 30.

9:30 ASK THIS OLD HOUSE – New season starts Sept. 30.

Friday, October 6 at 9 p.m. on WETA PBS & WETA Metro
American Masters: Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes explores the life, music, political consciousness and advocacy of the renowned bebop pioneer, virtuoso percussionist and jazz bandleader.

9:30 WETA ARTS – WETA’s arts and culture program spotlights the concert film about Maxer’s experience with breast cancer; Arlington-based street photographer Ashley Tillery takes viewers on a photo shoot; and series host Felicia Curry gets a tour of the 9:30 Club with club owner and independent concert promoter Seth Hurwitz. Repeats Sun 10/8, 3pm.

10:00 POV: MURDERS THAT MATTER – How would you handle the trauma of losing a loved one? Set in Philadelphia, a film spotlights African American mother Movita Johnson-Harrell over five years as she transforms from a victim of violent trauma into a fierce advocate against gun violence in Black communities.

11:AM ANAMOUR AND COMPANY – Capping primetime programming each weekend, Christine Anamour leads conversations with global thought leaders on contemporary issues. Repeats next weekend, 5pm.

3 Tuesday

8:00 FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. – In this WETA co-production, join Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., as he delves into the genealogy of famous Americans. Season 9 encore: Family: Lost and Found. In the spotlight are actor Joe Manganiello and Brazilian tennis star Thiago Monteiro. Repeats Tue 10/10, 4pm.

9:00 BECOMING FRIDA KAHLO – A film spotlights the iconic Mexican artist. Part 3 of 3. A Star Is Born. Love and trauma shape the artist’s final years. As her body fails, her painting thrives. Repeats Sat 10/7, 10pm.

10:00 FRONTLINE: THE ASTROS EDGE: TRIUMPH AND SCANDAL IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – Frontline explores the Houston Astros cheating scandal and what it says about baseball today. With reporter Ben Reiter, the investigation spotlights the making of one of the best teams and worst scandals in MLB history. (90 min.)

4 Wednesday

8:00 AMERICA OUTDOORS WITH BARATUNDE THURSTON, SERIES 2 – Part 5 of 6. Utah: Choose Your Path. From paragliding over the Great Salt Lake to canyon climbing to discovering the science behind nature’s healing powers, Thurston journeys west to find out what modern-day pilgrims are seeking in Utah’s outdoor spaces.

9:00 NOVA: ANCIENT EARTH – Witness the most dramatic events in Earth’s history, from its birth to the emergence of humanity, learn how a landscape of molten lava transformed into a lush planet filled with life. Part 1 of 5. Birth of the Sky. Early Earth was a barren landscape of lava and rock, bombarded by meteors, with no atmosphere at all. How did our familiar blue sky—the thin, life-giving band of gasses protecting our planet—come to be? Repeats Sun 10/8, 3pm.

10:00 EVOLUTION EARTH – Part 5 of 5. Grasslands. Grasslands are one of the planet’s most important yet most overlooked habitats. Follow scientists as they discover animal species with the power to transform and restore our grasslands, turning them into carbon sinks that could slow climate change. Repeats Sun 10/8, 4pm.

For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org.
## Monday

### 7:00 PM
- **PBS NEWSHOUR** – Weeknights. Visit pbs.org/newshour. Repeat next day, 7am.

### 8:00 PM
- **ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: VINTAGE HARTFORD 2023**, **HOUR 2** – Revisit Connecticut treasures 14 years after the show’s Hartford visit. Repeats Mon 10/16, 6pm.

### 9:00 PM
- **SIGNATURE DISH, SEASON 2** – Hosted by Seth Tillman, WETA’s local series spotlights more standout dishes at restaurants around the national capital area. **Episode 3. Mediterranean Magic.** Seth dives into the rich culinary heritage of the Mediterranean. He first stops at Green Almond Pantry in Georgetown and then heads to Maryland to visit Cedars of Lebanon in Greenbelt and Melina in North Bethesda.

### 9:30 PM
- **INDIANAPOLIS WEEKEND: MEMORIES FROM THE PAST** – A celebration of the city’s history and contributions.

### 10:00 PM
- **THE ATLANTIC** – Hosted by Steven Brill, explores the business of news and the future of journalism.

### Tuesday

### 8:00 PM
- **FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.** – In this WETA co-production, join Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., as he delves into the genealogy of famous Americans. **Season 9 encore: Chosen.** In the spotlight are actors David Duchovny and Richard Kind. Repeats Sat 10/14, 11:30pm; Tue 10/17, 4pm.

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### Sunday

### 6AM-12PM
- **See the Sunday, October 1 Listings.**

### 10:00 AM
- **WETA ARTS** – Repeats Mon 10/16, 4pm.

### 10:30 AM
- **COOK’S COUNTRY FROM AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN** – Season 9 encore: Chosen.

### 11:00 AM
- **HEMINWAY – Pt 3 of 3. The Blank Page (1944-1961)**

### 11:30 AM
- **HUNGERSTOCK, SEASON 1** – Hosted by Seth Tillman, WETA’s local series spotlights more standout dishes at restaurants around the national capital area. **Episode 3. Mediterranean Magic.** Seth dives into the rich culinary heritage of the Mediterranean. He first stops at Green Almond Pantry in Georgetown and then heads to Maryland to visit Cedars of Lebanon in Greenbelt and Melina in North Bethesda.

### 12PM
- **THE ATLANTIC** – Hosted by Steven Brill, explores the business of news and the future of journalism.

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### Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10AM</td>
<td>MOTOR WEEK – [Oct. 7]</td>
<td>New season of competition starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10AM</td>
<td>IT’S ACADEMIC – New season of competition starts</td>
<td>Showcases academic achievements of local D.C.-area students, spotlighting learning, teamwork and friendly competition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30PM</td>
<td>ULTIMATE DISH, SEASON 2</td>
<td>Hosted by Seth Tillman, WETA’s local series spotlights more standout dishes at restaurants around the national capital area.</td>
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<td>3:00PM</td>
<td>PEOPLE OF THE NORTH</td>
<td>Continues with a focus on the history of the Mediterranean.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00PM</td>
<td>COOK’S COUNTRY FROM AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN</td>
<td>Part 3 of 3. The Blank Page (1944-1961).</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00PM</td>
<td>HUNGERSTOCK, SEASON 1</td>
<td>Hosted by Seth Tillman, WETA’s local series spotlights more standout dishes at restaurants around the national capital area.</td>
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**Additional Information:**

- **PBS NEWS WEEKEND** – John Yang anchors. Repeats Monday, 7am.
- **TELL ME MORE WITH KELLY CORRIGAN, SERIES 6** – In a new season of this WETA co-production, New York Times bestselling author Kelly Corrigan interviews notable guests, centering discussions on the theme “making it in America”. Episode 1. Making It in America – Kelly Corrigan. The host reviews the impact and wisdom of guests from previous seasons of the program.
- **MIIRAM AND ALAN: LOST IN SCOTLAND, SERIES 1** – Episode 2 of 6. Miriam Margolyes and Alan Cumming visit Ullapool and Glencoe on their tour of Scotland. They meet a pagan witch who involves them in an ancient healing ritual; and Alan fulfills his dream of writing and performing a song in Gaelic.
- **PROFESSOR T, SERIES 2 (UK)** – Ben Miller stars. Part 6 of 6. Magic in Amsterdam, Pt. 2. As the investigation continues into an occult-related death, Lucienne is forced to confront painful memories buried in her past. Van der Valk himself decides to open his heart once more; will he achieve his happy ever after?
- **UNFORGOTTEN, SERIES 5 ON MASTERPIECE** – Part 6 of 6. Can Sunny, Jess and the team bring the clues in the case together and unravel the secrets it holds? After discovering the body of an undercover police officer in the trunk of a car, the CID team blunders into a Drugs Squad operation against a major trafficker that appears to implicate one of their closest colleagues.
THE AMERICAN BUFFALO
A WETA CO-PRODUCTION

Mon-Tues, October 16-17 at 8 p.m. on WETA PBS & WETA Metro

The American Buffalo, a Ken Burns film produced by Florentine Films and WETA, traces the mammal’s history, significance to the Plains, near demise, and relationship to Indigenous People of North America.

Frontline: Elon Musk’s Twitter Takeover—Frontline spotlights Elon Musk’s long and troubled relationship with Twitter, exploring his journey from one of the platform’s most provocative users to its sole proprietor, and following the company’s acquisition, free speech, and the business’s uncertain future. (2 hrs.)

Wednesday

8:00 America Outdoors with Baratunde Thurston, Series 2—Part 6 of 6. Maine: Embrace the Cold. With its magnificent coastline and densely wooded interior, Maine is a place where outdoor adventure has a long history, and people are so committed to their outdoor passions that even the brutal winters can’t deter them. Repeats Sun 10/15, 3pm.

9:00 Nova: Ancient Earth—Part 2 of 5. Frozen. Approximately 700 million years ago, Earth was a giant snowball cloaked in ice from pole to pole. How did life manage to hold on through this deadly deep freeze, find creative ways to bounce back, and thrive in the dramatically different world that emerged? Repeats Sun 10/15, 3pm.

10:00 Secrets of the Dead: The Sunken Basilica—Uncover the sunken remains of a 4th-century basilica in western Turkey. Submerged beneath the waters of Lake Iznik for hundreds of years, the church could reveal insights into the early days of Christianity. Repeats Sun 10/15, 4pm.

Thursday

8:00 Press on Masterpiece—Part 3 of 6. Don’t Take My Heart, Don’t Break My Heart. Holly investigates a lead that a powerful business tycoon coerces young women into sex. As another source comes forward, Amina feels pressured to run the story. Duncan proposes a deal that could make waves in the political world.

9:00 Midsomer Murders, Series 22—Neil Dudgeon and Nick Hendrix star. The Stitcher Society, Part 2. A local outpatient, acquitted of murder years previously, is the latest inductee into a post-operative heart rehab club. Following his arrival, members’ dreams of a second chance at life begin to be cut short. Hannah Waddington guest stars.

10:00 Midsomer Murders, Series 3—John Nettles and Daniel Casey star. Death of a Stranger, Part 2. Barnaby’s suspicion of the suspect’s innocence is reinforced when there is an apparent suicide at the same spot as the original slaying. He tries to uncover the connection before another murder occurs.

Friday

8:00 Washington Week with the Atlantic—Jeffrey Goldberg moderates the roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories from the nation’s capital. Visit pbs.org/washingtonweek. Repeats Sat 10/14, 4pm; Mon 10/16, 7:30am.

10:00 Next at the Kennedy Center: Ballet Hispánico’s Dona Perón—Ballet Hispánico explores Evita Perón’s diverging legacies in this invigorating and emotional work. Her rags-to-riches story is interpreted through movement—following her journey from dancehall performer to Argentina’s First Lady and sudden death. Repeats Sat 10/14, 10pm; Sun 10/15, 12:30pm

Saturday

6:00-10AM See the Saturday, October 7 listings.

10AM It’s Academic—See tonight's 7 p.m. listing.

10:30AM-6PM See the Saturday, October 7 listings.

6:00 PBS News Weekend—John Yang anchors.

6:30 Washington Week with the Atlantic—Robert Black Radio

7:00 It’s Academic—The new broadcast season of the competition starts today! The high school TV quiz show showcases the academic achievements of local D.C.-area students, spotlighting learning, teamwork and friendly competition. Emmy Award-winning journalist Hillary Howard hosts. Competing this week are Loudoun County, Sidewell Friends and Wootton high schools. Airs 10 a.m. Saturdays, repeating 7 p.m. and Mondays, 3 p.m. Stream on the PBS App.

7:30 Variety Studio: Actors on Actors, Series 17—A series features candid conversations between contemporary star actors. Episode 1. Cate Blanchett with Michelle Yeoh; Kate Hudson with Glen Powell; and Laura Dern with Michelle Williams.

8:00 America Masters: Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It—Explore the trailblazing life and 70-year career of the iconic Latina actor, performer and activist with new interviews, clips of her iconic roles and scenes of the star on set today. Discover how Moreno defied her humble upbringing and racism to become one of a select group of Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award winners. (2 hrs.)

10:00 Next at the Kennedy Center: Ballet Hispánico’s Dona Perón—Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It—Episode 1. Cate Blanchett with Michelle Yeoh; Kate Hudson with Glen Powell; and Laura Dern with Michelle Williams.


12:30AM America Masters: Rita Moreno—Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It—Episode 1. Cate Blanchett with Michelle Yeoh; Kate Hudson with Glen Powell; and Laura Dern with Michelle Williams.

Sunday

6:00-12PM See the Sunday, October 1 listings.

12N PBS Arts Talk—Artists and cultural icons break down their craft and careers in thought-provoking conversations. Episode 1. Emmy-winning actor Henry Winkler talks with Grammy-winning musician Seal about the artist’s musical inspiration, his personal upbringing, and the way he approaches songwriting.

12:30 Next at the Kennedy Center: Ballet Hispánico’s Dona Perón—Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It—Episode 1. Cate Blanchett with Michelle Yeoh; Kate Hudson with Glen Powell; and Laura Dern with Michelle Williams.

5:00 The Chavis Chronicles

5:30 A Seat at the Table

6:00 PBS News Weekend—John Yang anchors. Repeats Monday, 7am.


7:00 Miriam and Alan: Lost in Scotland, Series 1—Episode 3 of 3. Miriam Margolyes and Alan Cumming finish their Scottish odyssey driving from Inverness to Edinburgh. They enjoy vegan white pudding, kosher haggis, “Zen golf” and dressing up along the way.

For full schedules and program information, visit weta.org.
**Nature: The Platypus Guardian**

In Tasmania who befriends them and seeks to protect the species.

**8:00 HOTEL PORTOFINO, SERIES 2** — Return to the 1920s Italian Riviera for more drama and mystery in the aftermath of World War I. Part 1 of 6. **Returns.** Bella’s plans to build a spa in the basement are running over budget while she deals with an unexpected and unwelcome return from someone closer to home. Meanwhile, the hotel is facing an anonymous inspection from an influential social guide.

**9:00 WORLD ON FIRE, SERIES 2 ON MASTERPIECE** — Follow the intertwining fates of ordinary people as they grapple with the effects of World War II on their everyday lives. Jonah Hauer-King, Lesley Manville and Mark Bonnar star. Part 1 of 6. The war reaches the sands of the Egyptian desert while bombs fall on Manchester, and Harry introduces an explosive force into Robina’s household.

**10:00 ANNIKA, SERIES 2 ON MASTERPIECE** — AnniKA Strandshed (Nicola Walker, Unforgotten) and her police team return to probe more murders that wash up from Scotland’s waters. Part 1 of 6. When a phone with a recording of a brutal drowning on it lands at police headquarters, the pressure is on for AnniKA and the team to track down the murderer.

**11:00 AMERICAN MASTERS: RITA MORENO — R**

**Wednesday**

**8:00 NATURE: THE PLATYPUS GUARDIAN** — Witness the story of Pete Walsh, a Tasmanian man who befriends a platypus he names “Zoom.” With the help of experts, Walsh learns more about the platypus’s secret world in a mission to protect them from the dangers of urban development.

**9:00 NOVA: ANCIENT EARTH — Part 3 of 5. **Life Rising.** For billions of years, life teemed in Earth’s oceans while the land was desolate and inhospitable. See how life made the leap to land, transforming a barren, rocky landscape into a lush, green world.

**10:00 SECRETS OF THE DEAD: JURASSIC FORTUNES** — Discover the world of dinosaur fossil collecting. Hear perspectives on the controversial hobby from private collectors, palaeontologists and others — the largest Triceratops fossil ever found — is assembled in Italy and auctioned in France.

**19 Thursday**

**8:00 PRESS ON MASTERPIECE** — Part 4 of 6. Magic. Amina feels defeated in the wake of a scandal and suffers a personal crisis. Duncan is shocked when the Post is banned from Downing Street’s daily press conferences. Ed learns not to underestimate Holly’s commitment to her work above all else.

**10:00 LITTLE BIRD** — In this acclaimed Canadian drama, follow an Indigenous woman’s journey as she reconnects with her past to find her birth family after being stripped of her First Nations identity at the age of 5 and put up for adoption. Part 1 of 6. **Love Is All Around.** In 1976, Bezigh Little Bird, her sister and brother are taken from their mother by police to be placed for adoption. Now, 18 years later, Bezigh, renamed Esther Rosenblum, doesn’t feel a sense of belonging. **Repeats Sun 10/29, 11pm**

**18 Wednesday**

**20 Friday**

**8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC** — Jeffrey Goldberg moderates the roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories from the nation’s capital. Visit pbs.org/washingtonweek. **Repeats Sat 10/21, 6am; Mon 10/24, 7:30am**

**8:30 HISTORY WITH DAVID RUBENSTEIN, SEASON 2** — In this WETA presentation, Washington, D.C.-based author/interviewer, financier and philanthropist David Rubenstein talks with some of America’s top scholars and writers, illuminating how history is made. **Episode 3.** New York Times editor Jia Lynn Yang.

**9:00 NEXT AT THE KENNEDY CENTER: EMBRACING DUALITY: MOYOWN INDIGENOUS CULTURES** — In bridging traditions from past to present, this episode explores the subtle and complex representation of the contemporary Indigenous experience. The program features performances and interviews by two-spirit writer and interdisciplinary artist Ty Defoe, Native &
African-American singer-songwriter Martha Redbone, and electronic music duo The Hallucination Nation.

10:00 BEHIND THE STRINGS — When Mao’s Cultural Revolution ended, China’s door cracked open. Four young classical musicians seized their new opportunity to flee to the West. Western Classical music was banned in China. Experience the journey of the Shanghai Quartet, studying with great masters, attending Juilliard, and performing at major music festivals and top classical music venues. Repeats Sun 10/22, noon.

21 Saturday

6AM-6PM See the Sunday, October 7 listings.

6:00 PBS NEWS WEEKEND — John Yang anchors.

6:30 WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC — R

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR — Explore the academic achievements of local D.C.-area high school students. Journalist Hillary Howard hosts. Competing this week are Chantilly, Oakton and St. John’s high schools. Pbs.org/newshour.

7:30 VARIETY STUDIO: ACTORS ON ACTORS, SERIES 17 — A series features candid conversations between contemporary star actors. Episode 2. Carey Mulligan with Margot Robbie; Austin Butler with Janelle Monáe; and John Boyega with Letitia Wright.

8:00 MUHAMMAD ALI — A Florentine Films and WETA co-production directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon presents a portrait of the three-time heavyweight boxing champion who became a global icon and an inspiration to people everywhere. Part 1 of 6. Repeats 12:30am; Sun 10/22, 11pm.

10:30 SOMETHING IN THE WATER: A KINSTON BASKETBALL STORY — Basketball provides a way out for many with otherwise limited opportunities, and in the spotlight is Kiniston, North Carolina. One in 52 players from Kiniston High make it to the NBA, one per capita in the world. Repeats 12:30am.

11:00 PBS ACademY — The TV Quiz Show — The people of Pahokee, a rural town on the banks of Florida’s Lake Okeechobee, rise “outta the muck” to celebrate family history and big-time football. Beyond sending over a dozen players to the NFL, the community possesses a legacy of resilience and Black achievement. (90 min.)


22 Sunday

6AM-12PM See the Sunday, October 10 listings.

12N BEHIND THE STRINGS — R

1:00 THE AMERICAN BUFFALO — Part 1 of 2. Blood Memory. R

3:00 THE AMERICAN BUFFALO — Part 2 of 2. Into the Storm. R

5:00 THE AMERICAN BUFFALO: A STORY OF RESILIENCE — R

6:00 PBS NEWS WEEKEND — John Yang anchors. Repeats Monday, 7am.

MUHAMMAD ALI: A WETA CO-PRODUCTION

Sats, 8 p.m. starting Oct. 21 on WETA PBS (Thurs on WETA Metro)

Muhammad Ali, a four-part 2021 WETA co-production directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon, chronicles the life of the 3-time heavyweight boxing champion who became a global icon.


7:00 MIRIAM AND ALAN: LOST IN SCOTLAND, SERIES 2 — A year after Series 1, actors Miriam Margolyes and Alan Cumming journey anew in Scotland—and America. Episode 1 of 4. Miriam and Alan are back, rip-roaring across Scotland—and beyond. They ride the Harry Potter Express steam train and head to the glorious Cairngorms National Park before Alan conducts an LGBTQ+ wedding.

8:00 HOTEL PORTOFINO, SERIES 2 — Part 2 of 6. Alliances. As Cecil tries to buy his way back into Belia’s affection, Lucian and Constance acknowledge their mutual attraction. Elsewhere, Nish overcomes his qualms to help Gianluca strike a blow against Mussolini’s Fascists.

9:00 THE WORLD ON FIRE, SERIES 2 ON MASTERPIECE — Part 2 of 6. Harry struggles to adapt to the realities of desert combat and Lois longs to leave home. In Paris, Henriette is in grave danger, and in Manchester, a mysterious stranger arrives at Robina’s door.

10:00 ANNIKA, SERIES 2 ON MASTERPIECE — Part 2 of 6. The team is sent to Edinburgh to investigate the death of a recently released prisoner whose body is pulled out of the Forth River.


23 Monday

7:00 PBS NEWSHOUR — Weeknights. Visit pbs.org/newshour.

8:00 ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: VINTAGE CHATTANOOGA, HOUR 1 — See updated Chattanooga appraisals from 2009; which has a current value of $250,000? Repeats Mon 10/30, 4pm.

9:00 SIGNATURE DISH, SEASON 2 — Hosted by Seth Tllman, WETA’s local series spotlights more standout dishes at restaurants around the D.C. area. Episode 4. Crossover Cuisine. The traditional and fusion cuisine, where culinary traditions collide and create something new, is the heart of this episode. Seth stops by Imperfecto in D.C.’s West End; and EthosVita in Virginia to visit Mama Tigre in Oakton, and Wooboi in Alexandria.

9:30 FINDING COMMON GROUND ON THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE — Can we find realistic solutions to climate change? Former U.S. Representatives Val Demings (D-FL) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) discuss issues surrounding transition, sustainability and equity. The April 2023 conversation, presented by the nonpartisan Common Ground Committee, was moderated by political strategist and journalist Bob Shrum, Director of the Dornbusch Center for the Political Future at the University of Southern California.

24 Tuesday

8:00 FINDING YOUR ROOTS WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. — In this WETA co-production, join Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., as he delves into the genealogy of famous Americans. Season 6 encore: And Still I Rise. In the spotlight are activist Angela Y. Davis and statesman Jeh Johnson. Repeats Tue 10/31, 4pm.

9:00 NATIVE AMERICA — Explore the beauty and power of contemporary Indian country in this Native-directed series; and follow the Native American artists, engineers, and leaders drawing upon deep traditions to build a better 21st century. Part 1 of 4. New Worlds. Native innovators lead a revolution in music, building, and space exploration. From the surface of Mars to the New York City hip hop scene to the Pine Ridge Reservation, Native traditions are transforming life on Earth and beyond.

10:00 BRING HER HOME — Follow three Indigenous women—an artist, an activist, and a politician—as they fight to vindicate and honor their missing and murdered relatives who have fallen victims to a growing epidemic of crimes across Indian country.

25 Wednesday

8:00 SPY IN THE OCEAN, SERIES 1: A NATURE MINISERIES — Groundbreaking hidden cameras give new perspectives on the creatures that call the ocean home. Part 1
Spy creatures reveal an ocean full of startling ways of thinking, including large-brained whales, smart octopi, diving monkeys, creative fish and other clever animals. Repeats Sun 10/29, 2pm.

9:00 NOVA: ANCIENT EARTH – Part 4 of 5. Inferno. Just 252 million years ago, a devastating mass extinction wiped out about 90% of all species on Earth. Follow scientists as they piece together evidence to discover how life survived and set the stage for a new dominant life form: the dinosaurs. Repeats Sun 10/29, 3pm.

10:00 SECRETS OF THE DEAD: EIFFEL’S RACE TO THE TOP – Learn the story behind Paris’ most famous landmark and the race to build a monument 1,000 feet tall. See how the Eiffel Tower became an icon. Repeats Sun 10/29, 4pm.

26 Thursday

8:00 PRESS ON MASTERPIECE – Part 5 of 6. Two Worlds. A new Post colleague attempts to discredit Ed. Duncan buries himself in his work. Holly is accused of losing her professional integrity when she mishandles a source. Peter and Amina prepare the way for a big announce- ment about the Herald’s future.

9:00 MIDSUMMER MURDERS, SERIES 22 – Neil Dudgeon and Nick Hendrix star. Happy Families, Part 2. Barnaby and Winter probe the death of a manufacturer of exclusive board games, who appears to have been poisoned. Rachael Stirling guest stars.

10:00 LITTLE BIRD – Part 2 of 6. So Put Together. Esther finds her adoption papers and a news clipping that evokes memories of the Long Pine Reserve before she was adopted. She uproots her life to search for her birth family and who she is.

27 Friday

8:00 WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC – Jeffrey Goldberg moderates the roundtable discussion with award-winning journalists who provide reporting and analysis of the major news stories from the nation’s capital. Visit pbs.org/washingtontweek. Repeats Sat 10/28, 4am; Sun 10/29, 3am; Mon 10/30, 7:30am.

8:30 HISTORY WITH DAVID RUBENSTEIN, SEASON 2 – In this WETA presentation, Washington, D.C.-based author/interviewer, financier and philanthropist David Rubenstein talks with some of America’s top scholars and writers, illuminating how history is made. Episode 4. Harvard University professor Philip J. Deloria.

9:00 GREAT PERFORMANCES: NEW YORK CITY BALLET IN MADRID – New York City Ballet presents works recorded during the company’s European tour in spring 2023. Captured in performance at Madrid’s Teatro Real, the program includes two masterpieces choreographed by George Balanchine, “Serenade” and “Square Dance.” Repeats Sun 10/29, 6pm.


28 Saturday

6AM-6PM See the Saturday, October 7 listings.

6:00 PBS NEWS WEEKEND – John Yang anchors.

6:30 WASHINGTON WEEK WITH THE ATLANTIC – R

7:00 IT’S ACADEMIC – The TV quiz show showcases the academic achievements of local D.C.-area high school students. Journalist Hillary Howard hosts. Competing this week are Montgomery Blair, Meridian and Wheaton high schools. Airs 10 a.m. Saturdays, repeating 7 p.m. and Mondays, 3 p.m. Stream on the PBS App.

7:30 VARIETY STUDIO: ACTORS ON ACTORS, SERIES 17 – A series features candid conversations between contemporary star actors. Episode 3. Viola Davis with Jennifer Lawrence, Jamie Lee Curtis with Colin Farrell, and Brendan Fraser with Adam Sandler.

8:00 MUHAMMAD ALI – The Florentine Films and WETA co-production, directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon, continues. Round Two: What’s My Name? (1964–1970). 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. Repeats 12am; Sun 10/29, 12am.

10:00 DRIVING WHILE BLACK: RACE, SPACE AND MOBILITY IN AMERICA – A documentary by Gretchen Sorin and Ric Burns explores how the advent of the automobile brought new freedoms and perils for African Americans traveling in America.


29 Sunday

6AM-12PM See the Sunday, October 1 listings.

12N GREAT PERFORMANCES: NEW YORK CITY BALLET IN MADRID – R

1:30 ONE VOICE: THE SONGS WE SHARE – Broadway. R


Monday, October 30 at 9:30 p.m. on WETA PBS

American Experience: The War on Disco explores the cultural movement that gave rise to disco — and the backlash against it. Above: Felipe Rose of the Village People dances on a bar, 1980.
### OCTOBER P.M. PROGRAMMING ON WETA UK

**VISIT WETA.ORG/SCHEDULE FOR A COMPLETE PROGRAM LINEUP**

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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>• Pride and Prejudice (10/25, 2hrs)</td>
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The WETA UK channel is devoted to the best in British television programming, presenting beloved classics and contemporary series around the clock, seven days a week. WETA UK offers a full schedule of fine entertainment programming — featuring drama, mystery and comedy — in addition to documentary series and news reports.
Also on WETA UK:

Miniseries *Britain by Beach* airs Sundays at noon starting October 8; and 4-part drama *Marriage*, starring Nicola Walker and Sean Bean, airs Saturdays at 8 p.m. (except Oct. 28) starting October 21.
WETA Metro is the streaming and broadcast television channel that features popular PBS programming and engaging content curated for our local audience, including offerings spotlighting the Metro D.C. community. The channel is simulcast with WETA PBS most evenings. Each day on WETA Metro, enjoy local programs, news and public affairs offerings (such as PBS NewsHour, weekdays at 6 p.m./11 p.m.), and lifestyle and cultural shows.

**Stream at weta.org/livestream or via the PBS App**

**WETA Metro**

**Muhammad Ali**

WETA co-production airs Thursdays at 8 p.m. starting Oct. 19 on WETA Metro (Saturdays at 8 p.m. starting Oct. 21 on WETA PBS)

WETA reprises a four-part, eight-hour documentary film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon that explores the life of Muhammad Ali, one of the most consequential figures of the 20th century and, in his lifetime, the most famous man on Earth. The WETA and Florentine Films co-production chronicles the life of the iconic American, a three-time heavyweight boxing champion who captivated billions of fans with his combination of speed, agility and power in the ring, and his charm, wit and outspokenness outside of it. The four programs spotlight this exceptional athlete and irrepressible personality, scrutinizing the man and the cultural context in which his considerable celebrity unfolded. The film conveys Ali’s story with its full range of contradictions, both personal and professional. For details about the film, visit [pbs.org/ali](http://pbs.org/ali).

**Independent Lens:**

**Missing in Brooks County**

Saturday, Oct. 14 at 9:30 p.m. on WETA Metro

Migrants go missing in rural South Texas more than anywhere else in the United States, and for many families whose loved ones have disappeared after crossing the Mexico border, community activist and detective Eddie Canales is their last hope. This Peabody Award-winning film, airing as part of WETA’s Hispanic Heritage Month program slate, follows Canales as he engages with Border Patrol agents to unlock the mysteries and confront the agonizing facts of life and death in a Texas town about 80 miles north of the border. Tune in to additional Hispanic Heritage Month-themed documentaries airing Saturday nights, Oct. 7, 14 and 21 starting at 8 p.m. Visit [weta.org/hispanicheritage](http://weta.org/hispanicheritage) for details on programming.

**One Week in October**

Thursday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. on WETA Metro (Sunday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. on WETA PBS)

A new one-hour documentary chronicles the stories of the nearly two-dozen Virginia veterans who were present at the Marine Corps barracks bombing in Beirut or participated in the U.S. invasion of Grenada (codenamed Operation Urgent Fury) — both of which took place in the fourth week of October 1983. Virginia veterans and family members of veterans killed in action were interviewed for the film. Archival footage and photography (left, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter lands in Grenada, October 28, 1983) help to convey the story of these events. *One Week in October* is produced by Blue Ridge PBS in association with the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

Also on WETA Metro: Joining the weekday schedule as of Oct. 2 are *DW: The Day* (7 p.m.), German public international broadcaster Deutsche Welle’s news program reporting stories from Europe, the U.S. and around the globe; and *Rick Steves’ Europe* (7:30 p.m.) featuring advice from the travel expert. Then, on Mondays as of Oct. 16, local high school quiz show *It’s Academic* returns with a new season of competition at 7 p.m., followed by *Variety Studios: Actors on Actors* at 7:30 p.m.
Hispanic Heritage Programming
Throughout October on WETA World
Continuing the ongoing celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (mid-September – mid-October), WETA World this month presents more than 20 special themed programs — visit weta.org/hispanicheritage for program listings and airtimes. Among the offerings are the acclaimed three-part biographical film Becoming Frida Kahlo (Friday, October 6, 7-10 p.m.), spotlighting the iconic Mexican artist; the documentaries America ReFramed: We Like It Like That (Sunday, October 8 at 5 p.m.), exploring the story of Latin Boogaloo music, and The Last Mambo (Sunday, October 8 at 7 p.m.), illuminating the heritage and influence of the San Francisco Bay Area Salsa and Latin Jazz community; in addition to four-part cultural series Flamenco: The Land Is Still Fertile (Sundays, October 15 & 22, 7-8 p.m.), which celebrates the passionate art form through performance, interviews and history.

America ReFramed: No Time to Fail
Thursday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m. on WETA World
Thursday-night documentary series America ReFramed presents an acclaimed film that follows Rhode Island’s local election administrators and poll workers as they toil around the clock to secure the vote for their community during the 2020 election — amidst an onslaught of attacks from a sitting U.S. president and the deadly threat of a global pandemic. Rather than receiving thanks for performing their duties, they have become the focus of a coordinated ongoing campaign of disinformation. No Time to Fail gives voice to the experience of election administrators — an indispensable workforce once invisible to the general public — and spotlights them as the “ground zero” of American democracy at this critical time in the nation’s relationship with election management.

The Good Road, Series 4
Tuesdays at 9 p.m. starting October 17 on WETA World
WETA World features the latest season of a documentary series about two best friends who travel the world meeting philanthropists and changemakers dedicating their lives to addressing humanitarian issues. In eight new Season 4 episodes, hosts Earl Bridges and Craig Martin explore issues such as LGBTQ rights, racial equity, sustainability, education, and human trafficking — and meet people making a difference in Iraq, the U.S. Virgin Islands, New York City, Charleston and Nashville. Two episodes spotlighting Iraq air October 17. In Mosul, Iraq – Hardwired, the hosts discover what it’s like to bring unity to people of this war-torn country. In Northern Iraq, the duo gets a glimpse of the region’s cultural and religiously pluralistic past.
Front Row Washington: Guitarist Jiji in Recital
Monday, October 16 at 9 p.m.

There is something special about the guitar and how, chameleon-like, it can blend into vastly different musical worlds from jazz to classical and more. Jiji (born Jiyeon Kim) is an award-winning guitarist who in 2021 was described by The Washington Post as “one of the 21 composers/performers who sound like tomorrow.” On October 16, WETA Classical features her on the Monday-night program Front Row Washington in her March 2023 National Gallery of Art performance — in which she presents works (including her own) from more than four centuries. In a performance of music written by women, she opens with her own arrangement of one of the only surviving works by Claudia Sessa (c. 1570-1619) and plays music by Kate Moore, Hilary Purrington, Natalie Dietterich, Sidney Pratten, Tania León, Kaki King and Molly Joyce. She also performs on the electric guitar in addition to the traditional acoustic; another work uses electronic effects; and the encore is not to be missed. Tune in to Front Row Washington each Monday at 9 p.m. on WETA Classical.

Choral Showcase: Byrd 400
Sunday, October 22 at 9 p.m.

On Sunday, October 22, WETA Classical program Choral Showcase marks the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd (c. 1540-1623), one of the most influential and inventive artists of the Renaissance — and one of England’s greatest composers. That he managed to create music of such power and beauty during a time of great social, political, and religious upheaval is no small feat. Among his most sublime works are the masses for three, four, and five voices; Choral Showcase features two, along with anthems and madrigals drawn from new albums of Byrd’s music released during this anniversary year by The Gesualdo Six, The King’s Singers, and Fretwork. In other Choral Showcase programs this month, enjoy music by Mozart and his contemporary Marianna Martines (Oct. 1); music from the New World (for Indigenous Peoples’ Day) (Oct. 8); and American choral music (Oct. 29). Tune in to Choral Showcase each Sunday at 9 p.m.

Opera Matinee: Picture a Day Like This (George Benjamin)
Saturday, October 14 at 1 p.m.

A charming fairytale opera, in two plots, challenges the distinctions of imagination and reality and explores the human condition through the flow of music. The chamber opera Picture a Day Like This, written for intimate setting with five singers and small orchestra, premiered in 2023 and is sung in English. This production of the Aix-en-Provence Festival, airing October 14 on WETA Classical’s Opera Matinee, is led by the opera’s composer, George Benjamin, and features the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Soloists include Marianne Crebassa. To learn about additional October operas, visit wetaclassical.org. Tune in to Opera Matinee each Saturday at 1 p.m. on WETA Classical.

New Classical Breakdown podcasts premiering this month: Respighi’s Pines of Rome (Oct. 3); What Is a Nocturne? (Oct. 17); and The Life of Germaine Tailleferre (Oct. 31), spotlighting the 20th-century French composer. Visit classicalbreakdown.org to learn more about the podcast.
A Window on a Renowned Ensemble

*Behind the Strings* spotlights the Shanghai Quartet

Television documentary airs Friday, October 20 at 10 p.m. on WETA PBS, repeating October 22 at noon

This month, WETA airs a fascinating television documentary that chronicles the musical journey of the Shanghai Quartet. During the week leading up to the broadcast, WETA Classical will feature the ensemble’s recordings, and during October the station’s blog Classical Score — which brings you the latest in classical music news, spotlights performances around town, and presents lifestyle stories — will post an interview with members of the Quartet. Below, WETA Classical host James Jacobs reflects on the documentary film.

By James Jacobs, Evening On-Air Host

The Shanghai Quartet celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year. It’s been quite the adventure, a tale of two brothers maintaining an ensemble through ever-shifting geopolitical and cultural landscapes, institutional affiliations, personnel changes, and the universal challenge of work-life balance (in this case, maintaining families while spending significant amounts of time away from home). What has made all this possible is their extraordinary commitment to the highest level of musicianship and the recognition of their efforts by the international musical community. To quote a 2015 *Washington Post* article, “If there’s a documentary film crew following your every move, you must be doing something interesting.” The result of that scrutiny is the documentary *Behind the Strings*, which played the film festival circuit in 2020 to great acclaim and is coming to WETA PBS this month.

The two brothers are Weigang Li and Honggang Li. (This is not the first time Weigang has been seen in a documentary on PBS: when he was 15 he appeared in the Academy Award-winning film *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China.*) The film describes the challenges they faced growing up during China’s Cultural Revolution. Their parents were also musicians and made it clear that their sons were going to be professional violinists. They attended the Shanghai Conservatory of Music where they formed the Shanghai Quartet with two classmates in 1983. The following year they won second prize at a prestigious competition in England, and in 1985 they moved to the United States where they have been based ever since. In recent years they have re-established a relationship with their home country and since 2020 have been resident faculty members at the branch of The Juilliard School in Tianjin.

A string quartet consists of two violins, viola and cello, and is led by the first violinist. (There is a lively debate in the film as to whether a quartet is a democracy, and the consensus seems to be: not really, but everyone’s view needs to be heard and respected.) At first Honggang was the first violinist while Weigang played second. After the first couple of years they switched positions, and when they lost their original violist in 1994 and found a violinist they wanted to work with, Honggang switched to viola. The brothers Li have been the constant elements in the ensemble. In 2000, the only American member of the quartet, cellist Nicholas Tzavaras, joined the group, beginning a period of stability that ended in 2020 when Angelo Xiang Yu became their newest second violinist.

The film includes footage from their tours to Mexico and France as well as scenes from their residencies in the United States and China and some remarkably candid and personal glimpses of their home lives that bring a touching sense of groundedness to the tale of four jet-setting musicians. The quartet will be coming to our neighborhood in April 2024 with a concert at the Phillips Collection, but in the meantime you can learn their extraordinary story on *Behind the Strings.*
WETA Passport
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