Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2020 Program Guide

Monday–Tuesday, May 11 & 12 at 8 p.m.

26.1, 26.4 via antenna • Cox 26, 802, 1026, 1003 • Comcast 26, 800 (DC area) 
Comcast 219 (Baltimore area) • DirecTV 26, 26-1 • Fios 26, 526 • RCN 26, 613 • Dish 8076
This month, WETA PBS proudly celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a special TV programming lineup. Many of the programs can be streamed online on the free PBS Video App.

**Friday, May 1 • 3 p.m.**


**Friday, May 1 • 10 p.m.**

**POV: THE BIRTH OF SAKÉ** – The program goes behind-the-scenes at Japan’s Yoshida Brewery, where a brotherhood of artisans spends six months in nearly monastic isolation following an age-old process to create saké.

**Saturday, May 2 • 10 p.m.**

**ONE CHILD NATION** – Inspired by the birth of her first child, filmmaker Nanfu Wang returns to China to explore the ripple effects of China’s one-child policy social experiment.

**Saturday, May 2 • 11:30 p.m.**

**INDEPENDENT LENS: OUT OF STATE** – Shipped thousands of miles away from Hawai’i to a private prison in the Arizona desert, two native Hawaiians discover their indigenous traditions from a fellow inmate.

**Sunday, May 3 • 2 p.m.**

**PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: MELE MURALS** – This documentary highlights the transformative power of art through the unlikely union of graffiti and ancient Hawaiian culture, bringing artists, students, and the community together.
Sunday, May 3 • 3 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: VISIONS IN THE DARK: THE LIFE OF PINKY THOMPSON
– After surviving a serious eye wound in World War II, Myron “Pinky” Thompson becomes a social worker and leader in the native Hawaiian community.

Sunday, May 3 • 4 p.m.
MUHAMMAD: LEGACY OF A PROPHET – This documentary examines the life of the Islamic prophet Muhammad based on historical records and on stories of American Muslims who call him the messenger of God.

Monday, May 4 • 3 p.m.
THE STORY OF INDIA – Michael Wood explores the history and culture of today's India. **Episode 1. Beginnings.** Travel throughout the subcontinent where archaeological discoveries are changing the views of what makes up Indian Identity. **Episode 2. The Power of Ideas.** A look at the last centuries BCE, which encompassed the age of the Buddha, the coming of the Greeks, and the rule of the emperor Ashoka, one of the greatest figures in world history.

Tuesday, May 5 • 3 p.m.
THE STORY OF INDIA – **Episode 3. Spice Routes & Silk Roads.** An exploration of the early centuries CE, the time of the Roman Empire in the west. **Episode 4. Ages of Gold.** A look at some of the amazing achievements of medieval India.

Wednesday, May 6 • 3 p.m.
THE STORY OF INDIA – **Episode 5. The Meeting of Two Oceans.** The fifth episode in the series takes viewers to the time of the Renaissance in Europe, when India was the richest, most populous civilization in the world. **Episode 6. Freedom.** A look at how a foreign multinational thousands of miles away gradually and almost by chance took power of the Indian subcontinent and how the Freedom Movement delivered independence to India in 1947.
Thursday, May 7 • 3 p.m.

THE STORY OF CHINA – Travel from the Silk Road to the Yellow Sea with host Michael Wood as he explores the history of the world’s newest superpower. *Episode 1. Ancestors.* Wood joins a family reunion on “Tomb Sweeping Day;” tells the story of the bloodthirsty First Emperor; and travels with a million pilgrims to a country festival. *Episode 2. Silk Roads and China Ships.* Explore China’s first international age under the Tang Dynasty as Wood travels Silk Road deserts; sails the Grand Canal; describes the coming of Christianity in the streets of old Xi’an; and goes back to school in a dusty Chinese town.

Friday, May 8 • 3 p.m.

THE STORY OF CHINA – *Episode 3. Golden Age.* In Kaifeng, Wood hears the story of the boys who became emperors; tries a 1,000-year-old recipe; and dances with the locals by Hangzhou’s West Lake. *Episode 4. The Ming.* Viewers will visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City; sail the South China Sea on a junk; visit a fabulous Chinese garden; and travel to Macao with the first Jesuit missionary to China.

Sunday, May 10 • 12 p.m.

PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: EVER THE LAND – For over 150 years, extreme colonization tactics defined the relationship between the New Zealand government and the Ngai (tribe) Tuhoe. History was made in 2014 when the Tuhoe’s ancestral homelands were returned and the New Zealand government gave an official apology.

Sunday, May 10 • 1 p.m.

PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: NEXT GOAL WINS – In 2001, the American Samoa football team lost to Australia 31-0, a world record defeat. Enter a new coach who makes the players a winning team on the field and in life.
Sunday, May 10 • 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10 • 3:30 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: MAKING GOOD MEN – A film chronicles the story of two men who reveal their account of bullying with unprecedented honesty and reconcile many years after one violently attacked the other at a boarding school.

Sunday, May 10 • 4:30 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: BEING BRUNO BANANI – A film spotlights the first and only Tongan luge athlete, who managed to qualify in a remarkably short amount of time for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

Sunday, May 10 • 7:30 p.m.
MR. TANIMOTO’S JOURNEY – Meet Jim Tanimoto, the last living survivor of Block 42, a group of men who bravely protested the loss of their constitutional rights while being wrongfully imprisoned in an internment camp in 1941.

Monday, May 11 • 3 p.m.
THE STORY OF CHINA – Episode 5. The Last Empire. Discover the splendors of China’s last empire, the Qing. From China’s favorite novel to story-telling houses and all-female mosques, it’s an age full of surprises. Episode 6. The Age of Revolution. Survey the three great revolutions that gave birth to today’s China. Wood visits wild mountain villages; describes the fall of the empire; and stays in the last communist commune – before a celebration on Chinese New Year.
Monday, May 11 • 8 p.m.
ASIAN AMERICANS – In this WETA co-production with the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), explore the impact of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in the United States. Episode 1. Breaking Ground. See how new immigrants from China, India, Japan, the Philippines, and beyond, despite anti-Asian laws, still managed to build railroads, dazzle on the silver screen, and take their fight for equality to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Monday, May 11 • 9 p.m.
ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 2. A Question of Loyalty. Meet an American-born generation that straddles the U.S. and their parents’ homelands in Asia. Loyalties are tested during World War II, when families are imprisoned in detention camps and brothers find themselves on opposite sides of battle lines.

Monday, May 11 • 10 p.m.
TYRUS WONG: AMERICAN MASTERS – A look into the life of renowned Chinese American painter Tyrus Wong and his impact on American art and popular culture. The Disney legend was the inspirational painter behind Bambi, April in Paris, and Sands of Iwo Jima, to name a few.

Tuesday, May 12 • 3 p.m.
THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE – The history series examines the origin, history, and impact of the 1882 law that made it illegal for Chinese workers to come to America and for Chinese nationals already here to become U.S. citizens. The Act remained in force for more than 60 years.

Tuesday, May 12 • 8 p.m.
ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 3. Good Americans. Learn how Asian Americans are simultaneously heralded as a model minority and targeted as the perpetual foreigner during the Cold War. It is also a time of bold ambition, as Asian Americans aspire to national political office.
Tuesday, May 12 • 9 p.m.

ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 4. Generation Rising. Follow a young generation’s fight for equality in the fields, on campuses, and in the culture, claiming a new identity: Asian Americans. New immigrants and war refugees expand the population and definition of Asian America.

Tuesday, May 12 • 10 p.m.

ASIAN AMERICANS – Episode 5. Breaking Through. Revisit the turn of the millennium, when Asian Americans are empowered by growing numbers and rising influence but face a reckoning of what it means to be an American in an increasingly polarized society.

Friday, May 15 • 4 p.m.

THE QUIETEST PLACE ON EARTH – The Hawaiian Islands are the most remote major island group on earth. On Maui, the Haleakala volcano rises 10,000 feet – nearly two miles – into the sky. The massive crater located at its summit carries the unique distinction of “The Quietest Place on Earth.” This poetic documentary explores Maui’s geological and spiritual birthplace through the eyes of Hawaiian artists, scientists, doctors, authors and musicians.

Sunday, May 17 • 12 p.m.

PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: PRISON SONGS – The people imprisoned in a Darwin jail are shown in a unique and completely new light in Australia’s first ever documentary musical where over 800 inmates share their feelings, faults, and experiences through song.
Sunday, May 17 • 1 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: LEITIS IN WAITING – The documentary tells the story of Tonga’s evolving approach to gender fluidity through a character-driven portrait of the most prominent leiti (transgender) in the Kingdom, a devout Catholic of royal descent. Her story reveals what it means to be different in a deeply religious and conservative society and what it takes to be accepted without giving up who you are.

Sunday, May 17 • 2 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: TE KUHANE O TE TUPUNA (The Spirit of the Ancestors) – Journey from Easter Island to London in search of the lost Moai Hoa Haha Nanala, a statue of significant cultural importance. It explores the social and political landscape of the island of Rapanui as the people attempt to claim back their land and a lava-rock image of tremendous presence.

Sunday, May 17 • 3 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: CORRIDOR FOUR – This documentary follows the life of nationally recognized K9 Unit Officer Isaac Ho‘opi, who saved numerous people from the Pentagon during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Sunday, May 17 • 4 p.m.
NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY: AN AMERICAN STORY – Meet the statesman who served as cabinet secretary for Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush. Imprisoned by the U.S. during World War II for his Japanese ancestry, Mineta rose to become the first Asian American to serve in a presidential cabinet.

Sunday, May 17 • 5 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: ANOTE’S ARK – The Pacific Island nation of Kiribati is one of the most remote places on the planet, seemingly far-removed from the pressures of modern life. Yet it is one of the first countries that must confront the main existential dilemma of our time: imminent annihilation from sea-level rise.
Sunday, May 17 • 7 p.m.
ANTIQUES ROADSHOW: CELEBRATING ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE – The Roadshow spotlights the incredible items with Asian and Pacific Islands origin.

Tuesday, May 19 • 9 p.m.
MR. TORNADO: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE – Meet pioneering meteorologist Ted Fujita, who transformed our understanding of tornados. His technological advancements saved lives and helped Americans prepare for and respond to dangerous weather phenomena.

Sunday, May 24 • 12 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: POWER MERI – Follow Papua New Guinea’s first national women’s rugby league team as the trailblazers journey to the 2017 World Cup in Australia. These athletes must beat not only the sporting competition, but also intense sexism, a lack of funding, and national prejudice to reach their biggest stage yet.

Sunday, May 24 • 1 p.m.
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: BORN THIS WAY: AWA’S STORY/ THE ROGERS – Born This Way: Awa’s Story – This documentary follows the journey of a Maori teen from male to female and examines the support of her family and the hurdles she must overcome. The Rogers -- An intimate glimpse into the lives of and obstacles faced by the first visible group of transgender men in the Pacific Island.

Monday, May 25 • 10 p.m.
INDEPENDENT LENS: EATING UP EASTER – See how climate change and a booming tourism trade threaten the fragile economy of Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, and meet the local artists, ecologists, and developers balancing their strong cultural heritage with modern-day challenges.
Photo Credits:

Cover page:
ASIAN AMERICANS, Courtesy WETA.

Panel 1:
KOREA: THE NEVER-ENDING WAR, Courtesy National Archives; ONE CHILD NATION, Courtesy Nanfu Wang; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: MELE MURALS, Courtesy American Public Television.

Panel 2:

Panel 3:

Panel 4:

Panel 5:
TYRUS WONG: AMERICAN MASTERS, Courtesy Jane Boyers; THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, Courtesy Royal BC Museum.

Panel 6:
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: PRISON SONGS, Courtesy American Public Television; QUIETEST PLACE ON EARTH, Courtesy Vendetti Productions.

Panel 7:
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: TE KUHANE O TE TUPUNA, Courtesy American Public Television; NORMAN MINETA AND HIS LEGACY: AN AMERICAN STORY, Courtesy Mineta Family; PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: ANOTE’S ARK, Courtesy American Public Television.

Panel 8:
PACIFIC HEARTBEAT: POWER MERI, Courtesy American Public Television; MR. TORNADO: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, Courtesy Anthony Boccaccio/NG Image Collection.