COMING IN JUNE

America ReFramed episodes spotlight Youngstown

Through the lens of independent documentaries, AMERICA REFRAMED brings to audiences compelling stories that illuminate the changing contours of an ever-evolving America. Two of the series’ episodes related to Youngstown will premiere on PBS Western Reserve in June:

AMERICA REFRAMED, “Bring It Home”
Monday, June 14, at 10 PM
Repeats Tuesday, June 15, at 3 AM

In November 2018, General Motors announced plant closures in Ohio, Michigan, Maryland and Oshawa, Ontario. This decision left thousands of families with unanswered questions. Would these plants be closed permanently? Should they request out-of-state transfers? What would happen to their pensions and benefits?

BRING IT HOME tells the stories of five families from the Lordstown, Ohio, auto plant at a crossroads following GM’s decision. They must decide whether the benefits of being a GM employee outweigh what they risk losing by transferring to a new plant. As these families wrestle with tough choices, they are also left wondering why a company recording billions of dollars in profit is shuttering factories.

AMERICA REFRAMED, “The Place That Makes Us”
Monday, June 21, at 10 PM
Repeats Tuesday, June 22, at 3 AM

When the steel mills shut down in Youngstown, Ohio, it shattered a way of life. Over half the population left, leaving behind thousands of empty blighted homes and eroding the social fabric of this once mighty industrial base. Persistent joblessness, crime and poverty faced the families who stayed.

Filmed over the course of three years, this documentary film follows the lives of a new generation of young leaders and activists who have chosen not to abandon their hometown, but to stay, rebuild and make a life for themselves. Together they rise up to restore homes, generate business and ignite their community.
Agatha Christie fundraising specials premiere in June

Three new Agatha Christie films will premiere in June as part of the PBS Western Reserve spring fundraising drive. The British alternative history dramas are written by Tom Dalton and feature Lyndsey Marshal as Christie.

**Agatha and the Truth of Murder**
*Sunday, June 6, at 8 PM*

Crime writer Agatha Christie became embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. The film depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale’s goddaughter and how her involvement in the case influenced her subsequent writing.

**Agatha and the Curse of Ishtar**
*Sunday, June 6, at 10 PM*

In the late 1920s, Agatha Christie, bruised from her divorce, travels to the deserts of Iraq for an archaeological dig. Looking for escape and inspiration for a new career, Christie begins writing romantic fiction instead of the detective novels that had made her a celebrity. But soon she becomes involved in unraveling a series of mysterious murders.

**Agatha and the Midnight Murders**
*Sunday, June 13, at 10 PM*

As bombs fall on London in 1940 during the Blitz, Agatha Christie considers selling a manuscript that will kill off her most famous creation — Hercule Poirot. Christie reckons she should be a rich woman after writing 12 novels about the Belgian detective in six years. Instead, the author struggles with money and is under investigation by tax authorities in America and the United Kingdom. But she has a plan: sell the novel of Poirot’s death to a superfan private buyer who will pay an enormous sum to keep the fictional detective alive.

Local productions nominated for regional Emmy Awards

Two productions with ties to PBS Western Reserve have received Emmy Award nominations from National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Lower Great Lakes Chapter.

**AN ANSWER FROM AKRON**, for which we were the presenting station, is nominated in the Documentary Historical category. The work of Rubicon Productions, it tells how local members of Alpha Phi Alpha combatted racial barriers and ultimately succeeded in building affordable housing for those in need. While similar projects in other cities have failed and been demolished, those in Akron continue to thrive and serve their original purpose. The documentary premiered on PBS Western Reserve in February 2020.

Kelly Woodward received a nomination for Writer—Long Form Content for her work on the PBS Western Reserve production **EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO: MY TOWN**. It tells how a struggling community is finding hope for the future in the talents of its sons and daughters. The production premiered in May 2020.

Award winners will be announced on Saturday, June 12, 2021.
Virtual children’s nature events to be held

PBS Western Reserve will participate in WNET’s Cyberchase Green It Up program, with virtual training sessions for children ages 6-8 to be held from April through July. Offering environmentally oriented activities, the sessions serve to inspire a deep appreciation for nature, build STEM skills and help students feel empowered to take action in their communities to care for the planet, just like their favorite characters from the PBS children’s series CYBERCHASE. More than 500 children are expected to participate.

Community members learn about digital storytelling

In March, PBS Western Reserve began a new Digital Storytelling Webinar Series that is designed for individuals or organizations interested in creating websites, producing video or audio podcasts and learning storytelling techniques.

The series included overview sessions in March, attended virtually by 32 individuals. Writing for the Web, held April 14 and attended virtually by 31, addressed the proper way to highlight one’s online voice. Additional sessions on topics including video blogging, graphics and photo basics are yet to come.

Be a Good Neighbor Day is June 12

In collaboration with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, PBS Western Reserve is bringing Daniel Tiger to Be a Good Neighbor Day on Saturday, June 12, at the Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake. Families will receive school supplies, a Daniel Tiger book and a custom “Thank You to Our First Responders” coloring book created by an artist in Lisbon, Ohio.

Children can enjoy socially distanced photo opportunities with Daniel Tiger, plus storytelling and music from local musicians. Local agencies will also participate in the event.

Child-care providers receive Ohio Ready To Learn training

We continue to offer training virtually for child-care providers via Ohio Ready To Learn and United Way of the Mahoning Valley. Twelve sessions were held in February and March.

Educators can gain professional development virtually

Professional development opportunities for educators will continue to be held virtually. Courses, which will be held from late May through August, will be self-paced online courses as well as live virtual classes on subjects including engaging students in person and virtually, Google certification, augmented and virtual reality applications in the classroom and more. There are nine course offerings available, with more in development.

Staff News

Kimberly Holm to lead marketing efforts

In May, Kimberly Holm joined our staff in the newly created position of senior content marketing manager. She will develop and manage PBS Western Reserve’s strategic multiplatform marketing efforts.

Holm has an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University and a bachelor’s degree in mass communication / public relations from Anderson University. She has more than 26 years of overall work experience and most recently was the executive director of marketing and communications at Hiram College.

Anthony Dennis learns about ATSC

Anthony Dennis, chief technology officer, is participating in a yearlong webinar series on the topic of NextGen TV (ATSC 3.0). This technology is designed to improve the television viewing experience with higher audio and video quality, robust transmission for reception on both fixed and mobile devices and more.
**Staff News**

**Jeff Good to receive instructor training**
Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, has been accepted into the RemotEDX Certified Trainer Program, offered by the Ohio Department of Education. This training offers the knowledge needed to effectively develop, train and support educators in Ohio districts and schools using the RemotEDx Exchange. It will conclude in June.

**Good attends conference**
Jeff Good participated in the Ohio Educational Technology Conference, held virtually in February. He also staffed the PBS Western Reserve virtual booth.

**Stephanie Virgallito joins staff**
In April, former intern Stephanie Virgallito officially joined the PBS Western Reserve staff as social media audience/community builder. Stephanie has a degree in marketing management from Youngstown State University and is working on her master’s degree in professional communication there.

**Employees complete social media marketing**
Fred Barrett, who is emerging media manager, and Stephanie Virgallito participated in training held March 1-11 on social media marketing. It was hosted by Social Media Examiner.

**James Waters to serve as consultant**
PBS Western Reserve has hired James Waters, owner of Waters Media LLC, as a consultant to assist with local broadcast production and digital content strategies. Waters has created several productions that have premiered on PBS Western Reserve and has worked closely with the organization on several local programming initiatives.

**Judi Peterhansen attends webinars**
Judi Peterhansen, accounting assistant, recently received training on compensation and onboarding from the Ohio Association of Broadcasters. She participated in five sessions on human resources topics, including an informative presentation on employment law. She also participated in a town hall session about the changing job market.

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