

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

GPAC Goes To Washington

With threats to eliminate the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) and similar federal institutions and programs, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) is joining other organizations to prevent this from happening.

GPAC staff and supporters were among those attending the Arts Advocacy day program in Washington DC this past month. Organized by **Americans for the Arts** (AFA), the annual conference brings grassroots arts activists from all fifty states. Representing Pittsburgh included James McNeal of **City Theatre**, Joan McGarry of the **Westmoreland Museum of American Art** and United States Congressman Lou Barletta

“During this important time of budget season, it’s important that our elected officials understand the impacts of NEA funding and a federal commitment to arts and culture on our region,” GPAC’s Mitch Swain explains in a press release. “The NEA contributes approximately 3.2 million annually to this region, and for every one of those federal dollars, we see a \$9 return on investment.”

Anyone interested in welcome to download AFA’s full policy briefing by clicking <http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/HandbookCovers%26IssueBriefs.pdf>

On March 28, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council sent an email to members and supporters encouraging them to attend their annual convention at the David Lawrence Convention Center on May 2 where they can learn more about the uncertain funding landscape.

There will be talks, breakout sessions and an keynote address provided by Jennifer Cole, of the **Metro Nashville Arts Commission** and a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Register at <https://t.e2ma.net/click/6m1tl/q6x7rj/2zo1fe>



Inside This Issue

Travel ban
nearly stops
composer Page
2

The Pittsburgh
Symphony gets
major grants Page
2

Abby Lee Miller
quits “Dance
Mons” TV show Page
2

The Warhol gets
a new leader Page
4

A local actor &
TV star speaks
about his health Page
7

Pittsburgh A&E Group

643 Liberty Avenue #401
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Ph (412) 325-7070
Fx (412) 325-7069



Opera Composer Nearly Kept From Pittsburgh

President Donald J. Trump's controversial travel ban almost prevented a noted composer from coming to Pittsburgh for her own world debut, reports Courtney Linder of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Soosan Lolavar holds dual citizenship with the United Kingdom (where she was raised) and Iran. She had studied music at **Carnegie Mellon University**. Her new opera, "ID Please" is being staged this month for the first time by the **Pittsburgh Opera** at the company's Strip District headquarters.

Complications ensued after the first travel ban was announced at the American Embassy in London advised citizens from Iran and six other countries shouldn't apply for a visa.

"I was just really upset. I had lived in the U.S. for a year and I had made friends and felt a sense of community in Pittsburgh," Lolavar told Linder. "To think that I was banned from returning made me worry about what's next, which could be something a lot more sinister."

Read Linder's full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/music/2017/03/31/soosan-lolavar-composer-Pittsburgh-opera-theater/stories/201703290198?pgpageversion=pgevoke>

PSO's Financial Life Savers

A trio of prominent foundations has stepped-up to help the financially challenged **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**.

Totally \$3 million, the funds will be used for summer programs, general operations and to seed challenge grants. The support comes from the **Heinz Endowments**, the **Bentor Foundation** and the **Eden Hall Foundation**.



In a press release, the PSO's Melia Tourangeau praises the history of support provided by the region's foundation community adding that these grants are

"pivotal four our growth and long-term success."

The Heinz Foundation has also made the PSO a \$5 million grant to be used for restructuring the orchestra's business plan with the goal of financial stability.

"The Pittsburgh Symphony is a tremendous asset in this region," William Bentor of the Bentor Foundation says in the same release. "We hope that these recent investments from these funders will spark many more gifts from across the community." Eden Hall's Sylvia Fields adds that "we hope to inspire others in the city to support the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra."

No More "Dance" For Abby Lee

Abby Lee Miller, the star of the reality show "Dance Moms," has announced that she's quitting the show.

"Dance Moms" debuted in 2011 and centers on Miller's Pittsburgh-area (and later Los Angeles) dance school where talented children are brought by their often bickering mothers. She has faced criticism for her treatment of the kids and various legal problems including bankruptcy and a fraud conviction.

Miller posted the following message on Instagram: *"The majority of children that follow me may be fast asleep, however now is the critical time to make the following statement: I WILL NO LONGER TAKE PART IN DANCE MOMS. FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS/ SEVEN SEASONS I HAVE ASKED, BEGGED, AND EVEN DEMANDED CREATIVE CREDIT FOR ALL THE IDEAS, AWARD WINNING ROUTINES, THEMES, AND COSTUMING - TO NO AVAIL! "*

The New York Daily News reports that dancer and model Cheryl Burke will be taking over as host. She is well known for appearing on another popular reality series, "Dancing with the Stars."

Miller's sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 8.

C'mon Over, Neighbor!



The Pittsburgh Banjo Club is proud to be part of the North Side

Join us at our weekly rehearsal.
The admission is free and the atmosphere is lively as the audience sings along.

400 Cedar Avenue
(Next to Giant Eagle)
Call 412-321-1834
for Group Reservations

Every Wednesday
8 PM
ThePittsburghBanjoClub.com

New Warhol ED

Patrick Moore has been named to succeed Eric Shiner as the director of the Andy Warhol Museum.

CARNEGIE MUSEUMS
OF PITTSBURGH

The Warhol is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**. Shiner left the museum last year to take a position with famed auction house Sotheby's.

Patrick Moore has been working with the **Alliance for the Arts in New York**. In a press release, the Carnegie's Jo Ellen Parker praised Moore's "unmatched passion for the museum and Andy Warhol's legacy, as well as his knowledge of the Carnegie Museums family and the Pittsburgh community."

HRC Alum Joins AEA

Brandon Lorenz has been named as the new national communications director for **Actors' Equity Association**.

Brandon Lorenz has almost 15 years of media experience and was most recently the communications campaign director for the **Human Rights Council**. In his new position, Lorenz will develop and manage the union's communications plans.

"We are thrilled to have someone with Brandon's track record of success join the team," said Ex-



ecutive Director Mary McColl in a union press release. "Brandon joins us at a critical time for the Association as we work to create and implement new communications strategies that have been set by our national council. His national and regional media relationships and his experience working on campaigns up and down the ballot will enhance our ability to organize and ensure that our outreach to members and producers will be successful."

In other news, the union has named Pete DeMay as the new assistant director of AEA's central region. He'll be working out of the Chicago office.

Hearst National & Local Hires

With digital media growing in popularity, **Hearst Communications'** television station division has created a new post.

HEARST corporation

Hearst's television stations include Pittsburgh's WTAE. Andrew Fitzgerald has been named the division's new chief digital content officer. A press release explains that "he will work with the digital teams at the Hearst Television stations to produce and distribute content on multiple digital platforms."

Fitzgerald comes to Hearst from **Twitter**, where he led the teams responsible for the social media company's "Moments" feature, among other duties. He assumes the new job April 10.

In other news, WTAE-TV has hired Kelly Sasso as their new anchor of their weekday Noon newscast. *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Maria Sciuillo reports that the Greensburg native has most recently worked for a station in Arkansas where she won a Regional Emmy Award.

Pittsburgh's annual LGBT film festival is looking for creative photographers to submit possible images for their 2017 festival program book cover.

Reel Q is staged every October by the **Pittsburgh Lesbian & Gay Film Society**. The festival began in 1985 and is among the world's longest-running LGBT film festivals. *Pittsburgh Applause's* James A. Richards sits on the board.

Submissions are being accepted through April 14. A short explanatory video has been published online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZZhdGQC9wU&feature=youtu.be>

CBS & Verizon Pact

A multi-year carriage deal has been inked between **CBS Corporation** and **Verizon**.



Pittsburgh, CBS Corp. owns television and radio stations, most notably KDKA. The deal was reported on the *Variety* web site by Todd Spangler and is said to include Verizon's Fios TV as well as "future digital platforms."

Spangler writes: "CBS-owned stations in Verizon Fios markets -- New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and Pittsburgh --- and CBS-owned CW affiliates in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will continue to be distributed to Fios TV subscribers. Fios TV serves more than 3 million subs in markets where CBS owns stations and nearly 1 million in markets where CBS owns the CW affiliates. Fios TV also will continue to provide CBS video-on-demand content at no extra charge to the telco's subscribers."

Financial terms weren't disclosed.

Cosby Trial Seeks Local Jurors

Lawyers for comedian and actor Bill Cosby want to mail a questionnaire to as many as 2,000 potential jurors, reports the Associated Press' Maryclaire Dale.

Cosby has been charged with three counts of aggravated indecent sexual assault last summer in Montgomery County. It was the latest in claims of drug-induced assaults allegedly committed by the actor since the 1960s. Although the trial will be held in Philadelphia, jurors are being selected in the Pittsburgh area because of the heavy pre-trial publicity that has dominated news media in Eastern Pennsylvania.

The district attorney objects to the request, insisting that Cosby deserves no special treatment. The trial is scheduled to begin June 5.

Steeler's Debut Album

Using the stage name Juice, the running back for the **Pittsburgh Steelers** has released his first album.

Le'Veon Bell, 25 years-old, was drafted by the Steelers in 2013 after playing college ball for Michigan State. His is called "Post Interview" and features 16 original rap tunes.

Read Lamarre's full article by clicking <http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/7736719/pittsburgh-steelers-leveon-bell-post-interview>

Billboard's Carl Lamarre writes that a particular song takes aim at Fox Sports host John "Skip" Bayless who (while hosting for ESPN) harshly criticized Bell. Part of the lyric states: "Shrimp Bayless, I've been hearing you lately/ You love Jerry way too much, you acting like y'all related/ I got the Hall of Fame waiting, I'm the best that you've hated/ I don't know why you hating, I don't know why you hating."



Channel
Pittsburgh

See your vision.



Take your project from
IMAGINATION to **Reality**

From writing to wrap. With over 30 years of experience, The Videohouse has a full menu of production services. Whether it's à la carte or the full course production, The Videohouse works with customers to bring their vision to screens small and large.

4K and beyond. No matter how many K's there are tomorrow, we're always exploring the latest technology and newest media. But we know it's more than just fancy tech that makes a great product – that's why you'll find creative, hard-working people dedicated to exceeding your expectations.

End-to-End Post & More

Editing
Animation
Design
Motion Graphics
Website/Interactive
Mobile
Social Media

Sound Mixing
Color Grading
Conforming
Compression
Archiving
Streaming
Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies
Broadcast
Corporate
Small Business
Non-Profit
Entrepreneurs
Music

Motion Pictures
Government
Higher Ed
Manufacturing
Medical
Entertainment
Museums

the **Videohouse** 

See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

Pittsburgh Actor & “Shades Of Blue” Star Talks About Health Crisis

Actor and Pittsburgh native Gino Anthony Pesi opens up about his battle with acromegaly.

The 36-year-old portrays Assistant District Attorney James Nava on the television series “Shades of Blue.” Acromegaly is a rare disorder that usually occurs when the pituitary gland produces excess growth hormone after the growth plates have closed. Only about 6

in every 100,000 people have acromegaly. Wikipedia has a detail description at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acromegaly>

Pesi shared his story with *Variety*'s Will Thorne. “Over the course of five years, there was a list of about 10 symptoms I had, and my health was declining in many ways,” the article quotes

him. “I went home to Pittsburgh for about a week and I was dedicated to figuring out what was wrong with me.” Eventually a hormone test identified the acromegaly.

Read the full article at <http://variety.com/2017/tv/features/shades-of-blue-gino-anthony-peso-jennifer-lopez-1202003733/>

Rural Glass Museum To Close

After less than four years in operation, the struggling **Mt. Pleasant Glass Museum** is closing, reports Shirley McMarlin in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Mt. Pleasant is a small town of 4,500 people in rural Westmoreland County. Glass production was a major industry for the town in the late 19th century. The museum, which was established in 2013, is housed in one of the former factories.

“What happened is that we've been struggling financially for some time,” board president Sandy Spence told McMarlin. The museum's founder, Cassandra Vivian, was more direct: “we needed more support from the community.”

Read McMarlin's full article at <http://triblive.com/aande/museums/12114526-74/mt-pleasant-glass-museum-closes>

Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment history and community.



Quantum Theatre is staging a local production of the award winning play “Collaborators” at a location near Bakery Square.

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com





VINCENT
LIGHTING SYSTEMS

When your show matters, choose the company that professionals trust. Choose Vincent Lighting Systems.



Shows • Parties • Meetings • Weddings • Theater • Film & Video Shoots

Production Services • Rentals • Sales • Service

"Vincent Lighting outdid themselves by creating this jaw-dropping lighting design ... the lighting just completely transforms the space."

"I am truly thankful for Vincent Lighting Systems and their wonderful customer service team!"

"I have received tons of compliments on how cool the stage looked. Your crew was extremely easy to work with, and they were very professional and got the job done!"



412.788.5250



vls.com



vincentlighting

Beware of hot dudes bearing gifts.



www.farawayhill.net

SUN
2



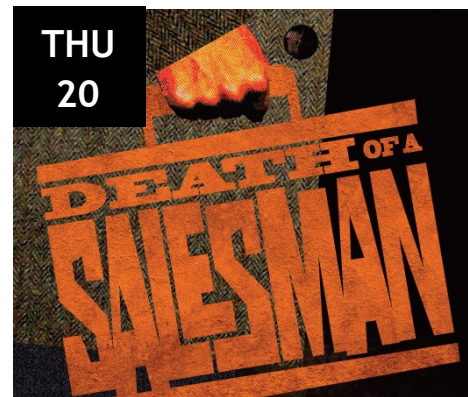
SAT
15



TUE
4



THU
20



FRI
7



SAT
22



FRI
7



FRI
7



SUN
30



www.pittsburghaebook.com

Opportunities

The Heinz Endowments is seeking a program officer who will specialize in arts and culture projects. The successful candidate will supervise over \$2 million in annual grants. The full job description and application information: http://www.heinz.org/pdfs/THE_CreativityProgramOfficer.pdf

The local chapter of the American Institute of Architects is seeking a new executive director. The chosen person will be charged with daily management of the chapter, engage other organizations and interface with the local board. Details are available at <http://aiapgh.org/job/executive-director-aia-pgh/>

Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts is searching for a manager of their film programs at its three theaters. Click <https://www.pghfilm.org/listing/cinema-program-manager/>

12 Peers Theater has scheduled an open audition for its 2017 season. They are open to both union and non-union performers. Auditions will be held on May 7 and slots should be pre-scheduled. See <http://setreel.com/casting/12-peers-theaters-2017-season-audition>

Howl at the Moon wants pianists to perform at its Pittsburgh club. Click <http://www.howlatthemoon.com/piano-player-application/> to apply.

Actors' Equity Association has created a new position, that of Diversity Director. The successful candidate will work "to integrate diversity initiatives into the union's campaigns and programs and develop new programs and initiatives for members, the diversity director will further Equity's goals toward inclusion and diversity both within the organization and within the theater community." Visit <http://www.actorsequity.org/AboutEquity/Employment.asp>

The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater has three jobs currently posted on its web site, including a production director. Specifics at <https://kelly-strayhorn.org/about/employment/>

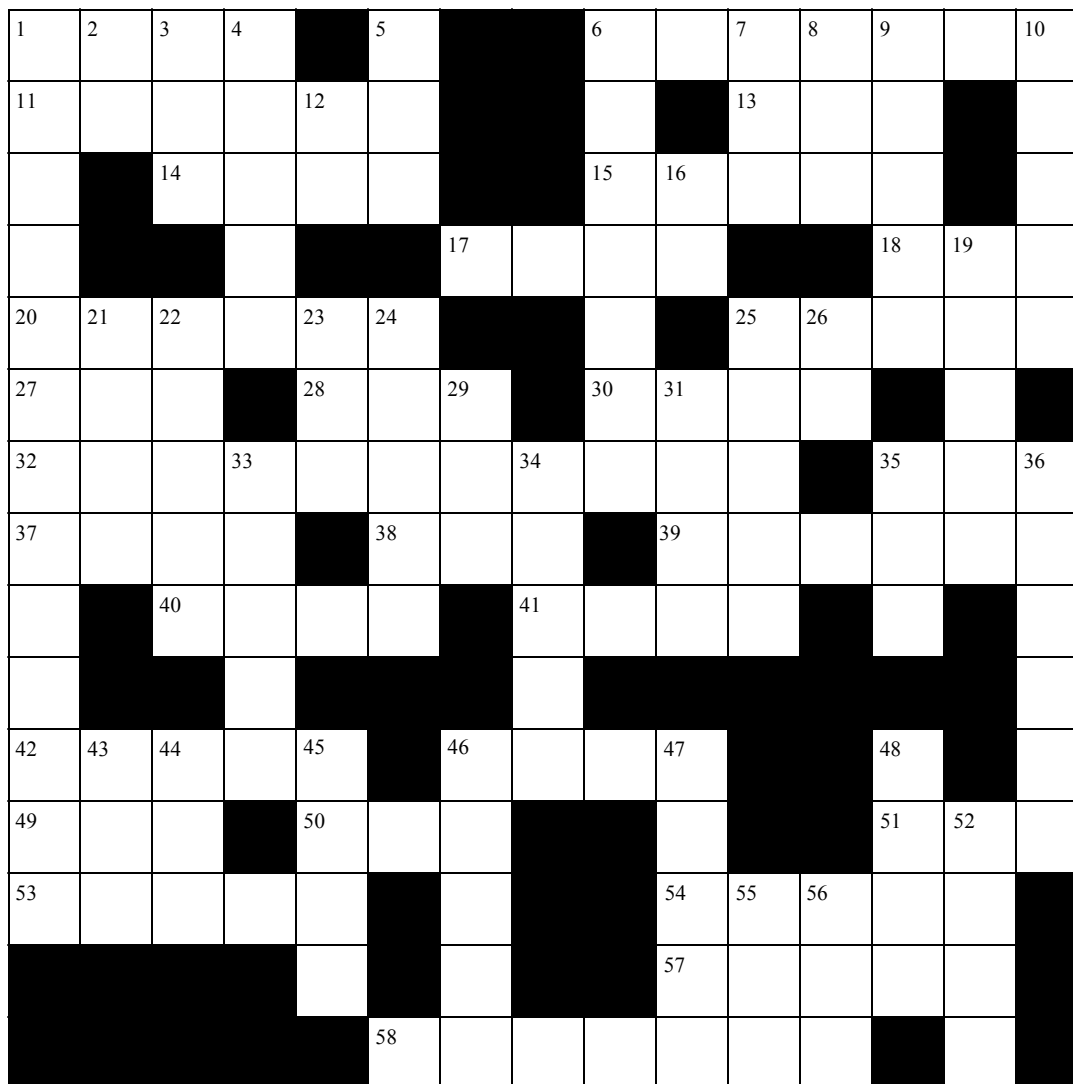
A local comedy web series is searching for a co-host. "VHS Rewind" features silly childhood videos. Production is scheduled to begin May 1. Visit <http://setreel.com/casting/comedy-web-series-needs-co-host>

Paris-based La Fabrique de la Danse is accepting applicants for its year-long program for choreographers at the beginning of their careers. The deadline is April 15. For more information, click http://dancingopportunities.com/incubator-for-choreographers-callout/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Dancingopportunities+%28Dancing+Opportunities%29

The National Aviary is still seeking three interpretive educators for their upcoming virtual reality program. Individuals with a performing arts background are welcome to apply. Details at <https://www.aviary.org/Interpretive-Educator>

THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

“Famous Foolers”



ACROSS

1. See 15-Across
6. More upbeat
11. 1959 film about fools trying to fool the US: “The Mouse that ____”
13. Singer Rawls, to pals
14. Famous Rosalind Russell role
15. His TV cameras caught fools “Candid” (with 1-Across)
17. Small skin hole
18. “Neva Again” rapper
20. Chocolate-covered wafer candy brand
25. Phases
27. Docs’ Grp.
28. Pal
30. Famous Brit school
32. Animated fooler
35. Lobos lead-in
37. Ancient love deity
38. Lovers’ sound

39. What a fooler does first
40. See 46-Across
41. Too curious
42. Type of care
46. 1970s fooler of Nixon (with 40-Across)
49. Computer system, in brief
50. Natal lead-in
51. Actress Irving, to pals
53. Ivory companion
54. “ST:NG” fooler
57. Of the moon
58. Johnny’s foolish TV show

DOWN

1. Leonardo DiCaprio played this fooler in a 2002 film
2. Eugene school, briefly
3. 1960s was country, commonly

4. Follow
5. Orange or lemon suffix
6. Legendary Wall Street fooler (with 34-Down)
7. Sick
8. “The Raven” writer
9. Ashton’s foolish TV show
10. Two or more paper units
12. En’s partner
16. “Oh, Yeah” rapper
19. List of vowels
21. Muslim cleric
22. This deck of cards includes The Fool
23. Sit-up targets
24. Fooler’s action
25. Common fooler motivation
26. Not off
29. River in Ethiopia
31. Throw

33. What a fooler aims to gain from his 52-Down
34. See 6-Down
35. Baton Rouge school, briefly
36. Melanie Chisolm’s Spice name
43. Taxi, by another name
44. Madrid one
45. “Only Time” singer
46. Dixon or Reed
47. Cute Australia bear
48. Scarlett’s home
52. The fooler’s target, in slang

Last Month’s Solution

P	A	T	R	I	C	K			O	B	R	I	E	N
T	A	R	A		Y				O	T		O		
O		I	N		D	U	B	L	I	N		S		U
L	I	P		O		B	E	E		O	R	I	O	N
E	R			G	A	U	L							
M	E	A	T	H			F	R	I	D	A	Y		O
Y	T	A			A					N	E	O	N	
	N	O	R	M	A	N	S		U	S	N	A		O
S	U	M			A	N	T		P	E	A	T		
	N		D	A	R	E				A		S	A	C
		S			O	I			M					O
	S	H	A	N	N	O	N		T	A		S	I	R
R	A	E		A			G	O	O	D		E	L	K
	R	A	I	D			L	O	O	P		A	K	
C	A	R	R	A	U	N	T	O	O	H	I	L		

Show Jim That You Support Him!



Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

- * Purchase an ad in *Pittsburgh Applause*
- * Sponsor a project
- * Hire Jim to do your marketing
- * Give him free tickets to your show
- * Make a monetary donation

James A. Richards
Pittsburgh A&E Group
643 Liberty Avenue #401
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.james-richards.com

Linked



Join the *Pittsburgh Applause* group on
www.linkedin.com.

As a member of this group, you'll be better able to connect with your A&E peers in Pittsburgh!

Membership is free, but you must have a LinkedIn profile to participate.



www.pittsburghapplause.com

www.pittsburghaebook.com



Keep the Applause Coming

Everyone in our line of work loves receiving applause, but to keep *Pittsburgh Applause* coming your way, it's important to support the newsletter through ad buys and monetary gifts to Jim Richards.

Full-page (8" wide x 10" high): \$100

Half-page (8" wide x 5" high): \$75

All ads need to be built-to-size and provided in a low-res JPG file format. All ads must be pre-paid with the check made payable to the Pittsburgh A&E Group.

For more information, contact Jim at jim@james-richards.com



www.james-richards.com

www.pittsburghapplause.com