

Mattress Factory To Get Major Installation

The internationally renowned American artist James Turrell has made a major contribution to the **Mattress Factory**, reports Hannah Ghorahi on TheArtNews.com

The Mattress Factory was established in 1995 and is housed in a former mattress company warehouse where it specialized in modern art exhibits and specialty installations,

Turrell's work primarily revolves around the intermingling of light and space. His works have appeared around the globe in Lon-

don, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Jerusalem and Vienna. His notable projects include the creation of 86 works he calls "skyspaces" --- enclosed rooms open to the sky through an aper-

ture in the roof. These installations allow about 15 people to



experience a distraction-free moment with the sky and stars above them. It is one of these skyspaces that Turrell is bringing to the Mattress Factory for its permanent collection.

"He called us last March or April," museum co-director and Barbara Luderowski told Ghorahi in a telephone interview. "It was his idea. [The Mattress Factory] is coming up on its 40th anniversary in 2017, and we've been friends for a long time. I think [co-director Michael Olijnyk] and I have been to both of his weddings."

No specific time table has been established. Turrell also has an ongoing project in the Arizona desert where he is transforming the inner core of a volcanic crater into a massive, naked-eye observatory.

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Keaton Scores @ SAG

One of Pittsburgh favorite sons, actor Michael Keaton, shared in the honors at this year's SAG Awards.



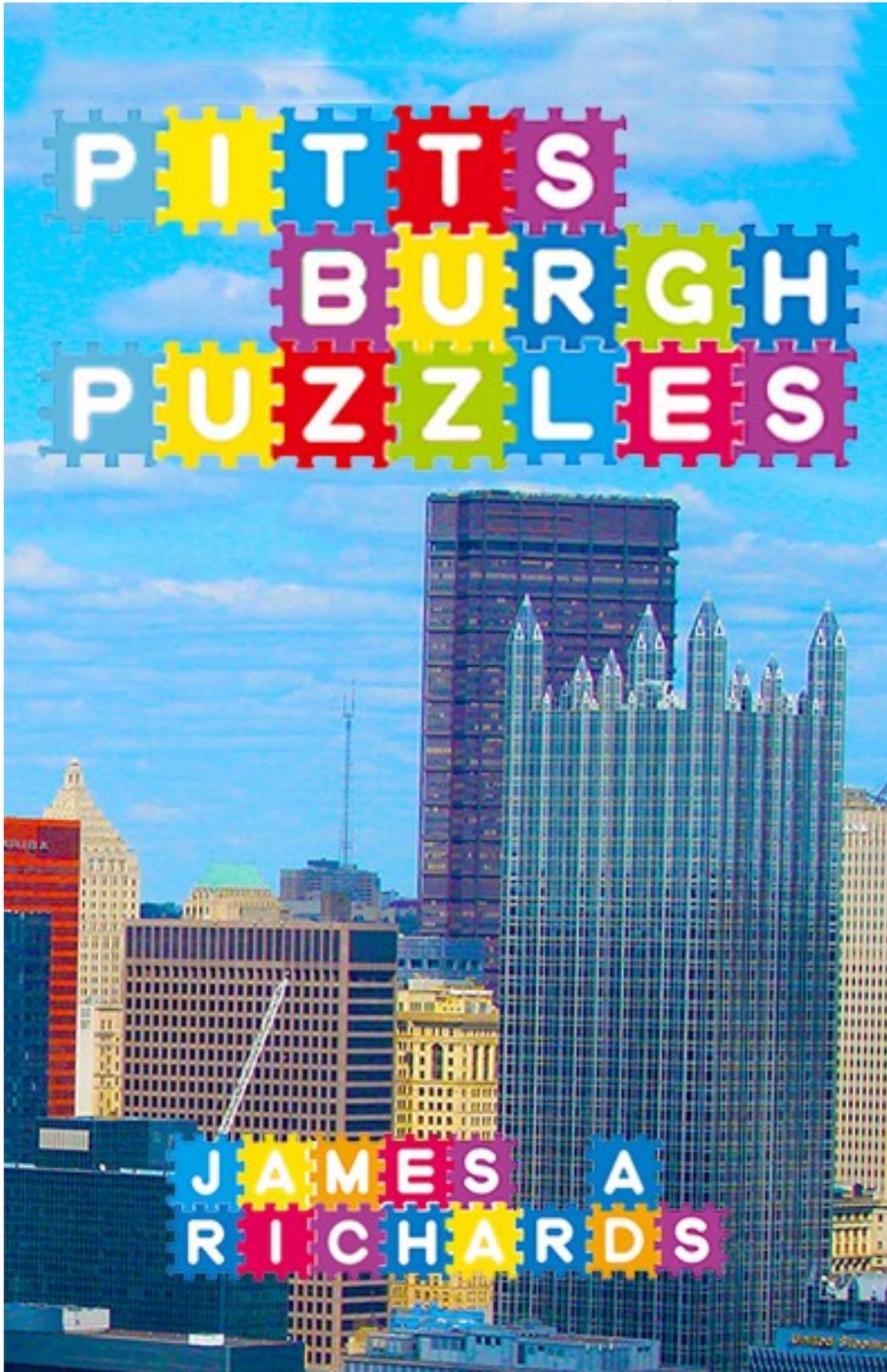
Formed through a merger in a 2012 merger between the **Screen Actors Guild** and the **American Federation of Television & Radio Artists**, SAG-AFTRA represents over 160,000 film, radio and television performers, journalists and personalities. The union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and maintains a full-

time office in Downtown Pittsburgh. The SAG Awards were first presented in 1995. This year's ceremony was held on January 30.

Keaton shared the award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture for "Spotlight". The film takes a sober and revealing look at how the *Boston Globe* investigated and reported allegations of child sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

The union has posted a full list of winners online at <http://www.sagaftra.org/outstanding-film-and-television-performances-honored-22nd-annual-screen-actors-guild-awards%C2%AE-0>

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WIFM's New ED

The local chapter of Women in Film & Media has announced a new executive director and a new date for its talent showcase.

Women in Film & Media (WIFM) is part of **Women in Film & Television International**, whose mission is to improve the status and portrayal of women in screen-based media. WIFM does welcome male members.



Emily Stark began her role as executive director with the start of the new year. She is a recent graduate of the **University of Pittsburgh's** Greensburg campus where she majored in Media Studios and Visual & Performing Arts. While in college, Stark was very active in media organizations and projects including the feature film "Crown of Gamma."

During the showcase, talent and casting professionals will provide actors the opportunity to audition, show off their skills and receive helpful feedback. It will be held on Saturday, February 27 at the Hollywood Theater in Dormont. For more information, visit www.wifmpit.org

Tax Letters Mailed To Producers

2016 looks to be a busy year for Pittsburgh film and television production, reports Barbara Vancheri in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Various companies were sent letters earlier this month informing them that they have qualified for the Pennsylvania's tax incentive program.



"We're set up to have one of the best years we've had in Pittsburgh, and we're thrilled that Gov. Wolf and Secretary Davin were able to get signed commitment letters out as soon as they could, because we've all been waiting," Dawn Keezer of the **Pittsburgh Film Office** told Vancheri.

Read her full article by clicking <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2016/01/05/Pennsylvania-film-TV-projects-get-greenlight/stories/201601040141>

Artist Incubator Program

A new incubator program for artists has been announced by the **Westmoreland Cultural Trust**.

The Westmoreland Cultural Trust is a non-profit organization whose mission is to stimulate cultural and economic development in neighboring Westmoreland County region, to promote the performing arts; preserve and enhance the region's assets for the benefit of the community.

The incubator program will provide work spaces in Greensburg for as little as \$100 per month. "Lately, we've had local artists reach out to us about space and about working together on specific projects to improve the city through art," comments Trust President Mike Langer in a press release.

For more information, contact Kelli Brisbane at kelli@wxtrust.net



IATSE Endorses Clinton

The entertainment industry's unions are gearing up for this year's national elections.

On January 13, the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) endorsed Hillary Rodham Clinton for the presidency.



Formed in 1893, IATSE represents over 125,000 technicians and craftspeople in live theater, film, television and trade shows. The union has hundreds of Pitts-

burgh members in three union locals.

"Hillary Clinton is the only candidate that reached out to discuss issues affecting members of the IATSE," said IATSE International President Matthew Loeb in a press release. "She spent her valuable time discussing our unique issues and challenges with me, demonstrating not just her support of workers in general, but also that she is concerned with the well-being of members of the IATSE."

In addition, IATSE's political action committee received nearly \$13,000 at a Florida event on January 12.

Local Will Trumps Trump

He was a chiropractor to the stars, but after living such a glamorous life, a Pittsburgh doctor has a request in death: don't support Donald Trump for the US Presidency.

Jeffrey Cohen died at the age of 65 on January 2 of cancer. His famous clients included actress/singer Liza Minelli and comedic songwriter Alfred "Weird Al" Yankovic as well as members of Pittsburgh professional sports teams and even Olympic athletes.

His official obituary included this request: "Jeffrey would ask that in lieu of flowers, please do not vote for Donald Trump."

The obit was printed in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, but soon became national news (especially in arts/entertainment media such as TheWrap.com at <http://www.thewrap.com/dead-mans-obituary-in-lieu-of-flowers-please-do-not-vote-for-donald-trump/>)

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Local Woman's Cosby Is Suit Dismissed

A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a Pittsburgh woman against comedian/actor Billy Cosby, reports the **Associated Press** (AP).

Renita Hill, 48, first went public in 2014 with her allegations that Cosby and his representatives defamed her in responding to Ms. Hill's comments about the various sexual assault claims. The case was dismissed on January 21

“with prejudice,” which prevents her from re-filing.

Hill claimed defamation when she was called a “liar” and “extortionist” after she criticized Cosby's denials of drugging and assaulting women.

The judge agreed with Cosby's attorneys that his comments were free speech protected by the US Constitution's First Amendment.



Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's
arts & entertainment



Sultry, sexy femme fatales are among the subjects of the new photo exhibit opening this month at the Frick.

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

Sinclair Buys Channel

The consortium of investors who own **The Tennis Channel, Inc.** have agrees to sell it to **Sinclair Broadcasting Group**, the latter has announced.



Sinclair owns two Pittsburgh television stations.

Launched in 2001, The Tennis Channel is described as “the only 24-hour, television-based multi-

media destination dedicated to both the professional sport and tennis lifestyle.” However, the company has found it hard going as an independent company. Most of the \$350 million purchase price will be used to retire Tennis’ debt. It will then become a Sinclair subsidiary.

For more information, click: <http://sbgi.net/pr-news/sinclair-to-acquire-tennis-channel-company-to-host-conference-call-on-january-28-2016/>

Ex-WAMO Director Dies

The former music director of WAMO-FM has died, the *New Pittsburgh Courier* has reported.

WAMO launched in 1960 under different call letters but became popular in the 1970s offering urban contemporary music and programming for the region’s African-American community. The dual stations (AM and FM) have changed owners and call signs several times over the years. The letters WAMO and its format are now operated by **Martz Communications**.

Lavonne Battle started her radio career in Pittsburgh at WAMO, working as both a disc jockey and the station’s music director under the name Kris Kelley. She later moved to Chicago. The Philadelphia native was only 45 years old and the cause of death has not been revealed.

The news was first reported by Mary L. Datcher and originally appeared in the *Chicago Defender*.

AGMA Loses Leader

Alan Gordon, the long-time National Executive Director of the **American Guild of Musical Artists** died as 2016 began, the union has announced.

The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) was formed in 1936 and today represents approximately 8,000 performers and production personnel in opera and dance companies. Based in New York, the union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area.

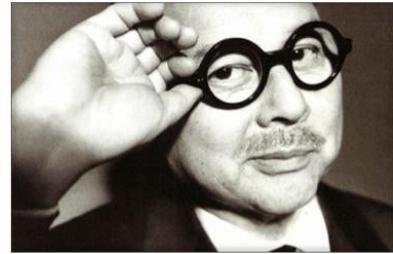
Gordon took over the guild in 2000 when it was struggling financial and with its mission of representing its members effectively. He has been credited with turning the AGMA around and making it an effective union once again. Deborah Allton-Maher has been named the Interim National Executive Director.

Alan Gordon was 70 years old.





Be sure to check out our growing section of events dedicated to Black History Month!



**SAT
13**

The internationally acclaimed artist (and restaurateur) Michael Chow has chosen the **Andy Warhol Museum**

for the site of his first solo exhibition in the US.

**TUE
2**



Life is truly a “Cabaret” (at least at the **Benedum Center**).

**SAT
6**



No worries about wardrobe malfunctions: Janet Jackson delivers it all at the **Consol Energy Center**.

**WED
17**



The most famous “American Idol” of them all — Carrie Underwood — - accepts worshippers at the **Consol Energy Center**.

**FRI
5**



Shatter your illusions with the exhibit “Lifeforms” opening tonight at the **Pittsburgh Glass Center**.

**THU
11**



Break out those faded bellbottoms and head over to the **Byham Theater** for “Saturday Night Fever.”



**FRI
5**

Drop by **Heinz Hall** where the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performs some beloved movie music.



**FRI
12**



The **Benedum Center** gets transformed into a magical land for the beloved musical version of “Peter Pan.”

**TUE
23**

No, these guys aren’t space aliens: they are the Blue Man Group and they are in town to bring some color to **Heinz Hall**.



**SAT
6**

Long before Snapchat came great photographers like Jacques Henri Lartigue, whose works are celebrated by the **Frick Art & Historical Center**.



**WED
24**

The three dudes known as Naughty by Nature are so bad they’re really good — and they’ll be at **Altar Bar** tonight.

National/World A&E News Round-Up

Oscar Boycott Debate Heats Up

With no African-Americans nominated in any of the major categories, there is a growing debate about whether or not interested people should boycott this year's Academy Awards.

Actress Jada Pinkett-Smith has already announced that she will not be attending the ceremony. However, others are insisting on a different approach.

One of the is Roger Ross Williams, who won an Oscar in 2010 for his acclaimed documentary short "Music for Prudence."

Williams recently wrote a commentary on the subject for the *Hollywood Reporter*, which can be read by clicking <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/race/first-black-oscar-winning-director-860908>

Bad BBC Culture

The internal cultural of the **British Broadcasting Company** (BBC) is being blamed for the climate that allowed the popular personality Jimmy Savile get away with sexual assaults, writes Kimiko de Freytas-Tamura in the *New York Times*.

Savile, who died in 2011, was one of the United Kingdom's most popular radio and television personalities. There were rumors for years that he sexually assaulted children which were largely confirmed after his death.

A 500-page inquiry reveals that the BBC's deference to "untouchable stars" played a prominent role --- and that there

may be more pedophiles working at the legendary broadcaster.

Taking Art To Iran

Taking advantage in the recent thaw in relations, Iran's culture ministry has entered into a deal with France's prestigious Louvre Museum, reports Vincent Noce in *The Art Newspaper.com*

"The agreement," Noce explains, "lays out a framework for cooperation up to 2019, including plans for exchanges of exhibitions, publications, scientific visits and training sessions, as well as archeological digs. The two countries will also work together to stop looting and trafficking. The agreement follows France's general diplomatic policy to maintain balanced relationships with all countries in the Middle East; the Louvre has already pledged to help Iraq and Syria protect their cultural heritage, and is building an outpost museum in Abu Dhabi."

Click on the following link to read the full article: <http://theartnewspaper.com/news/museums/louvre-inks-historic-deal-with-iran-to-cooperate-on-archaeological-digs-exhibitions-and-exchanges/>

Unhappy Tech Elves At Disney

A lawsuit has been filed against the **Walt Disney Company** and two consulting firms alleging that the Magic Kingdom's parent broke the law by using temporary visas to allow foreign workers to replace about 250 employees.

In an article written by Julia Preston for the *New York Times*, the suit claims that Disney used "temporary H-1B visas to bring in immigrant workers, knowing that Americans would be displaced from their jobs."

The jobs in question are largely technology positions. "I don't have to be angry or cause drama," Preston quotes one laid-off employee. "But they are just doing things to save a buck, and it's making Americans poor."





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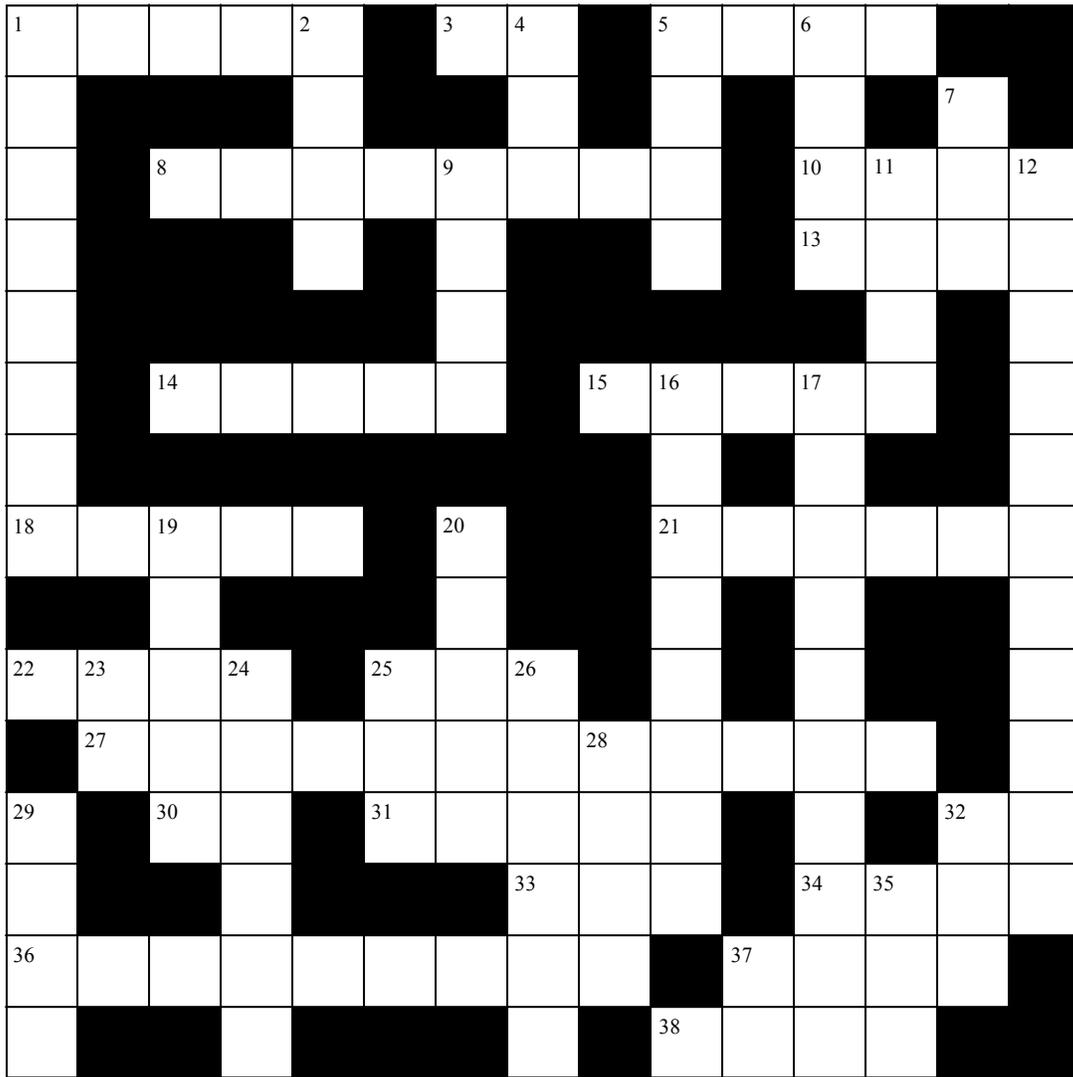


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1. Hepburn’s great love
2. See 15-Across
3. See 8-Across
8. Bubble music man (with 3-Across)
10. Eve’s beau
13. Ms. Sofer, to pals
14. Romantic flowers
15. Live together (with 2-Across)
18. For many, their first four-legged love
21. Stolen, en masse
22. Injure
25. River blockage
27. Classic spot for a honeymoon
30. Just below ND
31. Where the preacher declares the marriage made
32. GI’s boss
33. Ugh
34. Group
36. February’s celebrated saint
37. Assist
38. Lucy’s beau

DOWN

1. Animated Lady’s great love
2. Tired action
4. Word play
5. Cry
6. Legendary king or a famous jet
7. Greek deity known for his flute
9. Greek deity known to the Romans as Cupid
11. A ship’s floor
12. Modern romance meeting place
16. Famous greeting card maker
17. Sweetly romantic gifts
19. Helen’s ancient love
20. White gem
23. Sumerian deity
24. AMC’s hit show set in the 1960s
25. File format for disc images (abbr.)
26. Coupling
28. Classic flick: “Funny ___”
29. Bees’ home
32. Informal headgear
35. Male name of Hebrew origin
37. Not she

Last Month’s Solution

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



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