

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Kelly-Strayhorn Faces Lawsuit & Questions

A lawsuit has been filed against the nonprofit **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater** (KST), reports Marylynne Pitz and Bill Toland in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.



The Kelly-Strayhorn opened as a silent movie theater in 1914 and was reinvented in 2002 as a performing arts center named after Pittsburgh hometown boys actor/

director Gene Kelly (1912-1996) and composer/pianist Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967).

Candace Feldman claims that she was fired from the theater on May 16 after citing a conflict of interest involving the KST's executive director, Janera Solomon and Solomon's father who was hired to perform in a musical education program.

Pitz and Toland's piece cites other financial issues facing KST. Read the full article for details at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2014/06/28/Former-Kelly-Strayhorn-employee-sues-claims-firing-was-retaliation/stories/201406280034>



URA Seeks Judge's Ruling In Wilson Center Case

The saga centered on the struggling **August Wilson Center** continues, reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Natasha Lindstrom.

Opened in 2009, the August Wilson Center is museum, education and performance institution to celebrate African-Americans in the Pittsburgh region. It is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winning Pittsburgh playwright August Wilson (1945-2005). The center has had financial issues since before its opening and owes the **Dollar Bank** more than \$7 million.

The city's Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is asking a judge to settle a dispute over the restrictions in the center's deed that complicates selling the center to a developer who wishes to

build a hotel above it. The URA insists that the deed restricts the property's use to an institution celebrating African-American culture.

In their motion, the URA says that the deed's "covenants restrict the use of the property to an African American cultural center until June 10, 2021 and prohibit major changes to the exterior of the center without the consent of the URA until that date." Several civic and political leaders, including Mayor Bill Peduto and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, are among those concerned about the proposed sale.

A hearing is scheduled for July 3.

Details are available at <http://triblive.com/news/alleggheny/6300639-74/center-ura-deed>

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Roth Film Coming in 2015

The film version of Philip Roth's acclaimed novel *American Pastoral* will be shot in Pittsburgh early next year, reports Barbara Vancheri in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Published in 1997, *American Pastoral* is the story of a successful New Jersey businessman whose conventional and comfortable life is ruined by the turmoil of the 1960s. The novel won author Roth the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

The film is being produced by independent production company **Lakeshore Entertainment**.

"Lakeshore loves Pittsburgh and it's a perfect place to shoot for New Jersey," Vancheri quotes a spokeswoman.

You can read the full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2014/06/24/Roth-novel-to-be-filmed-in-Pittsburgh/stories/201406240048>

Nicholson To Head Frick

Robin Nicholson has been named the new director of the **Frick Art & Historical Center**, the organization announced on June 4.

The Frick is an urban campus of museums and historic buildings centered on the mansion of Pittsburgh industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919).

Nicholson is currently a deputy director at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, an institution owned and operated by the Virginia state government that opened in 1936. Educated in Canada, Nicholson is a renowned scholar of the art of the 18th-century Stuart royal courts in Paris and Rome. The

Stuart House is a Scottish dynasty that dates back to the 13th century and ruled Great Britain in the 17th century.

"I am thrilled to take on the leadership of an organization that is poised to take its place as a true icon in the dynamic Pittsburgh cultural landscape," Nicholas announces in a press release. "The Frick has many compelling stories to tell, a great staff, and an extraordinarily supportive board leadership; it is a unique institution with unique opportunities at a key moment in its history."

Nicholson assumes his position September 2.



CLO Gets \$800K Grant

A generous \$800,000 grant has been awarded to the **Pittsburgh CLO** by the PNC Foundation, reports the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Rachel Weaver.

Established in 1946, the Pittsburgh CLO specializes in staging classic musical theater. The PNC Foundation is the community involvement arm of **PNC Bank**. The grant will be paid out over four years and be used to support youth programs that include curriculum development, scholarships and a pre-kindergarten musical theater program.

"We believe in this so strongly," Weaver quotes Eva Blum, president of PNC Foundation. "A community cannot be vibrant without a really important and exciting arts component."

Check out the full article at <http://triblive.com/aande/theaterarts/6273910-74/clo-support-arts>

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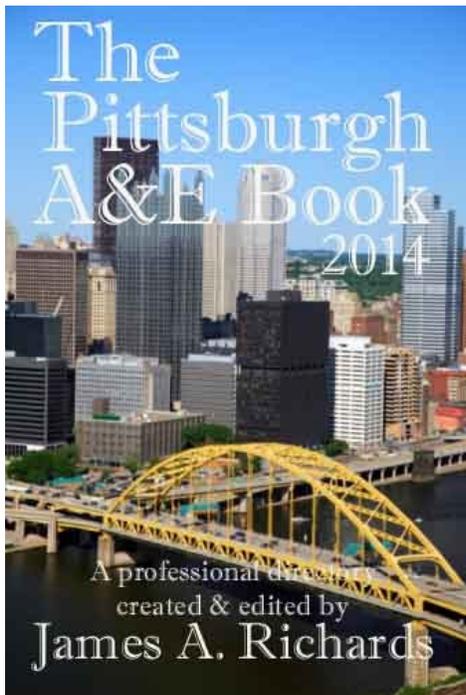
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Hollywood Gives The Bump To Hump

A controversial film program called Hump was canceled at the last minute by its host site, the **Hollywood Theater**.

The Hollywood Theater is a cinema house in Dormont, a suburb at the southern edge of Pittsburgh. It opened in 1924 as a silent film theater and closed in the 1980s. A group of community leaders revived it as a nonprofit movie house in 2006.

Begun in 2005, Hump is a festival that screens home-made erotica (including locally produced porn)

which are rated by the audience and then destroyed. "The films are explicit but also very artful and real," Hump's Robert Crocker told Nick Keppler of Pittsburgh *City Paper*. "The 'porn' label is there due to the sexual nature of the shorts, but it's not really porn. It's much more an artful and real expression of human sexuality."

Dormont officials contacted the Hollywood's staff to report complaints and to advise them that zoning laws precluded screening Hump. Keppler's full article is available at <http://>

www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/happy-ending-for-dan-savages-amateur-porn-film-festival-after-it-moves-from-dormont-to-lawrenceville/Content?oid=1757688

Instead, the festival was moved to the recently opened **Row House Cinema** where it was screened the weekend of June 13.

Learn more about Hump by visiting www.humptour.com.

MF Cancels Exhibit

An exhibit at the **Mattress Factory** was canceled at the last minute because of international politics, reports *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Bill O'Driscoll.

Opened in 1977, the Mattress Factory is a museum of contemporary art that specializes in room-sized environments created by artists from across the globe.

The exhibit was meant to be a cultural exchange among Israeli, Palestinian and American artists. O'Driscoll writes that the cancellation was the result of a "social-media campaign accused the show's three Palestinian artists of violating an international cultural boycott."

At the heart of the cancellation is the continuing situation in the Middle East between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. A global campaign called Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) was launched in 2005 to express

support for the Palestinians by using economic and political pressure on Israel. More information on BDS is available at www.bdsmovement.net.

"The main goal behind our presence and participation in the exhibit was to focus on the rights of the Palestinians, and to expose Israeli racism, occupation and human-rights violations," O'Driscoll quotes one of the Palestinian artists.

Among the planned installations was a map of Palestine made of broken glass. Read O'Driscoll's full article at <http://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/art-exhibit-canceled-after-dispute-over-boycott-of-israel/Content?oid=1757691>

GPAC Workshop

An intellectual property workshop is being held by the Greater **Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) at their office on July 16.

Formed through a merger of two nonprofit organizations, GPAC drives political, financial, and professional support for the entire Pittsburgh arts community.

The workshop is designed to help artists protect their works, whether it's a composition or a film. Led by professional photographer, Jon Lisbon, it will explain what a copyright is and the legal methods available for an artist and his creations.

To learn more or to register, visit <http://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/component/events/event/182>



Local Firm Launches Mobile Game Series

Local technology start-up **Walking Thumbs** has announced a series of games for smartphones and tablets.

Walking  **Thumbs**

Recently incorporated, Walking Thumbs' mission is to transform the way people interact through mobile messaging and incorporate cutting-edge technology to tap into the wide variety of human expression.

The first in Walking Thumbs' series is Squareland, a puzzle game featuring a cute and fun owl that is searching for his lost woodland pals. The game has four uniquely themed environments and various levels of complexity.

Squareland is currently available for the iPhone and the iPad on the **Apple** app store.

More information is available at <http://www.playsquareland.com>

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Phipps Mixes Art & Ecology

A new project combining art with ecological sensibilities has been launched by the **Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens**.

Located inside Schenley Park, the gardens were established in 1893 by local businessman Henry Phipps (1839-1930) as a gift to the people of Pittsburgh. Phipps operates elaborate gardens within thirteen rooms as well as the surrounding grounds.

The program is called the Biophilia Enhanced through Art Project (BETA). In a press release, Phipps tries to explain it as "a large scale, multisensory installation reaches beyond traditional biophilic features—such as natural views, light and ventilation often incorporated into sustainable structures—to rekindle innate bonds to nature through engagement of all of the senses. Now a model for the world, the new exhibit demonstrates how

both people and the planet can benefit from enhancement of the places in which we live, work and play."

"Biophilia" is a term popularized in the 1980s by American biologist Edward O. Wilson that suggests that there is an instinctive bond among all living beings, including humans.

The project will involve both international and local artists. Learn more by visiting <http://issuu.com/hippsconservatory/docs/beta>



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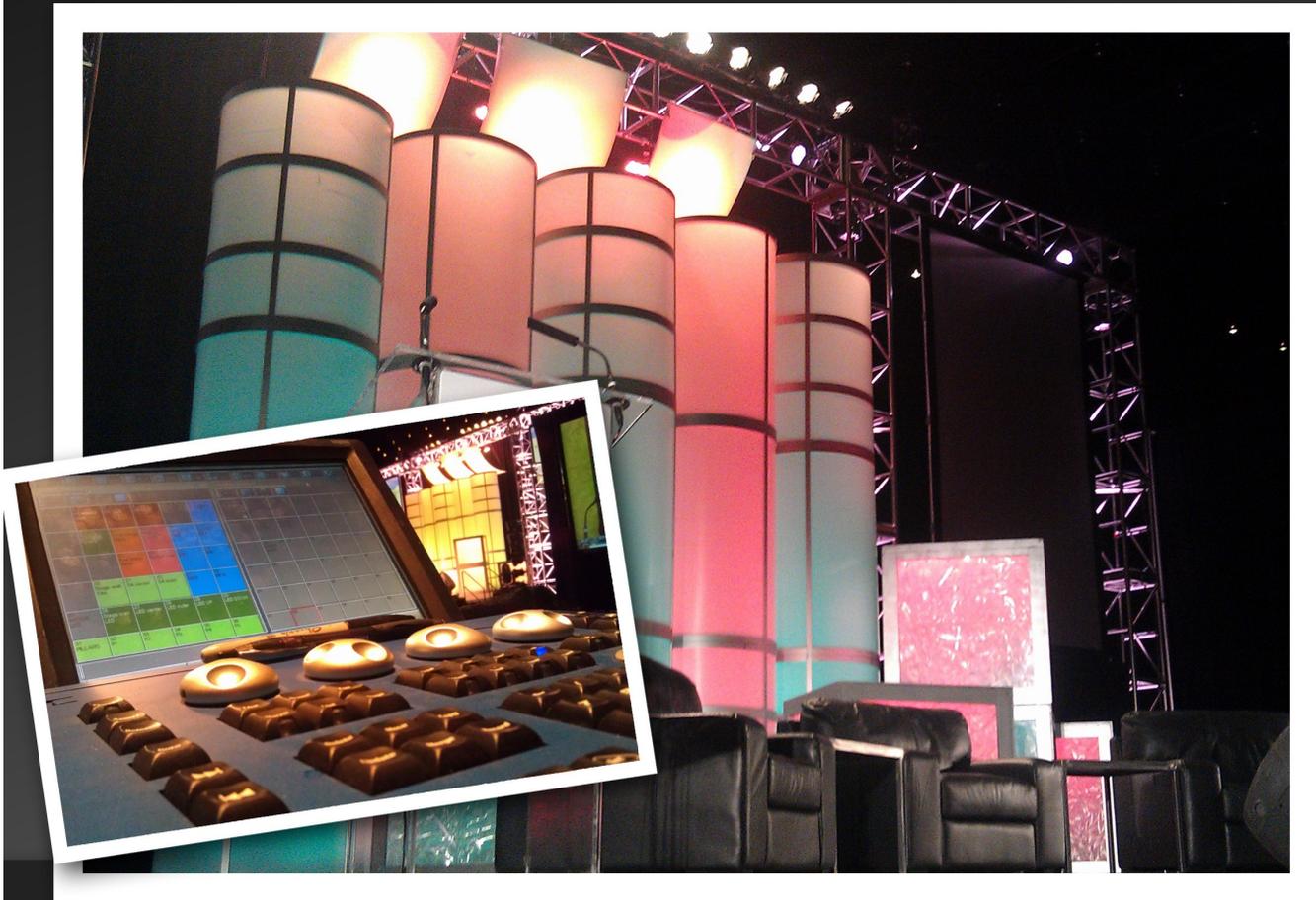
A sign of things to come? Turn to this month's editorial to learn more.

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



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CBS Lets Out Outdoor Unit

On June 11, **CBS Corporation** announced that it plans to fully divest itself of its outdoor advertising division by spinning it off.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation operates two television and three radio stations. The company owns 81% of CBS Outdoor America, one of the largest managers of billboard and related advertising media in the country.

“CBS has been a great owner for many years, but as a wholly independent company, we believe we can take CBS Outdoor to new heights,” said Jeremy Male of CBS Outdoor in a press release.

Trade media reported earlier in the year that the company wants to focus on its core entertainment and broadcast businesses and that an initial public offering of CBS Outdoor could raise more than \$500 million.

Clear Channel Launches Political Ad Service

With the nation’s political world heating up, **Clear Channel Communications** has announced a new a new advertising program.



Clear Channel Communications operates six radio stations in the Pittsburgh area. On June 18, the company launched the Audience Delivery Optimizer (AuDiO), a proprietary radio targeting tool developed specifically for political advertisers.

“This first-of-its-kind radio optimization tool enables local and national political campaigns across the country to precisely target key voter segments using radio,” a Clear Channel press release explains. The goal is to take

the guess work out of radio advertising by creating more reliable audience targeting.

NetNewsCheck.com recently reported that “a company study using data from Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, AuDiO revealed that a key swing voter segment there, representing 11 percent of all voters in that district, spend more time listening to radio than they do with any other medium.” The district covers northeast Philadelphia and its nearest suburbs.

Clear Channel has also announced a new contract with popular on-air personality Bobby Bones.



Telemundo Hires Star Reporter

Spanish-language network Telemundo --- a part of **Comcast** --- has added award winning Honduran journalist Neida Sandoval to its morning news program, “Un Nuevo Día.”



Comcast operates Pittsburgh’s cable television franchise and owns the entertainment giant NBC-Universal.

“Neida is one of the most respected and beloved anchors in Spanish-language journalism in the United States,” said Telemundo’s Alina Falcón, in a press release. “Her experience, special connection with the audience, and talent for bringing out the human aspect of stories, make her ideal to present the top news to our viewers each morning.”

Sandoval’s first day was June 16.



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Look Up & See The Buhl Asteroid

One of the billions of entities in the sky now has a Pittsburgh twist, the Carnegie Science Center announced last month.

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Opened in 1991, the Carnegie Science Center (CSC) is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** and is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life

The **International Astronomical Union** (IAU) has named an aster-

oid formerly designated as 1900 AA after Henry Buhl Jr. The IAU was founded in 1919 and is the internationally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies. These include stars and planets as well as asteroids.

Henry Buhl Jr. (1848-1927) was a successful retailer and generous philanthropist who established the Buhl Foundation in his will "to create community legacies by leveraging its resources to encourage people and organizations to dream, to innovate and to take action." The foundation's most famous bequest was the Buhl

Planetarium on the city's North Side.

"It's fitting that something of the magnitude and permanence of an asteroid would honor Henry Buhl's legacy," said Ann Metzger, co-director of the Carnegie Science Center in a press release.

In other CSC news, public relations professional Trip Oliver has joined the center's board. He is currently the manager of government and public affairs for the local office of the **Chevron Corporation** multinational energy firm.

PDCDC Re-Hatching Channel Pittsburgh

The fundraising effort for **Channel Pittsburgh** has changed.



Channel
Pittsburgh

Channel Pittsburgh is a proposed nonprofit being spearheaded by *Pittsburgh Applause* editor James A. Richards. It will be a streaming, online television station providing new opportunities for media students, media artists and local arts organizations.

The effort has switched from **GoFundMe** to Hatch, a crowd funding program of the community organization **Pittsburgh Downtown Community Development Corporation** (PDCDC). Hatch is

specifically established to support local projects.

In addition, Richards' research has discovered ways of cutting the start-up costs significantly. "The rise of web media has resulted in better consumer equipment that is cheaper than professional equipment," Richards explains. "I've found software that turns a standard personal computer into a

production switcher for about one-tenth the cost of a real switcher." As a result, Channel Pittsburgh will need a mere \$10,000 to be launched.

Richards has also introduced rewards for donors that include copies of *The Pittsburgh A&E Book 2014* professional directory. To learn more, visit www.channelpittsburgh.org



Returning Soon!



National/World A&E News Round-Up

Aereo Suspends Service After Court Ruling

Having lost their case before the United States Supreme Court, the video service **Aereo** has gone dark.

Launched in 2012, Aereo offered subscriptions to consumers that allowed them to watch live and time-delayed broadcast television on their tablets and other laptop-connected devices. The company insisted that they were essentially a new generation of antennas but the court agreed with the large media firms who consider Aereo akin to cable and satellite services which are required to pay them a retransmission fee.

Visitors to www.aereo.com will see a letter stating that as a result of the decision, “we have decided to pause our operations temporarily as we consult with the court and map out our next steps.”

Just what those steps can be remain unclear. Aereo is already facing lawsuits for copyright violations in at least three states. Meanwhile, Aereo’s leading competitor --- **Vox International’s** unit **RCA** --- is actively courting their subscribers with a special web site at www.tvsetfree.com.

Recovering Stolen Works

Issues surrounding stolen art --- regardless of how --- continue throughout the world.

The **Boston Museum of Fine Arts** has already returned a group of sculptures to Nigeria that had been part of a bequest to the museum. They were part of a collection amassed by William Teel (19?-2013) from professional art dealers during the 1990s. He was considered to be an expert of African-Oceanic art.

There is no evidence to suggest that Teel knew some of his acquisitions were stolen, something that even the museum didn’t know until much later. *The Boston Globe’s* Geoff Edgers has details available at <http://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/style/2014/06/26/museum-fine-arts-returns-artifacts-nigeria/z2RenPtuhh9qvPoSi05fRO/story.html>

Meanwhile, hundreds of works seized by Spanish authorities have been sent back home to Colombia. The artifacts represent some 3,000 years in South American history.

Laurie Rojas of *The Art Newspaper.com* reports that the pieces “were recovered by Spanish police during a drug trafficking and money laundering investigation in 2003. Since then, the works have been kept for conservation in Madrid’s **Museum of the Americas**, where 885 recovered pieces were studied.”

Her article adds: “most of the objects were identified as belonging to ancient Colombian cultures like the Sinú, Inland, Calima, Tumaco and Nariño.”

Rising Above The Chaos

Despite the violence and turmoil roiling their country, *ArtNews.com* reports that Iraqi artists are finding ways to showcase their works across the globe.

From photographer Jamal Penjweny to mixed media artist Hassan Sharif, some Iraq’s best modern talents are being shown and lauded from Vienna to New York City.

Jonathan Watkins, who heads London’s prestigious **Ikon Gallery**, tells *ArtNews’* Roger Atwood that “Iraqi artists couldn’t have been more cut off from the world before. Now they’re making a transition to the art-world mainstream, and it’s a really difficult thing to finesse.”

Read Atwood’s full article, complete with some impressive photos, at <http://www.artnews.com/2014/06/26/how-iraqi-artists-are-entering-international-art-world/>

The King Is Dead --- Except In Court

A legal battle is taking place between the estate of pop star Michael Jackson (1958-2009) and a documentary filmmaker who claims his has the rights to footage from a 2007 photo shoot.

Craig Williams, the director, “has described the footage as having been taken at the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** for *Ebony* magazine as Jackson attempted to make a comeback and gave his first magazine interview in a decade,” says Eriq Gardner of *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The Jackson estate has written Williams’ company to claim that the film belongs to them. In response, the company has filed suit against the estate.

“The makers of the documentary are attempting to exploit footage and photographs of Michael Jackson, which we believe are owned by his estate,” Gardner quotes Jackson attorney Howard Weitzman. Williams’ complaint says that the estate turned down an offer to purchase the rights in 2011 but declined.

City Theatre Names Winners

Six winners have been announced by **City Theatre** in the company's annual Young Playwrights Contest.



Established in 1975, City Theatre is a non-profit company that specializes in the production of new plays. The fifteenth annual contest pairs the young writers with theater professionals to develop their winning scripts with the results presented to the public this fall.

"[The Young Playwrights Program] encourages student writers to make their voices heard and to take ownership of their work in a professional, artistic environment," says City Theatre's Kristen Link in a press release. "Through our playwriting program, students not only learn a new craft, but also discover different ways to think critically, connect with their peers and form valuable networks within the local theatre industry."

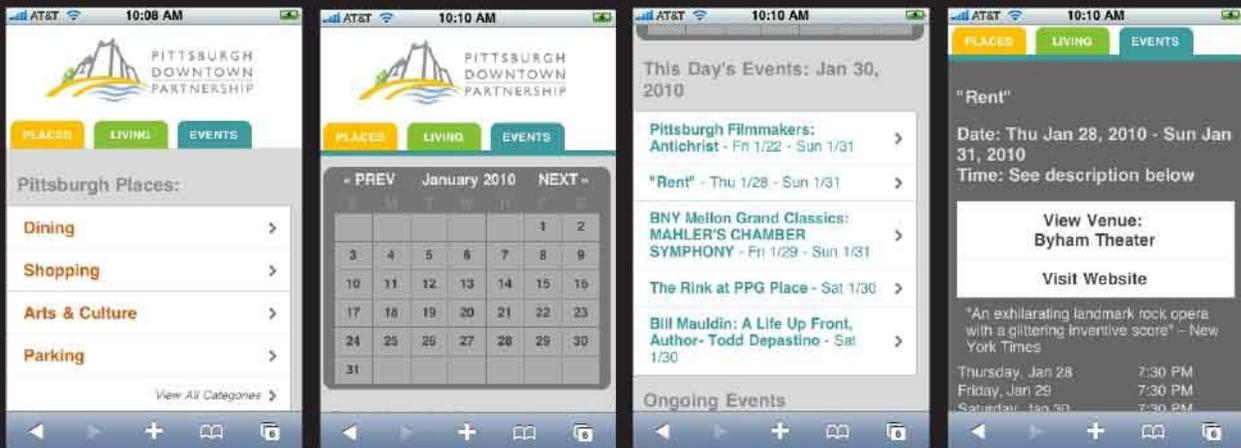
The Young Playwrights Festival will be staged September 30 through October 10.

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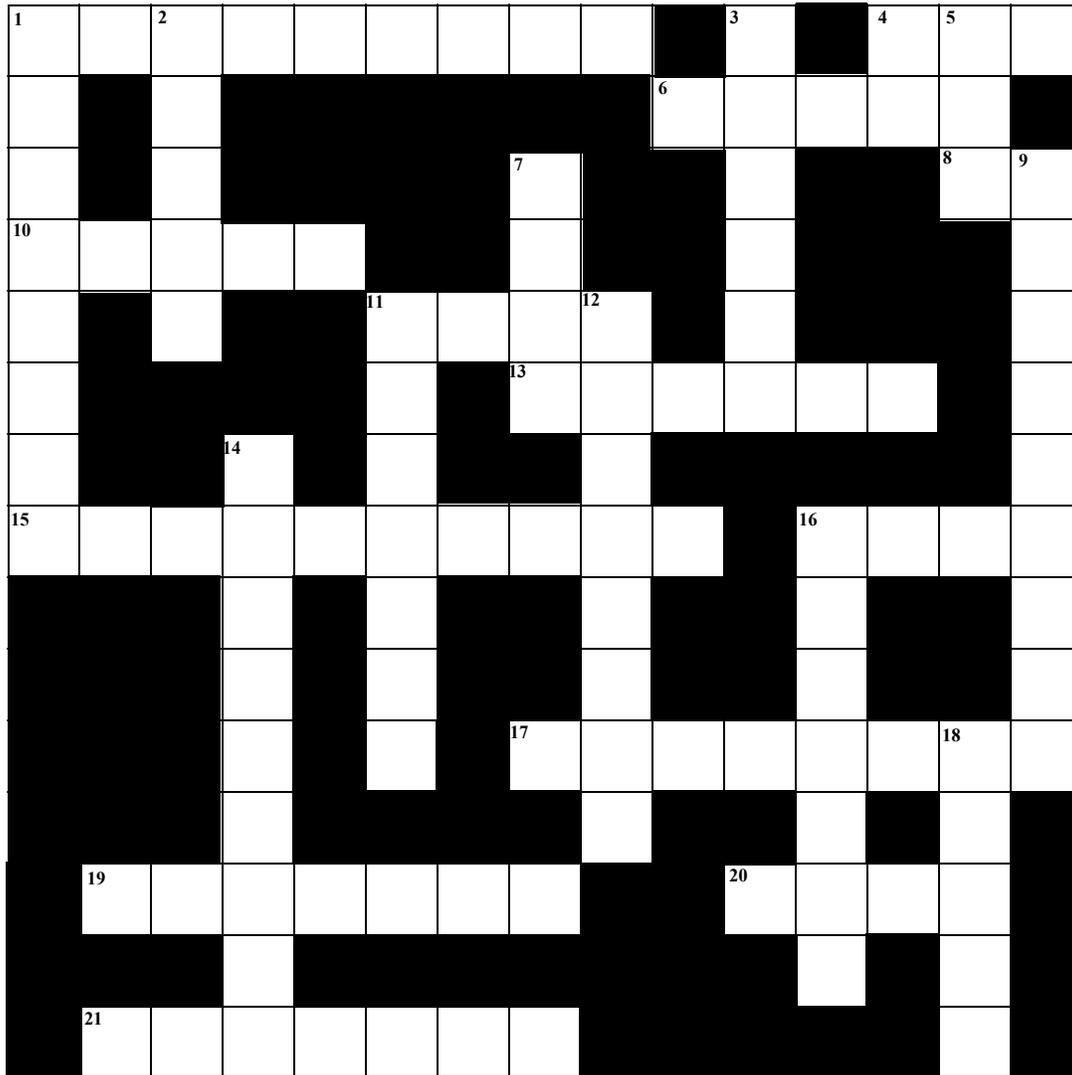


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1. Patriotic seamstress
4. Not Rx
6. Frighten
8. Rick’s brother on TV’s “Simon & Simon”
10. He edits *Applause* and has a birthday on 7/29 [with 17 Across]
11. Meat that’s not fowl
13. America’s first foreign ally
15. Massachusetts is part of it
16. Small body of water
17. See 10 Across
19. Encouraging creativity
20. The delegates’ biggest complaint in 1776 Philly
21. Famous signature dude

DOWN

1. Colorful patriot [with 12 Down]
2. In song, it goes with rosemary
3. Popular film genre
4. Where a surgeon is a real cut-up [abbr.]
5. Patriotic harbor pollutant
7. It’s usually made of choral
9. Patriot who became president
11. Thomas Paine might be one today
12. See 1 Down
14. Famous scribe of 7/4/76
16. Pittsburgh’s boys of summer
18. Nickname for a western movie

Last Month’s Solution

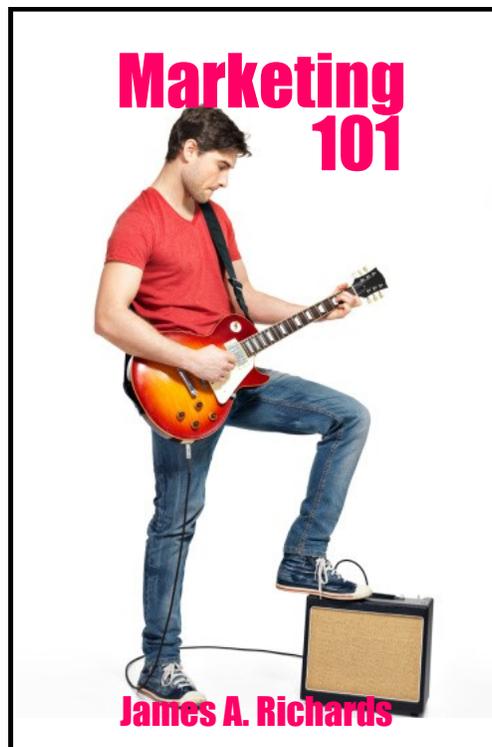
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Jim Richards does many things for Pittsburgh arts community --- most for free --- despite limiting health issues. So show your support in one or more of the following ways:

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Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

Make Channel Pittsburgh A Reality

By James A. Richards

I am asking everyone who reads *Pittsburgh Applause* to support my latest project, Channel Pittsburgh.

Channel Pittsburgh is to be a non-profit, streaming online television station that will provide opportunities for artists, students and organizations in new media.

This station will, in many ways, mimic a traditional television station (movies, old TV shows, etc) along with local productions like talk, news and maybe even scripted programs.

People will be to watch Channel Pittsburgh on any internet-connected device like a computer, tablet or smartphone. (And, hopefully, we can eventually get cable carriage, too).

Imagine the creative possibilities for individuals and the outreach potential for organizations. Please visit www.channelpittsburgh.org to learn more and make a donation.



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Pittsburgh

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