

## Pittsburgh Pride Concert Controversy

Its controversy so hot that it became a national story in *Billboard*: the announcement that Australian rapper Iggy Azalea will headline this month's PrideFest.

Pride celebrations are held every June across the world to mark the history, culture, humanity and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Locally, the primary events are produced by the non-profit **Delta Foundation**.

Iggy Azalea was born Amethyst Amelia Kelly in a small town in rural New South Wales. The 24-year-old has been performing since 2011 and has been gaining fans in the US since moving to America at age 16 thanks mostly to YouTube. Controversy has long dogged the artist, including issues with her record label and allegations of homophobia and racism.

The Pride controversy was first reported by Alex Zimmerman on *Pittsburgh City Paper's* web site on May 18. When Azalea's booking was announced a Facebook campaign protesting her selection gained hundreds of supporters. Many members of the local LGBT community see the choice as a sign of broader problems with Delta Foundation.

"What I find frustrating every year, is that the foundation describes its mission as 'to be a vigilant catalyst for change that produces increased opportunities and a high quality of life for the LGBT community,'" Harrison Apple of the Pittsburgh Queer History Project told Zimmerman. "It's a social organization better known for paying six-figure booking fees than reforming police practices, supporting grassroots organizations, [than] substantially funding the human services that are so desperately needed in Pittsburgh."

About three hours after the article was posted, Delta responded with a written statement which you can read with the rest of the article at <http://www.pghcitypaper.com/Blogh/archives/2015/05/18/delta-foundation-faces-backlash-for-iggy-azalea-concert-at-pittsburgh-pridefest>

On May 30, United Press International (UPI) reported that Azalea was canceling her upcoming "Great Escape" concert tour but that decision doesn't include "Pittsburgh Pride, Ottawa Bluesfest, Québec Summer Festival or Washington State Fair."

More about Azalea can be found on the *Billboard* web site at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/the-juice/6568821/pittsburgh-pridefest-iggy-azalea-backlash>

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## Kelly Awards Winners

Larry McKay of Pittsburgh Alderdice was named Best Actor and Marnie Quick of Pittsburgh Obama Academy named Best Actress on May 30 for the annual Gene Kelly Awards.

First held in 1991, the Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater honors the best student performers and student productions among Pittsburgh-area high schools. The program is a joint effort of the **Pittsburgh Civic Light Orchestra** (CLO) and the **University of Pittsburgh** named after actor, director, choreographer and Pittsburgh native Gene Kelly (1912-1996). More than two dozen high schools participate. College-bound seniors receive

scholarship funds.

Many of Pittsburgh's high schools have become more and more sophisticated in their staging of plays and especially musicals. Over the past year, these have included ambitious productions of Broadway hits as different as "Mary Poppins" and "Chicago."

That was also reflected in the awards show, reports Sharon Ebersson of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, who describes the event and lists the winners online at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/high-school-musicals/2015/05/31/Kelly-Awards-mark-25th-year-honoring-high-school-musicals/stories/201505310113>

## Red Nose Day's \$21 Million

More than \$21 million were raised to life children and young people out of poverty in NBC's star-studded "Red Nose Day" event.



NBC is the flagship of NBC-Universal, which is owned by **Comcast**, which operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise.

Red Nose Day began in the United Kingdom in 1988 and is operated by the British charity **Comic Relief**. The red nose symbol was inspired by the plastic nose worn by circus clowns. The

program has raised over \$1 billion in the UK since its inception.

The primary beneficiaries of NBC's Red Nose Day are American children and teens, but some funds will benefit kids in other countries as well.



## TV Station's New Format

What began as a small UHF station in 1978, WPMY-TV is going through yet another incarnation, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Mario Sciallo.



The station is owned (along with WPGH-TV) by the **Sinclair Broadcast Group**. For nearly 20 years Channel 22 specialized in off-network repeats and local news/public affairs programming. It was a UPN affiliate from 1995 to 1998 and joined the WB. After the WB folded, the station became a MyNetwork TV affiliate. Now, it seems to be embracing, after a fashion, those early years.

"We are going to become a sports and entertainment station," Sciallo quotes Sinclair's Terry G. Kowalski. "We felt there was a void in this type of programming, the local sports."

The station's call letters were quietly changed on May 19 to WPNT and will begin airing local high school sports games starting this fall as well as the **Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference** game.

"What we are doing is providing programming that is local, and that is what advertisers want. It's really that simple," Kowalski told Sciallo.

The station will continue to be a MyNetwork TV affiliate and air off-network repeats.

## CBS Promotes Rafferty

Kelly Rafferty has been named Senior Vice President of Communications for **CBS Corporation**, the company announced in a press release.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns two television and three radio stations, most notably KDKA.

The press release explains that “Rafferty will help manage media

relations for the CBS Corporate Communications Department, covering a wide range of company initiatives and activities in Sales, Research, Affiliate Relations, Carriage Agreements, Governmental Affairs, Program Practices, among others. She will also work closely to support the communications teams at each of CBS’s business segments.”

This is a promotion for Rafferty, who had been overseeing the CBS Daytime publicity group and had a key role in promoting “The Talk” talk show. She begins her new position June 1.

## PBT Hires New Dancers

Three new company dancers have been signed by the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT), all alumni of the graduates of the theatre’s school.

### PITTSBURGH BALLET THEATRE

Jessica McCann, Emily Simpson and Kurtis Sprowls come from the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School Graduate Program.

“The graduate program has produced so many exceptional talents, and I consider it a real asset to work closely with them as they develop as dancers,” said PBT Artistic Director Terrence S. Orr in a press release. “I am extremely proud of the strength of this company heading into the 2015-2016 Season. The caliber of our dancers has allowed us to take on ambitious new works, and really push ourselves as a company.”

Hannah Carter, who has been dancing with the PBT for two years, has been promoted to soloist bringing the company’s roster to a total of 30 full-time dancers.

Biographies of these artists are available online at <http://www.pbt.org/news/pittsburgh-ballet-theatre-signs-three-new-dancers-promotes-new-soloist>



## Local TV Ratings News

With Dr. Mehmet Oz the subject of controversy, it may be no surprise that his long-running television series is taking a hit in the ratings, at least locally.

Turkish-American cardiothoracic surgeon Mehmet Oz has won five Daytime Emmy Awards for his medical information series, “The Dr. Oz Show,” which debuted in 2009. However, critics have questioned the validity of the advice he gives and especially his endorsements for weight-loss supplements. Oz appeared at a US Senate hearing last year trying to defend himself.

Mario Sciallo reports in the May 27 issue of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that a “year ago, ‘Dr. Oz’ weighed in with a Households rating of 2.5 and 6 share. In the demo, it scored 0.7 and 3. In the 2015 May book, which ran from April 23-May 20, it scored an even lower 1.7 rating and 4 share in Households, while sinking to 0.4 and 2 in the demo.”

This seems to reflect what’s happening across the country. According to *Broadcasting & Cable Magazine*, “Dr. Oz” has seen a 39% drop in national ratings as compared with May 2014.

Local newscasts have also seen a ratings drop. Details and an informational graphic are available in Sciallo’s article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/tv-radio/2015/05/27/In-local-Nielsen-ratings-Dr-Oz-6-a-m-newscasts-dip/stories/201505270077>



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## Abraham Inducted Into Hall

One of Pittsburgh's most successful sons has been formally inducted into the **American Theatre Hall of Fame**: F. Murray Abraham.

The Hall was founded in 1972 to honor the lifetime contributions of actors, playwrights, composers, crafts people, directors and producers to Broadway.

F. Murray Abraham was born in Pittsburgh in 1939 to an Assyrian immigrant auto mechanic and his wife. The family later moved to Texas. Abraham won the Academy Award for his performance in the 1984 film "Amadeus."

This year's ceremony was held on May 4. On the following day, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Christopher Rawson posted this article about the event: <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2015/05/05/F-Murray-Abraham-Blythe-Danner-Susan-Stroman-among-inductees-to-Theatre-Hall-of-Fame-in-NYC/stories/201505050211>



## Dippy's Face Lift

Fans know it as simply "Dippy," but the charming creature sitting outside the Carnegie Museum of Natural History is about to receive the sculptural equivalent of a facelift.

CARNEGIE | MUSEUMS  
OF PITTSBURGH

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** and has been considered one of the leading natural history museums in the US since opening in 1896.

Officials have announced that the beloved fiberglass statue of *Diplodocus Carnegii* is being restored. Dippy was erected in 1999 to commemorate the centennial of the museum's first and most famous dinosaur.

The decision was made after a museum conservator, Gretchen Anderson, noticed that the statute was showing more than expected wear. "When I examined the statue, he looked like he was going to delaminate --- like he was shedding," she explains in a press release. His clear anti-graffiti coating was peeling off and taking with it some of the fiberglass that it was supposed to be protecting. "Dippy is not only a museum icon, but a Pittsburgh icon." Residents and tourists often have their photo taken with him.

Dippy's current anti-graffiti coating is being carefully stripped off to be replaced by a more durable, eco-friendly coating.

## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's  
arts & entertainment  
history and community.



*Local singer Margot Bingham was among the honorees at this year's History Makers Awards Dinner at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center, which was held on May 8.*

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)

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- \* Give him free tickets to your show
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# Pro Arts Grants Program

More than \$200,000 in grants was awarded recently by the **Heinz Endowments** and the **Pittsburgh Foundation** to support area artists.



The grants were the result of a program called Investing in Professional Artists that began in 2011. More than 160 individuals and organizations from across the region applied to be considered in a peer-reviewed process.

“The work of individual artists is the creative life-blood of any

community’s artistic and cultural environment,” said Maxwell King, of The Pittsburgh Foundation says in a press release. “Nothing adds more energy and resiliency to the culture of a community than the artistry of the individual. This program helps us ensure that we don’t miss the extraordinary contributions that artists can offer.”

Recipients include comedian Gaby Cody for a documentary/live performance project; sculptor Alisha Wormsley’s “There are Black People in the Future” project and choreographer William Shannon’s effort to develop a dance program inspired by individuals with disabilities.

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[www.DowntownPittsburgh.com/events/suggest](http://www.DowntownPittsburgh.com/events/suggest)

WED  
3

On top of the **Cabaret at Theater Square** is a screening of the very hip movie "[Young Frankenstein](#)."

FRI  
5

The [Three Rivers Arts Festival](#) returns!

SAT  
6

There will be some terrific jazz-infused rock tonight at **First Niagara Pavilion** with the [Dave Matthews Band](#).

SAT  
6

The always amazing [Taylor Swift](#) brings her blend of pop, rock and country to **Heinz Field**.

WED  
10

Don't forget that the [Pittsburgh Banjo Club](#) welcomes one and all to their weekly **Allegheny Elks Lodge** show.

THU  
11

The **Carnegie Museum of Art** offers a bold exhibition exploring the career of artist [Jacqueline Humphries](#).

FRI  
12

Grammy Award winning pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to **Heinz Hall** for the [Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's](#) final show of the season.



FRI  
19

**The Mattress Factory's** annual [Urban Garden Party](#) is cityfied fun.

SAT  
20

**Heinz Field** welcomes the legendary [Rolling Stones](#) for an unforgettable stadium show.

TUE  
23

The stunning musical "[Man of La Mancha](#)" comes to the **Benedum Center** with his powerful tale of a man who long to be a hero.

SAT  
13

Take yourself out to an [old ballgame](#) at **Meadowcroft** — and they mean old, as in the way baseball was first played.

SUN  
14

Come out today for [PrideFest!](#)

SUN  
14

They may no longer be new or kids, but [New Kids on the Block](#) are still delivering great tunes at **Consol Energy Center**.

TUE  
16

Celebrate Pittsburgh's rich jazz heritage with a [special program](#) at **Heinz Hall**.

FRI  
19

Even though their official season is over, the [Pittsburgh Symphony](#) continues rolling along with a fun show pairing live music with classic Disney cartoons at **Heinz Hall**.

FRI  
26

Contemporary country music star [Brad Paisley](#) is at **First Niagara Pavilion**.

SAT  
27

Space Age style comes to the **Carnegie Museum of Natural History** with a fun [exhibit of wearable and decorative arts](#) inspired by and relating to outer space.

SUN  
28

Two great stars in music come to **First Niagara Pavilion**: [Kid Rock](#) and [Foreigner](#).

TUE  
30

The rock band [Train](#) comes to a stop at **First Niagara Pavilion**.



## Local Film Seeks Funding

A start-up film company in rural Beaver County is seeking crowd funding support for its planned film "The Way of Seeming."

The script was written by director Josh Maley based on the scary stories his father used to tell him about a road in the town of Industry the locals had nicknamed "Mystery Mile."

A press release explains: "Stories of animals going rabid and

chasing after people, strange flashes of light, mysterious sounds, and people going missing on the road, haunted and inspired Maley. Bewitched by the urban legend, Maley spent years researching Mystery Mile."

Maley's script explores a group of friends and "their fateful connection to the road."

For more information, visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1173602889/the-way-of-seeming>

## Shakespeare In The Park

One of William Shakespeare's most popular plays will be staged in county parks throughout July by the **New Renaissance Theatre Company**.

Staged as part of the company's Unrehearsed Shakespeare Project, the cast of "Much Ado About Nothing" will perform without any formal rehearsals. In a press release, the company explains that this is very much in the Bard's tradition: "When Shakespeare wrote for the theatre, his company performed six shows a week --- a different play every day --- without repeating a show in a two week period and adding a new

show to the repertory every two weeks. For many economic and practical reasons the actors never received the entire script of a play. Instead they received cue scripts that contained only their lines, the last few words of their cue lines, their exits and entrances and the few stage directions that could not be written directly into the characters' lines."

The play is a fast-paced comedy about the romantic entanglements created by gossips and rumor.

For more information, visit [www.unrehearsedshakespeareproject.com](http://www.unrehearsedshakespeareproject.com)



## Punxy Phil Heads To Broadway

Some days never seem to end, and that was the premise of the 1993 film "Groundhog Day" --- which is now heading to Broadway.

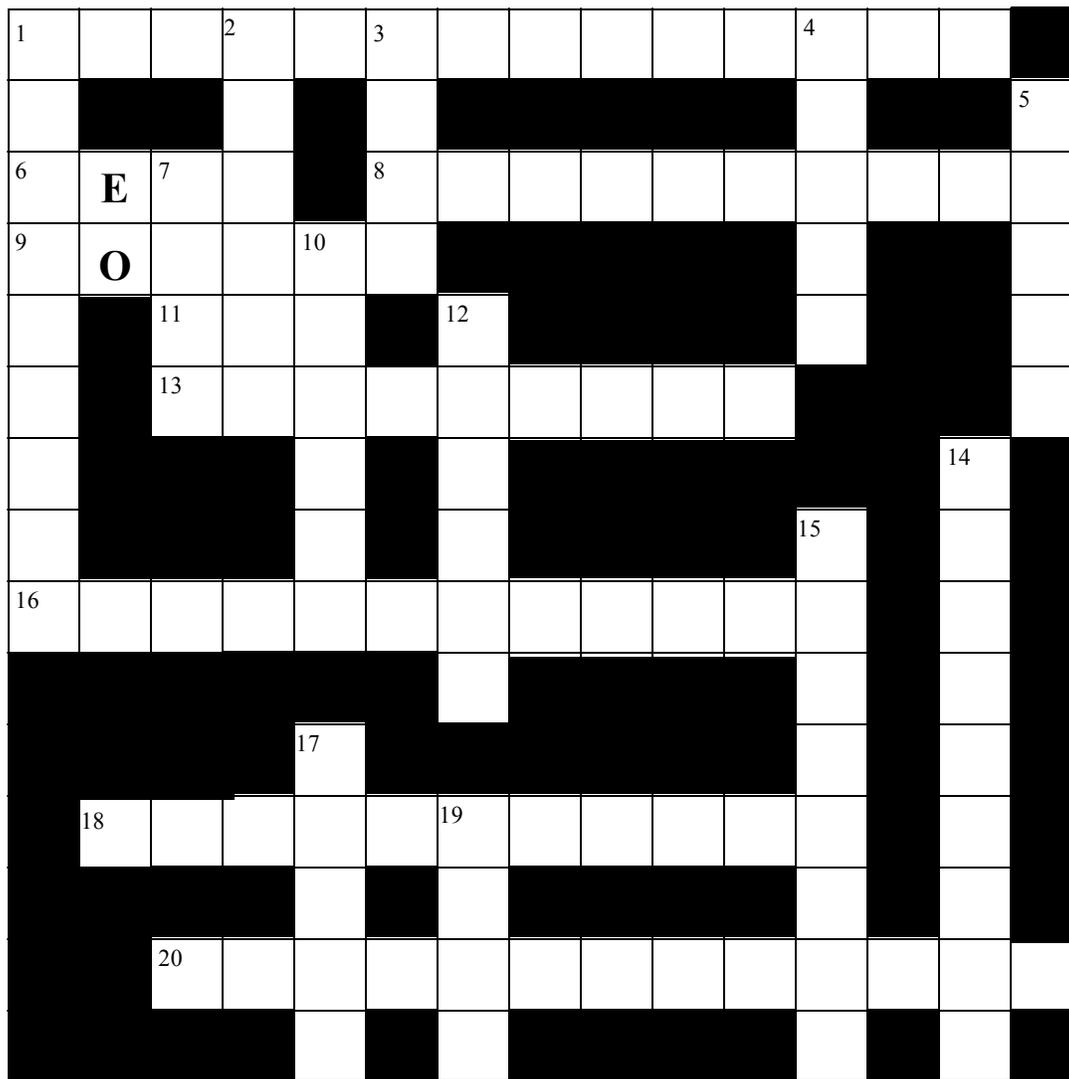
Although mostly filmed in Illinois and Wisconsin, the film starred Bill Murray as a cynical Pittsburgh TV weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney who finds himself living that day over and over again.

Debbie Emery reports on The-Wrap.com that the musical comedy's book is being written by Danny Rubin (who co-wrote the screenplay with the late Harold Ramis), music and lyrics by Australian composer and comedian Tim Minchin and choreography by Peter Darling (who won the Tony for "Billy Elliot: The Musical"). The show will open on Broadway sometime in the spring of 2017.



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“Andy Warhol” [with two free letters]



## ACROSS

1. Andy’s university alma mater (as we know it today)
6. Cat’s comment
8. Where Andy did his most famous work
9. Andy’s specialty
11. In the past
13. He just retired
16. Where Andy spent his teenage years
18. See 12 Down
20. We now called it the Andy Warhol Bridge

## DOWN

1. Andy’s favorite soup company
2. Type of music
3. Belgian economist
4. Seriously hate
5. Roma by another name
7. Australia’s national gemstone
10. Mel Brooks’ sitcom: “When Things were \_\_\_”
12. Andy’s band (with 18 Across)
14. Andy’s magazine
15. What a Greek deity does when he’s really angry
17. Depart
19. Mr. Kelly, to pals

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