

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Keaton Film Wins Best Film Oscar

Starring Pittsburgh native Michael Keaton, the film "Spotlight" won Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards ceremony.

The Academy Awards began in 1929 and are awarded by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** (AMPAS) for excellence in filmmaking. The award has the nickname "Oscar."

"Spotlight" follows the *Boston Globe's* investigative journalists (known as the "Spotlight Team") in their efforts throughout 2001 to uncover widespread child sex

abuse among Boston's Roman Catholic priests. The film was produced by a quartet of companies that includes **Participant Media LLC**, which specializes in social relevant projects. Keaton portrays the Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Walter "Robby" Robinson, who still is an editor at the *Globe*.

The screenplay also won an Oscar for writers Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy (who also directed).

Overshadowing the entire ceremony (which has been telecast annually since 1953), was the lack of racial diversity among the major nominees two years in a row. Host Chris Rock didn't shy away from the controversy with comedic commentary that has earned him mostly applause. Brian

Lowry, TV Critic for *Variety*, described his openly monologue as "brilliantly threaded the needle" and his overall performance as "especially astute in characterizing Hollywood as being 'sorority racist'" and for not "turning the event into a lecture."

Unfortunately, the ratings hit an all-time low.

The list of major winners, along with clips from the telecast, is available online at <http://www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2016> and an analysis of written by Scott Feinberg for the *Hollywood Reporter* can be read at <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/race/oscars-why-spotlight-was-last-871334>

Inside This Issue

31st Street
Studio enmeshed
in a loan dispute **Page 3**

The Warhol
names a new
curator **Page 3**

Sumner
Redstone forced
to retire at CBS **Page 4**

Steeltown has a
networking
event **Page 6**

PSO musicians
launch challenge
grant **Page 6**

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IATSE & Diversity

At the same time that Hollywood and the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** struggle to deal with diversity issues, Pittsburgh's film and TV community is attempting to be more proactive.



Michael "Bubba" Matesic, president of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) Local 489, is developing a diversity program reports Jason Cato in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Cato quotes Chip Eccles, also of Local 489: "Women and minorities should be encouraged to go on our permit list and apply to be employed."

The full article is available online at <http://triblive.com/news/allegheeny/9737946-74/film-local-diversity>



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31st Street Mortgage Issue

A legal fight over a mortgage may endanger Pittsburgh's primary film and television production facility, **31st Street Studios**, reports Jason Cato in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

Studio founder Chris Breakwell bought the 10-acre complex from David Kowalski in 2011



Cato describes the root of the issue as the broken relationship between Breakwell and Kowalski. "He saw more dollar signs," he quotes Breakwell, speaking of David Kowalski, the man he bought the property from in 2011. "He said, 'I can be your friend or

your enemy.' He wanted to be partners" but Breakwell didn't.

In February, the two parties agreed to a consent judgment. Breakwell is to pay Kowalski \$8.3 by May 1. Kowalski tells Cato that he is requesting a sheriff's sale on May 2 if the deadline is missed, but Breakwell insists that he has the necessary financing.

Read the full article at <http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/10030713-74/kowalski-breakwell-studio>

The studio is currently being used for producing the film version of August Wilson's play, "Fences."

Rare Warhol Works In UK

The Ashmolean Museum in the United Kingdom has opened a new exhibit of works by pop artist and Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol (1928-1987).

A part of **Oxford University**, the Ashmolean Museum of Art & Archaeology is considered the world's first university museum. It dates back to 1678 and was given as a gift to Oxford by celebrated English antiquarian Elias Ashmole (1617-1692).

More than 100 pieces are on display at the museum, reports Jose da Silva in *The Art Newspaper*. In his article, da Silva writes: "Spanning more than three decades of Warhol's output, the exhibition includes early works such as Double One Dollar Bills (1962) as well as his monochromatic religious works that he made in

the years shortly before his death in 1987."

The full article is available at <http://theartnewspaper.com/news/news/private-collection-of-warhols-pops-up-in-oxford/>



Warhol Names New Curator

Jose Carlos Diaz has been named by the Andy Warhol Museum as its new Milton Fine Curator of Art.

The Andy Warhol Museum is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, and is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to a single artist: Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol (1928-1987).

CARNEGIE | MUSEUMS
OF PITTSBURGH

Diaz was previously exhibitions curator at the Bass Museum of Art. It's owned by the City of Miami. Among the accomplishments was the respected traveling show "Gold" which examined how gold has been used throughout history.

"We are thrilled to welcome José Carlos Diaz to The Warhol team," says Eric Shiner in a press release, The Warhol's director. "José's background in curation in both Miami and the United Kingdom is global in outlook, and eclectic and thought-provoking in content. He comes to us with equally dynamic ideas for future exhibitions here at the museum that will help us to rethink and redefine Warhol for the 21st century."

Diaz assumes his new post on May 16.

CBS' Redstone Retires

As expected, **CBS Corporation** chairman Sumner M. Redstone has stepped aside as the titular head of the company.



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

Emily Steel writes in the *New York Times* that "Redstone, under pressure from shareholders and facing a lawsuit challenging his mental competence," has formally turned the reins over to president Leslie Moonves.

She also reports that a "lawsuit challenging his mental capacity has put forth embarrassing claims about his physical condition" and even his sexual appetite. The 92-

year-old Redstone controls about 80% of the stock in CBS and **Viacom** through his firm, **National Amusements**.

In other news, CBS has ordered a pilot for the proposed series "Sensory." According to Deadline Hollywood's Nellie Andreeva the series "is inspired by the true story of Dr. Joel Salinas, a neurologist and researcher at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. The two-hander centers around a veteran neurologist and her protégé who, like Salinas, has mirror-touch synesthesia, a neurological trait that causes him to experience other people's sensations."

The script was written by David Zabel, the former showrunner for the long-running medical drama "ER" (1994-2009) for which he received the Humanitas Prize. The pilot was recently shooting at 31st Street Studios.

QED's New Shows

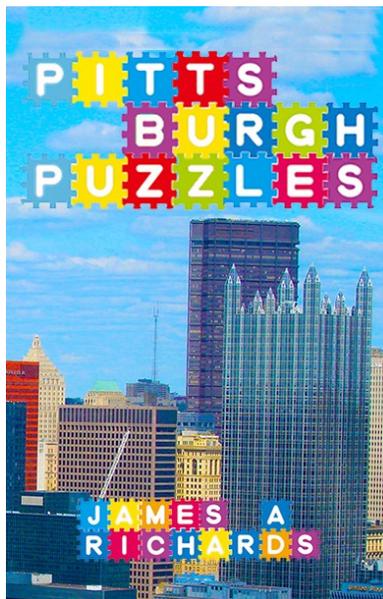
A new television series --- a joint effort of WQED-TV and the Carnegie Science Center --- made its debut last month.

Called, "Ready Set Go!," the series follows the adventures of two kids and their new neighbor, an alien from a distant planet. The trio explores the solar system to learn about how space affects Earth as well as about friendship and teamwork.

The animated series features live-action elements featuring an astronomer of the National Aeronautics & Space Agency's famed jet propulsion laboratory. Learn more by visiting www.pbskids.org

In other news, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reports that WQED has mined its deep archives to create a series of short documentaries that began on February 8.

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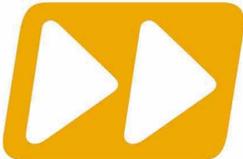
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Networking Event

Another networking event for film and television production pros has been scheduled by the **Steeltown Entertainment Project**.



The event will be held on the city's North Side at the Modern Café on March 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. To register, visit <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg.jsessionid=46E9FF915B0380447AB7E267B9948F3C?oeidk=a07ec6awhw15d9a4dad&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Boss' Blooper

In what may have been a Freudian slip (or merely exhaustion during a long tour), legendary rocker Bruce Springsteen proudly cried out "Pittsburgh!" at a recent concert.

The problem: he was in Cleveland.

Michaele Amabile Angermiller of *Billboard* writes that the Steel City may have been foremost in his thoughts as another legend, Pittsburgh native Joe Grushecky, was on stage with him. Springsteen and Grushecky are longtime friends.

Apparently, the Ohio folks in the audience forgave him and the concert went forward as planned.

PSO Musicians' Challenge

To encourage others to donate, the musicians and board members of the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** have awarded the orchestra with a \$120,000 challenge grant.

The amount reflects the orchestra's 120th anniversary season.



"It was important for the musicians during this anniversary season to both show our financial support of the artistic excellence of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and our appreciation of the generosity of the orchestra's donors," said Micah Howard, chair of the orchestra committee, in a press release. "The generosity

and support of our donors makes it possible for this world-class orchestra to thrive and grow in musical excellence, educational offerings and international acclaim."

The grant will match dollar-for-dollar any new or increased gifts to the annual fund by May 3. Gifts can be made online at pittsburghsymphony.org/donate or by calling (412) 392-4880.



Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's
arts & entertainment



This is a photo of playwright Ayad Akhtar, whose Pulitzer Prize winning play "Disgraced" bows at the O'Reilly Theater starting March 10.

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

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Union Claims Double-Standard At NBCU

The issue of alleged double standards at NBC Universal's Spanish-language network Telemundo continues to involve both the company and the leadership of **SAG-AFTRA**.



NBC-Universal is owned by **Comcast**, which operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise. SAG-AFTRA represents over 150,000 television, film and radio performers and has a full-time office in downtown Pittsburgh.

On-air talent at Telemundo and other Spanish-language networks

are not currently covered by SAG-AFTRA contracts. The result is a pay and benefits gap between the Telemundo and the NBCU's English-language networks.

"NBC Universal, through its Telemundo-branded content, is perpetuating one set of standards for its English-language performers and a lower set of standards for Spanish-language performers," said SAG-AFTRA President Ken Howard in a press release. "You cannot claim to support diversity and inclusion on the one hand while treating Spanish-language performers as second-class employees on the other."

Telemundo has said that it will allow staff members to vote on whether to join SAG-AFTRA, although the union insists that a fair vote is not possible "when workers are afraid for their careers and livelihoods, and live

with the fear of retaliation if they are seen as actively wanting to unionize."

In other news, the network has announced the renewal of long-running drama "Days of Our Lives." The series has seen a 15% increase in audience size in the past year alone. Critics have also commented favorably on the show's focus on character-driven storytelling.

"NBC is incredibly proud of the legacy of 'Days of our Lives' and we couldn't be more excited to bring its fans new stories for the 51st season," NBC Entertainment President Jennifer Salke said in a press release. "In a business where having a show remain on the air for two seasons is considered a success, what 'Days' has achieved is extraordinary."



Channel Pittsburgh



March is Women's History Month.



TUE
1

Beam up to **Heinz Hall** for a night dedicated to all things "Star Trek."



TUE
8

The musical version of the hit novel *The Bridges of Madison County* comes to the **Benedum Center**

SAT
12

Embrace the green today with the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade!



THU
17

A fake nun on the run is the subject of the musical comedy "Sister Act" at the **Byham Theater**.



FRI
4

The new host of the award winning "Daily Show," Trevor Noah, performs stand-up at the **Carnegie Music Hall**.



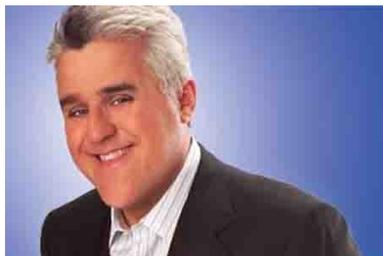
THU
10

The popular Disney film "Frozen" chills the **Consol Energy Center**.



TUE
22

The beloved Broadway musical "The Sound of Music" echoes through the **Benedum Center**.



FRI
5

The Pittsburgh Symphony takes the night off as Jay Leno offer his stand-up at **Heinz Hall**.



SAT
12

Naughty can be nice at **City Theatre** in the play "Sex with Strangers."



SAT
26

The new **Ace Hotel Pittsburgh** is the place to be to see a special screening of the cult hit film "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" with star/director John Cameron Mitchell among the guests.

National/World A&E News Round-Up

Art Destruction Now A War Crime

History is being made at the International Criminal Court as a former Mali school teacher has been accused of a new war crime: cultural destruction.

The **International Criminal Court** (ICC) is an independent intergovernmental entity established in 1988 to prosecute people charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and general war crimes. Now you can add the destruction of cultural buildings and items.

Ahmad al-faqi al-Mahdi is on trial for allegedly order the destruction of cultural monuments in Timbuktu, Mali in the summer of 2012 during conflicts in the northern part of the country involving an al-Qaeda group. Timbuktu is considered one of Earth's most historic cities and is listed as a Unesco World Heritage Site. It was a major trading center during the Middle Ages and is home to many irreplaceable structures.

Anny Shaw explains in *The Art Newspaper*: "During their occupation of Timbuktu, militants demolished Medieval shrines and tombs of Sufi saints, as well as the Sidi Yahya mosque, which was built in 1440 and contained Prof Sidi Yahya's mausoleum. The buildings, which formed part of the Unesco World Heritage site dubbed the 'city of 333 saints', were considered blasphemous by the jihadis. Around 4,000 ancient manuscripts were also lost, burned or stolen."

Mick & Fidel?

A different kind of history may soon be made, reports Judy Cantor-Navas in *Billboard*: the legendary British rock band The Roll-

ing Stones may soon be playing in newly reopened Cuba.

"Cuban cultural officials have announced that The Rolling Stones will perform in Havana sometime during Easter week" Cantor-Navas writes. "The confirmation of the show, which has been rumored for months, was first posted on a Cuban television news Facebook page on Feb. 26, and followed by an article in the official newspaper *Granma* which proclaimed the concert 'will be a historic moment that will open the doors for other great bands to arrive in Havana.'"

At press time there was no confirmation that a concert deal has been made.

Snyder Steps Aside

The long-time director of the prestigious **Israel Museum** is stepping into a new position as part of a succession plan.

Founded in 1965, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem is Israel's national museum. Among the institution's collection is the carved pebble known as the Venus of Berekhat Ram --- considered by many experts as the oldest piece of artwork in the world.

James S. Snyder has been director for 20 years. Robin Pogrebin reports in the *New York Times* that he is assuming a newly created position to preside over the museum's international activities. A search is being launched for his successor.

MAC's New Model

In a sign of the times the new face of MAC Cosmetics will be transgender celebrity and former

Olympic athlete Caitlyn (formerly Bruce) Jenner.

MAC is a subsidiary of cosmetic giant **Estee Lauder Companies**. Jenner will be the first transgender individual to sign with a mainstream beauty firm, reports Debbie Emery on *TheWrap.com*.

"[Jenner] beautiful transformation inspires all of us to live our best lives and to honour who we are," Emery quotes from a the company statement. "Differences are what make us interesting. Acceptance, warmth and understanding are what make us human."

Revenue from Jenner's limited edition lipstick, Finally Free, will benefit an AIDS program for transgender people.





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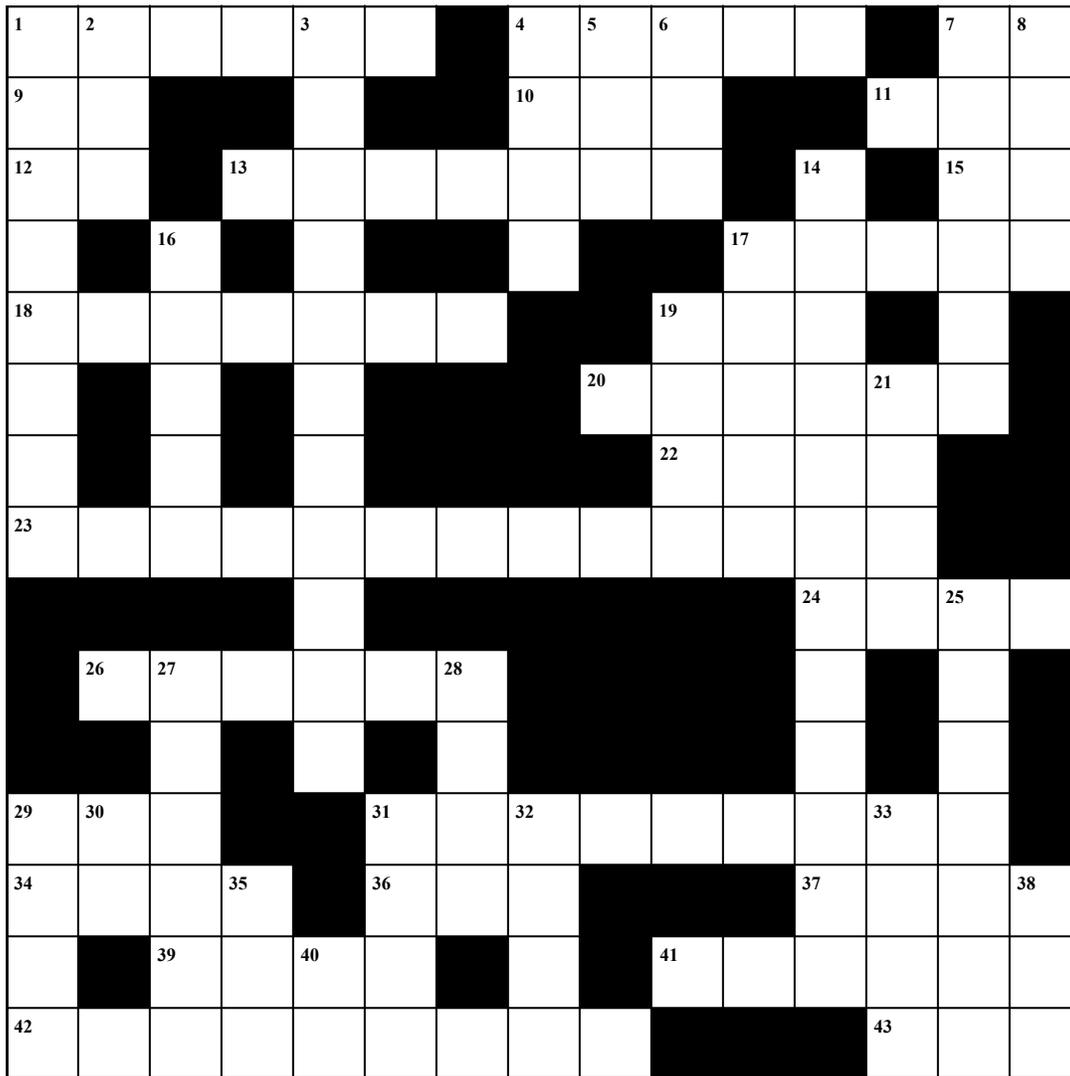


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1. They were driven out of Ireland by 32-Across
4. Lee or Levi
7. Western state (abbr.)
9. Response to a joke, with 15-Across
10. Computer format (abbr.)
11. Pass with flying colors
12. One of Taylor Lautner's famous six-pack
13. Famous Irish-American family
15. See 9-Across
17. Pertaining to the icy North or South
18. Say again
19. Feline
20. Pittsburgh's is on March 12
22. Actor Jared
23. Its not easy for him to be green
24. Greek cheese
26. Ireland's capital
29. Sass
31. He drove the 1-Across from Ireland
34. Famous March date in Ancient Rome
36. Long, slippery fish
37. Smelling organ
39. Travel aimlessly
41. Historic Irish language
42. The ex-girlfriend of 23-Across
43. Engineer, briefly

DOWN

1. Irish clover
2. Arrest
3. Nickname for Ireland
4. American comedian of Irish descent (with 7-Down)
5. "Kookie" Byrnes
6. Jimmy and Rosalyn's daughter
7. See 4-Down
8. Rend
14. Instigation for Irish immigration to America
16. John Jacob ____
17. Trimmer
19. Baby cattle
21. Former boss of Venice, Italy
25. What mom does for her kid at bed time
27. Stimulant drugs
28. Brief message
29. Irish actor Neeson
30. Partner of ego
31. Big truck, for short
32. Electoral outlet's partner
33. Famed singer Nat King ____
35. Radio emergency message
38. Heart test (abbr.)
40. UPI competitor

Last Month's Solution

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