

Artists & Others Respond To Russia's War

The shocking invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has been met with economic and diplomatic sanctions. The world's creative community has responded as well.

Initial protests began online, according to *The Art Newspaper's* Kabir Jhala. This ranged from the controversial Russian band **Pussy Riot** posting on Twitter and the artist collective **AED+F** on Instagram. "The Ukrainian-Russian artist Aljoscha has staged an anti-war intervention in front of The Motherland Monument in Kyiv," writes Jhala. "Bearing in his hands two pink forms made of acrylic, plastic and fiberglass, the Kyiv-based artist stood naked in front of the massive steel statue that commemorates Russia's role in the Second World War."

Protests soon entered the real world from Poland west to the United Kingdom and across the globe. This includes marches in various Russian cities.

Local musician and scholar Taras Filenko was among those participating in a February 24 vigil in the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. Filenko is a Ukrainian native who attended the **University of Pittsburgh** and taught at **Duquesne University**. *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's* Joanne Klimovich Harrop writes that "he has been in touch with family members and a nephew told him he 'will fight to the end.'"

The Russian attack on Ukraine has hit our region hard: Pittsburgh has one of the largest populations of Ukrainian immigrant descendants in the United States. Many retain deep emotional ties to their homeland.

"I think we're all kind of reeling from the suddenness of this," local resident Brett McCaw told WESA-FM's Julia Zenkevich. Zenkevich reports that "McCaw lived and worked in Ukraine for three years. He even met his wife there. Like many others, McCaw

said they've been on the phone with relatives who are trying to decide if it's safer to leave or stay."

"My mom is there," Greenfield merchant Nataliya Petrylo told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. "I have friends there. I did not think this would happen. We are good people, the Ukraine people. We have customers who come in who are from Ukraine and Russia and Poland."

Another local protest took place Downtown on February 27.

Keaton Wins SAG Award

Pittsburgh native Michael Keaton won a Best Actor award at this year's SAG Awards --- and gave a passionate speech that emotionally struck many people even as war raged in Europe.



Keaton was honored for Outstanding Performance by an Male Actor in a Television Movie or Limited Series. This for his role in the **Hulu** miniseries "Dopesick," which explores the nation's opioid crises. In 2016, his nephew (also named Michael) died after an accidental overdose.

"I have a job where I can be part of a production that actually can spawn thought, conversation, actual change," Keaton said. "Who

gets to have that job? Seriously? How fortunate am I that good can come from something I do just because I learn to become an actor? There's massive inequity in the world. In 'Dopesick', when you talk about addiction, the way to heal the problem is to accept that you have a problem. Not our country. The entire world. Economically, racially, socially, financially. There's massive inequity in the world. There just is. There's fair, and there's unfair. There's not a lot of room in between."

Continues on Page 2



Russian Cyberattack's Cost

The war in Ukraine has observers wondering just how the Russian Federation will respond to sanctions --- and whether that response will be a cyber attack.

SBG

On February 24 --- the same day Russia invaded Ukraine --- the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) announced that the company lost \$89 million as a result of a 2019 ransomware attack. [[See Pittsburgh Applause, November 2021, page 2](#) - ed] SBG owns two Pittsburgh television stations. Bloomberg reported in 2019 that it "as linked to one of

the most infamous Russian cyber-gangs, called Evil Corp., according to two people familiar with the attack." Such gangs are believe to work with the discrete support of Moscow.

Some of that loss is covered by insurance, reports Jon Lafayette for Broadcasting + Cable. But about \$24 million is "an unrecoverable net loss."

Meanwhile, the company has promoted Rob Weisbord to the position of President and Chief Operating Officer. It became vacant late last year upon the retirement of Steve Marks. Weisbord will report to CEO Chris Ripley.

WQED Takes Over Steeltown

In what is probably its final transformation, **Steeltown** has been absorbed by **WQED**.



The organization began in 2003 by writer/producer Carl Kurlander, attorney Ellen Weiss Kander (1961-2012) and writer/comedian Maxine Lapiduss as a professional organization dedicated to developing the local entertainment industry. But it had a critical problem: despite various high-profile projects --- including the cable TV series "The Chair" -- - none of them were generating

the needed revenue. Steeltown suffered layoffs in 2017 and Kurlander resigned in 2018. The following year the organization morphed into a media education institution for teens. Steeltown later moved from its South Side base into space at WQED.

A February press release announced that WQED had acquired the organization and rechristened it the Steeltown Film Academy. As a unit of the public broadcaster, the new Steeltown seeks to create "a pathway from education to employment" by taking them from the classroom environment "to internship to working and being paid on teen film crews."

SAG Awards

Continues from Page 1

Another big winner was **Carnegie Mellon University** alum Sian Heder, whose film "CODA" won two major awards. "CODA" (an acronym for "child of deaf adults") is the story of the only hearing member of a deaf family who may have to put her dreams of a music career on hold to save her parents' struggling business. The film received praise for its cast of deaf actors and its depiction of deaf people. Heder's acclaimed [screenplay is available online](#).

For a full list of winners, click [here](#).



Click the link above to see a clip of Keaton's acceptance speech.

The release explains that the academy will use professional teaching artists to guide teens through small-scale productions for various external entities. The group's online series "Reel Teens: Pittsburgh" will also continue.



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	Sound Mixing
Animation	Color Grading
Design	Conforming
Motion Graphics	Compression
Website/Interactive	Archiving
Mobile	Streaming
Social Media	Duplication

All Industries Served

Ad Agencies	Motion Pictures
Broadcast	Government
Corporate	Higher Ed
Small Business	Manufacturing
Non-Profit	Medical
Entrepreneurs	Entertainment
Music	Museums

the **Videohouse**



See your vision.

412.921.7577
www.thevideohouse.com

Hanks Film

Shooting in Pittsburgh for the new film "A Man Called Otto," is expected to have begun as *Pittsburgh Applause* goes to press.

"A Man Called Otto" is a remake of the internationally acclaimed 2015 Swedish film adaptation of the novel *A Man Called Ove* written by Fredrik Backman. The novel was a best seller in both Europe and the United States. The original film won two **Swedish Film Institute** awards (known as the Guldbagge) and nominated in the U.S. for two Academy Awards.

The story centers on a curmudgeonly widower and recluse whose lonely bubble is pierced by his new neighbors and their kids.

Oscar winning actor Tom Hanks plays the lead (his wife, Rita Wilson, is one of the producers) and Mark Foster is directing.

"What an amazing all-star constellation of talent," *The Hollywood Reporter's* Ryan Gajewski quotes a Sony press release, "we feel like we hit the lottery."

An error was made in last month's story about "A Man Called Ove." It was first reported in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* that the film would shoot in Pittsburgh. *Pittsburgh Applause* regrets the mistake.

ViacomCBS Gets New Name

The corporate parent of KDKA-TV has formally changed its name. What was **ViacomCBS** is now **Paramount Global**. The change became effective February 16.



Deadline's Jill Goldsmith published a company memo on February 15: "It has been one year since the spectacular launch of Paramount+ and two years since the successful merger of Viacom and CBS. In that time, we have

shown the world what we knew from the start: that together, aligned around a shared vision and shared strategy, we create a whole that is far greater than the sum of its parts . . . An iconic global company deserves an iconic global name."

That iconic name is tied to that of Paramount Pictures, the fifth oldest film studio in the world. It began as Famous Players Film Company in 1912 by Hungarian-American producer Adolph Zukor (1873-1976).

Meanwhile, Chris Licht, the executive producer of CBS' "Late Show with Stephen Colbert" is to take over as head of Cable News Network (CNN).

Book Wins Award

A book connected with the **Senator John Heinz History Center** has received a literary honor.



Launched: The Life of Olympian Herb Douglas by author and historian Anne Madarasz, has been awarded with the Gold Medal for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in the Research Projects/Publications category at the inaugural Anthem Awards.

The Anthem Awards is a new initiative developed to recognize the breadth of social good work (online and offline) around the globe by honoring the organiza-

tions, brands and people creating long-lasting impact. It is an extension of **The Webby Awards** organization.

Born in 1922 and a Pittsburgh native, Herb Douglas is a former athlete who won a bronze medal in the long jump at the 1948 Olympic Games in London. He went on to become one of the first African American vice presidents of a major U.S. corporation. *Launched* includes 90 historic photographs and commentary by world-class athletes.



Warhol Buys Land

Big things are happening at the Andy Warhol Museum --- whether patrons are experiencing the facility online or in-person.



The Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh (CMP) has purchased a parcel next to the Warhol. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Mark Belko reports that the CMP spent \$1 million to acquire the nearly 9,000-square-foot lot. But the institution is being a little cagey. "This piece of property is just such a purchase", Belko quotes a Carnegie spokeswoman who says that they are "considering a range of possibilities."

Belko also queried State Senator Wayne Fontana (who represents the North Side) that the Carnegie is "definitely interested in doing something as far as expansion, at least that's what they told me."

The museum is also expanding its online presence with Warhol TV. The streaming platform offers a mixture of free content as well as the ability to rent films and videos from the museum's collection.

In other news, the Warhol has promoted Nicole Dezelon to the position Director of Learning & Public Engagement. And Dr. Barbara Lee Dutrow of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has won the 2021 Carnegie Mineralogical Award. The award honors outstanding contributions in mineralogical preservation, conservation, and education.

New CMP Project

A new program co-created by the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** (CMP) honors a little-known but important group in American history --- African-American airmen.



In partnership with the community group **Hosanna House**, the museum has developed the Center for Aviation Technology and Training (CATT). Its first program is the traveling exhibit "Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight."

CATT "provides a pathway for education and training of black and brown children and teens that increases their capacity to stimulate career opportunities that help build a foundation of financial security in the future," said Hosanna House Founding Chief Executive Officer Leon E. Haynes, III in a press release.

Dani Janae has written a detailed article about it for *Pittsburgh City Paper*, which can be read by [clicking here](#).

Warhol Doc

The first trailer has dropped for the upcoming **Netflix** docuseries "The Andy Warhol Diaries." Its a project of writer/producer Ryan Murphy ("American Horror Story")

NETFLIX

As the title suggests, the series uses the Pittsburgh native's diaries as the foundation for tracing his life and pop art career. What makes this project distinctive is the use of artificial intelligence to create a credible version of Warhol's own voice.

The Hollywood Reporter's James Hibberd writes that actor Bill Irwin recorded "record the lines, then used a text-to-speech algorithm that adopted Warhol's Pittsburgh accent. The voices were then combined in an attempt to come as close as possible to the artist."

All eight episodes become available on Netflix starting March 9.



Click the link above to watch the trailer for "The Warhol Diaries."

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 DWB Album

A new song and album has been dropped by **Driving While Black Records**, reports Dani Janae for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.



**DRIVING WHILE BLACK
RECORDS**

The label was established in 2019 by rapper Jordan Montgomery after the release of his debut album "Driving While Black."

Titled "Back in Business," the EP features the cocky rap "Love & Trust," in which a trio of artists reflect on working in the music business. It should be available via streaming services as *Pittsburgh Applause* goes to press.

Read [Janae's article](#) for more information.

WOV Hits 40

Pittsburgh arts group **Women of Visions** (WOV) recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll explains that WOVS may be "the oldest collective for Black women artists in the U.S."

WOV, which formed in 1981, used an exhibit at the **University of Pittsburgh** to mark the milestone. Read his interesting article by [clicking here](#).

Gainey's Art Initiative

Michelle Gainey --- the wife of Pittsburgh's newly installed mayor, Ed Gainey --- has announced her first community initiative.

That initiative is a rotating art exhibition called "Pittsburgh Paints." The goal is to promote the city's impressive diversity. A city press release explains that the project "will feature a unique [monthly] theme dedicated to uplifting Pittsburgh's diverse voices, empowering local artists, and creating opportunities to use art to learn more about different cultures in our city."

Read the full press release by clicking [here](#).

RAD's Ticket Program

A joint effort has been launched by the **Allegheny Regional Asset District** (RAD) and the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) to boost admission at various local attractions.

The initiative is called RAD Pass, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll. CLP holders age 18 and older can sign-up for the online service and reserve tickets at a discount. This should not be confused with the similarly named Pittsburgh Passport of the 1990's. That program involved pre-paid discounted admission vouchers.

More information, [visit the official web site](#).

Images



A young Johnny Cash is featured in an upcoming installment of Channel Pittsburgh's "TV That Time Forgot."



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!"



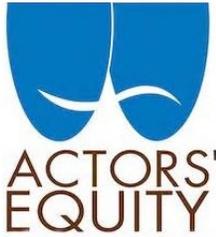
412.788.5250  vls.com

  [vincentlighting](http://vincentlighting.com)

AEA's New Health Team

Recognizing that COVID-19 may be with us indefinitely, **Actors' Equity Association** (AEA) has announced a new team of health consultants.

"The last two years have shown that COVID-19 allows no room for complacency; if anything, we must strive to be ever more informed, responsive and nimble," said AEA's Kate Shindle in a press release,



Leading the team is Dr. Mark Cunningham-Hill, an expert in occupational health and wellness. He has experience in pandemic-related (such as SARS and Ebola) for companies such as **GlaxoSmithKline** and **Johnson & John-**

son. Joining him are occupational medicine specialist Dr. Laura S. Welch and sports medicine expert Dr. Steven J. Anderson.

The union had been receiving pandemic response guidance from Dr. David Michael, who explains that he is "taking on a new public health project that does not allow me to continue to dedicate the time to Equity that its members deserve . . . the union is in good hands. I have worked with Mark and his team over the course of the pandemic . . . they are ready to dive right in and continue to implement measures that will protect arts workers during COVID-19."

This team is also advising the **American Guild of Music Artists** and the **Stage Directors & Choreographers Society** on COVID-19 safety.

Mosaic May Get New Home

A beloved, 60-year-old piece of public art may soon have a new home, reports Ed Blazina for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The artwork in question is a 28-panel glass mosaic commissioned by the city in 1964 and created by noted Italian-American enamellist Virgil Cantini (1919-2009). Several of his works can be found scattered around Pittsburgh and more can be learned about Cantini on [Wikipedia](#). It has been in storage since 2019 when the mosaic had to be removed as part of the creation of a new city park.

According to Blazina, the **Port Authority of Allegheny County** is testing a wall at the Steel Plaza T Station "to make sure they could handle the . . . mosaic and working out the details of an agreement to install and display the art there."

The mosaic is 60-feet long and 5-feet wide, which makes finding it a new home a challenge. To learn more, including the selection of Steel Plaza, [read Blazina's article](#).

**BETTY DAVIS
(1945-2022)**



**CALL 211 OR VISIT 211.ORG
FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE AND
OTHER RESOURCES**



**LET 211 BE YOUR GUIDING LIGHT.
OUR GUIDES ARE READY TO CONNECT
YOU WITH THE HELP YOU NEED.**



FRI
4



WED
16



FRI
4



FRI
18



FRI
4

SAT
19



SAT
12

FRI
25



SAT
12



SAT
26

Opportunities

Artists across the city are welcome to participate in Pittsburgh First Lady Michelle Gainey's new "Pittsburgh Paints" project. Details and online submission form are available [here](#).

Pittsburgh Community Television (PCTV) is seeking a full-time Director of Media Education. The successful candidate will develop and execute curricula, schedule workshops and recruit teachers as necessary. For more information, contact Executive Director John Patterson at john@pctv21.org.

Several positions are available at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, especially temporary ones involving the upcoming Carnegie International. Click [here](#).

Two paid apprenticeship positions are available at the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre**. [Audition dates and related information](#).

A cinematographer with his own equipment is being sought by **3 Men and a Lady Productions** for an upcoming short film. The company is also casting. These are paid positions. Contact work@tmaalp.com

An assistant position is open at **Docherty Agency**. Click [here](#).



Across

1. 1993 "Park" movie featuring 1-Down
8. Early 19th Century musical composition
9. Chevrolet hybrid
11. 18th Century piano maker Thomas
13. Grisham novel (with "The")
14. Not true
16. 1-Down's second wife, to pals
18. Popular Apple
21. 2003 Paint in Black album title
22. Noise
23. 1986 horror movie remake starring
1-Down
24. Bo lead-in
25. Movie canine Tin Tin
26. Actress Ortiz, to pals
27. WI southern neighbor
28. See 1-Across

1	2	3	4	5		6	7		
8						9		10	
		11				12			
13							14		15
						16	17		
18	19	20				21			
22					23				
24					25				
26					27				
28									

Down

1. Actor who grew up in West Homestead
(with 28-Across)
2. Knoxville school, initially
3. Heavily populated German valley
4. Titular character portrayed by 1-Down
in 2008 film
5. Controversial 1926 Mae West play
6. League or poison
7. State south of WY
10. Popular cut of meat
12. 1983 ensemble film featuring 1-Down
(with "The")
14. Green part of a tree
15. What Earth girls are supposed to be,
per 1988 movie starring 1-Down
17. Balanced
18. Important convention wear
19. Musical instrument played by 1-Down
20. Ryan or Tatum
23. Chicago newspaper, to the locals
(with "The")

Last Month's Solution

C	A	R	L	A		C	H	E	W
O	R	E	O			H	E	R	O
A	T		M			E	E	R	D
C	Y	D		B		E	L	O	D
H		I	C	O		R		R	Y
	N	A	R	C		S			
I	O	N	I	C			C	I	S
	R	E	B	E	C	C	A		A
	M				A	I	L		M
				C	L	I	F	F	