

# pittsburgh **applause!**

arts & entertainment newsletter

**BACK AFTER HIATUS!**

## Concerns About Wilson Center's Future

A solution may have been found to save the bankrupt **August Wilson Center for African-American Culture**, but some local leaders are not happy about it.



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 opening, much of it related to its construction debt. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Elizabeth Bloom has posted an extensive review of the center's debt history at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2014/02/09/Rise-and-fall-of-August-Wilson-Center/stories/201402090045>

The Associated Press reported on April 28 that a judge has postponed a request by the court-appointed conservator to approve the bid of development company with local ties. The developer, **980 Liberty Partners LLC**, is offering to save the August Wilson in exchange for constructing a hotel above the center.

Many members of the African-American community are upset about decisions being made with the community being consulted.

"If you're going to have community input, then it has to be from the beginning," the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review's* Bill Zlatos quotes founding board member Nancy Washington in a recent article. "Decisions can't be made, and then you're told how it is and invite the community at the end." She was speaking after an April 29 meeting that the center's con-

servator, Judith K. Fitzgerald, held at the behest of Mayor Bill Peduto and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

Both Peduto and Fitzgerald oppose the hotel plan. *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Rebecca Nuttall reported on April 22 that the two leaders have sent a letter to Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Lawrence O'Toole requesting that Ms. Fitzgerald be removed as conservator.

"I want to define it [the center]," a pastor who attended the meeting told Mark Belko of the *Post-Gazette*. "I don't want it defined for me."

Ms. Fitzgerald has hired a Connecticut consulting firm to explore other options, but has been seen to favor 980 Liberty Partners. A group of interested foundations have ended their own effort because of it.

*See the editorial on page 16.*

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## Local Film Going To Cannes

A locally made film called "Foxcatcher" has been submitted to main competition prize at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, reports Barbara Vancheri of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Founded in 1946, the Cannes International Film Festival previews new films of all genres during a glamorous series of events and screens held in Cannes, France.

"Foxcatcher" is the story of Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz, whose brother --- and another Olympic wrestler --- Dave

Schultz (1959-1996) was suddenly shot and killed by chemical dynasty heir and sports enthusiast John Eleuthere du Pont (1938-2010). He was found guilty and mentally ill, spending the rest of his life in prison. The film's title takes its name from the Pennsylvania farm where the murder took place.

Detailed information on "Foxcatcher" can be found on Wikipedia by clicking <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foxcatcher> The festival will occur May 14 to 25.

## WIFM Summit

The local chapter of **Women in Film & Media** (WIFM) welcomes noted filmmaker Catherine Hardwicke to Pittsburgh as part of the organization's international convention.



Also known as Women in Film & Television International, this global organization is dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of screen-based media. WIFM also welcomes male members.

Director and screenwriter Catherine Hardwicke is best known for the first film adaptation of the popular young adult novel *Twilight*.

The summit features 30 Panel Discussions, 40 speakers, 2 screenings and the organization's annual Opal Awards honoring

women in the industry. In addition to Hardwicke, speakers and panelists include journalist Martin Davidge, casting director Kimberly Skrme and actress/union executive Gabrielle Carteris, among others.

"This is a huge thrill for our chapter to be the host of this summit and show the world what Pittsburgh is capable of in the film industry," WIFM's Faith Dickinson says in a press release.

WIFM's annual Opal Awards honor Deb Acklin CEO of **WQED Multimedia** Dawn Keezer of the **Pittsburgh Film Office** and journalist Eleanor Schano, who became Pittsburgh's first solo female news anchor in 1970.

The summit occurs May 16 to 18 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. For more information, visit <http://www.dpsinfo.com/wiftisummit>

## SAG-AFTRA Welcomes New ED To Pgh

The local office of **SAG-AFTRA** finally has a new executive director.

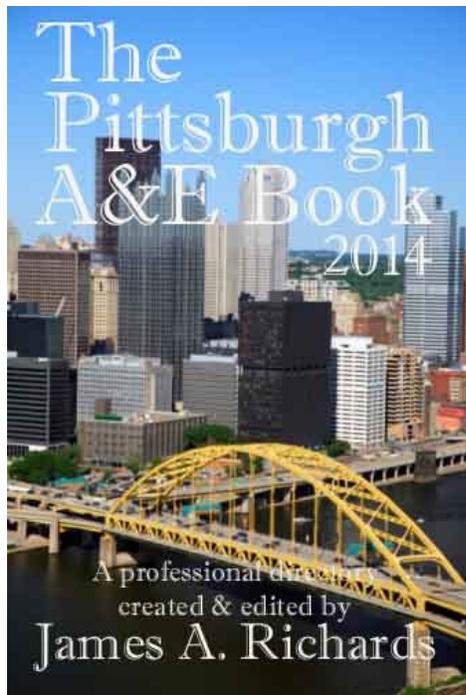


Formed in 2012 through the merger of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio Artists, SAG-AFTRA is a union representing over 160,000 film and television principal and background performers, journalists and radio personalities worldwide

Brian Lysell officially assumed the position on April 15. In a press release, SAG-AFTRA describes Lysell as a native Pittsburgher who is "the son of a boilermaker and postal worker," adding that he has "an impressive body of work, having worked for the labor unions that represent hotel employees in New York City --- as a grievance officer, business agent, vice-president, and ultimately chief of staff and delegate to the New York City Central Labor Council. He has represented workers on the shop floor, in mediation and at arbitration and has logged in hundreds of hours negotiating with employers at the bargaining table."

In other SAG-AFTRA news, the national board has unanimously approved proposals for the next round of TV/theatrical contract negotiations.

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## New Carnegie President

Dr. Jo Ellen Parker has been named the tenth president of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**.

CARNEGIE MUSEUMS  
OF PITTSBURGH

The Carnegie operates four museums in Pittsburgh: the Carnegie Museum of Art; the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Carnegie Science Center and the Andy Warhol Museum.

Dr. Parker is currently the president of **Sweet Briar College**, a liberal arts college for women located in central Virginia that was founded in 1901. Parker has

been credited with, among other things, diversifying the college's student body.

"Jo Ellen has spent most of her career leading complex, education based organizations, and she's done so with great passion and enthusiasm," said Lee Foster, the Carnegie's chairman, in a press release. "She immediately stood out to us as a visionary, an advocate for the transformational power of education at all levels, and a leader whose pathway to success is always collaboration."

Dr. Parker assumes her new position in August.

## PBT Gets Major Gift

With its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up, the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT) has received a very generous present: financing.

The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Sara Bauknecht reports that an anonymous donor has provided the PBT to underwrite the company's entire mixed repertory program with live orchestra. These include three Pittsburgh premieres.

The donation will also allow them to be performed at the Benedum Center.

## CMU Joins With Tony Awards For Project

An exciting partnership between **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) and the Tony Awards has been launched, reports Alice T. Carter of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

**Carnegie Mellon University**

The awards are presented annually by **The American Theatre Wing** and **The Broadway League** to recognize excellent in Broadway theater. The award is named in honor of actress Antoinette Perry (1888-1946), who co-founded the American Theatre Wing, and has been presented since 1947. Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) is a local private research university dating back to school founded in 1900 by industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-

1919). CMU has the oldest drama degree-granting program in America.

The program is to honor individual educators or schools across the country for their positive impact through theater.

"We have a lot of similar goals," Carter quotes Charlotte St. Martin of the Broadway League. "Carnegie Mellon University has a long tradition of creating great talent. That makes it easier to form a partnership."

Information and nominations forms will be posted in September at [www.tonyawards.com](http://www.tonyawards.com) and [www.cmu.edu](http://www.cmu.edu).

Ironically, several CMU alumni -- including Zachary Quinto --- are among those who have been nominated for this year's Tony. The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's*

Mark Kennedy has a full story online at <http://triblive.com/aande/theaterarts/6027533-74/musical-actress-leading>



## Frick's New Trustee

A vice president of **Carnegie Mellon University**, Mary Jo Dively, has been named to the board of trustees at the **Frick Art & Historical Center**.

The Frick Art & Historical Center is a museum and arts center created at the former estate of industrialist Henry Clay Frick (1849-1919). Many members of the Frick family continue to serve as trustees.

In a press release, the Frick describes Ms. Dively's background:

"Mary Jo Dively is Vice President and General Counsel for Carnegie Mellon University, where she oversees a wide range of legal

issues involving the university in Pennsylvania, nationally and abroad. Prior to joining Carnegie Mellon, she was in the private practice of law for 19 years, most recently as a partner in the national law firm, **Reed Smith**, serving as head of its Technology, Media & Communications Group."

At the same meeting, a slate of officers and an executive committee was elected. For details, download the press release at <http://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/news/documents/NewsRelease-FrickElectsNewTrustee-Final041614.pdf>

## New Station Being Planned

Local author and arts entrepreneur James A. Richards is asking for support for his newest project, **Channel Pittsburgh**. Jim is the editor and publisher of *Pittsburgh Applause*.



The mission of Channel Pittsburgh is to provide area media students and recent graduates with a semi-professional environment to hone their skills while providing outlets for local filmmakers to showcase their works, free-lance media artists to express their creativity and nonprofit cultural institutions to expand their outreach efforts. It will operate as a nonprofit, streaming online television station.

Jim and an initial group of interested parties met April 10 at SLG Entertainment, a division of **Sommer Law Group**, to discuss the project. Among the ideas being considered is to ask a group of Art Institute students to assemble a polished video to post on a crowd funding site. Until then, Jim has created a simple one which can be viewed by visiting [www.channelpittsburgh.org](http://www.channelpittsburgh.org)

Channel Pittsburgh needs start-up funds for equipment, software, space rental and other expenses. Contact Jim at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com) for more information.

## Seeing F&D Around Pgh

If you've been seeing signs around town (especially downtown) printed with "F&D" that simply an indication that another major film is shooting here.

That film is "Fathers & Daughters," a drama starring Russell Crowe and Jane Fonda about a woman (Amanda Seyfried) coming to terms with growing up as the daughter of a famous author.

Fonda, who plays a literary agent, spent some time with Barbara Vancheri of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* recently. "So, I come in, I shoot four or five small scenes and then I leave. [Gabriele Muscino], the director, sent me the most fabulous email three days ago, giving me the whole backstory of my relationship with the writer that Russell Crowe plays." Vancheri quotes Fonda. "It was beautiful . . . very, very profound and touching and generous. I'd never had a director give me that."

You can read the entire article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2014/04/18/Crowe-Seyfried-Fonda-and-Kruger-lead-cast-of-drama-filming-here/stories/201404180035>

"Fathers & Daughters" is scheduled to complete local filming on May 10.



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## Local Film Industry In National Magazine

The current issue of *Movie Maker* is calling Pittsburgh a “comeback kid,” an article featuring the **Steeltown Entertainment Project**.



First published in 1993, *Movie Maker* is a magazine focuses on filmmaking with an emphasis on independent cinema. The Steeltown Entertainment Project seeks to strengthen Pittsburgh’s entertainment industry connections, educate youth, discover talent and pioneer innovative models to incubate and invest in film and television projects.

## Actor Dies During His Local Visit

Actor and comedian John Pinette died suddenly during a trip to Pittsburgh on April 5.

The comedian was named in 1999 as Stand-Up Comedian of the Year at the American Comedy Awards. He also appeared in films such as 2004’s “The Punisher” and was a regular on the television comedy series “Parker Lewis Can’t Lose” (1990-1993).

Pinette, who was not a Pittsburgh native but had family in the area, died of a pulmonary embolism while staying at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel. He was 50.

The article written by Brian O’Hare reports that “Steeltown is also betting on ‘The Chair,’ a project by local actor-producer Zachary Quinto . . . [that] brings two filmmakers to Pittsburgh to each shoot a feature from the same script, both on an \$850K budget.”

Read the entire article by clicking [http://www.steeltown.org/sites/default/files/MOVIEMAKER%20ARTICLE\\_ALL.pdf?utm\\_source=May+1+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=Enews+4%2F1&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.steeltown.org/sites/default/files/MOVIEMAKER%20ARTICLE_ALL.pdf?utm_source=May+1+Newsletter&utm_campaign=Enews+4%2F1&utm_medium=email)



## Garden Project Progressing

The long-anticipated Garden Theater project is heading into its final renovation stage, reports Kristin Douty in the *Northside Chronicle*.

The project is to transform the former Garden Theater cinema and its neighboring buildings into a multi-use campus that will be home to a restaurant and the **City of Asylum** literary organization.

Douty’s article states that the **Allegheny Central City Association** expects this phase to last about three months before welcoming the restaurant’s owner to begin his own construction.

## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh’s arts & entertainment history and community.



Filmmaker Catherine Hardwicke (left) and actress Gabrielle .Carteris (of TV’s “Beverly Hills 90210”) are among the speakers at the WIFM conference in May..

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

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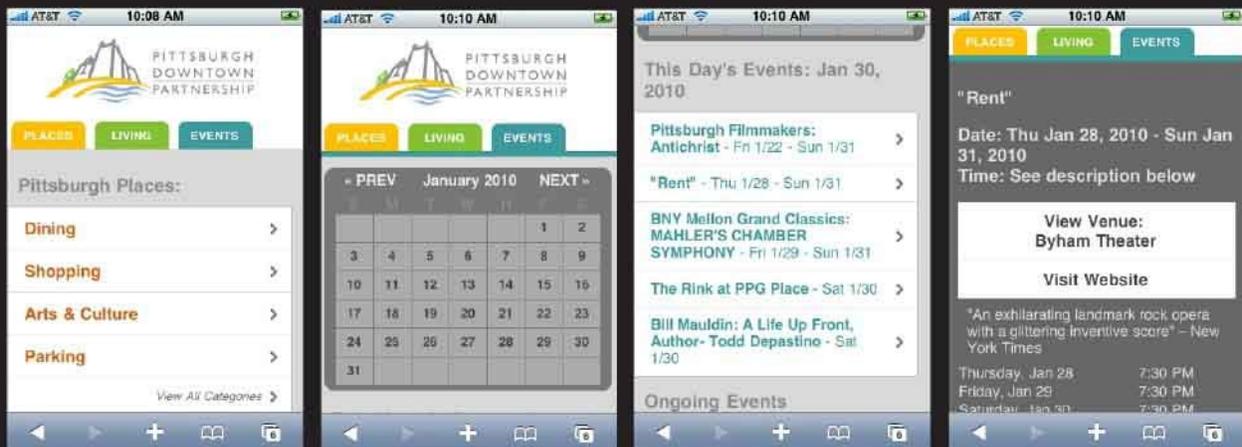
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## Show Jim That You Support Him!

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:

- \* Purchase an ad in *Pittsburgh Applause*
- \* Sponsor a project
- \* Hire Jim to do your marketing
- \* Give him free tickets to your show
- \* Make a monetary donation

James A. Richards  
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## TVGN Starts Programming

There are more big changes at TVGN as the **CBS Corporation** announces over 400 hours of original programming being planned for the channel.



In Pittsburgh, CBS Corporation owns two television and three radio stations. TVGN began in 1981 as an onscreen programming guide called Prevue. In 1999, Prevue's parent company purchased *TV Guide* magazine and re-branded Prevue as the TV Guide Channel. Eventually the program guide was dropped in favor of an all-general entertainment programming format. The channel was acquired in 2013 by CBS and **Lions Gate Entertainment**. It is no longer affiliated with the magazine.

"Our programming celebrates entertainment and celebrity in a fun, vibrant tone and often with a comedic perspective that delivers the excitement of being a fan --- because we're fans too," TVGN's Brad Schwartz explained in a press release.

Most of these programs are reality shows, such as "Rock This Boat" starring members of the band New Kids On The Block as they sail on a cruise with a ship full of fans. Other series include "Popsugar Now," a daily entertainment news show.

The company has also appointed David Wisnia as TVGN's business operations president. He recently was the head of CBS' affiliates relations department.

In other news, CBS has announced that comedian Stephen Colbert will succeed David Letterman as host of "The Late Show" and that comedian/actor Craig Ferguson is stepping down as host of "The Late Late Show."

## Hearst Announces 2014 Election Plans

As part of their nationwide effort to cover the 2014 midterm elections, Hearst Television has announced that all of its stations will be participating in a group effort called "Commitment 2014."



In Pittsburgh, Hearst Television (a subsidiary of **Hearst Corporation**) owns WTAE-TV.

"Hearst Television will continue its policy of a 12-minute minimum airtime commitment at its 28 news stations in the 30 days leading up to the 2014 general election and in some select primaries," the company explains in a press release. Each of Hearst's stations will also be inviting candidates "to complete questionnaires and to record video statements on the issues, to be made available online and for mobile devices. These statements will be posted [online] . . . in the 60 days prior to the election."

The company has also renewed its partnership the Pulitzer Prize winning web site Politifact, which checks claims by politicians, parties and media personalities for accuracy. Politifact is owned by the **Times Publishing Company**, a Florida media firm that also owns the *Tampa Bay Times* newspaper.

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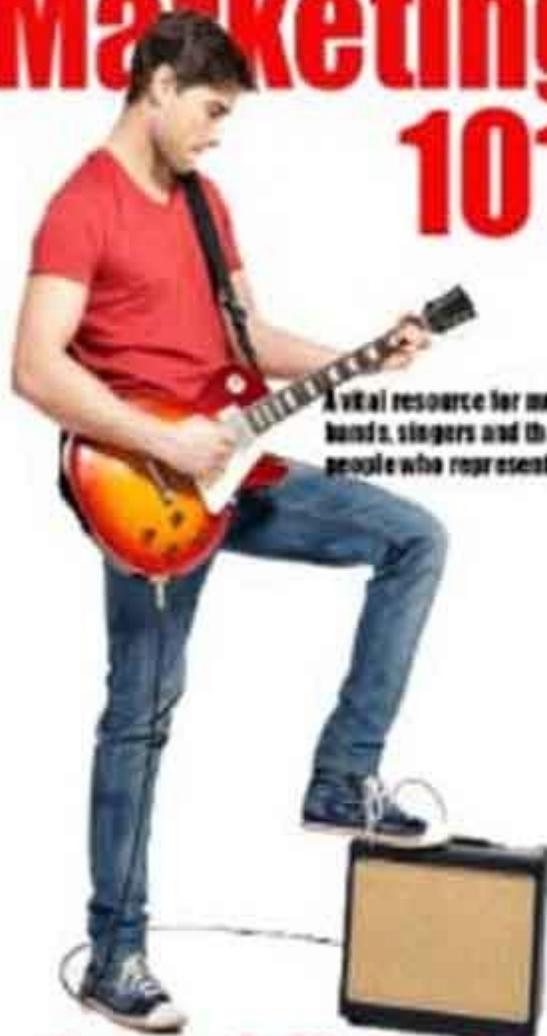
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# National/World A&E News Round-Up

## Tony Nominations Announced

A revival of the play “The Glass Menagerie” starring Pittsburgh native Zachary Quinto is among the nominees for this year’s Tony Awards.

Officially called the Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre, the awards are presented annually by the **American Theatre Wing** and the **Broadway League** to honor the best in Broadway shows. The award is named in honor of actress, director and producer Antoinette “Tony” Perry (1888-1936) who co-founded the American Theatre Wing.

To see the complete list, visit [http://www.tonyawards.com/en\\_US/nominees/index.html](http://www.tonyawards.com/en_US/nominees/index.html)

### Artists Do What They Do Best

As the nation Ukraine continues its struggles against insurgents and an aggressive Russian Federation, the country’s artists have taken a leading role.

Konstantin Akinsha and Alisa Lozhkina report in ArtNews.com that as the demonstrations began, “artists began to produce works that were destined not for galleries but for the street.”

Read their fascinating and inspiring story by clicking <http://www.artnews.com/2014/03/31/icons-on-the-barricades-2/>

### The Future Is Up In The Aereo

On April 21, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case that may determine the future of **Aereo**.

Established in 2012, Aereo is a privately-held company that provides subscribers with the ability to view live broadcast television on internet-connected devices such as tablets. Among its backers is online media company **IAC/InterActiveCorp** and its primary owner Barry Diller. The suit claims that Aereo is stealing broadcasters’ signals when it should be paying retransmission fees like cable and satellite operators do.

MediaPost.com’s Wendy Davis reports that “several judges indicated they thought it was problematic that Aereo gives consumers some of the same services as cable providers, but doesn’t pay licensing fees.” Still, the complications of new technology remained in the background. Observers expect the court to release a very narrow ruling later this year.

### Doing The Time

In a surprising move, a judge has given a convicted art dealer a jail sentence rather than the expected community service.

Pac Pobric of *The Art Newspaper* reports art dealer and collector Helly Nahmad --- who pled guilty last November to operating an illegal gambling ring --- was “visibly anxious” when Judge Jesse Furman sentences to a year and a day in prison.

Check out the full story at <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/New-York-dealer-given-jail-time/32573>

### Singer’s Supposed Wild Parties

Sex scandals are nothing new in Hollywood, as the late comedian Fatty Arbuckle (1887-1933) learned the hard way. Now, one of the industry’s leading directors, Bryan Singer, is caught up in one.

Last month a civil lawsuit was filed against Singer claiming that he drugged and raped actor/model Michael Egan in the late 1990s when he was just 17. Singer has denied the charges and plans to countersue.

Complicating matters for Singer, author Bret Easton Ellis told Tim Molly of TheWrap.com that he’s “known for years about Bryan Singer’s parties with underage or barely legal boys.” The parties are alleged to occur at an Encino mansion called the M&C Estate.

“Many people have talked about the parties anonymously, but Ellis was open about his recollections,” writes Molly. “Like so many of the people who say they knew long ago about the underage parties, Ellis did not say he reported anything to the police.”

Read Molly’s article and hear an audio clip by clicking <http://www.thewrap.com/bryan-singer-sex-abuse-allegations-bret-easton-ellis-underage-parties>



## City Theatre Plans 5 Debuts

To celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> season, **City Theatre** has announced a line-up that features five new plays include two world premieres.

Established in 1975, City Theatre specializes in the production of new plays and often commissions new works. They are located on the city's South Side.



The world debuts are the music filled comedy "Smart Blonde." The play tells the story of Academy Award winning actress Judy

Holliday (1921-1965), who was best known for appearing the Broadway and film versions of the play "Born Yesterday." The other global premiere is "Mr. Joy," about an urban community thrown for a loop when a beloved neighborhood business suddenly fails to open as usual.

City Theatre will also be staging a production of a comedy written by John Patrick Shanley, best-known for the award winning 1987 film "Moonstruck."

For details on these and other shows, visit <http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/press-release-entire-2014-2015-season-announced/>

## Andy Warhol Still Surprises

The computer club at **Carnegie Mellon University** has discovered works by Andy Warhol long thought to have been lost, reports Sean D. Hamill of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Pittsburgh native Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was a leading figure in the pop art movement that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s. **The Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** operates a museum in Pittsburgh dedicated to Warhol.

The works were created by Warhol almost 30 years ago using what was then cutting-edge technology: the floppy disc. They were created on a computer made by the now-defunct Commodore International (1954-1994). Read

Hamill's fascinating story at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/2014/04/24/CMU-Computer-Club-discovers-new-works-of-Warhol-art/stories/201404240299>

In other news: Half a century since they were banned from the 1964 World's Fair, Warhol's censored "Most Wanted Man" series of screen prints has resurfaced. The series creates a mural portraying 13 infamous men culled from their mug shots. To learn more read Francis Vigna's article on ArtNews.com at <http://www.artnews.com/2014/04/09/warhol-mug-shots-of-bad-guys-return-to-queens-half-century-after-censorship/>

## PDC's 2014 Schedule

The Pittsburgh Dance Council (PDC), a division of the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**, has announced its 2014-2015 season.



Formed in 1984, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a multifaceted nonprofit that spearheads the Pittsburgh Cultural District, produces events and manages programs such as the Pittsburgh Dance Council.

"Pittsburgh Dance Council is proud to present an amazing and diverse assemblage of world-class contemporary dance this season," explained the PDC's Paul Organisk in a press release.

"Enthusiastic patronage continues to make it possible to present outstanding contemporary dance from throughout the world."

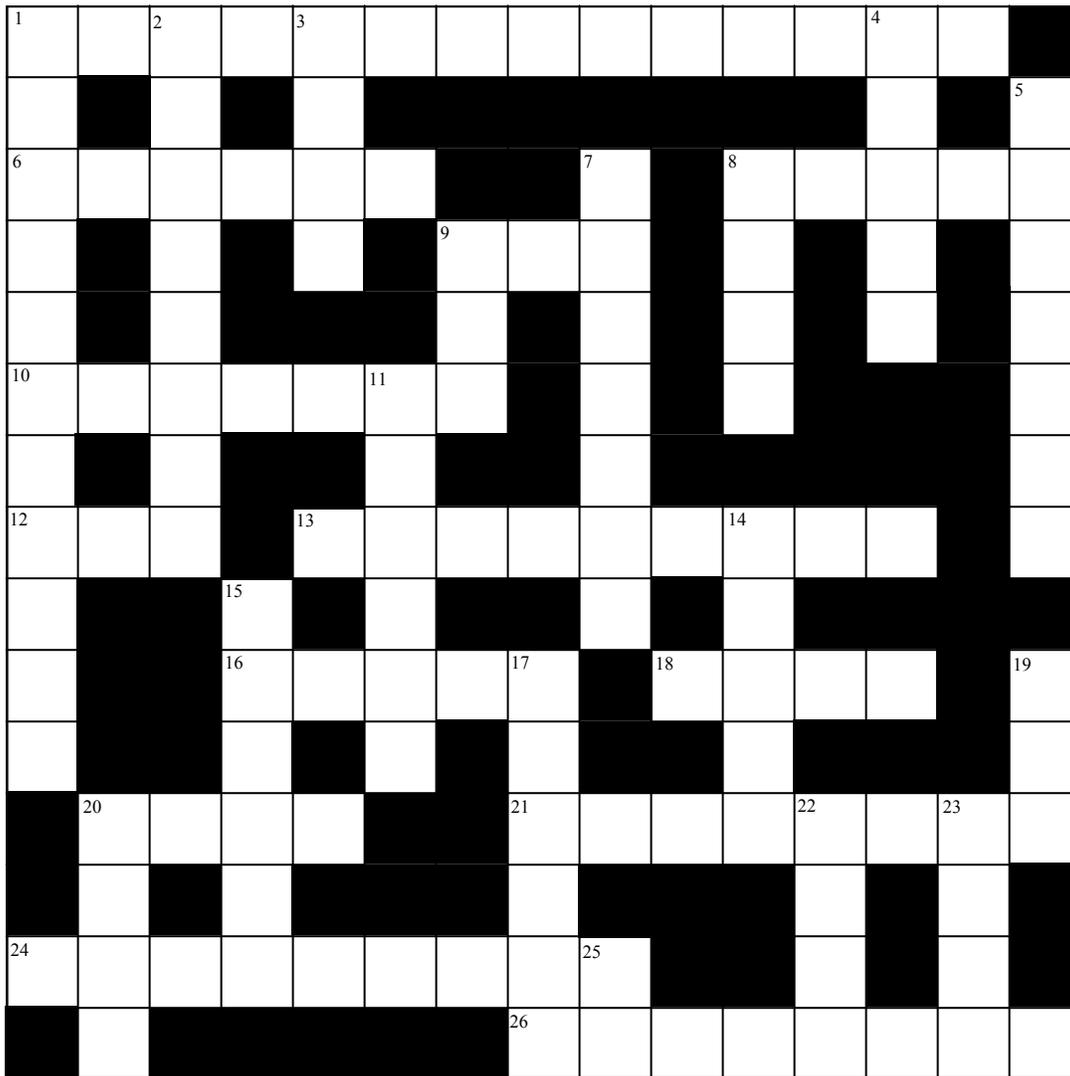
Among the highlights will include shows starring up-and-coming Swedish choreographer, dancer and filmmaker Pontus Lidberg as well as acclaimed Brooklyn dancer/choreographer Ronald K. Brown.

The new season begins in October at the Byham Theater.



# THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

## TV Mothers



### ACROSS

1. Classical bad TV show
6. "Happy Days" mom
8. Diahann's title role
9. British drink
10. Unreal story
12. Ms. Sara, to friends
13. Ewing matriarch
16. Gloria Stivic's ma
18. Mom to both Ricky Jr and Desi Jr
20. See someone romantically
21. Tabitha's mommy
24. She played the Quintessential TV mom
26. 1980s mom and domestic goddess

### DOWN

1. "Carol Burnett" spinoff
2. Wednesday's mom
3. Implement
4. See 5 Down
5. 1980s sitcom about two single mothers (with 4 Down)
7. "Lost in Space" mother
8. Mrs. Cleaver, to friends
9. Bo Derek starred in it
11. John-Boy's ma
14. The evil mom in 1970s' "I, Claudius"
15. Not won
17. "\_\_\_ Street" (1975 film)
19. Rhoda's ma
20. Classic 1993 video game
22. PBS science show
23. Don't blow yours
24. Any hairstyle, for short

### October 2013's Solution

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# Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

## Once More On The August Wilson Center

By James A. Richards

Before circumstances had me to suspend *Pittsburgh Applause*, I had offered a possible solution to the crisis facing the August Wilson Center.

That suggestion, which I first made in my June 2013 editorial (<http://www.james-richards.com/PittsburghApplauseJune2013.pdf> page 17) and restated in October 2013's editorial (<http://www.james-richards.com/PittsburghApplauseOctober2013.pdf> page 15) is for an exciting intuition to step-up and absorb the center.

Probably the best institution is the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The center has the infrastructure to run

the Wilson effectively and has a rich selection of historical items related to the area's African-American community to create fascinating exhibitions and other programming.

The second best choice is the Carnegie Museums. They, too, have the infrastructure as well as valuable material such as the Teenie Harris Archive.

Right now, the most likely scenario is a private company building the center and building a hotel above it (see page 1 of this issue). They plan to allow the August Wilson to continue as a cultural entity. This is not a terrible solution, but it is far from the preferred one.

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