

Oresick Jumps To Mattress

David Oresick is leaving his post as head of the **Silver Eye Center for Photography** for another executive director position --- across town, at the **Mattress Factory**.

The move was announced on April 12 by Oresick himself in an email he described as "some bittersweet news" for Silver Eye supporters.

"I am so proud of the work I have been able to do with Silver Eye: relocating the gallery, creating the Lab @ Silver Eye, working with our Scholars, and helping to develop amazing projects like Radial Survey, the Photo Club, our workshop series, and the Silver List. Most of all, I'm grateful I got to help support so many artists to create new work, take risks, and

realize their visions." He also thanked the board and staff.

Oresick told *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz how excited he is about taking on the new challenge. "As a native Pittsburgher, the Mattress Factory is a place that has always meant so much to me and was a huge part of forming my love for boundary-pushing contemporary art from an early age. In my career, my passion has always been working to help artists create new artwork and sharing that artwork in meaningful and engaging ways. I can't think of a better place to continue this work than the Mattress Factory."

His last day at Silver Eye is May 5 and his first day at Mattress is May 16.



Drusky Drama

Social media is becoming more and more antisocial, Dani Janae writes for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.



It began on April 8 when Dr. Amber Epps posted a link to the **Drusky Entertainment** web site where local artists can submit for consideration to be a touring artist's opening act. It was her way to encourage area hip-hop talent to reach new audiences.

But a well-intentioned action was misunderstood by a podcaster who responded with "some shows pay. some do not! Are these non paying shows charitable fundraisers?! How is this still an acceptable model in 2022?! As artists, we all deserve better . . . "

Pay-to-play is a policy of some concert promoters to require an act to guarantee the firm revenue either by paying an upfront fee to be an opener or promising to buy a certain number of tickets.

However, a company representative assured *City Paper* that this policy "is something Drusky Entertainment does not require or implement." Epps also states she never meant to imply that Drusky uses pay-to-play. "Drusky is pretty much the only big promoter in the city that not only brings in national hip-hop acts, but also allows local talent to be the openers for those acts," she told Janae. To learn more, read the [full article](#).

Miller's Dealer Sentenced

The man who sold the pills that killed Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller, 39-year-old Ryan Reavis, has been sentenced to 131 months in prison.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh as Malcom J. McCormick, the rapper gained national attention in 2010 with the release of his mixtape "K.I.D.S." His life-long struggle with drugs routinely found their way into Miller's work. He eventually moved to Los Angeles, where he met Reavis. The man admitted that "he

was the middle man who was unaware that the counterfeit oxycodone pills he provided for another dealer --- one of two others that were charged --- was laced with fentanyl," writes *TheWrap.com's* Rosemary Rossi.

"Shortly after Reavis handed over the fentanyl-laced pills" to Cameron Pettit, Tom Tapp detailed for *Deadline*, who "allegedly supplied the pills to" Miller "two days before the 26-year-old rapper suffered a fatal overdose." Another man, Stephen Walter, is also facing charges.

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Merger Creates New Local Streaming Firm

Pittsburgh could become a new streaming center as five separate companies are combining to create one larger firm called **SoundStack**.



"It's time to give audio publishers and platforms a service that can work across boundaries, letting publishers truly optimize their technical and operational setup and maximize their ad revenue," founder and CEO Jon Stephenson said in an April 22 press release.

This comes as major streamers such as **Netflix** and **Paramount+** (part of **Paramount Global**, parent of **KDKA-TV**) continue to use Pittsburgh as a production hub along with the growth of small streamers like **Channel Pitts-**

burgh [operated by Pittsburgh Applause publisher James A. Richards - ed.] and various local podcasters.

These five individual firms --- Media Creek, EmpireStreaming, Live365, Abovecast and Audio Catapult --- "provide a variety of services to media operators across a number of vertical sectors," explains MediaPost.com's Tony Silber, "including radio, magazines, corporations, micro-podcasters, pure-play music services and others. The services they offer include on-demand and streaming audio, content delivery, advertising sales and ad management, and dedicated hosting." The newly formed company takes its name from flagship product, SoundStack Engine, which the same release describes as "the

audio industry's first platform that fully automates and supports streaming, podcasting, and monetization with an intuitive [user interface] . . . that enables platforms and publishers with the ability to create live streams, podcast delivery, and more within minutes across a global network built to scale."

SoundStack has its roots in EmpireStreaming, which a 15-year-old Stephenson established in his parents' basement in 2010.

"Demon" Shoot

Production is expected to begin soon on the latest **Netflix** project in Pittsburgh, reports Amanda Waltz for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.

NETFLIX

That project is called "Demon House" and is being led by award winning writer/director Lee Daniels ("The Butler"). It recreates the incident in 2011 when an Indiana mother and her children claimed that their house is haunted. It received national attention for a brief period because of its unusual nature --- a paranormal case involving an African-American family. A recap can be found on [Wikipedia](#).

The cast includes Rob Morgan, Glenn Close and Mo'Nique. Learn more of the film by [reading Waltz's article](#).

"Average Joe" Casting

Deadline.com reports that Emmy nominated actor and writer Deon Cole has been signed to star in the upcoming Pittsburgh-set series "Average Joe."



Currently in pre-production, "Average Joe" is the story of a Hill District plumber facing dangerous people after learning his late father stole millions from them. The one-hour comedy/

drama received a script-to-series order by BET+ (part of **Paramount Global**).

Series creator Robb Cullen's "script blew me away and remains one of the best I've ever read," BET+ executive Devin Griffin told Deadline's Peter White in February. No further information was available at press time.



It's Frzy On The Air

Local rapper Harvey "Frzy" Daniels has been signed by **Audacy** to host a new weeknight radio series.

A company press release describes "Feeling Frzy" as an opportunity for Daniels to express how he is "feeling on various topics from music, movies, video games, pop culture and social issues. It's an inside take on being a national music artist in the



industry, pop culture connoisseur and a Pittsburgh native."

Frzy earned an Emmy Award in 2018 for a collaboration with **WQED Multimedia** for a segment about children's TV legend Fred Rogers. In 2020, he broke the Guinness World Record for the longest freestyle rap at 31 hours.

"Feeling Frzy" debuts on WBZZ-FM on May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

NSX Ends

One of the most popular bands --- the **Neon Swing X-perience** (NSX) --- will be no more, reports Shirley McMarlin for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

"I've been in Neon Swing X-perience for more than half of my life, so it's not an easy thing to leave," founder Mike Urick told McMarlin. "Those guys are great. They're my brothers, and I love them. But I feel like it's run its course." The band will play its final show on July 2. But the musician and college professor isn't exactly quitting. Instead, he's reviving The Modelaires, the band once fronted by Urick's vocalist grandfather Mike Cilli (1926-2013).

Read more by clicking [here](#).

Opera Partners With Opera

A programming partnership with the **National Opera House** has been announced by the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

**PITTSBURGH
OPERA**

The National Opera House is the non-profit organization tasked with restoring and revitalizing former site of the **National Negro Opera Company**, the first permanent African-American Opera company in the nation.

A press release explains that the partnership "includes developing curricula and programming in music education, artistic development, and community engagement. These curricula and programming will take place throughout the greater Pittsburgh area."

In other news, author and former chorister Richard LeBeau has joined the Pittsburgh Opera's board of directors. His relationship with the institution dates back to 1988 when performed in the first of some 70 productions.

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Irish Fest Relocates To Carrie Site

The beloved **Pittsburgh Irish Festival** (PIF) has found a new home, the organization announced on April 29.



That new home is the Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark, which is owned by **Allegheny County** and managed by the non-profit **Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation** (ROS). The festival has had only two locations in its 30-year-history: Station Square and Sandcastle Waterpark. But organizers believe

that the Carrie Furnaces may be the most appropriate.

"Irish and Irish American heritage and culture have played a large role in the development of our region and our industrial history," explains ROS' Ronald Baraff. "The arrival of thousands of Irish immigrants through the years indelibly shaped the iron and steel industry on every level through their ingenuity, hard-work, and skill set. Without this rich legacy, it is doubtful that the Pittsburgh region would have developed as the industrial manufacturing center that it became in the 19th and 20th centuries. The ties are deep and profound. We are proud to be

part of the celebration of such an important and enduring legacy."

Festival co-founders, Maura and Nan Krushinski, agreed by stating that "it was important to us to not only embrace and preserve Irish culture, but also the 'Irish in Pittsburgh' history. Our ancestry in the region is strong due to their arrival in Pittsburgh to build new lives with new opportunities."

The festival is scheduled for September 9 to September 11.

Sharon Ebersson recently posted an interesting interview to OnStagePittsburgh.com she had with Mark Fleischer of the Pittsburgh CLO. They talk about returning to in-person shows and their recent hybrid project.

Read it by clicking [here](#).

Film Credit News

An effort is underway to expand and stabilize the state's film tax credit program, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Gillian McGoldrick.



On April 20, a group of regional leaders met to discuss a program that "has brought more than \$2 billion into the state, with 195 TV shows and movies filmed locally." The current program currently caps at \$70 million and the hope is to raise it to \$125 million.

"We have half a billion dollars worth of work that want to be here," McGoldrick quote Dawn Keezer of the **Pittsburgh Film**

Office. "We have to turn away more work than we ever see."

The effort is being led by Republican State Senator Camera Bartolotta. Read the full article by clicking [here](#).



STU EMRY
(1934 - 2022)

Guggenheim Honors Four Pittsburghers

Two respected **University of Pittsburgh** faculty members are among the four local people who have been named to the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

The fellowship is a grant program launched in 1925 by the **John Simon Guggenheim Memorial**

Foundation to those "who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the



arts." Thousands of people apply each year but less than 200 receive grants starting at \$35,000.

"I am absolutely thrilled," Keisha Blain told the *Pitt News*' Elizabeth Primrose. "My mentors thought I would be a competitive candidate for the fellowship, and I decided to take their advice and give it a shot." Blain is an associate professor in the history department. One of her peers in the English

department, poet Yona Harvey has received the honor. She was interviewed by WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll in 2021 which can be heard by clicking [here](#).

The other two recipients are multidisciplinary artist Alisha B. Wormsley and photographer Ed Panar. You can read the profiles of every Guggenheim Fellow by clicking [here](#).



Images



The works of Claude Monet provide the inspiration to this year's "Summer Flower Show" at Phipps.

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CLP Names New President

Andrew Medlar has been named as the next president of the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP), the institution announced on April 20.

Medler is currently with the **New York Public Library** (NYPL) where he leads the organization's technical service department, called BookOps. The NYPL is the nation's second largest public li-



brary, after the **Library of Congress**. He was selected after what a press release described "an extensive six-month national search."

The same release describes Medler as "a leader who understands the significance of collaborative partnerships, innovative services and out-of-the-box thinking" that will benefit the CLP system.

Andrew Medlar officially takes his new position on May 31.

SAG-AFTRA Okays Deal

At a special plenary meeting on April 9, the board of **Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists** (SAG-AFTRA) approved the 2022 Commercials Contracts that had been negotiated.



"These were challenging negotiations," the union's Gabrielle Carteris said in a press release. "We

heard the membership's interests and concerns about this contract, and remained laser-focused on achieving meaningful wage and benefits increases and modernizing the contracts with an outsized improvement in digital earnings now and in the ever-expanding digital future."

Details can be read by clicking [here](#). The agreement will now be submitted to the membership for ratification.

Benedum Gets Upgrade

The beautiful old marquees at the Benedum Center are to get an upgrade, reports KDKA-TV's "Pittsburgh Today Live."



Crews will be upgrading the historic 7th Avenue sign in a historically sensitive matter. The

challenge is to address the deterioration on the marquee," architect Alan Hohlfelder is quoted by the station. "And make sure it can be restored in an identical way to how you see it now. It involves a lot of custom metalwork and integrating updated displays. We're going to match the style and colors in the original sign."

Ramirez To Head CMU Drama Dept.

Robert Ramirez has been named to lead the School of Drama at **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU), reports Sharon Ebersson for OnStagePittsburgh.com.

Carnegie Mellon University

CMU operates the nation's oldest degree-granting school of drama, which was launched in 1914. Notable alumni include writer/producer Steven Bochco ("Hill Street Blues"), actor Rene Auberjonois ("Star Trek: Deep Space 9"), actress Barbara Feldon ("Get Smart") and actor Blair Underwood ("L.A. Law").

Ramirez is currently a professor and interim department chair at the **University of Texas**. A university press release credits him for creating the position of intimacy director to address "production needs, as well as curricular and pedagogical imperatives."

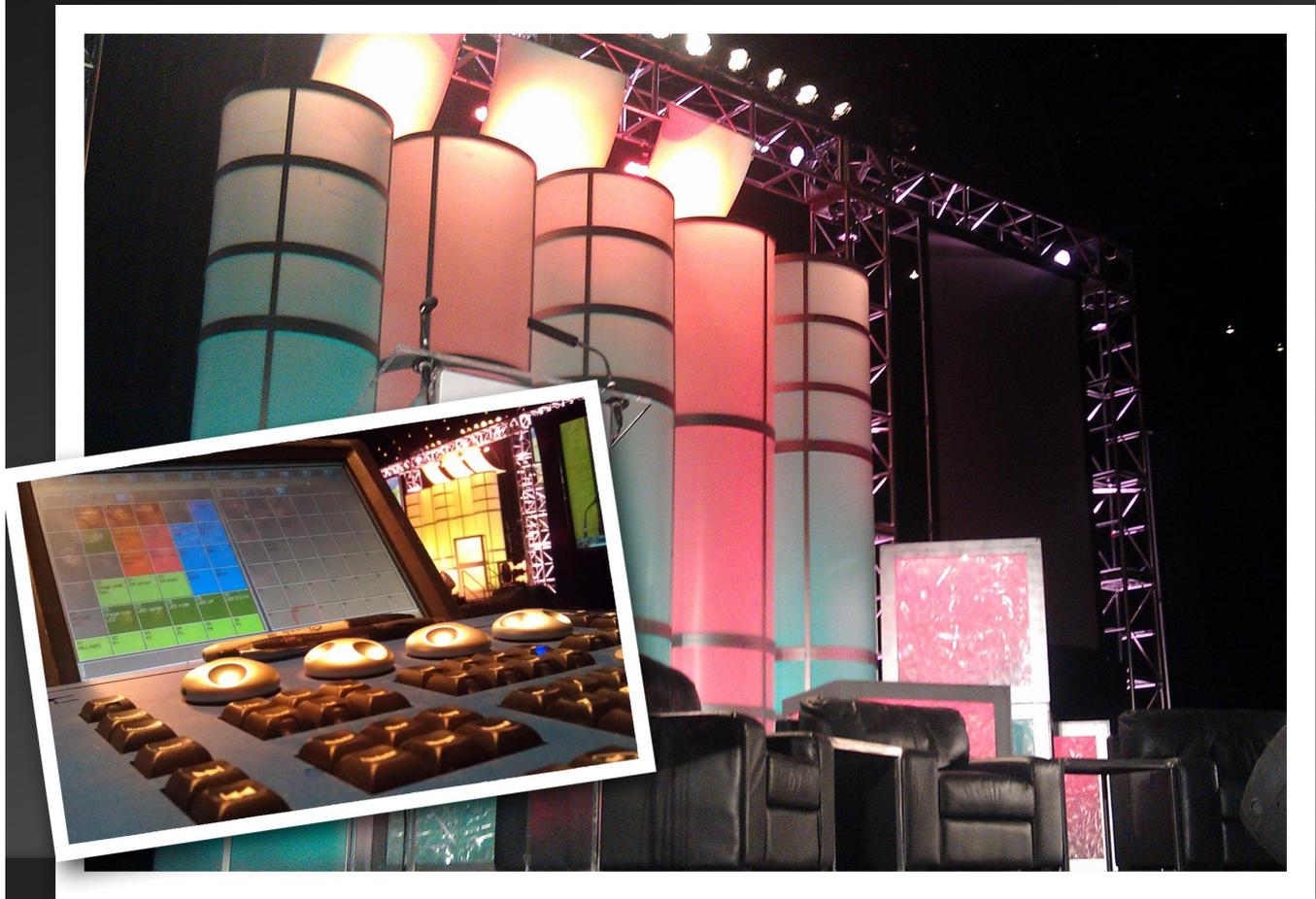
Read more of Ebersson's story by clicking [here](#).

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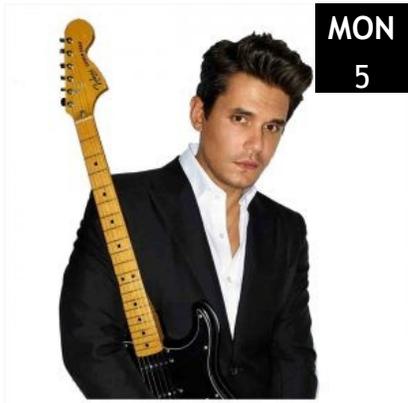
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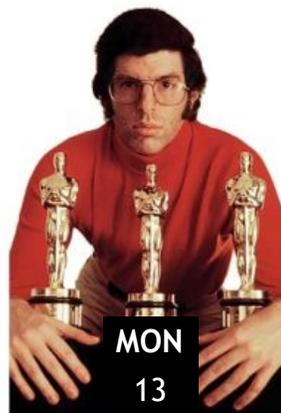
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Opportunities

The Allegheny Arts Revival Grant is a one-time grant program of **the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) to support both arts organizations and individual artists as they start to re-emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are being accepted until July 1 and an information session is scheduled for May 16. To learn more, click [here](#).

A new executive director is being sought by the **Alumni Theater Company**, which "creates bold theatrical work that gives a fresh voice to the experience of young Black artists and highlights their rich contribution to our community." Click [here](#) for details.

Applications are being accepted by the **Pittsburgh Foundation** for their Fall 2022 program. [Here is the process and details.](#)

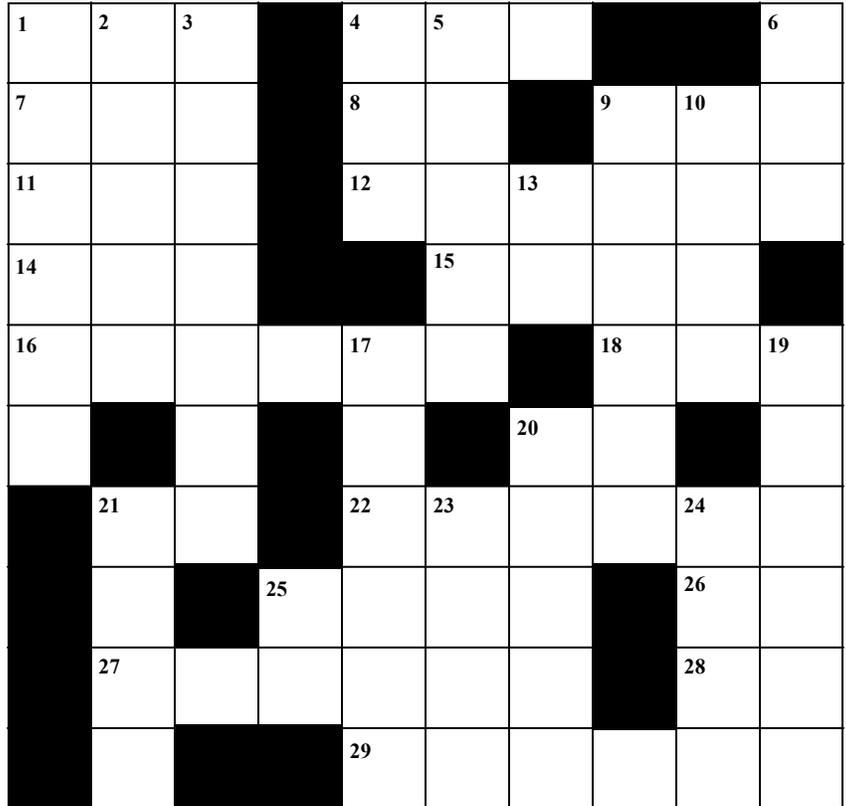
Crew members are being sought for the **Netflix** project "Demon House" helmed by writer/director Lee Daniels. Contact dhproduction2022@gmail.com

Newly created stream media firm **SoundStack** is seeking a marketing pro. [Information and application.](#)



Across

1. Bonnie's "One Day at a Time" role
4. A type of squad or pill
7. Natal lead-in
8. Chicago train, briefly
9. Econ. Stat.
11. Gangster's gun
12. Sally's "All in the Family" role
14. UFOs' pilots
15. Persia, today
16. Isabel's "Jefferson's" role
18. Temporary bed
20. Madrid affirmative
21. Mans lead-in
22. Tech crew
24. Alternative to PM or FM
25. "Hit!"
26. Madrid veto
27. "Happy Days" matriarch
28. Former Berlin currency, briefly
29. Joan's "Dynasty" role



Down

1. Jane's "Falcon Crest" role
2. "Cool!"
3. Uncertain
4. Katey's "Married with Children" role
5. Barbara's "Dallas" role
6. Relaxation place
9. George's better (and sillier) half
10. George's animated pooch
13. Surgeon's workplace, briefly
17. Estelle's "Golden Girls" role
19. The answers to the italicized clues
20. Sharon or Oliver
21. American wide receiver CeeDee or retired British batsman Charles
23. "Neat-o!"
24. Former "Bachelorette" Dorfman
25. "News Radio" co-star, initially

Last Month's Solution

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