

Pittsburgh's Busy Stages, Busy Days

Here's What's Happening

According to **Amazon's** Internet Movie Database (IMDB), here is a partial list of projects that are filming, were recently filming or soon will be filming in the Pittsburgh area:

City of Champions (Series)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5369584/?ref=adv_li_tt

Dear Zoe (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1657865/?ref=adv_li_tt

DOT Theory (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10999092/?ref=adv_li_tt

The Gymnast (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11082468/?ref=adv_li_tt

I Am Not Okay With This (Series)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9446688/?ref=adv_li_tt

I'm Your Woman (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10243992/?ref=nv_sr_1?ref=nv_sr_1

A Jury of His Peers (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7401812/?ref=adv_li_tt

Me and My Girlfriend (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3680054/?ref=adv_li_tt

Mindhunter (Series)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5290382/?ref=tx_sl_sr_44_li_tt

Mortal Remains 2: Cult Movie (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9109216/?ref=adv_li_tt

On the Arm (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5718648/?ref=adv_li_tt

Opening the Mind (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9061308/?ref=adv_li_tt

Sacrifice (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9095330/?ref=adv_li_tt

The Stool: The Good, The Bad and The Crappy (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10920104/?ref=adv_li_tt

Sweet Girl (TV Movie)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10731768/?ref=nv_sr_1?ref=nv_sr_1

The Whooper (Feature)

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11151162/?ref=adv_li_tt

"Woman" Set

With the cast and creative team in place, the **Amazon** film "I'm Your Woman" has begun shooting in Pittsburgh. The news was reported in an exclusive article written by Matt Donnelly for *Variety*.



"I'm Your Woman" is the story of a mother and her child on the run from her criminal husband who form an unlikely partnership with a pair of strangers. Award-winning actress Rachel Brosnahan ("The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel") is starring and co-producing the movie. The script was co-written by Julia Hart, who is also directing.

"I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to make this movie with this genuinely wonderful cast and crew, and couldn't be more excited," Hart told Donnelly of the new project. "Amazon has a proven track-record for telling bold, diverse and singular stories, and we're thrilled to be included amongst them."

Read Donnelly's full article at <https://variety.com/2019/film/news/rachel-brosnahan-im-your-woman-cast-creative-team-1203385634/>



Click the image above to hear PFO's Dawn Keezer's recent WESA-FM interview.

Channel Pittsburgh Launches

After many starts and stops, the streaming television station **Channel Pittsburgh** launched November 1 at 7:00 a.m.

Channel Pittsburgh is the latest project of local author and arts entrepreneur James A. Richards (who also publishes *Pittsburgh Applause*).

The goal is for Channel Pittsburgh to be an outlet for local audio/video artists to share their creativity and media students a semi-professional environment to polish their skills. Its Richards' hope that viewers will enjoy locally-produced news, information and

even scripted fare along with classic movie and television series.

Channel Pittsburgh is available 19-hours each day at <http://www.channelpittsburgh.org> and will soon be available via **Roku**. "Starting a TV station has been a life-long dream," Richards explains. "But doing so at this stage of my life is very challenging. I have my health issues [primarily spinal stenosis] and am still in temporary housing [his permanent home, in downtown's Midtown Towers is still being renovated after a major fire]." But I really believe in this project."

At this point, the plan is for Channel Pittsburgh to become its own 501(c3) organization but merging the project with another entity (such as a local college) is also possible. Anyone interested in participating or supporting the channel should contact Jim at jim@james-richards.com



Billy Porter News

Comedian, writer and talk show host James Gordon is spearheading a new film version of the Cinderella fairytale --- and it appears that Pittsburgh's own Billy Porter is being cast as the Fairy Godmother.

The news of the project first surfaced in April when *The Hollywood Reporter's* Borys Kit wrote an exclusive story. At the time, the focus was on singer/songwriter Camila Cabello making her film debut. [See <https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/camila-cabello-star-cinderella-imagining-1200283-Ed>.]

Gordon is also co-producing the musical-comedy. Keep abreast of the casting/production news at https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10155932/?ref=nm_flg_act_1

Fred Rogers' New COO

Christopher Arnold has been named Chief Operating Officer of **Fred Rogers Productions (FRP)**, reports Deadline's Dade Haynes.



"We are delighted to welcome Chris to our 'Neighborhood,'" Haynes quotes FRP's Paul Siefken said. "He's coming from a world-class game developer, [Pittsburgh based] **Schell Games**, and his valuable experiences and fresh perspective will help us to further strengthen our operations and lead to the company's continued growth and success."

He succeeds the retiring Kevin Morrison.

The upcoming tribute album "Thank You, Mister Rogers: Music & Memories" features various artists performing some of the 200 songs Fred Rogers (1928-2003).

Among them is "American Idol" finalist Kellie Pickler. Click the link below to see and hear her rendition of "It's Such a Good Feeling."



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CLP's \$750,000 Grant

The state is granting \$750,000 to the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP) to help renovate its Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

State Representative Sara Innamorato's office made the announcement on October 21.

"Libraries are about creating equitable spaces for all our neighbors," she explains in the same press release. "By supporting an update to these facilities, we're support-



ing the accessible and inclusive work of Carnegie Library staff by helping them create a more accessible and inclusive physical space where everyone can feel at home with a book."

The grant supports the \$2.7 million project to renovate the CLP specialty branch's interior and exterior. The changes will increase opportunities for people with physical challenges to become more connected with the library and the community and allow the library to continue to grow to serve more individuals.

KDKA-TV's New GM

Chris Cotugno has been named by **CBS Corporation** as the new general manager for KDKA-TV and WPCW-TV.

Michael Malone of *Broadcasting+Cable* writes that the US Air Force veteran has been the duopoly's director of sales for seventeen years.

"Chris has for many years been a major contributor to our continuing success in Pittsburgh, so it gives us great pleasure to recognize his talent and leadership abilities with this promotion," Malone quotes Peter Dunn, president, CBS Television Stations. "We believe his deep roots in the market and strong relationships with clients, community partners

and his colleagues will serve him well as he assumes responsibility for overseeing our legacy station in Pittsburgh and leading the expansion of our digital platforms."

Cotugno also worked for **Sinclair Broadcast Group's** WPGH-TV/WCWB-TV.

In other news, the company has announced a deal with **Comcast's** NBC-Universal to provide the television series "Evil" to Latin America.



Wilson Home Grant

The federal government is contributing \$500,000 to restore the childhood home of Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Ashley Murray reports.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, August Wilson (1945-2005) is best known for his Pittsburgh Trilogy of plays documenting a century of African-American history.

These funds will be administered by **Duquesne University** and be used to restore the two-room apartment that is at the core of the 6,000-square-foot structure. The grant completes the \$5.5 million fundraising goal.

"Thanks to this grant, we're going to witness a rebirth of the spirit of August Wilson and the spirit of his birthplace in the Hill, a place where art, music, theater and literature will once again be brought to life," Murray quoted Duquesne University President Ken Gormley

Local architectural firm **Pfaffmann & Associates** told Murray that deconstructing the interior and restoring it off site would begin in early November. Learn more by clicking <https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2019/10/21/Duquesne-University-grant-Save-Americas-Treasures-restoration-August-Wilson-House/stories/201910210084>

Skynyrd Member Dies

Larry Junstrom, a Pittsburgh native and a founding member of the band Lynyrd Skynyrd has died. Gil Kaufman reported the news for *Billboard*. Junstrom was 70.

What eventually became the southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd started in 1964 when bass guitarist Junstrom joined vocalist Ronnie Van Zant (1948-1977), drummer Bob Burns (1950-2015), rhythm guitarist Gary Rossington and musician/songwriter Allen Collins (1952-1990). Junstrom's death leaves Rossington as the remaining original member.

Kaufman's full article, including some tributes, is available at <https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/obituary/8532334/larry-junstrom-dead-lynnyrd-skynyrd-38-special-bassist-dies>

Lynyrd Skynyrd continues to perform with Rossington on guitar and Ronnie Van Zant's brother Johnny as lead vocalist.



Another Mac Miller Arrest

Another person has been arrested in Arizona on drug charges related to the death of Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller.

The news was reported by the Associated Press and carried by *Billboard*.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh Malcolm "Mac Miller" McCormick first came to prominence in the local rap/hip-hop scene. Mac eventually relocated to Los Angeles as his career grew. Miller died of a drug overdose in 218 at the age of 28.

"Havasu City police said . . . that 36-year-old Ryan Reavis has been charged with possession of marijuana and prescription drugs. He was also charged with two weapons counts. Reavis is being held on \$50,000 bail. He has not entered a plea, and police did not know if he has hired an attorney who could be asked for comment."

Read the full article by clicking <https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/collections/8532986/2nd-person->

Images



Best known for HBO's "Girls," actress Aidaa Peerzada stars in the smart and funny play "School Girls or the African Mean Girls Play" at the O'Reilly Theater,

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SAG-AFTRA National Confab

Hundreds of delegates gathered in Los Angeles for **SAG-AFTRA's** 2019 National Convention. It was the fourth such convention since the two unions merged into one in 2012.



Pittsburgh was well-represented with key local members including Chris Lacey and Jay Silvers attending. Images have been posted online at <https://www.sagaftra.org/OP>

The very busy four days included the election of executive vice president and national vice presidents; debates and votes on constitutional amendments; and decide on union initiatives to focus on for the next two years.

A list of those elected as vice president is available at <https://www.sagaftra.org/sag-aftra-opens-fourth-convention-elects-national-officers>

On October 11, the participating delegates voted unanimously to pass a resolution in support of a free and unencumbered press. The following day, SAG-AFTRA announced a cooperation agreement with its Mexican counterpart, the **National Association of Actors**. The agreement includes provisions for collaboration on contract and rule enforcement, organizing, and technology initiatives.

Throughout the convention were workshops and award ceremonies. The union has published a recap at <https://www.sagaftra.org/sag-aftra-national-convention-concludes>

New DGA Deal

A tentative agreement has been reached between the **Directors Guild of America** (DGA) and the ABC, CBS and NBC television networks.



The DGA explains in a press release that the pact "covers staff and freelance members employed in news, sports and operations at the companies' television net-

works and many of their owned local television stations."

Among the terms are:

- Increased wages and fees by 2.5% in each of the three years of the Agreement for a compounded wage increase of 7.7% over the term.
- The right to divert up to 2% of the negotiated wage increase to the DGA Pension or Health Plan during the term of the Agreement.
- Provisions securing work opportunities for members who work in sports – and a

Equity Pact

Members of **Actors Equity Association** have ratified a new contract with the Broadway League.

Pittsburgh members of Equity are as affected as those in New York if they are signed to a Broadway show or certain touring shows. Some 95% of Equity members who voted chose to support the deal.



"This negotiation resulted in not only great compensation increases for our members but created new terms and conditions that provide further protections for stage managers and swings," said Mary McColl, Executive Director of Actors' Equity Association, explains in a press release. "This is the third negotiation we have completed with the Broadway League this year. Thanks to the solidarity and support of our members, all three have been successful."

Members and non-members alike may review this and other Equity contracts by clicking <https://actorsequity.org/resources/contracts/>

number of other important gains.

The deal now goes to DGA members, including those in Pittsburgh, for ratification.

Ballet's Fundraising Drive

On October 25, the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT) announced a new fundraising campaign to support its orchestra. The news was reported that same day by Jeremy Reynolds for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

{ Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

The 50-year-old PBT has a quandary: its most popular productions (and best ticket sellers) are those involving its live orchestra rather than a pre-recorded score. Unfortunately, using live musicians is very expensive. Of each season's five-ballet slate, the PBT orchestra is often missing from at least two.

Reynolds writes that "the current amount of live music costs the organization \$300,000 each season. There are between 50 and 60 musicians in the ballet orchestra depending on the production, and many of the players also perform with the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and other ensembles."

The campaign is being called Live Music Appeal and aims to raise at least \$7 million. You can learn more by reading Reynolds' article at <https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2019/10/25/Pittsburgh-Ballet-Theatre-live-music-appeal-orchestra-Giselle-donate-anniversary/stories/201910240164>



Channel
Pittsburgh

Opera App

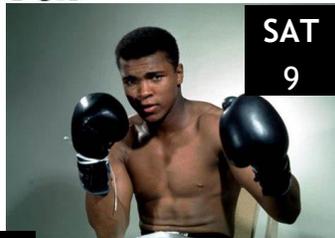
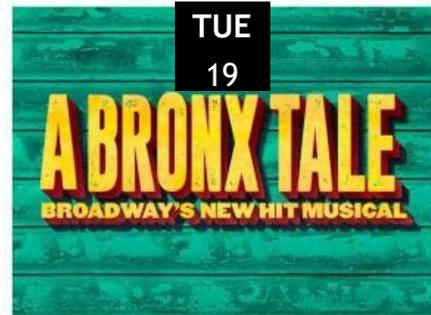
A 17th Century artform links with 21st Century technology as the **Pittsburgh Opera** launches an innovative new mobile app, writes WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

During the company's October 12 season opener, "the Opera formally introduced Live Note, a live mobile app that audiences are encouraged to use during performances." O'Driscoll reports that the "Pittsburgh Opera is the first to include audio commentary piped straight into ticket-holders' earbuds while a show is in progress."

The app was designed by **InstantEncore**, a San Diego-based technology company. "Sitting down being quiet and staring at the stage is not enough for some people for them to really get it, to really feel connected to it," O'Driscoll quotes InstantEncore's Dave Dombrosky. "They need a different way in and this is a possibility for them."

Live Note can be downloaded free to almost any smartphone. Learn more by reading O'Driscoll's full article at <https://www.wesa.fm/post/left-their-own-devices-opera-rolls-out-live-mobile-app-audio#stream/0>



Opportunities

The **Amazon** film "I'm Your Woman" is seeking extras for the shooting of a 1970's nightclub scene. The date scheduled is November 12 and those hired should expect a long night. Details have been posted at <https://www.pghfilm.org/listing/nightclub-background-extras-for-im-your-woman-feature/>

Artist-educators are needed by the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh** for their Make Shop. Download the PDF by clicking https://s3.amazonaws.com/cmop_production/downloads/545/Arts_Making_Educator_08.09.2019.pdf

Tall, big and burly male actors needed for speaking parts in a project shooting in Pittsburgh. Acting experience a must. If interested send a full length photo and headshot/resume to mossrecasting.talent@gmail.com.

KDKA-TV, the **CBS Corporation** owned and affiliated station, is seeking a full-time producer to spearhead the creation of commercials and promos. Visit <https://cbcorporation.jobs/pittsburgh-pa/commercial-producer/30549656F8E44807A18383CB25413EC1/job/>

The movie "Sweet Girl" is looking for stand-ins. Details are available at <https://www.projectcasting.com/casting-calls-acting-auditions/jason-momoas-sweet-girl-movie-is-now-hiring-actors/>

Various positions are now available at various **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** branches. See the full list at <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/careers-at-clp/current-opportunities/>

Auditions for violinists are being held by the **Pittsburgh Opera** are scheduled for November 10. Visit <https://www.pittsburghopera.org/about/auditions>

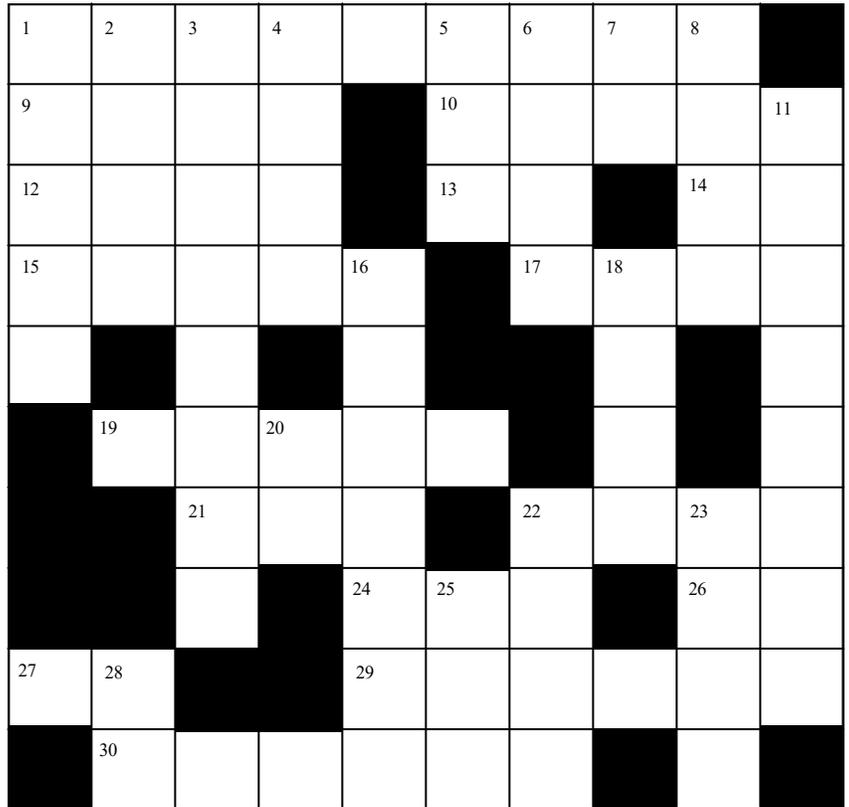
Program presenters are being sought by the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** for the Science Center and the Natural History Museum. Details at <https://carnegiemuseums.org/opportunities/search-careers/>

Web savvy creators should consider a part-time position at **CBS Corporation's** KDKA-TV. The successful candidate will be responsible for publishing daily news and breaking news content to the station's award-winning website, copy editing staff stories, and managing the look of KDKA.com. To apply, click <https://cbcorporation.jobs/pittsburgh-pa/digital-web-producer/7060C4AD04864F42B3E9ABBECC5CBE82/job/>

A videographer/editor position has opened at **Cox Enterprises'** WPXI-TV. Visual storytelling, teamwork, problem solving, and creativity are prerequisites. Must be willing to work all shifts and have a positive attitude with a desire to both learn and improve. Apply at <https://jobs.coxenterprises.com/ShowJob/JobId/338064/SrPhotographerVideographer?cs=true&gjid=cHJvamVjdHMve21hc2hmbHljbG91ZGpvYmRpe2NvdmVyeS9qb2JzLzEyNjM1ODM1NjI5MDg3MjAwNg%3D%3D&prefilters=none&CloudSearchLocation=none>

Across

1. Music icon scheduled to perform in Pittsburgh on November 13.
9. Leopold's criminal partner.
10. Belonging to Sherriff Taylor's boy.
12. Royal bodyguard in Ancient China.
13. Mr. T's "A Team" role.
14. Respected news organization, briefly
15. See 30-Across.
17. Not on time
19. Literary cliché
21. Ball-shape.
22. "90210" gal-pal of 30-Across appearing at the Carnegie Music Hall (with 11-Down).
24. Local org. behind the Produce Terminal project.
26. One way through a door.
27. Pass it and receive \$200.
29. Rodeo activity.
30. "90210" gal-pal of 22-Across appearing at the Carnegie Music Hall (with 15-Across).



Down

1. Poem honoring the dead.
2. "Damn Yankees" lady who gets what she wants.
3. Popular diamond shape.
4. Life story, briefly.
5. Biblical man tested by God.
6. "The Simpsons" TV talk show hostess.
7. American island state's postal code.
8. Felix Unger's preferred status.
11. See 22-Across.
16. Katherine, being featured at a Frick Pittsburgh exhibit this month.
18. Woody's boy.
20. Important hospital space, briefly.
22. Cassette recording.
23. Seasonal skating spot at PPG Place.
25. French for king.
28. Common breakfast beverage, briefly.

Last Month's Solution

P	H	I	L				C	A	T
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C	R	E	E		M	O	L	A	R
	O			J		H	L		B
G	I	O	V	A	N	N	I		O
A	C	T		C		S	N	U	S
T			I	K	E		S	K	I
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S	I	P		A	R	O	N		
	P	A	W	N		H	U	G	H



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