

IATSE & Producers Make Deal

Last month's lead story in *Pittsburgh Applause* was the possibility of a nation-wide strike by members of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE). That risk evaporated by mid-October when tentative agreement was reached with **the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers** (AMPTP).



A strike would have shut down film and television production in Pittsburgh and across the country.

"Our solidarity and unity gave us the power to change the course of

these negotiations and as a result, we can present a package that addresses the core issues our locals collectively identified," said IATSE International President Matthew D. Loeb in a press release. "Goals we have been pursuing, in some cases for decades, have been achieved in these negotiations."

The deal includes increases in wages, mileage, living allowances and per diems. There are also enhanced rules on safety, working hours and rest breaks. The three-year contract is considered a victory for the union. However, *Variety's* Gene Maddaus reports "the agreement has received a hostile reception from members, at least online, and tempers remained hot"

days after the announcement. But he also writes that "many union officials are confident that the deal will be ratified, once members are fully informed."

Fact sheets have been produced by the union to help members to understand the new pact. Access them and related information on [the IATSE web site](#).



Is Directors' Union Next Up?

Now that the studios have struck a deal with **IATSE**, attention is turning to another union and another set of negotiations



The union in question is the **Directors Guild of America** (DGA), which has announced the members of its negotiating team -- even the current deal doesn't expire until June 20, 2023.

"We don't yet know when our next negotiations will take place,

but we are looking ahead as we carefully examine the creative and economic issues faced by our members working in film and television," said DGA president Lesli Linka Glatter in a press release. "As part of that process, we have asked three of our prominent feature and television directors -- - Jon Avnet, Karen Gaviola and Todd Holland --- to head our negotiations, and they have graciously agreed. Jon and Todd did such a tremendous job co-chairing in our last round --- and as a veteran of many past negotiating committees, Karen is just the right person to round out this stellar team. We are so fortunate to have

the benefit of their wisdom and many years of experience to



Pittsburgh native Michael Keaton recently talked about his life and career to "60 Minutes." Click the link above to watch it.

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GPAC Offers COVID De-Escalation Training

The lockdown may be history, but the emotional aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue. Violent incidents over masks and related issues haven't ended in places like airplanes. Many theaters, concert halls, museums and other institutions still have the kind of safety rules that risk confrontations between the staff and patrons.



Recently, members of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) were able to attain a de-escalation training seminar staged by the Winnipeg-based **Crisis & Trauma Training Institute** (CTRI). Participants learned about warning signs and strategies for diffusing difficult situations.

A short version of the course remains online until April 4, 2022. For more information, or to access the video, [visit the GPAC web site](#).

Ransomware Hits Sinclair

The owner of two Pittsburgh television stations, **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) is among the recent victims of a ransomware attack.



Ransomware is software deliberately designed to enter and disrupt a targeted computer or computer system. The most common action is to encrypt computer files with the intent to extort money from the victim in exchange for the decryption key. Payment, if made, is usually in cryptocurrency so that the culprits may remain anonymous. The first documented case occurred in 1989

The attack happened on October 16. Jon Lafayette writes in *Broadcast+Cable* that "stations around the country were unable to feed

programming to **Hulu** and other distributors. The problem reportedly did not affect Sinclair's master control system, allowing the company to replace local programming on some channels with a national feed and stay on the air."

SBG addressed the matter publicly two days after the incident: "Promptly upon detection of the security event, senior management was notified, and the company implemented its incident response plan, took measures to contain the incident, and launched an investigation. Legal counsel, a cybersecurity forensic firm and other incident response professionals were engaged. The company also notified law enforcement and other governmental agencies. The forensic investigation remains ongoing."

Broome Wins Kirkus

Local author Brian Broome has won the Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction.

The program was begun in 2014 by *Kirkus Reviews*, a respected literary magazine founded in 1933 by educator/editor Virginia Kirkus (1893-1980). The magazine reviews over 10,000 titles per year. The prize's annual \$150,000 award (divided among three winners each in a different category) has made it one of the most respected --- and lucrative --- in literature.

Broome was honored for his book, *Punch Me Up to the Gods*. The memoir reflects on the author's journey through addiction and recovery and accepting himself as a black gay man. Dani Janae wrote about the book in May for *Pittsburgh City Paper* [read it [here](#) - ed.]. She says *Punch Me Up* "expertly weaves stories . . . as [Broome] navigates the negative Black stereotypes he was fed as a child in order to become his fully realized self."

CNN reports that a leading theory is that the Russian-based crime group Evil Corp may be involved. Business journalist Sean Lyngaas cites a computer expert who points out that the malicious code appears to be similar to one used by Evil Corp in the past. [Read the article [here](#)]. As October came to a close, *Adweek's* Kevin Eck was reporting that some SBG stations were still being affected.

SAG-AFTRA CONVENES

The 2021 **SAG-AFTRA** national convention --- only the fifth since the merger creating the current entity --- wrapped-up in mid-October with 480 delegates participating.

SAG-AFTRA

Dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic was a major topic. National Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland specifically commended the team that created safety guidelines in tandem with other unions.

“It was a big achievement to have all those unions sit down and cre-

ate an industry-wide agreement that let our members get back to work” he is quoted in a press release. “We’re already seeing long-term, positive effects from this.”

SAG-AFTRA has also approved a dues relief program for November to help those still financially impacted by the pandemic.

The recently elected president, actress/producer Fran Drescher focused on discrimination, particularly toward women, both in and out of the industry. She pointed out that “women offer an essential balance to any and every conversation.” More is posted on the [union's web site](#).

PSO's New Hires

Two new assist conductors are joining the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) this season, the PSO has announced.

Currently conducting for the **Indianapolis Symphony**,

the 28-year-old Jacob Joyce has also appeared with orchestras in London, Frankfurt and Houston. Born in South Korea, Moon Doh grew up in the Philippines, Russia and the U.S. He began studying music at the age of nine and is a recipient of the **Takaya Urakawa Foundation** grant awarded to promising young musicians.



“The Pittsburgh Symphony is delighted to welcome to the orchestra Moon Doh and Jacob Joyce, two exceptionally talented and highly acclaimed young conductors who bring diverse backgrounds and engaging personalities both to the podium and to the community,” said the PSO's Melia Tourangeau in a press release.

Both artists signed two-year deals.

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NEP Buys Bright

Pittsburgh-based video & event technology company **NEP Group** has signed an agreement to purchase **Bright Group**, a major supplier of live event services in Northern Europe.

The acquisition is being made through the NEP subsidiary Creative Technology Northern Europe AB.

Bright Group was established in 2011 when two Finnish companies merged and the company has absorbed several other firms in the years since.

“This acquisition will be great for our clients in Northern Europe



and globally,” said Graham Andrews, Global President, NEP Live Events in a press release. “Adding Bright Group’s resources to NEP’s and our Creative Technology division gives us the ability to offer the ‘best of the best’ in innovative solutions, talent and resources. It’s also a great cultural fit. We have a great deal of respect for Bright Group’s work and their people.”

Bright Group's services include audio, video and lighting solutions, trucking, stages, infrastructure/installations and camera production.

Details of the acquisition have not been disclosed.

James Street Returns?

It looks like the former James Street Gastropub & Speakeasy is about to be revived after four dormant years.

WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll reports that "the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh closed on a \$500,000 loan to the building's owner, businessman Jonathan Iams, who said he is far along on a \$5 million renovation."

Iams tells O'Driscoll that, when work is complete on the 123-year-old structure, a restaurant will occupy the first floor, a jazz club on the second floor and his building-design business on the third.

Learn more by [reading the article](#).

Negro Opera Gets Grant

Things are looking more and more promising for the former National Negro Opera Company (NNOC), reports Jeremy Reynolds for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Operating out of a Hollywood mansion from 1941 to 1962, the NNOC was the first African-American opera company in the United States. The home's current owner, Jonnet Solomon, estimates \$2 million will be needed to restore and renovate the building as an arts center.



In October, **Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation** awarded a \$41,000 grant to start an educational program. The restoration efforts have already received \$500,000 from the **Richard King Mellon Foundation** and a \$75,000 grant from the **African-American Cultural Heritage Action Fund**.

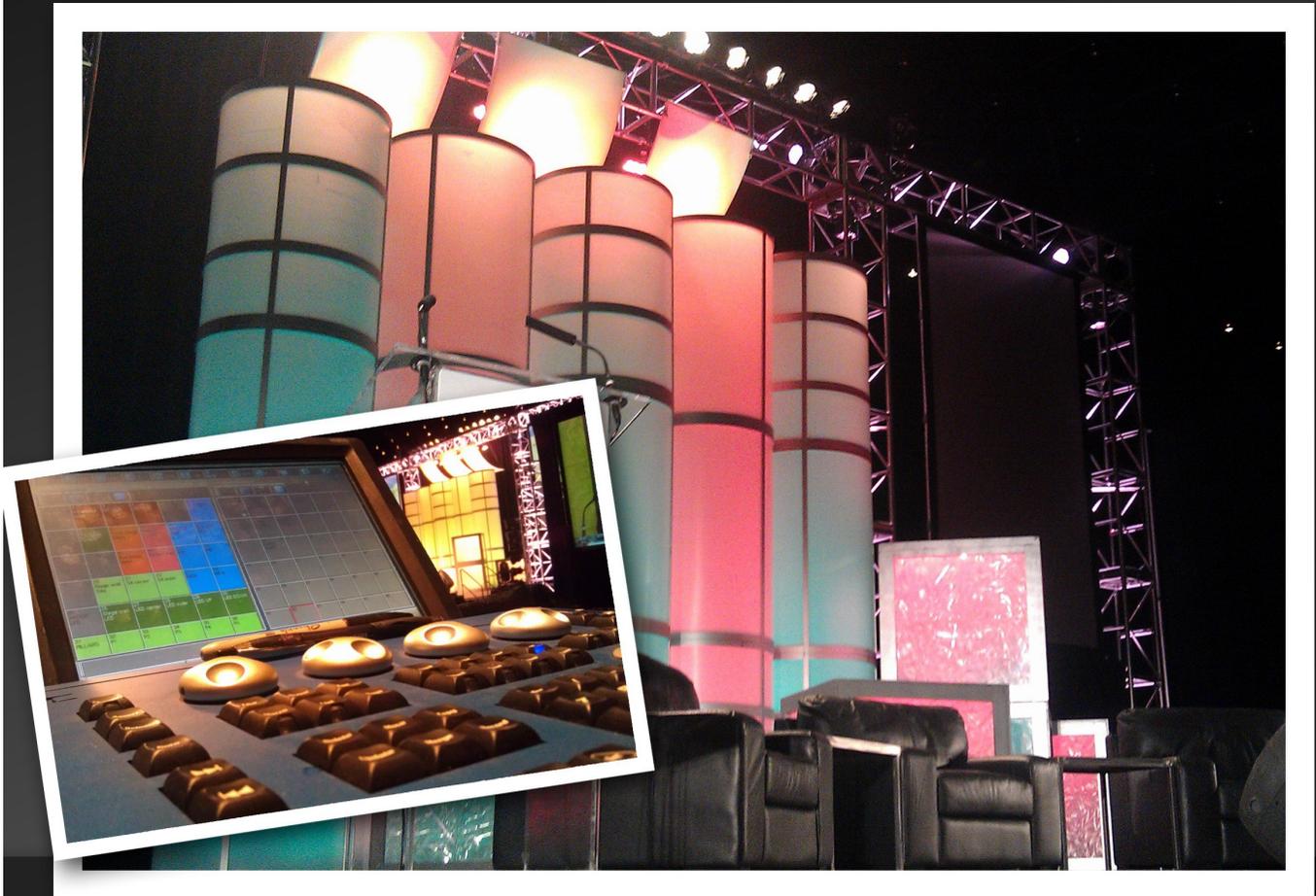
Solomon is waiting for city approval to begin the initial work.





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News On 2 PGH Docs

Two documentaries involving Pittsburgh are bowing this month.

"A Tree of Life" will make its world debut this month at **DOC NYC**, the largest documentary film festival in the United States. "A Tree of Life" offers survivors of 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting an outlet to share their experiences. DOC NYC is scheduled for November 10 to 18 and you can learn more about "Tree" by clicking [here](#).

Retired professional baseball player Barry Bonds is the subject of a new television documentary that will air on **Walt Disney Company's** ESPN cable channel on November 7. Bonds' 22-season career includes a stint with the **Pittsburgh Pirates** from 1986 to 1992.



New Flick About Pirates Legend Planned

Deadline.com's Matt Grobar reports that professional basketball player Patrick Patterson has entered into partnership with producer/director Joel Reilly to form **Undisputed Pictures**. Their first project is to be a feature film about Dock Phillip Ellis Jr. (1945-2008).

As a member of the **Pittsburgh Pirates**, the right-handed pitcher Ellis helped the team win five National League Eastern Division championships and the 1971 World Series. He was an outspoken advocate for the rights of African-Americans. But Ellis was also an admitted substance abuser who once claimed to have thrown

a no-hitter in 170 while under the influence of lysergic acid diethylamide (better known simply as LSD).

This will be Patterson's first major entertainment endeavor outside of sports. Much of Reilly's 20-year career has been in advertising, but he has been branching out. According to IMDB, he is the executive producer of the forthcoming "North of Normal" starring Robert Carlyle.

The script has been written. At press time, there was no information on whether it will be shot in Pittsburgh.

Images



This is an image of a new mural recently installed in Heinz Hall commissioned from and created by artist Mikael Owunna.

Cox's Redbox Deal

Pittsburgh's WPXI-TV is among the **Cox Media Group** stations to be available on **Redbox Automated Retail's** streaming service, reports Daniel Frankel for *Broadcasting+Cable*.



Redbox began in 2002 as a chain of kiosks renting DVDs and video games at locations such as pharmacies and grocery stores. The company has been aggressively moving into streaming since at least 2017. The deal with Cox means viewers of Channel 11 and nine other stations have another way of accessing local news.

Also being added to the Redbox Free Live TV are horror channel Alter, children's programmer Baby Shark and movie channels from **Sony**.



Carnegie Museums' New Memberships

All four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** are making efforts to encourage patrons to return after the COVID-19 lockdown. These are focused on a new membership program. They include a free



Teen Membership, a \$20 Family Access Membership and a complimentary Organizational Access Membership available to eligible community-based nonprofits.

The Carnegie Science Center (CSC) has also received a \$10,000 grant from the **Association of Science and Technology Centers** to promote vaccine con-

fidence in the region. The CSC's Jason Brown explains in a press release that the funds will be used "to continue educating our public about the importance of vaccines, answer questions about COVID-19 and the ever-evolving variants." At press time, at least 68% of Allegheny County residents are partially or fully vaccinated.

In other news: Liz Park has been appointed as the curator of contemporary art at the Carnegie Museum of Art. *Art News* reports that Park has worked at various institutions around the world including those in Seoul, New York City and Vancouver. In addition, the Andy Warhol Museum has added Carnegie Mellon University executive Scott Mory to its advisory board.

Miller's Dealer Pleads Guilty

Stephen Andrew Walter pleaded guilty to charges of fentanyl distribution, which includes providing the drug to Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller.

USA Today's Elise Brisco reports that "Walter and his attorney William Harris signed the [plea] agreement Oct. 22 admitting Walter 'knowingly' distributed the narcotic to others which then made it to the hands of Miller, whose legal name is Malcolm James McCormick."

"Under the terms of the deal," writes Nancy Dillon for *Rolling*

Stone, "prosecutors are waiving . . . Walter's grand jury indictment and allowing him to plead to a single new charge of fentanyl distribution. He previously was indicted on more serious charges including fentanyl distribution resulting in death and conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance resulting in death"

Another man in the case, Cameron James Pettit, has also reached a plea deal while a third, Ryan Michael Reavis, is facing trial in March.

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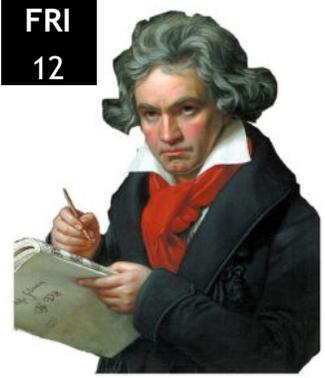


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Night

TUE
16



SAT
6



THU
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SAT
6



SAT
6

FRI
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20

LIGHT-UP NIGHT

Opportunities

REMINDER: The clock is running to apply for a **National Endowment for the Arts'** program grants. Requested amounts can range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. [Click here for details and to apply.](#)

Among the openings at **NEP Group** include a Talent Acquisition Specialist who will help to locate and secure qualified new employees. For information on this and other positions by clicking [here](#).

Various opportunities are available at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** including presenters and demonstrator. [Click here.](#)

The local office of film/video equipment firm **The Camera Department** is seeking a full-time technician who has a knowledge and understanding of cameras, lenses and associated equipment. Resumes should be sent simultaneously to two email addresses: mal@thecameradept.com and ben@thecameradept.com

A skilled marketing pro is being sought by the **Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium** to support the Director of Marketing in planning, implementation, execution and tracking of corporate sponsorships among other duties. [Learn more here.](#)

Positions in events and education are available at the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh**. [Details here.](#)

KDKA-AM and another local **Audacy** radio station are seeking [part-time producers](#) as well as a [part-time sports program host](#).

The Greensburg-based **Luke Wetz Band** a lead guitarist. They've posted details on [Craig's List](#).

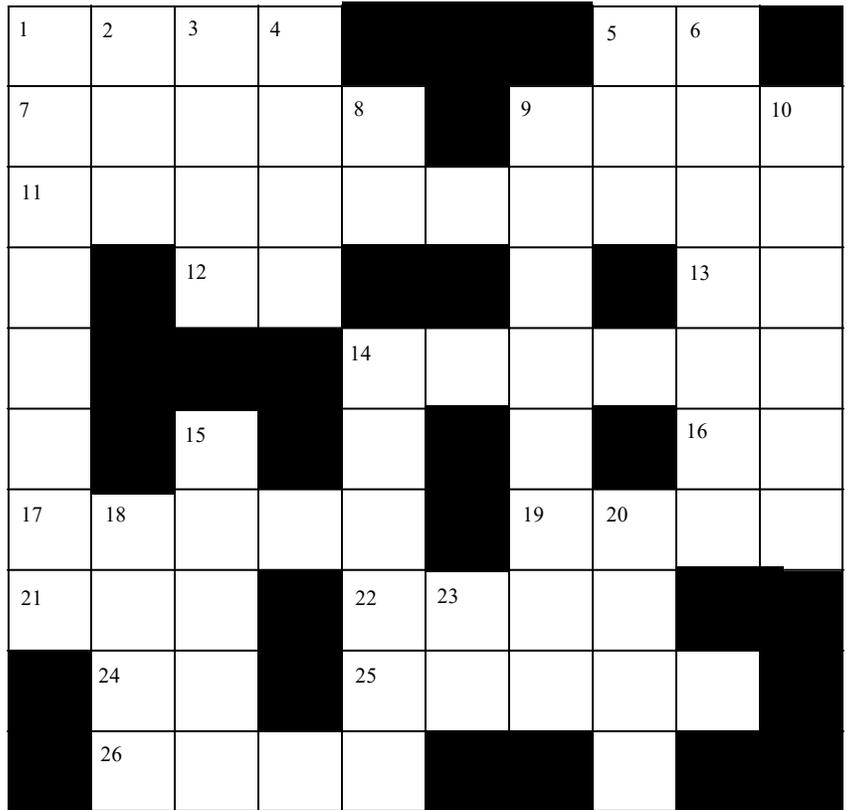
There are four full-time and three part-time positions at the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** as *Applause* goes to press. [See the list.](#)

WPXI-TV (part of **Cox Media Group**) is seeking a producer for the station's newly created Content Center team. The successful candidate will be working directly with reporters, photographers, producers, managers and the fellow content center producers to cover the news of the day, as well as generate enterprise stories. [Apply online.](#)



Across

1. 10-Down's most famous role
5. Skunk's school, briefly?
7. Getty kidnapping TV mini-series
9. Phyllis Diller's fictional boyfriend
11. The 2015 Broadway musical starring 10-Down
12. Mandolin player who performed with Dickey Betts, initially
13. J follower? (think music)
14. One who searches
16. Periodic table symbol for silver
17. Singer born as Reginald
19. Shrek, for one
21. South Korean car company
22. 10-Down is one to many
24. Canadian province east of NB
25. See 10-Down
26. 10-Down's famous phrase



Down

1. 10-Down's most famous TV series
2. Web letters
3. Rest period
4. One who manipulates
5. Frying implement
6. Blurry
8. Popular Norwegian computer gaming party, to fans
9. 10-Down has over 4 million followers on this platform
10. The subject of this puzzle (with 25-Across)
14. Something some people seem to lack
15. Pot person's collection
18. Type intro
20. Popular high school musical TV series
23. Government lawyer, initially

Last Month's Solution

M	A	H	L	E	R				
O	J	A	I		A		W		
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A	R		Z	O	E		G		T
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	G	R	I	E	G		R		U
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