

September 2015

Digital 49

# pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

## Organisak Leaves Trust

Saying that he needs a rest, Paul Organisak has resigned as vice president of the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust**.



Organisak has been in charge of the PCT's programming since 2004. Before that he worked with various organizations, most notably the **Pittsburgh CLO** and the Pittsburgh Dance Council (which is now part of the PCT).

Perhaps his most famous project was bringing the giant yellow rubber duck created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman to Pittsburgh in 2013.

"There's a great line from the musical 'Promises, Promises': 'Knowing when to leave may be the smartest thing that anyone can learn,' " he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Marylynne Pitz. "It's impossible to reflect when you're so busy. Staying on the treadmill too long doesn't make you more fit."

The [click here for](#)  
**Pittsburgh  
A&E Book**

### Inside This Issue

A think tank offers ideas for the local TV/Film Biz

Page 2

Both IATSE and SAG-AFTRA have news

Page 4

The backers of the Wilson Center offer update

Page 5

Foundations plan a grant seminar for nonprofits

Page 5

Pittsburgh part of voter measuring service

Page 9

Pittsburgh A&E Group

643 Liberty Avenue #401

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Ph (412) 325-7070

Fx (412) 325-7069

The locally produced series "The Chair" --- an initiative of the **Steeltown Entertainment Project** --- has been honored at the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Television Critics Association Awards.

"The Chair" was named Outstanding Achievement in Reality Programming. The series is a filmmaking competition series that airs on the **Starz Inc.'s** flagship cable network.



The **Television Critics Association** is a group of television journalist and commentators from the United States and Canada. Comedian, actor and television personality James Corden hosted the August 8 event in Los Angeles.

More about the awards and this year's winners can be found at <http://tvcritics.org/the-television-critics-association-announces-2015-tca-awards-winners/>

## Barash Retires

After more than three decades on the job, Mark Barash is retiring as program director for **Cox Enterprise's** WPXI-TV.



"I have this yearning to go out and trust my entrepreneurial spirit and my work ethic," Barash told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Maria Sciullo.

Barash says that he's looking into digital media. "The distribution of product, however it gets into your home, or into your phone or tablet, is here, and it is big," Sciullo quotes Barash. "And it's going to get bigger. There will be not only eyeballs tied to that, but also money."

## Think Tank's Suggestions on Growing Pittsburgh's Film/TV Industry

A think tank offers suggestions for expanding Pittsburgh's film and television industry, reports Barbara Vancheri in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

**The Milken Institute** is a California-based think tank started in 1991 by former financier Michael Milken to explore market-based solutions to societal issues. Milken started the institute after surviving a fraud scandal in the late 1980s that left him barred from ever working in the financial industry again.

Among the institute's suggestions are expanding the workforce as

well as studio facilities and improving the **Pittsburgh Film Office's** ability to match visiting producers with local companies.

"I see this as a permanent place in Pittsburgh's economy. We built the world here, and I think we can build the world of entertainment," she quotes the Film Office's Dawn Keezer

Read the Vancheri's full article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2015/08/06/Sustaining-TV-film-production-in-Pa-focus-of-report-Milliken-pennsylvania/stories/201508060113>

## CMA Names New Curator

The Carnegie Museum of Art (CMA) has named Eric Crosby as the new Richard Armstrong Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.

**CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OF PITTSBURGH**

CMA is one of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**, which traces its history to an 1895 gift by industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919).

His responsibilities include the acquisition, installation and interpretation of the museum's collection along with organizing special exhibitions. A press release put an emphasis on Crosby's experience in film and video. "He brings a wealth of experience on dynamic collection presentations, both in-gallery and online," explained chief curator Catherine Evans.

Crosby has been working at the **Walker Art Center** in Minneapolis and assumes his new role at the CMA in October.

The [click here for](#)  
**Pittsburgh A&E Book**

Join our group on  
**LinkedIn**

# 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](http://ThePittsburghBanjoClub.com)

## IATSE Ratifies Deal

More than 43,000 members of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) have ratified a new basic agreement with major film and television producers.



Formed in 1893, IATSE represents roughly 122,000 technicians, artisans and

craftspeople in film, television and live theater. The union has three locals in Pittsburgh.

Key provisions include annual increases in wages and pensions as well as no cuts to the union health plan. There are also provisions regarding new media. “The new contract represents significant gains and continued security” for members, IATSE’s Matthew D. Loeb described in a press release.



## SAG-AFTRA Elections

The results of national and local **SAG-AFTRA** elections have been announced.



SAG-AFTRA is a labor union representing film and television performers formed in 2012 through the merger of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists (AFTRA). The union has hundreds of members in the region and maintains a full-time office in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Actor Ken Howard (TV’s “White Shadow”) has been re-elected as SAG-AFTRA President. “I am honored and grateful to the members for their confidence in our team,” Howard states in a press

release. “From merger to contract gains and beyond, we have together built a strong union that is focused on economic security and opportunity for members.”

The union’s most recent effort was signing a new agreement with major record labels regarding online payment formulas for work in streaming media.

Final ballot tabulation for the Ohio-Pittsburgh Local was conducted on August 12. Among the notable winners is actor and former AFTRA staff member Chris Lacey who will represent the Local on the union’s national board.

More information on the local election is available by visiting <http://www.sagaftra.org/2015-sag-aftra-ohio-pittsburgh-local-election-results-0>

## New Leader at Holocaust Center

Dr. Lauren Apter Bairnsfather has been appointed the new director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

The center was established in 1981 by the **Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh** as a living memorial and a comprehensive resource center to help people in the region learn about the Holocaust as well as help counter all forms of intolerance and hate.

Dr. Bairnsfather’s goal is to transform the center into a regional destination for education and research that includes a new exhibit and event space. She has had more than decade of experience in higher education and several years working in museums.

“We could not have asked for a more ideal leader to move the Holocaust Center into a new era,” the center’s co-chairs said in a press release.

The [click here for](#)  
Pittsburgh  
A&E Book

## Grant Seminar Scheduled

An information session organized in part by the **Heinz Endowments** has been scheduled for October 5 at the New Hazlett Theater.

The Pittsburgh-based Heinz Endowments is one of the largest philanthropic entities in the US established by the Heinz Family to support the community in various areas, including culture.

The session will cover opportunities in grants, residencies and professional development for local artists and arts organizations. Participants will learn about eligibility, how to apply (including tips) and program deadlines.

More information, including how to register, is available online at <http://www.heinz.org/Interior.aspx?id=517>



## Center Board & Plans

At a news conference held on August 27, Maxwell King of the **Pittsburgh Foundation** described efforts to revive the August Wilson Center.



**Culture** opened in 2009 to present visual and performing arts that celebrate the contributions of African-American artists. It's named in honor of Pittsburgh native and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson (1945-2005). The Wilson suffered financial and management issues for years before entering bankruptcy and nearly being purchased by com-

pany seeking to build a hotel on the site. The Pittsburgh Foundation is part of the coalition that purchased the center.

Two new board members, Michael Polite of construction firm **Ralph A. Falbo** and Richard Taylor of energy company **ImbuTec**, were announced. At least three more board members are expected to be added before the end of the year.

Sharon Eberson of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* goes into further details with her article, which can be read in full at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/theater-dance/2015/08/27/Pittsburgh-August-Wilson-Center-announces-new-funding-programming/stories/201508270145>

## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment history and community.



*This is one of several architectural renderings created for US Steel to promote innovative ideas that is part of a group of exhibitions currently at the Carnegie Museum of Art.*

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

# *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  
Animation  
Design  
Motion Graphics  
Website/Interactive  
Mobile  
Social Media

Sound Mixing  
Color Grading  
Conforming  
Compression  
Archiving  
Streaming  
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** The logo consists of the word "Videohouse" in a bold, dark blue serif font. To the right of the word is a yellow double arrow pointing to the right, with a white play button icon in the center of the arrows.

*See your vision.*

**412.921.7577**  
[www.thevideohouse.com](http://www.thevideohouse.com)

## ACA Urges Help to Rural Cable Systems

The Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association** (ACA) is urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to act to save rural cable systems.



ACA is a trade association that represents nearly 850 cable television companies in small and medium-size markets.

The commission is preparing its annual report to Congress. The ACA filed its own report with the

FCC on August 21 to encourage the commission “to recognize in its next video competition report the fact that smaller systems continue to close at a steady rate, affecting thousands of subscribers in rural and hard-to-serve areas. For Congress to understand the state of competition in the video marketplace, it is vital for the FCC” to include the reasons for this situation.

According to the ACA filing, 1,169 cable systems serving over 55,000 customers have shut down. The filing explains that “because these systems were not interconnected with other systems

or replaced with newer systems by their owners, these systems ceased providing service to their customers, who were required to find alternative” services “which in many cases means paying more.”

The ACA sites “runaway programming costs” as the primary reason small systems are shutting down and urges the FCC to include this in their congressional report.

## 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  
Pittsburgh A&E Group  
643 Liberty Avenue #401  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
[www.james-richards.com](http://www.james-richards.com)

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](http://vls.com)

[vincentlighting](#)

## Sinclair Hires Voter Service

Michael Malone reports in *Broadcasting + Cable* that the **Sinclair Broadcast Group** is licensing the new Local TV Voter Rating Service (LTVRS) from **Neilson NV**.



SBG owns two Pittsburgh television stations, both of which will be participating in the service. Neilson NV is a measurement firm founded in 1923 as the A.C. Neilson Company by Arthur Charles Neilson (1897-1980) that is best known for its television ratings services. LTVRS seeks to reveal the media outlets chosen by key voter categories.

"The 2016 political race is accelerating and ad spending is already flowing into local markets. Providing our clients with voter insights is critical to their success in this election cycle," said Matt O'Grady, executive VP and managing director for local media at Nielsen told Malone. "By using a blend of Nielsen's Local TV audience data with the latest voter and political persona data, our clients can deliver key voter segments to political advertisers with greater efficiency and effectiveness than ever before."

In addition to Pittsburgh, the agreement includes SBG's stations in Washington, DC, Greenville, West Palm Beach, Las Vegas and Richmond, Virginia.

## iHeartMedia Promotions

A trio of executives has been promoted by **iHeartMedia** to lead the firm's national programming efforts.



Founded in 1972 as Clear Channel Communications, the company is the largest owner of radio stations in the United States. These stations include six in Pittsburgh.

The National Programming Platforms Group has named three new executive vice presidents: Brad Hardin, Jon Zellner and Maynard. The group's mission is to collaborate with local programmers at the company's 850 radio stations to develop new content that will increase ratings.

Details on the new team can be found by clicking <http://www.iheartmedia.com/Pages/iHeartMedia-Promotes-Brad-Hardin,-Jon-Zellner-and-Maynard-to-Executive-Vice-Presidents-of-National-Programming-Platforms.aspx>

*What a great place for your web site!*

**Red Oak  
Hosting.com**

**1-877-777-6961**



**SAT  
12**



Violin superstar Itzhak Perlman and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra bring the big screen to **Heinz Hall** with a concert of movie scores.

**SAT  
12**



Another superstar, Diana Ross, performs some of her biggest pop hits just a block away at the **Benendum Center**.

**THU  
17**



Superstars seem to be everywhere this month with the sizzling Josh Groban appearing at the **Benendum Center** just a few days later.

**FRI  
18**



**The Silver Eye Center for Photography** opens a fascinating new exhibit looking at how African-American men use clothes as a form of empowerment.

**SAT  
19**



**Stage AE** is often a place to find superstars, but today it's the tasty Pierogi Fest.

**SAT  
19**



Another exhibit, this one at the **Society for Contemporary Craft**, looks at the power of art in treating people with mental health issues.

**SUN  
20**



Pittsburgh very own Mac Miller brings his original hip-hop to **Stage AE**.

**TUE  
22**



Back again at the **Benendum Center** is the popular musical "Jersey Boys" with the tunes of legendary pop band Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

**THU  
24**



The Public Theater's new season opens at the **O'Reilly Theater** with a stunning new production of the book *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

**FRI  
25**



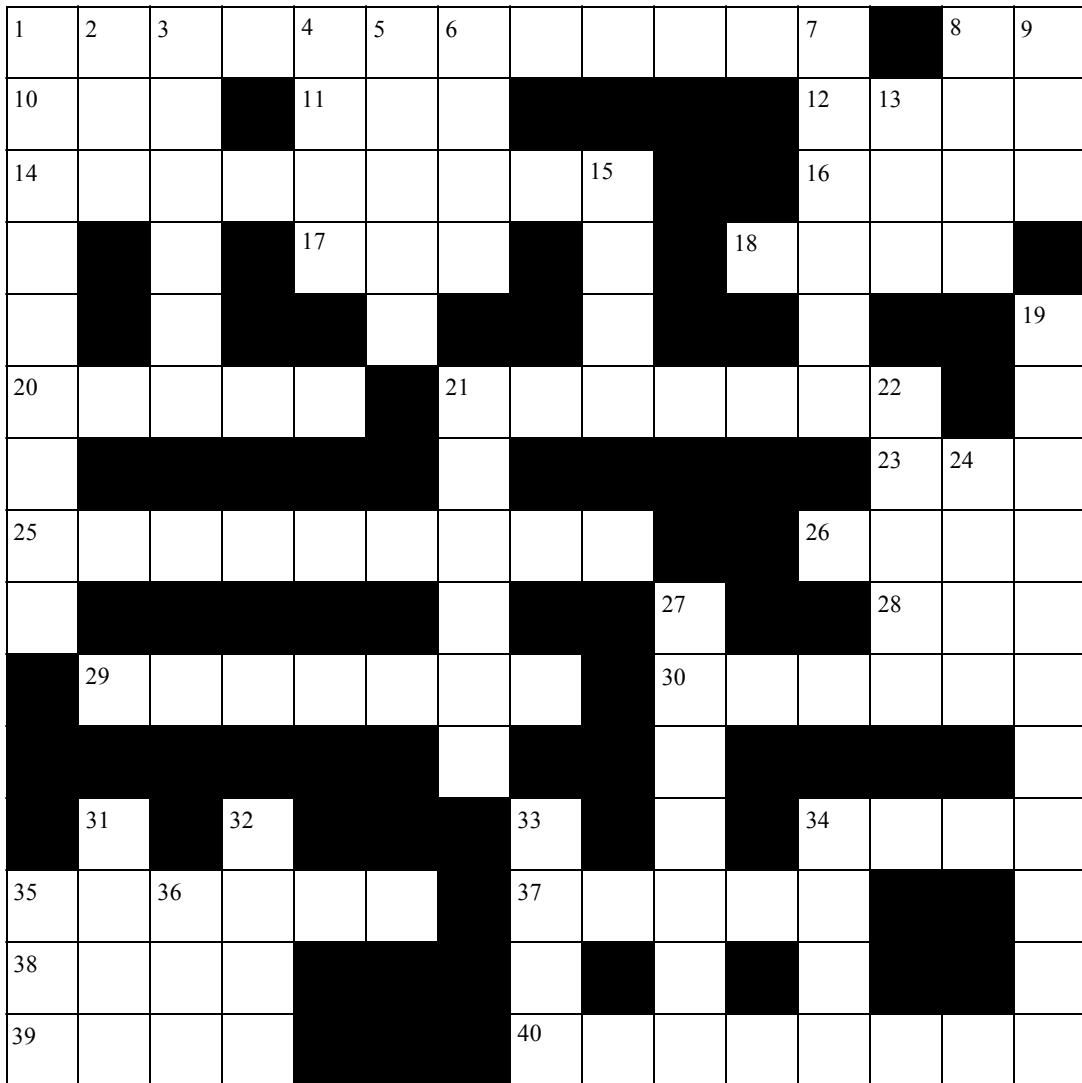
Coinciding with the quarterly Gallery Crawl, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust launches a fascinating program showcasing the art, culture and history of India.

**TUE  
29**



One of National Public Radio's most popular shows, "Ask Me Again," tapes a special episode at the **Byham Theater**.

**THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE**  
**2015-2016 @ Public Theater**  
**(with a little City Theatre)**



**ACROSS**

1. City Theater's creative force
8. California or Maine (abbr.)
10. A thousand years
11. Montgomery's home (abbr.)
12. Smell
14. 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning play being staged by the Public Theater
16. Common meat replacement
17. General who became President (Init.)
18. "This or \_\_\_\_"
20. The most French of French cities
21. Brando and Sinatra were in the film version of this musical being staged at the Public Theater (with 22 Down)
23. The shape of a Pirates baseball
25. Famous diarist and inspiration for the Public's season opener
26. Upwind, nautically
28. Lawful Permanent Resident (abbr.)
29. Architect of the O'Reilly (with 24 Down)
30. Kidnapper's demand
34. Homer's son
35. He wrote *In Cold Blood*
37. Common greeting
38. Aid in a crime
39. Classical musical instrument
40. Putting one on top of the other

**DOWN**

1. The Public Theater's creative force
2. What the called the king in 20-Across
3. Response to a question
4. Three feet
5. Wesley Snipes played him in 1998 movie
6. TV Show: "RuPaul's Drag \_\_\_\_"
7. "\_\_\_\_ doin'!"
8. Not hard
9. Title of the Public Theater play about 35-Across
13. Classic 1950 Edmond O'Brien film
15. Obligation
19. Theme of City Theater's play "Sex with Strangers"
21. See 29 Across
22. See 21 Across
24. How to lose your car
27. Name of the Public Theater's theater
31. Upcoming controversial City Theater play "Sunset \_\_\_\_"
32. Brief message
33. Mr. Silverstein, to pals
34. A kind of swine
35. James played him in the 1955 film "East of Eden"
36. Each

**Last Month's Solution**

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

# Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

## Making the Illegal Legal

By James A. Richards

Artists of all kinds love to dare the laws and customs that dare the culture and those in power. It's always been that way: the ancient Roman poet Ovid (43BCE – 18CE) wrote erotic works that were as popular as they were scandalous. His alleged affair with the emperor's daughter wasn't merely unseemly, but violated the Julian Marriage Laws. Adultery was a crime in the Roman Empire and Ovid was banished for it.

These days creative people have been focused on legalizing certain drugs, most notably marijuana. Political comedian Bill Maher has been the most vocal about the subject, as has Pittsburgh rapper Wiz Khalifa.

The proponents point out that legalizing marijuana nationwide would make it subject to regulation and therefore better control of who does and who doesn't acquire some. They also make the

case that marijuana is far less harmful than other substances and actually has medicinal value.

Another issue that has been raised is the legalization of some forms of prostitution. Recently the web site Rentboy.com was raided and shut down not only for being a conduit for male hookers but for allegedly risking national security. Defenders of Rentboy.com --- including artist and Huffington Post columnist Matthew Ebert --- point out that the firm offered sex workers a safer alternative to walking the streets, made sure the young men (all were verified to be over 18) were paid appropriately and even sponsored college scholarships.

The Rentboy.com tale reminds me of the legendary Chicago "sporting house" called the Everleigh Club, which set high standards in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for its treatment of sex workers. (Learn more at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everleigh\\_Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everleigh_Club))

But does any of this really mean that marijuana or prostitution should be legal?

My big concern about marijuana lies in the history of tobacco. Cigarette companies knew for decades that nicotine is addictive and that their product contained carcinogens. Not only did they hide and deny these matters, but financed research in how to make cigarettes more addictive and therefore more profitable. Legalizing marijuana will almost certainly lead to a corporate industry similar to tobacco --- with the same motivation for tweaking the product.

Consensual prostitution is, in many ways, a trickier issue. Amnesty International has called for its decriminalization and some LGBT rights organizations have come out against the Rentboy.com raid. However, in a recent New York Times op-ed piece, advocate Rachel Moran gave some very strong arguments for keeping the sex trade a crime. She writes that since New Zealand decriminalized selling sex in 2003 that "young women in brothels [report] that men now demand more than ever for less than ever. And because the trade is socially sanctioned, there is no incentive for the government to provide exit strategies for those who want out of it. These women are trapped."

No matter what the issue, there will be artists who will follow in Ovid's footsteps. Hopefully it won't mean exile for them as well.



Join the *Pittsburgh Applause* group on [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com).

As a member of this group, you'll be better able to connect with your A&E peers in Pittsburgh!

Membership is free, but you must have a LinkedIn profile to participate.

pittsburgh  
**applause!**  
arts & entertainment newsletter

## Keep the Applause Coming

Everyone in our line of work loves receiving applause, but to keep *Pittsburgh Applause* coming your way, its important to support the newsletter through ad buys and monetary gifts to Jim Richards.

Full-page (8" wide x 10" high): \$100  
Half-page (8" wide x 5" high): \$75

All ads need to be built-to-size and provided in a low-res JPG file format. All ads must be pre-paid with the check made payable to the Pittsburgh A&E Group.

For more information, contact Jim at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)



[www.james-richards.com](http://www.james-richards.com)

[www.pittsburghapplause.com](http://www.pittsburghapplause.com)