



**WESTERN
RESERVE**
PUBLIC MEDIA

1750 Campus Center Drive · PO Box 5191 · Kent, Ohio 44240-5191
330.677.4549 · programs@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
330-677-4549 or dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Reserve PBS Celebrates Black History Month

KENT, Ohio — Jan. 21, 2011 — Western Reserve PBS celebrates Black History Month in February with programming that emphasizes the resilience of the African-American spirit. Shows airing for the first time are marked with an asterisk (*). Local funding for Black History Month programming on Western Reserve PBS is provided by Summa Health System and the law firm of Ulmer & Berne.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

- 9 p.m. **Gospel Meets Symphony: Celebrating 16 Years!** — The soul-stirring beauty of gospel music mixes with the elegance of a symphonic orchestra in this Western Reserve Public Media production.
- 9:30 p.m. **Along Water Street at the Akron Art Museum** — Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson's exhibit is featured in this Western Reserve PBS production.
- 10 p.m. ***AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange** — Documents the personal stories of the Haitian people six weeks after the devastating earthquake.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- 10 p.m. **Gospel Meets Symphony: Let Freedom Ring!** — The Akron Symphony Orchestra and its gospel choir perform.

Sunday, Feb. 6

- 9 p.m. **An Evening With Smokey Robinson** — Learn about the Motown legend and enjoy his hits.

Saturday, Feb. 12

- 11:30 p.m. ***Independent Lens, When I Rise** — Racial controversy surrounds a gifted music student.

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Sunday, Feb. 13

- 4 p.m. **Secrets of the Dead, Slave Ship Mutiny** — Historians, archaeologists and slave descendants investigate the Meermin shipwreck in 1766.
- 10:30 p.m. **Dean Mitchell at the Canton Museum of Art** — This Western Reserve PBS special features Dean Mitchell's exhibit, "Space, People and Places."

Tuesday, Feb. 15

- 9:30 p.m. ***Hammer on Steel: Bad Boys and Genius** — Local filmmaker Phil Hoffman documents the evolution of steel pan music.
- 10 p.m. ***Hammer on Steel: The Concert** — The University of Akron's steel drum band celebrates its 30th anniversary with this concert.

Saturday, Feb. 19

- 11 p.m. **Independent Lens, Adjust Your Color: The Truth of Petey Greene** — Don Cheadle narrates a look at how radio's first shock jock battled the system and his own demons.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

- 10 p.m. **Simon Schama's Rough Crossings** — The astonishing story of the struggle to freedom by thousands of African American slaves.

Additional air dates on Western Reserve PBS WNEO.1/WEAO.1 and Fusion WNEO.2/WEAO.2 for these programs can be found at www.WesternReservePBS.org.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.