



news release

Contact:

*Valerie Renner, Media, Public Relations & Events Manager
Akron Civic Theatre
(330) 535-3179 vrenner@akroncivic.com*

*Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
Western Reserve Public Media
(330) 677-4549 dsteinert@westernreservepublicmedia.org*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akron Civic Theatre and Western Reserve PBS to host A Downton Abbey Evening presented by the Akron Civic Theatre Women's Guild

Featuring a free preview screening of the popular PBS series' fifth season!

Akron, Ohio — Nov. 10, 2014 — Which suitor will Lady Mary choose? Where is Lady Edith's beau? Did Bates do it? Can Lord and Lady Grantham keep the estate afloat? Will Carson and Mrs. Hughes start keeping their own house? What delightful insult will the Dowager Countess fling next? Only the new season of PBS's "Downton Abbey" knows for sure.

As fans of the popular series eagerly await the fifth season premiere in January, Western Reserve PBS and the Akron Civic Theatre will host a free screening of the new season's first episode at **A Downton Abbey Evening** presented by the Akron Civic Theatre Women's Guild on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. at the Civic. Guests are encouraged to don their favorite flapper wear or other period-appropriate costumes and join their fellow enthusiasts for the celebration. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. To order tickets, call the Civic at 330-253-2488, or stop by the box office at 175 S. Main St. in Akron (located on the first floor of the County of Summit building across the street from the theater).

But wait — there's more!

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To make the evening even more fabulous, fans are invited to join us at 6:30 p.m. for a pre-screening **Downton Abbey Soirée** presented by the Akron Civic Theatre Women's Guild. Guests will enjoy dainty sandwiches and delectable sweets; a signature cocktail of special significance ("The Poor Edith"); fine teas and coffees; live music of the Jazz Age by Josh Rzepka's trio; the delightful company of fellow fans; and other amusements revealed at the soirée. Roaring '20s costumes are encouraged. At 8 p.m., soirée guests will view Season 5's first episode from the VIP seats in the Civic balcony. Tickets for **A Downton Abbey Soirée** are \$25 and can be purchased through the Civic.

Akron Costume & Design is offering attendees a 10 percent discount on costumes when they mention the event. The store is located at 3425 Manchester Road in Akron. More information is available at <http://www.akrondesign.com>.

The fifth season of "Downton Abbey" will broadcast on Western Reserve PBS on Sunday nights at 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 4, 2015. For more information, visit <http://www.WesternReservePBS.org>.

About Akron Civic Theatre

The Akron Civic Theater was built in 1929 by Marcus Loew and designed by famed theater architect, John Eberson. The interior structure was fashioned after a Moorish castle featuring Mediterranean decor, including medieval carvings, authentic European antiques and Italian alabaster sculptures. In June 2001, the Akron Civic Theatre underwent the most comprehensive restoration and expansion project in its history, whereby the theater was brought up to modern performance and patron standards. The theater now attracts nearly 110,000 people annually for nationally touring concerts, comedians, and family shows, as well as a wide variety of events featuring local and regional artists. For more information visit <http://www.akroncivic.com>

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. It serves the largest population of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from the Ohio Department of Education, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in 10 Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit <http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org> or call 1-800-554-4549.