



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Akron Civic Theatre and Western Reserve PBS to host A Downton Abbey Evening

*As the **Masterpiece** series prepares to broadcast its sixth and final season in January, A Downton Abbey Evening offers fans the chance to party like its (almost) 1929!*

Akron, Ohio — Nov. 2, 2015 — Oh, how will it all end? Will Lady Mary find love again? How will Lady Edith fare as a single working mom? Has the family lost Tom Branson to America forever? What new modern kitchen conveniences will send Mrs. Patmore over the deep end? And how many weddings, births and funerals can be packed into the last eight episodes of a beloved television drama? Only the sixth and final season of PBS's "Downton Abbey on MASTERPIECE" knows for sure.

Akron Civic Theatre and Western Reserve PBS are hosting a premiere party, **A Downton Abbey Evening**, on Sunday, Dec. 13. Presented by Wayside Furniture and the Akron Civic Theatre Women's Guild, the event features two options: a soirée starting at 5:30 p.m. and costing \$50 per person or the free screening of the new season's first episode at 7 p.m.

Local fans will get a sneak peek at season six before it premieres in January when Western Reserve PBS and the Akron Civic Theatre host **A Downton Abbey Evening**, presented by Wayside Furniture and the Akron Civic Theatre Women's Guild. On Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, fans are invited to don their favorite flapper wear or Edwardian-era garb and join their fellow enthusiasts for this **Downton Abbey** celebration.

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The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with **A Downton Abbey Soirée**. Guests will enjoy classic English fare, jazz of the 1920s by the Jack Schantz Trio and the signature cocktails of the evening: The Old Booby and Carson & Hughes on the Beach. The menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres includes mini beef wellingtons, fancy finger sandwiches, chicken satay with curry, shepherd's pie, breakfast baked beans on toast points, brie rounds with grapes. On the dessert menu are trifles, scones and tea cookies. Coffees and teas will be provided by Angel Falls Coffee of Akron. In the Grand Lobby, fans will enjoy a display of vintage and period-style fashions and wares and raffles for Downton-worthy swag. Guests will also be able to take home a commemorative photo, courtesy of Janet Adams Photography, taken in front of a **Downton Abbey** backdrop of the magnificent estate where the series is set. At 7:00 p.m., soirée guests will retire to the Civic's balcony for a screening of the first episode of the sixth and final season of **Downton Abbey**.

Tickets for **A Downton Abbey Soirée** are \$50 and can only be ordered through the Akron Civic Theatre. To order, call the Civic at 330-253-2488, or stop by the box office at 175 S. Main Street in Akron (located on the first floor of the County of Summit building across the street from the theater).

For fans who just want watch the first episode in the company of other Downton fans, the 7:00 p.m. screening is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Call or stop by the Civic box office for tickets.

Period costumes are encouraged, but not required. 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 www.akrondesign.com.

Additional support for **A Downton Abbey Evening** has been provided by Concordia at Sumner. Proceeds from the event benefit the Akron Civic Theatre and Western Reserve PBS.

Downton Abbey's sixth season will broadcast on Western Reserve PBS on Sunday nights at 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 2, 2016. For more information, visit 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).

Our Educational Services Department provides technology training and educational content to over 24,000 educators and over 300,000 K-12 students, plus Ready To Learn Services to over 100,000 preschool children's parents and child-care providers.

For more information about the organization, visit <http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org> or call 1-800-554-4549.

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