



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Road Kid to Writer: The Tracks of Jim Tully” to Premiere on Western Reserve PBS

*Local production tells story of Ohio vagabond
who shocked Hollywood in the 1920s*

Kent, Ohio – Jan. 22, 2015 – A new local production, “Road Kid to Writer: The Tracks of Jim Tully,” will premiere on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO Channel 45.1 / WEAO Channel 49.1) on Sunday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Additional airdates and times can be found at <http://westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm>.

This hour-long program is based on a book about the life of remarkable author and journalist Jim Tully. The book, “Jim Tully: American Writer, Irish Rover, Hollywood Brawler” (Bauer & Dawidziak, The Kent State University Press, 2011; <http://www.kentstateuniversitypress.com>), compellingly describes the hardscrabble life of Tully. It details his immigrant roots, rural Ohio upbringing, time in an orphanage and life as a hobo. The documentary is the work of independent producer Mark Wade Stone, owner of StoryWorks.TV in Lakewood.

The son of an Irish ditch-digger, Jim Tully (1886–1947) left his hometown of St. Marys, Ohio, as a very young man, spending most of his teenage years in the company of hoboes. After six years on the road, he jumped off a railroad car in Kent, Ohio, with wild aspirations of becoming a writer. While chasing his dream, Tully worked as a chain maker, boxer, newspaper reporter and tree surgeon. All the while he was crafting his memories of the road into a dark and astonishing chronicle of the American underclass. After moving to Hollywood and working for Charlie Chaplin, Tully began to write a stream of critically acclaimed books mostly about his road years. He quickly established himself as a major American author and used his status to launch a parallel career as a Hollywood journalist.

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Much as his gritty books shocked the country, his magazine articles on movies shocked Hollywood. Along the way, he picked up such close friends as W. C. Fields, Jack Dempsey and Erich von Stroheim. Many saw the dark side of the American dream, but none wrote about it like Jim Tully.

“Road Kid to Writer” includes interviews with the companion book’s co-authors, Paul Bauer and Mark Dawidziak. It also features original music by songwriter Eric Taylor.

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/WEO 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/WEO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEO 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.

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