



news release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Reserve Public Media Celebrates Black History Month

KENT, Ohio — Jan. 26, 2016 — Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEO 49.1) 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 (*).

On the standard-definition channel Fusion (WNEO.2/WEO.2), Black History Month programs air throughout the month. On Saturday, Feb. 20, the special programming will run from noon to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Additional airdates for Black History Month programs on both channels can be found at <http://westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm>.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEO 49.1)

Friday, Feb. 12

10 p.m. **American Masters, B.B. King***
Candid interviews shed light on the challenging life and career “King of the Blues” B.B. King.

Saturday, Feb. 13

11 p.m. **Independent Lens, A Ballerina’s Tale***
Explore the rise of groundbreaking dancer Misty Copeland during a crucial period in her life.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

9 p.m. **Independent Lens, Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution***
The Black Panther Party emerged within a new revolutionary culture during the turbulent 1960s.

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Saturday, Feb. 20

- 10 p.m. In Their Own Words, Muhammad Ali**
Muhammad Ali's boxing successes, conversion to Islam and Parkinson's disease are explored.
- 11 p.m. Independent Lens, The Power Broker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights**
The controversial civil rights era leader and former head of the National Urban League is profiled.

Sunday, Feb. 21

- 5 p.m. An Evening With Sheila Johnson***
The successful businesswoman, violinist and dedicated philanthropist is interviewed.

Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2)

Monday, Feb. 8

- 10 p.m. Independent Lens, A Ballerina's Tale***
Explore the rise of groundbreaking dancer Misty Copeland during a crucial period in her life.

Saturday, Feb. 13

- 1 p.m. Independent Lens, A Ballerina's Tale***
Explore the rise of groundbreaking dancer Misty Copeland during a crucial period in her life.
- 7 p.m. Independent Lens, Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution***
The Black Panther Party emerged within a new revolutionary culture during the turbulent 1960s.
- 9 p.m. American Masters, B.B. King***
Candid interviews shed light on the challenging life and career "King of the Blues" B.B. King.

Monday, Feb. 15

- 9:30 p.m. The Education of Harvey Gantt**
The story of the first African American accepted to a white college in South Carolina is showcased.
- 10 p.m. Independent Lens, The Power Broker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights**
The controversial civil rights era leader and former head of the National Urban League is profiled.

Saturday, Feb. 20

- Noon Independent Lens, The Power Broker: Whitney Young's Fight for Civil Rights**
The controversial civil rights era leader and former head of the National Urban League is profiled.
- 1 p.m. Independent Lens, Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution***
The Black Panther Party emerged within a new revolutionary culture during the turbulent 1960s.
- 3 p.m. American Masters, Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth**
The life of the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Literature is chronicled.
- 4:30 p.m. The Education of Harvey Gantt**
The story of the first African American accepted to a white college in South Carolina is showcased.

- 8 p.m. Bridging the Divid: Tom Bradley and the Politics of Race***
Tom Bradley's 1973 election as the first African American mayor of Los Angeles is examined.
- 9 p.m. Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams***
Discover how Vel Phillips, Milwaukee's first African American, rose to prominence in Wisconsin.
- 10 p.m. An Evening With Sheila Johnson***
The successful businesswoman, violinist and dedicated philanthropist is interviewed.

Sunday, Feb. 21

- 3 p.m. An Evening With Sheila Johnson***
The successful businesswoman, violinist and dedicated philanthropist is interviewed.

Monday, Feb. 22

- 9:30 p.m. The Lost Years of Zora Neale Hurston**
The life, work and philosophies of the celebrated figure of the Harlem Renaissance are explored.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

- 9 p.m. In Their Own Words, Muhammad Ali**
Muhammad Ali's boxing successes, conversion to Islam and Parkinson's disease are explored.

Saturday, Feb. 27

- 3:30 p.m. Independent Lens, Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People**
Learn about black photographers who recorded the lives of generations, from slavery to the present.
- 7 p.m. In Performance at the White House, A Tribute to Ray Charles***
Hear interpretations of the music of Ray Charles, using his own big-band musical arrangements.
- 8 p.m. American Masters, Fats Domino***
Discover how Fats Domino's brand of New Orleans rhythm and blues became rock 'n' roll in the 1950s.
- 9 p.m. American Masters, August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand**
The legacy of August Wilson, from his roots as an activist to his work on Broadway, is explored.

Sunday, Feb. 28

- 7 p.m. American Masters, Fats Domino***
Discover how Fats Domino's brand of New Orleans rhythm and blues became rock 'n' roll in the 1950s.
- 9 p.m. American Masters, B.B. King***
Candid interviews shed light on the challenging life and career "King of the Blues" B.B. King.

Monday, Feb. 29

- 8:30 p.m. American Masters, August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand**
The legacy of August Wilson, from his roots as an activist to his work on Broadway, is explored.

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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