



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS Western Reserve Honors African American History and Culture with Special Programming in February

KENT, OHIO -- Jan. 21, 2020 -- In celebration of Black History Month in February, PBS Western Reserve has a very special lineup of programming planned for both its PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) and Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) channels. Below are highlights of the Black History Month programming; for the complete schedule, visit PBSWesternReserve.org.

Shows airing for the first time are marked with an asterisk (*).

Antiques Roadshow, Celebrating Black Americana

Monday, Feb. 1, at 9 PM

Repeats Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 2 AM

Highlights include an 1821 U.S. citizenship certificate for a free man of color and an African American beauty book written by Madam C. J. Walker.

A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates Jr. *

Monday, Feb. 1, at 10 PM

Repeats Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 3 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Friday, Feb. 5, at 8 PM

Gain an interesting and rarely seen inside look into the life and career of the well-known Harvard professor and historian.

Jazz Ambassadors

Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 9 PM

Repeats Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 2 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 8 PM

See why great American jazz artists Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Duke Ellington faced a painful dilemma when asked to travel the world as cultural ambassadors.

Nick Cave, Summit Lake: Heard*

Friday, Feb. 5, at 9 PM

Repeats Saturday, Feb. 6, at 1:30 AM; Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 9 PM; Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 1:30 AM; Sunday, Feb. 14, at 12:30 AM & 1 PM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 3 PM and Thursday, Feb. 11, at 9 PM

A grand performance by internationally renowned artist Nick Cave, held in Akron's Summit Lake neighborhood, coincided with redevelopment efforts in the community orchestrated by the residents themselves.

Lines Broken: The Story of Marion Motley*

Friday, Feb. 5, at 9:30 PM

Repeats Saturday, Feb. 6, at 2 AM; Monday, Feb. 8, at 10 PM; Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 3 AM; Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 8 PM; and Thursday, Feb. 18, at 1 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 3:30 PM; Friday, Feb. 12, at 8 PM; and Saturday, Feb. 27, at 2:30 PM

In 1946, Marion Motley was one of four African American men to break pro football's color barrier when he joined the Cleveland Browns. Motley's story of adversity, personal tragedy and triumphs includes rarely heard archival interviews and new interviews with historians, friends and descendants.

Black College Football Hall of Fame: Journey to Canton*

Friday, Feb. 5, at 10 PM

Repeats on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 2:30 AM; Monday, Feb. 8, at 10:30 PM; Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 3:30 AM; Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 8:30 PM; and Thursday, Feb. 18, at 1:30 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 4 PM and Friday, Feb. 12, at 8:30 PM

Fifty years after the opening of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, the Black College Football Hall of Fame was officially welcomed to its campus. Along with it came a game and celebration of the historically Black college and university brand of football.

An Answer from Akron

Friday, Feb. 5, at 10:30 PM

Repeats on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 3 AM; Friday, Feb. 19, at 9 PM; and Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 7, at 4:30 PM; and Saturday, Feb. 27, at 8 PM

In Akron, members of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha became the first black organization to receive federal funding for affordable housing. These men provided homes for their friends and families who had been displaced by an aggressive urban renewal program.

Marching Forward*

Monday, Feb. 8, at 5 PM

Also airs on Fusion on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 9 PM

Learn of two high school band directors whose love of music and dedication to their students inspired an atypical collaboration in the segregated south. This documentary tells the story of how their friendship and professional cooperation resulted in the experience of a lifetime for two Orlando-area bands at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

American Experience, Goin' Back to T-Town*

Monday, Feb. 8, at 9 PM

Repeats Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 2 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 7 PM and Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 8 PM

Hear the extraordinary history of Greenwood, a successful Black community in segregated Tulsa, Okla. In a nostalgic celebration of old-fashioned neighborhood life, Black residents of "T-Town" relive their community's remarkable rise and ultimate decline.

American Experience, Voice of Freedom*

Monday, Feb. 15, at 9 PM

Repeats Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 2 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 28, at 5 PM

In 1939, contralto Marian Anderson stepped up to a microphone in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. She was barred from performing at Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This film marks that landmark moment.

Great Performances, Twilight: Los Angeles

Airs on Fusion on Monday, Feb. 15, at 10 PM

Anna Deavere Smith stars in a one-woman, multi-voiced production about the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Finding Your Roots, Write My Name in the Book of Life*

Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 8 PM

Repeats Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 1 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 8 PM

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., helps musician Pharrell Williams and filmmaker Kasi Lemmons uncover extraordinarily rare first-person accounts of their enslaved ancestors.

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*

Tuesdays, Feb. 16 & 23, at 9 PM

Part 1 repeats Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 2 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Fridays, Feb. 19 & 26, at 9 PM and Saturdays, Feb. 20 & 27, at 3 PM

Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., takes viewers on a journey through the rich and complex evolution of the Black church to reveal how it has influenced nearly every chapter of the African American story and continues to animate black identity today.

Fat Boy: The Billy Stewart Story*

Friday, Feb. 19, at 10 PM

Repeats Saturday, Feb. 20, at 3 AM

Also airs on Fusion on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 9 PM and Friday, Feb. 26, at 7 PM

Explore the life and career of one of the most popular rhythm and blues singers of the 1960s, tracing his journey from a young piano player to a famous R&B balladeer.

A Sculpted Life

Airs on Fusion on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 9:30 PM

Nebraska has chosen to replace both of its statues in the U.S. Capitol, and artist Littleton Alston will create one of them. He will be the first African American to create a sculpture for Statuary Hall and the subject will be author Willa Cather.

Independent Lens, Mr. Soul!*

Airs on Fusion on Monday, Feb. 22, at 10 PM

Also airs on Fusion on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 1 PM

During the civil rights movement, Ellis Haizlip created the groundbreaking PBS series "SOUL!," which became one of the most culturally significant television shows in U.S. history.

American Experience, Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory*

Airs on Fusion on Friday, Feb. 26, at 8 PM

Discover how a group of former slaves saved their school by signing in the decade after the Civil War. The Fisk Jubilee Singers battled prejudice and oppression to sing their way into the world's heart in a series of concerts in the United States and Europe.

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

A trusted community resource, PBS Western Reserve 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.

PBS Western Reserve (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 4.9 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 two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEAO 49.3).

For more information about the organization, visit www.PBSWesternReserve.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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