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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS Western Reserve Wins Two Emmy Awards

Kent, Ohio — June 24, 2024 — PBS Western Reserve, which operates TV channels WNEO and WEAO, has won two 2024 Emmy awards from the Central Great Lakes Region of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. **The Master Craftsman** and **The World According to Polka** each received awards on Saturday, June 22, at the Great Lakes Emmy Awards ceremony held in Cleveland.

For the independent production **The Master Craftsman**, filmmaker and director Phillip Sieb and director of photography Philip Leiter won in the Lifestyle category. The 30-minute program had its broadcast premiere on PBS Western Reserve. It provides a close-up view of local artist Richard Grell, showcasing his exceptional woodworking abilities in handcrafting Windsor chairs.

Jacob Kouwe received the award in the category Talent: Performer, Host, Narrator for **The World According to Polka**. This six-part PBS Western Reserve series follows Ohio's Chardon Polka Band across Northeast Ohio and beyond as it explores the rich history and lively culture surrounding polka.

"We are proud to share these awards as the presenting station for two excellent productions," said Natalie Pillsbury, PBS Western Reserve president and CEO. "They demonstrate our organization's commitment to telling the stories of the people and places in the greater Northeast Ohio region."

PBS Western Reserve received five regional Emmy nominations in 2024: two for **The Master Craftsman**, two for **The World According to Polka** and one for **City Centric**. All three productions can be livestreamed at PBSWesternReserve.org.

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).

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