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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Series *The World According to Polka* Returns with New Season and Halloween Special

*Six-part series premieres Friday, Oct. 11;
Halloween special premieres Sunday, Oct. 13*

Kent, Ohio — Oct. 1, 2024 — This October, enjoy the singular polka-stylings of The Chardon Polka Band on PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) with the season 2 premiere of *The World According to Polka* and a talent-packed Halloween special.

The term “polka” might typically recall thoughts of folks in lederhosen, couples dancing, or ethnic food — all of which are featured in *The World According to Polka* — but this season, the band will take polka to new places with surprising segments and polka connections!

Hosted by the Emmy-winning bandleader Jake Kouwe of The Chardon Polka Band, the season deftly navigates from baking Polish desserts and processing maple syrup to giving a history lesson about Slavic nations or California surf culture. This wide array of subject matter is accompanied by an equally varied soundtrack of classic polka hits, ‘90s one-hit wonders, classic rock and beach bum ballads. Guest performers include Die Saurkrauts, an oompah group from California; Christina Eltrevoog, a folk songstress from Illinois; Rocco Heins, a bandoneon player in Germany, and many more.

The new season is accompanied by *The World According to Polka Halloween Spook-Tacular*, a half-hour variety show described as the spine-chilling, hilarity-inducing special where Vincent Price meets Lawrence Welk. Guests include horror hosts The Mummy and The Monkey, guitar phenom Michael Weber, The Vindys’ Jackie Popovec and animal handler Outback Ray.

“Polka is so much more than a lot of folks give it credit for,” says host Kouwe. “We’re excited to share this experience with audiences and show them our passion for this music. We’ve got a wild season ready for our viewers!”

The World According to Polka — created by Jake Kouwe and Jeff Grau, and executive produced by PBS Western Reserve Senior Producer/Director Gary Manke — is the recipient of a [Public Media Award](#) and the [Central Great Lakes regional Emmy for Talent: Performer, Host, Narrator](#).

The series’ second season premieres Friday, Oct. 11, at 8:30 PM. *The World According to Polka Halloween Spook-Tacular* premieres Sunday, Oct. 13, at 1 PM. For additional *The World According to Polka* air dates and times on PBS Western Reserve and Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEO 49.2), and for information regarding on-demand viewing, visit [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 / WEO 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 / WEO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEO 49.3).

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