

# WQED Multimedia

Explore the African American experience through our Spring 2011 programming on WQED-TV

## FEBRUARY

---

### **Wylie Avenue Days**

- *airs on Thursday, 2/3 at 8:00 pm and on Sunday, 2/6 at 4:00 pm*

The only street in the U.S. that began at a church and ended at a jail, Wylie Avenue, in Pittsburgh's Hill District. This one-hour special recalls when it represented the heart of black life in Pittsburgh, much as Harlem did in New York. The heyday of Pittsburgh's Hill District lasted from the 1930s through the 1950s, and this eloquent documentary recaptures it all...the music clubs that attracted both black and white, the best Negro League baseball teams in America, the church picnics and family businesses that comprised the essence of life in this vibrant neighborhood.

### **Stokes: An American Dream**

- *airs on Thursday, 2/3 at 10:30 pm*

*STOKES: AN AMERICAN DREAM* profiles two African-American brothers who changed the course of American politics – Louis and Carl Stokes. Carl, the first black mayor of a major American city, and Louis, the first black U.S. congressman from Ohio, overcame humble beginnings in their pursuit of high political office. During the film, historians and politicians tell of the two brothers' ambition, perseverance, and selfless determination to use their positions to help the less fortunate. This inspirational American story begins by chronicling the Stokes' poverty-stricken childhood in Depression-era Cleveland and moves through the Stokes' education, law careers and rise in political prominence during the turbulent civil rights era. The documentary also offers intimate recollections from their friends and colleagues, including President Barack Obama, Jesse Jackson, and former Cleveland Mayor Mike White.

### **I Am a Man: From Memphis, A Lesson in Life**

- *airs on Friday, 2/4 at 10:30 pm and on Thursday, 2/24 at 10:30 pm*

Memphis sanitation worker Mr. Nickleberry tells an uplifting life story of endurance and character – joined by the other men and women of the 1968 sanitation strike whose courageous stand helped change the world forever.

### **Barbershops: PA Stylin'**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/6 at 3:00 pm*

In traditional documentary style, "Barbershops: PA Stylin'" host Chris Moore visits several distinctly different yet similar African American barbershops that share a time-honored tradition practiced by barbers and patrons everywhere. By broadening the scope of the original special, "Barbershops: PA

Stylin'" includes barbershops from greater Philadelphia, Reading, Johnstown, Lancaster and Pittsburgh, PA. As the camera shows the barbers at their work, it reveals their true vocation as advisors, confessors, sounding boards, comedians, and touchstones for their customers. "Barbershops: PA Stylin'" explores the camaraderie and conflicts that fueled the successful Hollywood film with the similar title. Politics, romance, race relations, and even hair care are discussed with the honesty and humor that have kept generations of men snug in their elevated barber's chairs while the rest of the world zooms by on their way to their "stylists." A joyous mix of new ideas and fond nostalgia, "Barbershops: PA Stylin'" is the real-life story of one of the longest and liveliest traditions in the black community.

### **Newspaper of Record: The Pittsburgh Courier 1907-1965**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/6 at 5:00 pm and on Thursday, 2/10 at 8:00 pm*

The Pittsburgh Courier was the leading Black newspaper of the last century. No mere journal of African American life, the Courier was a muckraking crusader in the vanguard of the civil rights movement. Its 14 national editions had a peak circulation of over 350,000. With accounts from Courier reporters and employees, and scholars like John Hope Franklin, this new documentary reveals the role of the Pittsburgh Courier in reporting and shaping African American history.

### **Experience "Return to the Roots of Civil Rights"**

- *airs Monday, 2/7 at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, 2/8 at 12:00 midnight, and Thursday, 2/10 at 10:30 pm*

Our producers went down South to hop a ride on the "Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights" bus tour. The tour visited key civil rights sites in seven states, starting with the Woolworth lunch counter sit-in in Greensboro, North Carolina. Viewers will get to experience the sites and hear the stories of the men and women who led the movement that abolished segregation and gave African Americans the right to vote.

### **Independent Lens "When I Rise"**

- *airs on Tuesday, 2/8 at 10:00 pm*

Barbara Smith Conrad is an exceptional vocalist who enrolled at the University of Texas as a freshman in 1956, the first year in which African-American students were admitted as undergraduates. She was cast in an opera to co-star with a white male classmate, fueling a racist backlash from members of the Texas legislature. When Conrad was expelled from the cast, the incident escalated to national news, prompting unexpected support from singer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte. After finishing her studies, while "always looking over [her] shoulder," Conrad moved to New York City and emerged as an internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano, headlining on stages around the world.

### **A Conversation With Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**

- *airs on Friday, 2/11 at 10:00 pm*

This lively hour-long interview program was produced by The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African American video oral history archive. The program provides an interesting and rarely seen inside look into the life and career of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. A native of West Virginia, Gates returns to his birth state to share his story with CNN White House Correspondent Suzanne Malveaux. Taped on February 18, 2010 in front of a live audience at The Culture Center in the State Capital of Charleston, A CONVERSATION WITH HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. provides a wonderful and insightful look into the life of this history "change agent." The HistoryMakers also honored Dr. Hazo Carter, President of West Virginia University, Eloise Gentry, President of The Gary Urban League and Andrew Taylor, General Manager of Microsoft Corporation during the program.

### **Independent Lens "Adjust Your Color: The Truth of Petey Greene"**

- *airs on Tuesday, 2/15 at 10:00 pm*

America's original shock-jock, Petey Greene overcame poverty, drug addiction and prison time to "tell it like it is," shocking and entertaining everyone from the ghetto to the White House. Narrated by Don Cheadle, this program looks at how his explosive language and brash style unsettled the establishment as he battled both the system and his own demons on a journey to becoming a leading activist during some of the most tumultuous years in recent history.

### **Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen**

- *airs on Thursday, 2/17 at 8:00 pm*

"Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen" covers the "Tuskegee Airmen Experiment", a military experiment to see if Black men were capable of flying complicated engines of war. The airmen flew fighter and bomber planes during World War II and were trained at Tuskegee, Alabama. These are the stories of the men who lived through the experience as well as from family members who remember them. Plus, some white pilots tell how they owe their survival to the heroics of this group of men. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air. (Note: This is not to be confused with the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment.)

### **Gullah**

- *airs on Thursday, 2/17 at 10:30 pm*

Gullah is a documentary about the original slaves of Helena Island, South Carolina, whose descendents have preserved their culture and memory.

### **Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968**

- *airs on Friday, 2/18 at 10:00 pm*

On February 8, 1968, eight seconds of police gunfire left three African-American students dying and 27 wounded on the campus of South Carolina State College at Orangeburg. The shooting capped off four days of student protests over the desegregation of the city's only bowling alley. Often termed the "Kent State of the South," and pre-dating it by two years, the shooting marked the first time in U.S. history that police opened fire on students. Through interviews and archival material, SCARRED JUSTICE examines the tumultuous events of that day from a variety of perspectives and follows the ongoing efforts to seek justice for the victims.

### **WQED Presents: K. Leroy Irvis: The Lion of Pennsylvania**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/20 at 5:00 pm*

K. Leroy Irvis made history in 1977 when he became the first African American Speaker of the House in Pennsylvania. He retired in 1988, but still holds the record as the longest-serving Pennsylvania House Speaker. He fought tirelessly for civil rights, health care, consumer protection, prison reform, improvements in housing and education, and government reform. Known for his thunderous oratory, Irvis' speeches became legendary throughout Pennsylvania. Irvis earned his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh, which has created a scholarship program in his name. This documentary explores Irvis' formative years, his struggles as an activist, and his commitment to achieve social justice for all Pennsylvanians. Narrated by Julian Bond and hosted by Chris Moore.

### **Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance**

- *airs Friday, 2/25 at 10:00 pm*

In 1958, the Commonwealth of Virginia led other Southern states in refusing the U.S. Supreme Court's mandate to integrate its public schools in the aftermath of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Several counties "locked down" or closed their public schools altogether – one for as long as five years – rather than allow black students into all-white schools. LOCKED OUT: THE FALL OF MASSIVE RESISTANCE sheds light on this dark moment in history through interviews, academic commentary, and archival footage from the era. The documentary, produced to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the so-called Massive Resistance laws, offers first-hand accounts from African-American students who found themselves on the front lines of this desegregation battle.

### **Safe Harbor**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/27 at 3:00 pm*

SAFE HARBOR is an incredible story of strength and determination, told through the eyes of the slaves and the people who risked their lives to save them. From free black communities to middle-class white society, groups of freedom fighters defied race and gender in one of the greatest survival stories of all time. SAFE HARBOR follows the Underground Railroad through a little-known passage to freedom in the northernmost corner of Pennsylvania. Character voices, reenactments, documents and diaries create a vivid account of Pennsylvania in the years leading up to the Civil War.

### **Jim Crow Pennsylvania**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/27 at 4:00 pm*

Historians say that the term 'Jim Crow' originated in a song performed by Daddy Rice, a white minstrel show entertainer in the 1830s. His charcoal darkened face performed an unflattering caricature of a black man. Over time the term became identified with the racist laws of the day that deprived African-Americans of their civil rights by defining blacks as inferior to whites. "Jim Crow Pennsylvania" takes a look at how 'Jim Crow' practices affected the first African American who moved into Levittown, PA; the Pullman Porters who crisscrossed the country on America's railways; the fight for equality among African-American steelworkers; the 1911 lynching that forever changed Coatesville, PA. Using historical footage, period photographs, and interviews, the documentary explores 'Jim Crow' and its effect and legacy in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose southern border is the Mason-Dixon line that divided slave states from free.

### **Torchbearers**

- *airs on Sunday, 2/27 at 5:00 pm*

This documentary uses interviews, photos and archival footage to tell the story of Pittsburgh's struggles during the so-called golden era of civil rights. Torchbearers spans events from the 1950s through the 1970s, and features many of the men and women who risked everything for their beliefs.

## **MARCH**

---

### **Independent Lens "Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story"**

- *airs on Tuesday, 3/1 at 10:00 pm*

Follow the story of Cyntoia Brown, who is serving a life sentence for murder at the age of 16. Me Facing Life challenges our assumptions about violence and explores how factors such as biology and

family history can doom some young people from the start. *(This film is also part of WQED's Women's Empowerment Initiative)*

### **Independent Lens "Pushing the Elephant"**

- *airs on Tuesday, 3/29 at 10:00 pm*

Pushing the Elephant captures one of the most important stories of our age, in which genocidal violence is challenged by the moral fortitude and grace of one woman's mission for peace. *(This film is part of WQED's Women's Empowerment Initiative)*

## **APRIL**

---

### **The Civil War**

- *airs Sunday – Thursday, 4/3 – 4/7 at 8:00 pm nightly*

The award-winning documentary from filmmaker Ken Burns returns to PBS. This landmark series holds the record for the highest ratings for a series in PBS history. David McCullough narrates the series, which vividly portrays the terrible conflict that tore this country apart and defined the United States as a nation. Archival photographs and period paintings join newsreel footage of Civil War veterans, live cinematography of battle sites, interviews with eminent historians, and a chorus of voices reading from diaries, letters, speeches, and newspapers of the era. The principal commentator is Shelby Foote, author of the three-volume "The Civil War: A Narrative."

### **Independent Lens "Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child"**

- *airs on Tuesday, 4/12 at 10:00 pm*

In his short career, Jean-Michel Basquiat was a wunderkind and a phenomenon. Discovered through for his graffiti art in the late 1970s on the Lower East Side, he sold his first painting to Deborah Harry for \$200 and later became best friends with Andy Warhol. Director Tamra Davis pays homage to her friend in this documentary.

### **Black in Latin America (4-part series)**

- *airs Tuesdays 4/19 – 5/10 at 8:00 pm nightly*

In countries from Brazil to Cuba to Peru and Mexico, the question of race is discussed and debated as questions of racial identity are brought to the forefront of national debates, often for the first time. Is it possible that the more than 230 million Latin Americans whose roots reach back to Africa might soon follow the example set by the USA, voting one of their "own" people into power? Is there really a pan-Afro-American agenda that connects people across Portuguese, Spanish, and French speaking countries? Is there really an African way of life in the Americas?



iQ: smartmedia is an educational initiative of  
WQED Multimedia.  
4802 Fifth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
[wqed.org/edu](http://wqed.org/edu)

