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- The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines tells the fascinating story of the world’s most famous journalistic organization

More Great TV
In addition to Western Reserve PBS, we offer digital channels including Fusion (regional productions and arts programming), MHz Worldview (international programs) and V-me (a Spanish-language channel). For program schedules for all the channels, visit www.WesternReservePBS.org.

Local funding for history programming is provided by The Ruth H. Beecher Charitable Trust.

American Masters
Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind “Little Women”
Monday, Dec. 28, at 9 PM

The author of “Little Women” is an almost universally recognized name. Her reputation as a morally upstanding New England spinster, reflecting the conventional propriety of late 19th-century Concord, is firmly established. However, raised among reformers, transcendentalists and skeptics, the intellectual protégé of Emerson, Hawthorne and Thoreau, Alcott was actually a free thinker with democratic ideals and progressive values about women — a worldly careerist of sorts.

Most surprising is that she led, under the pseudonym A.M. Barnard, a literary double life, undiscovered until the 1940s. As Barnard, Alcott penned scandalous, sensational works with characters running the gamut from murderers and revolutionaries to cross-dressers and opium addicts — a far cry from her familiar fatherly mentors, courageous mothers and appropriately impish children.

From the Director, Nancy Porter
If you met her, you might think Louisa May Alcott was a contemporary. The challenge of Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind “Little Women” was to make a film about a modern woman who happened to live 150 years ago, when photography was in its infancy and film only a dream.

Working with Writer/Producer Harriet Reisen in a collaborative approach that was new to me, we developed an approach to let us present a flesh-and-blood Louisa — a subject to be experienced rather than learned about — while maintaining the fidelity to truth that is the power of documentary. All dialogue came from the characters’ own writings or firsthand accounts. We had Louisa speak to the camera as if to an interviewer, or her niece, or a friend. We bypassed the distancing scripted omniscient narrator and used clips from interviews to carry the narrative links.

We broke the news of the real cause of Louisa’s death through evidence in a portrait adduced by a pair of British doctors, and visited the two ancient ladies who found the clue to Alcott’s secret life as a writer of pulp fiction more than 50 years after her death.

Also on American Masters
You Must Remember This: The Warner Bros. Story
Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10 PM

Their only bankable movie star was the four-legged hero Rin Tin Tin. But in April 1923, four visionary brothers from Youngstown officially incorporated their new motion picture studio. By the end of the decade, Warner Bros. hit it big. Directed by award-winning filmmaker and critic Richard Schickel and narrated by Clint Eastwood, You Must Remember This celebrates 85 years of the legacy and evolution of Warner Bros.

Harry Warner, 1927
Ed Sullivan’s ‘60s Rock ‘n’ Roll

Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7 PM
Repeats Sunday, Dec. 6, at 1:30 PM; Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5 PM; and Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8 PM

From the late 1940s until the early 1970s, millions of viewers of all ages saw great musical acts each Sunday night on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” This installment in the My Music series presents classic song performances from 1963-1968. From the Beatles’ American television debut to the Doors’ infamous one-time-only appearance to the Rolling Stones, Sly and the Family Stone and more, the special focuses exclusively on full-length music performances that evoke the spirit of that decade’s youth movement.

Magic Moments: The Best of ‘50s Pop

Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 8 PM
Repeats Sunday, Dec. 6, at 7 PM and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 PM

Phyllis McGuire, Pat Boone and Nick Clooney host this nostalgic trip back to the 1950s. The program’s mix of live performance and archival footage takes viewers back to the era’s pop music days with classic moments from Patti Page, Perry Como, Debbie Reynolds, the McGuire Sisters and more.

Victor Borge: 100 Years of Music and Laughter!

Saturday, Dec. 5, at 4 PM

This unparalleled collection of Victor Borge’s funniest and most memorable skits contains such classic comedy bits as the timeless “Phonetic Punctuation,” “Inflationary Language,” “Autumn Leaves” with Robert Merrill, “The Opera Singer” with Marylyn Mulvey and more.

Rare archival footage from the Borge family vault enhances this memorable retrospective. Rita Rudner narrates.

Sinatra at Carnegie Hall

Thursday, Dec. 3, at 10 PM
Repeats Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5:30 PM

With a legendary career spanning more than six decades, Frank Sinatra was truly “The Entertainer of the 20th Century.” This program, a live performance from June 25, 1980, captures the singer at his best, reminding listeners why Sinatra’s celebrated baritone has been hailed as “The Voice.”

At the time, the two-week engagement set a record for Carnegie Hall by selling out in just one day. The show followed the release of 1980’s “Trilogy,” Sinatra’s ambitious triple album that featured “The Theme From New York, New York.” Sinatra mixes “Summer Me, Winter Me” from that album with his hits “I’ve Got the World on a String” and “I’ve Got You Under My Skin.”
**History Circle Community Calendar**

**Lantern Tours — Hale Farm and Village**
Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12 and Dec. 18-23
2686 Oak Hill Road, Bath. A lantern-lit trip to holidays past. See, hear and smell the holidays as experienced in the early 19th century. Reservations are required for this program. Admission is $15 for Western Reserve Historical Society members and $18 for nonmembers. For more information, call 330-666-3711 or visit www.wrhs.org.

**Deck the Hall — Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens**
Thursdays through Sundays, Dec. 3-20; see Web site for additional dates
714 N. Portage Path, Akron. An annual holiday celebration where selected rooms of the historic Tudor Revival mansion are decorated to reflect a particular theme. For more information, call 330-836-5533 or visit stanhywet.org.

**Hearth-Cooked Dinner — William McKinley Presidential Library**
Friday, Dec. 11, from 6-8 pm
800 McKinley Monument Dr. NW, Canton. Enjoy a delicious meal, cooked over the open hearth, at tables in the Street of Shops. Cost is $30 per person; prepaid reservations required. For more information, call 330-455-7043 or visit www.mckinleymuseum.org.

**Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries**
Through Jan. 31
Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 1 Wade Oval Dr., Cleveland. This groundbreaking exhibition presents the most up-to-date look at how scientists are reinterpreting many of the most persistent and puzzling mysteries of the dinosaurs. For more information, call 1-800-317-9155 or visit www.cmnh.org.

**Coming in February!**

**Premiere Screening of American Experience: Dolley Madison**
Saturday, Feb. 27, at 2 pm
National First Ladies’ Library, 205 S. Market Ave., Canton. Western Reserve Public Media is a co-host of this event, which will include a premiere screening of the new American Experience documentary. More information will be published in the January issue of The History Circle.

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**Love Me Tender: The Love Songs of Elvis**
Sunday, Dec. 6, at 11:30 am

A major reason for Elvis Presley’s massive, unprecedented appeal to female audiences of all ages was his love songs. Always a true romantic, Elvis recorded many, many love songs throughout his career, beginning with “I Want You, I Need You, I Love You” in 1956 and running the entire span of his life.

Narrated by Ashley Judd, Love Me Tender is Elvis as you’ve never seen him.

**Max Raabe Palast Orchester: Tonight or Never**
Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 8 pm
Repeats Monday, Dec. 14, at 9:30 pm

Faultlessly fitting tuxedo, hair slicked back, a cheeky look and Max Raabe sings the best of the 1920s and early ’30s with amusing nostalgia.

Songs, hits and couplets. Cuban rumbas, cheerful foxtrots and elegant tangos. Songs of amazingly serious, amusing yet melancholy simplicity. The ironic lyrics suit the times today as they did 80 years ago.

**That’s Amore: Italian-American Favorites**
Thursday, Dec. 10, at 10 pm

With a mixture of vintage clips and new concert performances, That’s Amore presents a poignant look back at the beloved crooners — and a couple of canaries — who symbolize the immense contribution of both Italian-American singers and the many hit songs of the 1940s-1970s that were influenced by the music-loving immigrants from Italy.

The special, hosted by Danny Aiello, brings together archival performances from some of America’s most loved Italian-American singers and classic Italian-American pop songs. It features original recordings from Perry Como, Julius LaRosa, Frankie Laine, Eddie Fisher and more.

**Doris O’Donnell’s Cleveland**
Saturday, Dec. 26, from 6-7 pm and 8-9 pm
Repeats Thursday, Dec. 31, from 8-11 pm

Enjoy multiple episodes of the Doris O’Donnell’s Cleveland series.

In a career that spanned half a century, Cleveland print reporter Doris O’Donnell beat the pavement and reported the daylights out of a city on the make and on the move. Based largely on her memoir, this series features the journalist’s firsthand recollections of outstanding events in Cleveland’s history.

This month on Fusion (WNEO/WEAO 45.2/49.2)

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Western Reserve Public Media
1750 Campus Center Dr.
P.O. Box 5191
Kent, OH 44240-5191
1-800-554-4549

DECEMBER 2009 • HISTORY PROGRAMMING

Digital channels: 45.1 (WNEO) and 49.1 (WEAO)
Armstrong Cable: Channels 12 and 113
Clear Picture: Channels 9 and 602
Massillon Cable: Channels 2 and 602
Time Warner Cable: Channels 10 or 12 and 410

Western Reserve PBS

Broadside
Tuesdays, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, at 4 AM
Mondays, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, at 1 AM

Elbert Hubbard: An American Original
Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4 AM

American Masters, Woody Guthrie: Ain’t Got No Home
Thursday, Dec. 3, at 3 AM
Monday, Dec. 7, at 3 AM

Indus River: Journey of a Lifetime
Friday, Dec. 4, at 4 AM

The Story of India
Mondays, Dec. 7 to Dec. 21, at 1 AM

Andrew Jackson: Good, Evil and the Presidency
Thursday, Dec. 10, at 3 AM
Monday, Dec. 14, at 3 AM

Journey of Faith: On the Trail of Christianity in Turkey
Friday, Dec. 11, at 4 AM

Frontline, From Jesus to Christ
Wednesdays, Dec. 16, and Dec. 23, at 3 AM

Jerusalem: Center of the World
Thursday, Dec. 17, at 3 AM

Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution
Friday, Dec. 18, at 3 AM and 4 AM

Building the Alaska Highway, American Experience
Sunday, Dec. 27, at noon

American Masters, You Must Remember This: The Warner Bros. Story
Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10 PM

American Masters, Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind “Little Women”
Monday, Dec. 28, at 9 PM

The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines
Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 10 PM

Dig: An Archaeological Investigation in Akron’s Cascade Locks Park
Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 8:30 PM and 10:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 PM

Reinventing Akron: Stories of a Generation
Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 8 PM and 10 PM
Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 PM

Transcending Time: The Story of Potter and Mellen
Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 PM

Final Edition: Journalism According to Jack and Jim Knight
Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 8 PM and 10 PM
Saturday, Dec. 26, at 7 PM

Doris O’Donnell’s Cleveland
Saturday, Dec. 26, from 6-7 PM and 8-9 PM
Thursday, Dec. 31, from 7:30-11 PM

The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines
Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 10 PM

Since its birth in 1908, the National Press Club has been host to more than 3,000 speakers, including world leaders, politicians, musicians, religious leaders, journalists and more who made and continue to make headlines at the club’s famous luncheons.

The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines highlights many of the speeches that were given at the luncheons, including those by Nikita Khrushchev, Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin Luther King Jr., the Dalai Lama, Robert Redford and many more.

Also featured are the club’s Fourth Estate Award recipients for distinguished journalism, including Walter Cronkite, Tom Brokaw, Mary McGrory and Carl Rowan.

The documentary has a treasure trove of wonderful photographs, newspaper cartoons and film footage to illustrate its history. A fascinating aspect of the program is a sequence on the anatomy of a press club luncheon, which shows how a luncheon speaker is chosen.

Walter Cronkite, National Press Club award winner.