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- **American Experience** offers new productions about Billy the Kid and Gen. George Custer, plus encore programs featuring Wyatt Earp and Annie Oakley

- **New on Nova**: Bombing Hitler's Dams, 3D Spies of WWII and Mystery of a Masterpiece

- Check out this month's complete history programming on Western Reserve PBS and Fusion

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**American Masters, Phil Ochs: There But for Fortune**

**Monday, Jan. 23, at 10 PM**

*Also airs on Fusion on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9 PM*

**American Masters** opens its 26th season with the revealing biography of a conflicted, truth-seeking troubadour who, with guitar in hand, stood up for what he believed in and challenged us all to do the same.

**Phil Ochs: There But for Fortune** is a timely tribute to an unlikely American hero whose music is as relevant today as it was in the 1960s.

Phil Ochs was moved by the conviction that he and his music would change the world. Unyielding in his political principals and unbending in his artistic vision, Ochs tirelessly fought the good fight for peace and justice. The tragedies of 1968, including the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, changed the country and changed Ochs, who sank deep into depression and alcoholism. This, and a familial tendency to bipolar disorder, led to his suicide at the age of 35.

Inspired by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Elvis Presley and John Wayne, Ochs rose to fame in the early ‘60s during the height of the folk-and-protest song movement, wielding only a battered guitar, a clear voice and the quiver of his razor-sharp songs. As prolific as he was passionate, he released seven albums and wrote hundreds of songs, the best known of which include “I Ain’t Marching Anymore,” “Changes,” “Crucifixion” and “There But for Fortune,” famously covered by Joan Baez.

**American Masters, Phil Ochs: There But for Fortune** is buoyed by these anti-war movement anthems and melodies, which play the role of film narrator, giving contextual depth to the unfolding saga of Ochs’ politics and personal life.

In the film, Joan Baez, Tom Hayden, Pete Seeger, Sean Penn, Peter Yarrow, Christopher Hitchens, Ed Sanders and others who knew or were inspired by Ochs tell stories of political passions that were equal parts idealism, conviction and fantasy — mixed together with a big ego and often wild disorganization. These interviews together with photos, film clips and historic live performances reveal that Ochs’ lasting legacy in both music and politics ultimately mirrored the complexities and contradictions of the country he loved.
Billy the Kid
Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 8 PM

On April 28, 1881, 21-year-old Henry McCarty, alias Billy the Kid, just days from being hanged for murder, outfoxed his jailors and electrified the nation with the latest in a long line of daring escapes.

Just a few weeks later, the notorious young outlaw was gunned down by an ambitious sheriff. Demonized by the lawman who killed him, the Kid was soon mythologized by a neverending stream of dime-store romances and later, big-screen dramas. But in all the narratives, Billy the Kid’s real story has been obscured.

Caught in the middle of a many-centuries-old Irish-English conflict playing out on the plains of the Southwest, the Kid captured national attention with his reckless violence. His fascination with Mexican culture, his flair for Spanish and his disdain for the Anglo authorities made him a hero of sorts to the Hispanic community, who hid him when the law came looking and mourned him when he was gone.

Custer’s Last Stand
Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 10 PM

On June 26, 1876, near the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory, Gen. George Armstrong Custer ordered his soldiers to drive back a large army of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors. The battle pitted two larger-than-life antagonists against one another: Sitting Bull, the charismatic and politically savvy leader of the Plains Indians, and Custer, one of the Union’s greatest cavalry officers and a man with a reputation for fearless and often reckless courage.

By day’s end, Custer and nearly a third of his army were dead. This biography of one of the most charismatic and contradictory American leaders of the 19th century takes viewers on a journey from Custer’s memorable charge at Gettysburg, which turned the tide of the battle, to his lonely, untimely death on the windswept plains of the West. Along the way, viewers learn how, time and time again, the supremely ambitious son of a blacksmith ricocheted from triumph to disaster, from battlefield heroism to impetuous escapade.

In the end, Custer’s reputation was saved by the wife he adored, who almost single-handedly turned the Battle of the Little Bighorn into one of the most iconic events in American history and mythologized Custer’s role, turning it into a tale of heroic sacrifice against all costs in the service of a country with only the most noble of motives.

Wyatt Earp
Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 8 PM

He has been portrayed in countless movies and television shows by some of Hollywood’s greatest actors, but these popular fictions belie the complexities and flaws of a man whose life is a lens on politics, justice and economic opportunity on the American frontier.

As a young man, Wyatt Earp was a caricature of the Western lawman, spending his days drinking, gambling and visiting brothels, and gaining notoriety as the legendary gunman in the shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, Ariz.

Shortly after his death in 1929, distressed Americans down on their luck transformed Wyatt Earp into a folk hero: a central figure in the American narrative of how the West was won.

Annie Oakley
Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 8 PM

This is the story of the star of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, the young woman who thrilled audiences around the world with her daring shooting feats. While her act helped fuel turn-of-the-century nostalgia for the vanished, mythical world of the American West, the legend of Annie Oakley had little to do with the real Annie.

A champion in a man’s sport, Oakley forever changed ideas about the abilities of women, yet she opposed female suffrage. Her fame and fortune came from her skill with guns, a concept that was counter to her Quaker upbringing.
Bombing Hitler’s Dams

Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 9 PM  
Repeats Thursday, Jan. 12, at 2 AM

In 1943 a squadron of Lancaster bombers staged one of the most audacious raids in history — destroying two gigantic dams in Germany’s industrial heartland and cutting the water supply to arms factories — with a revolutionary bouncing bomb invented by British engineer Barnes Wallis. Wallis and the pilots of 617 Squadron dealt a mighty blow to the German war machine.

Now, Nova re-creates the extreme engineering challenges faced by Wallis and the pilots with the aid of six spectacular experiments.

3D Spies of WWII

Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 9 PM  
Repeats Thursday, Jan. 19, at 2 AM

During World War II, Hitler’s scientists developed terrifying new weapons of mass destruction. Alarmed by rumors about advanced rockets and missiles, Allied intelligence recruited a team of brilliant minds from British universities and Hollywood studios to a country house near London. Here, they secretly pored over millions of air photos shot at great risk over German territory by specially converted, high-flying Spitfires.

Peering at the photos through 3D stereoscopes, the team spotted telltale clues that revealed hidden Nazi rocket bases. The photos led to devastating Allied bombing raids that were crucial setbacks to the German rocket program and helped ensure the success of the D-Day landings.

With 3D graphics that re-create exactly what the photo spies saw, Nova tells the suspenseful, previously untold story of air photo intelligence that played a vital role in defeating Hitler.

Mystery of a Masterpiece

Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 9 PM  
Repeats Thursday, Jan. 26, at 2 AM

In October 2009, a striking portrait of a young woman in Renaissance dress made world news headlines. Originally sold two years before for around $20,000, the portrait is now thought to be an undiscovered Leonardo da Vinci masterwork worth more than $100 million.

How did cutting-edge imaging analysis help tie the portrait to da Vinci? Nova meets a new breed of experts who are approaching “cold case” art mysteries as if they were crime scenes, determined to discover “who committed the art,” and follows art sleuths as they deploy new techniques to combat the multi-billion dollar criminal market in stolen and fraudulent art.

History Circle  
Community Calendar

Hayes Train Special —  
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center   Now through Sunday, Jan. 8   Spiegel Grove, Fremont.  
All of the trains are styles that relate to the life of 19th U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes and his family. Visitors act as engineers via a series of interactive buttons. There is a fee for admission. For more information, call 419-332-2081 or visit www.rbhayes.org/hayes.

Landscapes From the Age of Impressionism — Akron Art Museum  
Now through Sunday, Feb. 5   Karl and Bertl Arnstein Galleries, 1 S. High St., Akron.  
This exhibition offers an in-depth look at landscape painting as practiced by such leading French artists as Claude Monet and Gustave Courbet and their most significant American followers. There is a fee for admission. For more information, call 330-376-9185 or visit www.akronartmuseum.org.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day — Western Reserve Historical Society  
Monday, Jan. 16, from 10 AM to 5 PM   History Center, 10825 East Blvd., Cleveland.  
View the work of Cleveland African American photographer Allen Cole, hear Susan Hall speak on “The Neighborhood of Allen Cole” and participate in children’s crafts. Admission is free on this date. For more information, call 216-721-5722 or visit www.wrhs.org.

Robert I. Heighton’s 1918 Diary and WWI — Portage County Historical Society   Saturday, Jan. 28, at 2 PM   6549 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna. Hear Barb Petroski present the diary of Robert I. Heighton as written during 1918 and WWI. For more information, call 330-296-3523 or visit www.portagecountyhistoricalsociety.org.
Great Romances of the 21st Century
- Sunday, Jan. 1, at 10:30 PM
- Monday, Jan. 2, at 4:30 AM

The Toledo Mud Hens Story
- Monday, Jan. 2, at 1 AM

We Shall Remain: American Experience
- Wednesdays at 2 AM

One State, Many Nations: Native Americans of Ohio
- Wednesday, Jan. 4, at 3:30 AM

Nancy Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime
- Thursday, Jan. 5, at 9 PM

Secrets of the Dead
- Sundays at 3 PM (begins 1/8)

Egypt's Golden Empire
- Sundays, Jan. 8-22, at 7 PM

Martin Luther
- Monday, Jan. 9-16, at 10 PM

American Experience
- Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 24 & 31, at 8 PM
- Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 10 PM

American Masters
- Wednesdays, Jan. 11-25, at 3:30 AM

Nova, Bombing Hitler’s Dams
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 9 PM

The Rise and Fall of the YWCA of Summit County
- Monday, Jan. 16, at 1 AM

Nova, 3D Spies of WWII
- Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 9 PM

Piaf: Her Story, Her Songs
- Thursday, Jan. 19, at 9 PM

The Birth of Ohio Stadium
- Monday, Jan. 23, at 1 AM

American Masters, Phil Ochs
- Monday, Jan. 23, at 10 PM

Nova, Mystery of a Masterpiece
- Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 9 PM

Celebrating North America’s Railways
- Sunday, Jan. 29, at 6 PM

Stark Contrast: A History of Stark County
- Monday, Jan. 30, at 1 AM

From Gershwin to Garland: A Musical Journey
- Sunday, Jan. 1, at 1:30 PM

Great Romances of the 21st Century
- Sunday, Jan. 1, at 6:30 PM

The Rise and Fall of the YWCA of Summit County
- Thursday, Jan. 12, at 8 PM
- Saturday, Jan. 14, at 6 PM

Long Distance Warrior
- Monday, Jan. 16, at 7 PM

Jeep: Steel Soldier
- Thursday, Jan. 19, at 8 PM

Owens-Illinois: 100 Years
- Thursday, Jan. 19, at 8:30 PM

The Birth of Ohio Stadium
- Thursday, Jan. 19, at 9 PM

Walker Percy: A Documentary Film
- Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 PM

It’s Everything and Then It’s Gone
- Thursday, Jan. 26, at 8 PM

Stark Contrast: A History of Stark County
- Thursday, Jan. 26, at 9 PM
- Saturday, Jan. 28, at 6 PM

American Masters, Phil Ochs
- Saturday, Jan. 28, at 9 PM

Linus Pauling
- Monday, Jan. 30, at 10 PM