Local production about voice-over artist Ken Nordine to premiere exclusively on Western Reserve PBS

Ken Nordine, nationally known voice-over and commercial recording artist, is featured in the new local production KEN NORDINE: VIDEO FOR THE EAR. It will premiere on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1) on April 5.

KEN NORDINE: VIDEO FOR THE EAR, which is the work of Uniorntown resident Carl Palmer of Wild Life Media, celebrates Chicago’s oldest living hipster and original beatnik. The Beat Generation was a literary movement in the 1950s and Nordine created something new—spoken word over cool jazz. However, it has been observed that some of Nordine’s writings are more akin to Franz Kafka or Edgar Allan Poe than to the Beats.

Nordine used the original musical instrument—his voice—and was best known for his series of “Word Jazz” albums and syndicated radio shows on National Public Radio. His deep, resonant voice has been featured on SESAME STREET, in commercials and in movie trailers. His past collaborators include Fred Astaire, Grateful Dead, Tom Waits and David Bowie.

Nordine died Feb. 16, 2019, at the age of 98, his son Ken Nordine, Jr. said in an interview with WBEZ Chicago. “He had a very special mind—an amazing way of looking at the world and making his own sense out of it,” his son said.
History, drama and more dominate upcoming programming

The upcoming spring season features programming brimming with new drama, music, arts, history, science, nature and more, as well as returning seasons of favorite series.

Sundays on PBS continue to be the destination for great dramas. MASTERPIECE offers “Mrs. Wilson” (March 31–April 7), a powerful drama starring Golden Globe winner Ruth Wilson and based on her own grandmother’s memoir. CALL THE MIDWIFE returns for Season 8 on March 31.

In March we also celebrate Women’s History Month with programs including an AMERICAN MASTERS portrait of feminist singer and activist Holly Near (Friday, March 22) and the two-night special WOMEN, WAR & PEACE (March 25-26) that showcases four female-directed films that tell the stories of women who risked their lives for peace, changing history in the process. On March 29, GREAT PERFORMANCES, “Julius Caesar” is an all-female production that is set in a women’s prison.

RECONSTRUCTION: AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR (Tuesdays, April 9-16), executive produced and hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., explores the transformative years when the nation struggled to rebuild itself in the face of profound loss, massive destruction and revolutionary social change.

Coming in April, NATURE will present a three-night live program that changes from winter to spring in real time from iconic locations across America. Also, AMERICAN MASTERS profiles Joseph Pulitzer and MASTERPIECE presents the six-part series “Les Misérables.”

“Boss: The Black Experience in Business,” a two-hour special that explores the history of black businesses in America, will air on April 23.

In May, KOREA: THE NEVER-ENDING WAR sheds new light on a geopolitical hotspot. Look for a Summer of Space lineup that includes the highly anticipated six-hour film “Chasing the Moon,” which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Finally, on MASTERPIECE, “Grantchester,” beginning in July, is getting a new vicar. Tom Brittney is joining the cast as Reverend Will Davenport, while James Norton, who plays Vicar Sidney Chambers in the popular mystery series, will make his final appearance during this fourth season.

Americans rank PBS and its member stations as most-trusted institutions

For the 16th consecutive year, PBS and its member stations have been named number-one in public trust among American institutions in a nationwide annual survey. According to the findings released Feb. 2, Americans rank PBS as more trustworthy than institutions such as courts of law, the federal government and Congress, as well as media sources such as digital platforms, commercial broadcast and cable television, newspapers and social media.

Respondents also said that PBS was their most trusted source of news and public affairs programming. Among those surveyed, 71 percent feel that local PBS stations provide excellent value to communities. Further, when asked about value for tax dollars, PBS ranks only below our nation’s military defense, and ahead of social security, infrastructure, environmental protection and other vital services.

PBS KIDS is also viewed by parents as the most educational media brand, substantially outranking other cable and commercial networks: 66 percent said the brand is their top choice for children.
New partnership with Akron Art Museum

As a result of discussions between Akron Art Museum and Western Reserve Public Media focused on how these two nonprofit organizations might collaborate to best serve residents of Northeast Ohio, Western Reserve PBS will serve as media sponsor for Akron Art Museum’s 2019 fiscal year. Sponsorship includes these exhibitions and events:

- Nick Cave: Feat (Feb. 23—June 2)
- Dread and Delight (June 29—Sept. 22)
- Open World (Oct. 19—Feb. 2)
- Downtown@Dusk musical series
- Art & Ale event

In addition to media sponsorship and logo recognition, Western Reserve PBS will receive a spotlight in a future issue of the museum’s quarterly publication, View, plus our employees will receive memberships to the museum through the station’s new Corporate Membership initiative.

Participating in the discussions from Western Reserve Public Media were President and CEO Trina Cutter and Corporate Support Account Representative Debra Racey. Representing Akron Art Museum were John S. Knight Director and CEO Mark Masuoka, Chief of Staff and Director of Special Projects Jennifer Shipman and Marketing Manager Dominic Caruso.

Campbell City Schools teachers receive training in new technologies

Our Department of Educational Services conducted training on integrating augmented reality and virtual reality in the classroom at Campbell City Schools on Friday, Jan. 18. The five-hour session was facilitated by tech integration specialist Christine Danhoff from Genoa Local Schools.

Twenty-five teachers learned about virtual reality tools including Google Tour Creator and CoSpaces, plus augmented reality tools including Merge Cube, Quiver and 3DBear.

 Serbian delegation visits to learn about media literacy

On Dec. 11, Western Reserve Public Media welcomed a delegation of leaders from Serbia who were participating in the congressionally sponsored Open World Leadership Program.

Heather Smith, coordinator in our Department of Educational Services, hosted the visit and shared insights about training services related to media literacy that we offer to educators.

The Open World Program enables Ukrainian, Russian and Eurasian elected officials and emerging civic leaders to observe the American democratic system firsthand. The group’s visit to the Northeast Ohio area was coordinated by Global Ties Akron.

Departmental news briefs

Following are updates from the Department of Educational Services:

- Since October, staff members have held 13 events for 9,260 educators, accounting for 754 contact hours. Print and online newsletters were delivered to 22,125 educators across the organization’s service region.
- Heather Smith, coordinator, helped 15 English-language support staff at New Philadelphia High School to integrate resources from INFOhio. The training was sponsored by the Stark County Educational Service Center.
Outreach & Special Events

Members-only contest nets good will and six winners

In January we announced a contest for our members who were interested in winning a 992-page AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN cookbook. We received quite a few entries and drew the five winning names in early February:

Marianne S., Chagrin Falls, Ohio
Mary K., Navarre, Ohio
Carol M., Akron, Ohio
Joyce B., Akron, Ohio
Gerry H., Hermitage, Pa.

Western Reserve Public Media is grateful for the many individuals who choose to support us and will continue to seek out ways to thank them.

Alpha Pig to visit Youngstown reading event

Western Reserve PBS will bring Alpha Pig to the annual Plant the Seed to Read Youngstown Area Children’s Book Fair on April 27. Taking place at the Fellows Riverside Gardens in Mill Creek MetroPark, the free event features storytellers, illustrators, book characters, celebrity readers and many fun activities for children. President and CEO Trina Cutter will be a guest reader at the event.

The event is sponsored by The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County, Altrusa, Mill Creek MetroParks and Western Reserve PBS.