

Despite COVID, Ballet Reaches \$6 Mil Goal

At the start of its "Open Air" event last month, the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT) announced reaching its \$6 million fundraising goal.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

That was the target of the PBT's campaign called Live Music Appeal. The campaign began in October 2019 after an anonymous donor pledged a \$3 million gift to double every donation made. The effort might have wrapped up sooner had the COVID-19 pandemic not intervened. Several foundations contributed as well as individuals.

Live Music Appeal is considered

the final accomplishment of Harris Ferris, who has stepped away after leading the PBT for 15 years. The money makes it possible for the theatre to continue employing live musicians. Many dance companies across the country have had to eliminate live music due to the cost.

In related news: Dr. Kathryn Gigler has been named Acting Executive Director. She is (at least temporarily). She currently leads the organization's education and community efforts.

A press release describes Dr. Gigler someone who "brings to the position over a decade of ex-

perience as an institutional advocate and educator and a career-long commitment to equity and inclusivity." Although her doctorate is in psychology and her career largely involving cognitive neuroscience, she has worked with a number of local arts organizations including **Attack Theatre**. An executive search committee continues to seek a permanent replacement for Harris.

Gallery Evicted

A landlord dispute has closed a small, little-known art gallery, reports WESA-FM's Bill O'Driscoll.

The gallery is called **BLaQK House Collections** and was located in retail space on First Avenue in Downtown. BLaQK House represented more than 30 Black, brown and LGBTQ artists for nearly two years.

The building is owned by Todd Palcic, who is also president of carbon monoxide technology and equipment company **Thar Process**. The initial lease, which expired in October 2021 and was marked for automatic renewal, set rent at a token \$1 per month. Palcic argued in court that the \$1 was just for the first year and the second was to be closer to market rate. A judge agreed and the gallery was evicted.

Both sides have responded emotionally to the closure and the events leading up to it. To learn more, [read O'Driscoll's full article](#).

International Names Artists

The first post-pandemic Carnegie International is building an impressive group of participants, reports [Benjamin Sutton for The Art Newspaper](#).



Calling it "a bellwether moment for the country's contemporary art scene," Sutton writes that the program "will feature works by more than 100 artists, collectives and artists' estates." His report was published shortly after lead curator Sohrab Mohebbi revealed the International's list.

That list has been posted [online here](#) and features an impressive

array presented under the theme "Is it morning for you yet?" A press release explains it as "two conceptual overlapping currents: historical works from the collections of international institutions, estates, and artists, alongside new commissions and recent works by contemporary artists."

Some of the biggest names in the international art world are being represented. These include innovative Swedish-American artist Claes Oldenborg, who is best known for creating large replicas of everyday objects

The Carnegie International is scheduled to begin September 24.

News Story Ends Long Relationship

A dispute over a news report has led **DK Pittsburgh Sports** to sever its long relationship with **Cox Media Group's** WPXI-TV.

DK Pittsburgh Sports is a local media company established in 2014 by sports journalist Dejan



Kovacevic (where the "DK" derives) who has been on the staff of both *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*. Almost since its launch, DK has provided material for WPXI programs such as "The Final Word."

On [Monday, June 20, WPXI's Nicole Ford reported](#) that a weekend shooting incident Downtown resulted in a cracked window for a Liberty Avenue shop called **Love Pittsburgh**. One person identified as a resident is quoted

saying "People leaving downtown --- it's already happened. The only commerce happens in business offices. If you own a store downtown and it's not about food, you aren't making a business.."

Kovacevic disputes the report in [an online message](#) that was also shared via email by the **Downtown Community Development Corporation**. "[Ford] proceeded to connect this [damaged] window to a robbery further up Liberty Avenue a few days earlier and declare Downtown some level of war zone." He described himself as "infuriated" by the report as both a Downtown resident and Downtown businessman.

An online search by *Pittsburgh Applause* for "[Love Pittsburgh store shooting](#)" yielded no results. The [official police blotter](#) cites shootings on the city's Knoxville, Beltzhoover and Northview Heights neighborhoods during that weekend, but not Downtown.

Visiting the store on an unrelated matter, *Pittsburgh Applause's* Jim Richards was told by a sales associate that there had been an incident down the street and damage to the window was minor.

The robbery that Kovacevic references may be one involving a man named Dallas Bobnes. According to the [police blotter](#), Bobnes was arrested on June 15 for vehicular vandalism and charged with 13 counts of criminal mischief.

Kovacevic's post also indicates that WPXI general manager Kevin Hayes essentially blew him off. "I do understand that TV news is a different breed from newspapers, but a false report's a false report."

Pittsburgh Applause was unable to reach out to WPXI for comment.

Harassment Claims At Irish Theatre

The official reason given was a lack of funds. But *Pittsburgh City Paper's* Amanda Waltz reports that money had little to do with **Pittsburgh Irish Classical Theatre** (PICT) canceling its production of "The Boys in the Band."

"The Boys in the Band" was the signature work of playwright Mart Crowley (1935-2020) and first staged in 1968. Crowley later produced 68 episodes of the popular 1980's television series "Hart to Hart." He also wrote scripts for TV movies such as 1986's "There Must Be a Pony." PICT's produc-

tion of "Boys" was to be June 18 through July 9 at **WQED Multimedia's** main studio.

Waltz writes: "The testimony from sources, some of whom have asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation and being prevented from working in the local theater community, but whose identities were confirmed by *City Paper*, speak to nearly decade-long alleged abuses by [PICT Executive Director Alan Stanford], mainly a history of grooming and preying on young female performers."

The allegations were somewhat confirmed to Waltz when she interviewed actor Nick Cearley. "Cearley says that a week before rehearsals were scheduled to begin, a representative from PICT called him to say that 'there was a board meeting the day before,' and that they were canceling the production due to allegations of sexual misconduct against Stanford 'with multiple women.'"

More information is available by reading [Waltz's full article](#).



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PSO Extends Stripling Pact; New Musicians

Gearing up for a full post-pandemic season, the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) has announced some important artistic staffing decisions.

Pops conductor Byron Stripling and the PSO has reached an agreement to extend his contract for another three years. He will continue with the orchestra through 2026.

"Byron's sensational showmanship, powerful artistic vision and



partnership with the orchestra musicians have brought infectious energy and flair to our signature PNC Pops subscription series" said the PSO's Melia Tourangeau in a press release.

In other news, award winning violinist David McCarroll has been named the new concertmaster of the PSO making his debut this September.

Playing since age 13, McCarroll won the 2012 European Young Concert Artists Auditions and Silver Medalist at the Klein International Competition. He has

played with orchestra in Berlin, Amsterdam and New York City.

And two musicians have been hired: James Benoit of the **Seattle Symphony** has been named as the PSO's principal timpani [a type of drum - ed.] and Austin Brown of the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** as the associate principal flute.



TV Debut Dates Set

The locally-produced series "Sprung" has finally been given a premiere date, reports Rob Owen for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.



"Sprung" is a comedy about ex-cons who decide to use their criminal skills to target people who took advantage of individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Episodes were filmed last summer. It will debut August 19 on Freevee, the ad-supported streaming channel owned by **Amazon**.

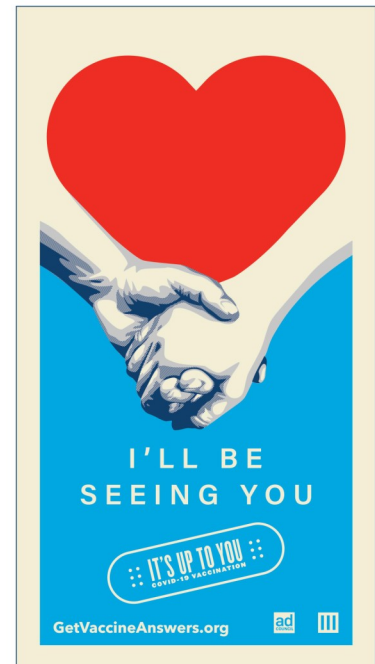
In addition, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Joshua Axelrod reports that "A League of Their Own" is

to bow on Amazon Prime on August 12. The series, shot in and around Pittsburgh, is an adaptation of the popular 1992 movie of the same name.

Owen also reports that Freevee has picked up another locally-made series, "American Rust." [Read his full article to learn more.](#) You can [read Axelrod's article here](#).



Billy Porter's directorial debut "Anything's Possible" bows on Amazon Prime on July 22. [Click the image above to see the trailer.](#)



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Union Board Okays Deal

On June 15 the **SAG-AFTRA** National Board voted overwhelmingly to approve a tentative successor agreement to the [National Code of Fair Practice for Network Television Broadcasting](#) (commonly known as the Network Television Code) The board is recommending that members ratify it.



"The biggest beneficiaries [are] dancers, stand-ins and promotional announcers," explains president Fran Drescher. "But, also in the interest of elevating consciousness and sensitivity of a performer's safe space, it expands

protections for those performing nude or in intimate scenes."

Regarding the latter, SAG-AFTRA has also announced the creation of [an intimacy coordinator registry](#). Everyone in the registry have met a set of recommended standards providing producers a reliable resource to identify qualified and experienced intimacy coordinators.



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IATSE Votes

Paul F. Dean, Jr. has been unanimously elected to be the 13th International Vice President of the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE).

The union's announcement: "Dean is a fifth generation Local One Stagehand

who has worked throughout Local One's jurisdiction for 42 years in venues including the Metropolitan Opera House, various television studios, Broadway theatres and numerous industrial events. In May 2022, Dean was re-elected to his fourth term as Local One's Theatrical Business Manager, a role he has excelled in since 2013."



In other news, the **Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers** (AMPTP) have indicated they will not voluntarily recognize a new IATSE membership. Early last month, 75% of film and television music supervisors signed union authorization cards to become part of IATSE.

"Every worker deserves to have rights and a voice in the workplace, regardless of how your employer values your work. The workers have spoken, and the AMPTP should respect its workers and democracy by voluntarily recognizing Music Supervisors' union immediately," said IATSE International President Matthew D. Loeb in a formal announcement.

NEA/NEH Diversity Planning

Entertainment unions and other arts organizations are praising plans announced by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) and the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH) to each create a chief diversity officer.

The intentions were announced early last month at a House subcommittee hearing on the proposed 2023 fiscal budget.



Ray Hair of the **American Federation of Musicians** (AFM) calls the plan "in keeping with AFM's values and goes a long way toward assuring equity and fairness in the federal arts grant-making process."

Al Vincent, Jr. of **Actors' Equity Association** called it "thrilling news" adding that "the NEA is key to ensuring Americans from all backgrounds have opportunity to experience art locally and earn a living creating it."

Meanwhile, the budget planning machinery moves forward.



Sixth Prosperity Survey Planned

Once again, the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) is participating in the next Arts & Economic Prosperity study.

GREATER PITTSBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL



Arts loud and clear

The study is a project of **Americans for the Arts** (AFA) to examine the economic impact of the arts and culture in nearly 390 communities nationwide. This is the [sixth](#)

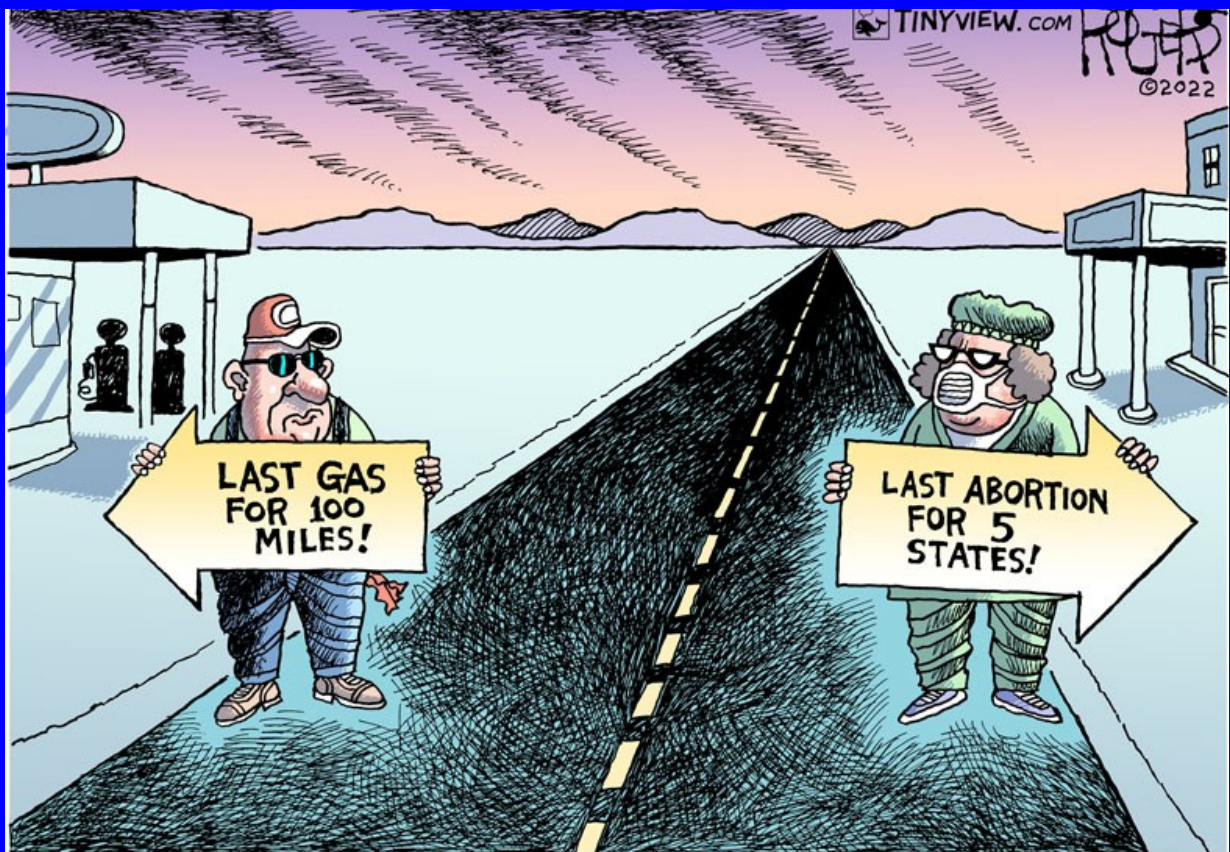
[study](#) that AFA has conducted over the last 25 years.

A GPAC posting explains that "attendees might notice Arts Council staff and volunteers at local events through April 2023. Audience-intercept surveys will be collected from attendees at arts events in Allegheny County from May 2022 through April 2023. For the first time, [the survey] is requiring its research partners to

collect a portion of audience surveys from attendees at events hosted by arts and culture organizations that primarily serve communities of color."

Read the full posting by clicking [here](#).

Images



Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Bob Rogers posted this to his web site after the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision overturning Roe v. Wade. See more by visiting <https://robrogers.com>

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FRI
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TUE
12



TUE
5



SUN
17



WED
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TUE
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WED
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TUE
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TUE
26



WED
6

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE



FRI
29

City Theatre Renames Space

A pioneer in local African-American arts is being honored by **City Theatre**.

Pittsburgh City Paper's Don-tae Washington reports that the Lester Hamburg Studio has been renamed in

honor of Dr. Vernell Audrey Watson Lillie (1931-2020). Dr. Lillie was an associate professor of African Studies at the University of Pittsburgh from 1972 to 2006.



She was also very active in the local theater community, producing shows for various organizations.

The 102-seat theater had long been named for local businessman and philanthropist Lester Hamburg (1916-1988).

Dr. Lillie had been a consultant to City Theatre during its formation in the 1970's. The full article is available by clicking [here](#).

Big Time Big News

Two native Pittsburghers have made some impressive career moves.

KristieAnne Reed has been made chief executive officer of **Jerry Bruckheimer Films'** television division. Reed has been with the company for about 25 years and has played a critical role in hit TV shows such as "CSI" and "Luther."

Raised in Pittsburgh, Reed graduated from **Carnegie Mellon University** and serves on the board of the university's entertainment management program. The-Wrap.com's Natalie Oganessian quotes her as saying "I am thrilled to move to this new role, continuing to make great and compelling television with the amazing artists who are our partners."

In other news: Stephanie Moy has joined rising talent firm M88, bringing with her top clients such as Simone Missick and Jes Macallan. The firm already has an impressive roster that includes Donald Glover, Gemma Chan and Michael B. Jordan.

M88 is a division of **Macro**, a media company founded in 2015 to represent the perspectives of people of color in film and television. Moy was born and raised in Pittsburgh and a Pennsylvania State University graduate. "I couldn't be more excited to join the M88/Macro family," she said in a statement to Deadline.com. "What [founders Phil Sun and Charles King] have built is a testament to their veteran experience, impeccable taste and forward-thinking philosophy."

Netflix & Andy

Writer/director Andrew Rossi and Jessica Beck of the Andy Warhol

NETFLIX

Museum recently spoke to the *Hollywood Reporter's* Tyler Coates about the docuseries "The Andy Warhol Diaries." [Read the full interview.](#)



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Opportunities



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Jim threw-out his back and didn't have time to do the necessary research this month.



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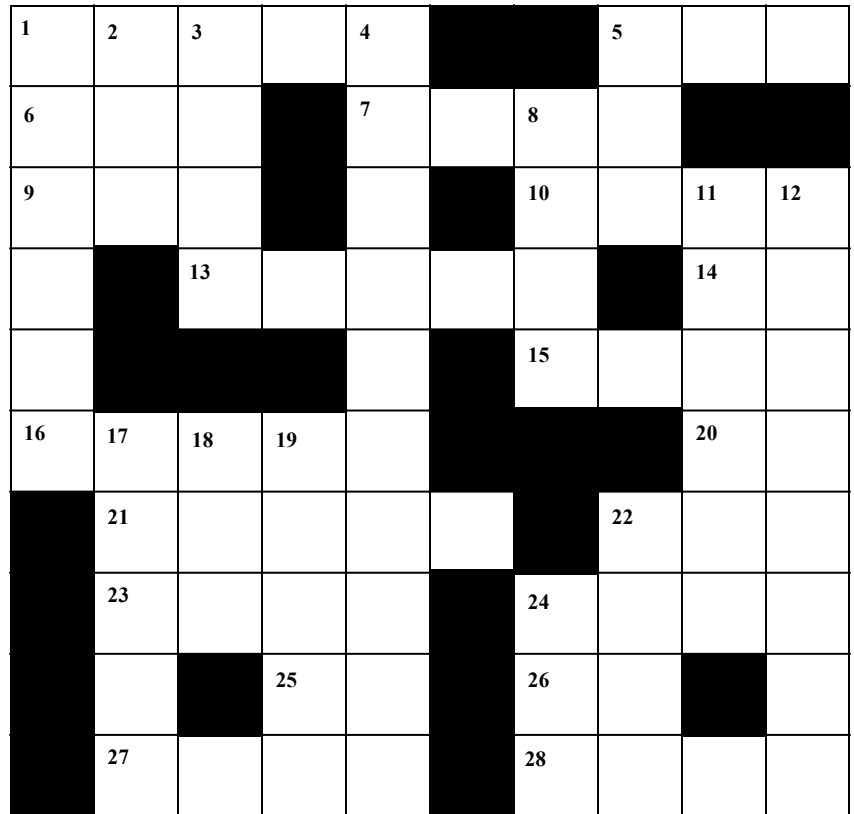
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Across

1. The U.S. honored 4-Down with this in 1958
5. Ford or Tesla product
6. Retail tag abbreviation
7. UK to US
9. Actress Thompson, to pals
10. Cold War weapon, initially
13. Successful product line of 4-Down
14. Big Brazilian phone company
15. It used to be called shell shock
16. One who defies the norm
20. State between KY and AL
21. See 28-Across
22. Luau dish
23. Samuel Morse created a famous one
24. Half of a famous prison?
25. Tehran flyer, initially
26. Switch option
27. See 12-Down
28. Actor who portrayed 4-Down in a 1970 episode of "Bewitched" (with 21-Across)



Down

1. Common medium of 4-Down
2. "Deep Soul" singer Williams, to pals
3. Jordanian, for example
4. The patriotic subject of this puzzle
5. Artificial intelligence project
8. Common speech impediment
11. Hometown of 4-Down
12. Famous act of 4-Down (with 27-Across)
17. Happen
18. Sticky stuff
19. Deleted
22. "Star Trek" actor Chris
24. 1981 Blake Edwards movie

Last Month's Solution

M	A	R	G	I	N		L	E	W
A	G	E	N	T		R	O	L	E
X		Q	U	I	N	T	O		A
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S	T	A	R	T	R	E	K		