

Writers Strike Continues

At press time, no negotiating sessions have been scheduled between the **Writers Guild of America** (WGA) and **Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers** (AMPTP). The two sides haven't met since May 1.



"It's scary to walk away from the job. It's painful to have to inflict some of the damage on those with whom we work and the city we work in," WGA Negotiating Committee co-chair Chris Keyser told Deadline.com on June 20. "The dedication, the fervency, the insist-

ence on the part of every writer that this is a fight that they will stick with until we win it is, I would say, even stronger than it was when we began." The financial emotional toll is detailed in an [article written by Katie Campione and Rosy Cordero](#).

Meanwhile, **National Public Radio** (NPR) reports that several movies and TV series that were planned for the fall have either been delayed or cancelled. You can read their report [here](#). A list of affected productions has also been compiled by **Wikipedia** which is available [here](#).

Actors Delay Strike

Hope that another strike may be averted, thanks to an extension of negotiations between **SAG-AFTRA** and **Alliance of Motion Picture & Television Producers** (AMPTP).

A press release issued June 30 by the union declared the current agreements "will now expire on July 12, at 11:59 pm PT. The parties will continue to negotiate under a mutually agreed upon media



blackout." The day before, SAG-AFTRA president Fran Drescher appeared on ABC-TV'S "Good Morning America." She told host Michael Strahan that negotiators were making progress "in some areas" adding "we're living in a time that's very different from the last few decades when the foundation of the contract was forged. It's the digital age now and the age of

streaming, and it's a whole different business model."

Response to the extension hasn't been uniformly positive. "Someone please help me understand why union leadership does not listen to members." Tweeted one filmmaker. Separately, a journalist tweeted "awful, what are you doing?" and "stand with your writers." However, another member tweeted "someone please explain to me how calling an extension is SAG giving away leverage . . . extension means SAG isn't taking first offer." Mason Bissada of TheWrap.com has posted many of the messages [here](#).

Meanwhile, the AMPTP has reached an agreement with the Canadian acting and related unions. Details on this development are available by clicking [here](#).

**MORE UNION NEWS
PAGES 7 & 8**

UNION BRIEFS

In a June 26 article, Reuters reporters Lisa Richwine and Steve Gorman wrote: "During the last [**Writers Guild of America**] strike in 2007 and 2008, a studio deal with the [**Directors Guild of America**] prompted writers to head back to the bargaining table. Striking writers have insisted that the directors' latest deal will not influence their position this time."

Employees at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** have ratified a new contract and, in the process solidified the **United Museum Workers** as the nation's largest museum union. The contract can be downloaded and read by clicking [here](#).

A new contract has been ratified by Writers Guild of America East (WGAE) and CBS News Streaming [part of **Paramount Global** and owner of KDKA-TV - ed.] The union says that the pact "includes across the board pay increases of 3% in each of the contract's three years (with the first increase retroactive to March 10), an increase to all salary minimums, a \$500 ratification bonus for all employees, and further benefit improvements for the 58 members of the CBS News Streaming bargaining unit." This agreement is limited to news professionals and is unrelated to the current strike.



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GPAC CEO

Patrick Fisher has been named the new CEO of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC)**, reports **Bill O'Driscoll for WE-SA-FM**.

He was recently the executive director of **Erie Arts & Culture**, a nonprofit that promotes and supports

artists and cultural groups in northwestern Pennsylvania. [Learn more about the organization by clicking [here](#). – ed.]

Fisher told O'Driscoll that his proudest accomplishment in Erie were a collection of programs embracing diversity. Read the full article by clicking [here](#).



AFM CEO

Tino Gagliardi has been elected the new president of the **American Federation of Musicians (AFM)**, reports David Robb for Feadline.com.



Established in 1896, AFM is the world's largest professional instrumental musician's union. Its 60,000+ members perform for or-

chestras (including the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**), Broadway and for recordings (i.e. film and television).

The vote was held during the union's convention in Las Vegas during the last week of June. Robb also reports that four people have been elected to the board. Issues facing members included musician replacement technology, especially artificial intelligence.

QED CEO

Jason Jedlinski has been named the new president of **WQED Multimedia**, reports Rob Owen for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. He succeeds the well-respected Deborah Acklin, who left the organization last year after a cancer diagnosis.



A graduate of Syracuse University, Jedlinski spent several years working in Chicago television. Most recently has been general manager for **Nextstar Media Group's** digital newspaper The Hill.

Jedlinski tells Owen that he plans to continue Acklin's focus on local productions, referring to them as the station's "North Star" and a mandate set by the board. To learn more, Read Owen's full article by clicking [here](#).



NEP CEO

Martin Stewart has been promoted to chief executive officer of **NEP Group**. He had been the chief financial officer.



The Pittsburgh-based NEP Group is a technology company specializing in live entertainment and sports productions, primarily for television.

"I am thrilled to serve as NEP Group CEO and look forward to building upon our momentum in positioning the business for continued growth," Stewart said in a company press release. This is an exciting time for our industry as new technologies turbocharge our ability to deliver to our stakeholders in new and innovative ways. Undoubtedly, NEP Group has a bright future ahead."

NEP's senior vice president of finance, Doug Kovach, has been promoted to chief financial officer.

In other news, an NEP subsidiary has delivered 16 eco-friendly news vehicles to British television network **ITV plc** (formerly Independent Television). Most are plug-in hybrids that provide 35 miles of zero-emission driving.



Opera Gets \$500K Gift

Local philanthropists Robert and Christine Pietrandrea are donating \$500,000 to the **Pittsburgh Opera**.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

Robert Pietrandrea is a co-founder of the **Railroad Development Corporation**. The global railway investment and management company was formed in 1987 and is based in Pittsburgh.

The couple's impressive donation will be used to finance upcoming productions of "The Barber of Seville" (1816) by Italian composer Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868) and "La Traviata" (1853) by Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901).

"Beauty enriches us all," said Christine in a Pittsburgh Opera press release. "People who can support the arts have a responsibility to do so, to help benefit the entire community."

Audacy School Sports Deal

A deal has been reached between the **Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League** (WPIAL) and **Audacy's** KDKA-AM making the station the league's official broadcaster.

The league was established in 1907 to administer the interscholastic athletic participation/competition at public and private schools in nine counties. Patch.com's Eric Heyl reports that the multi-year deal



involves both terrestrial radio and streaming audio.

In other news, both the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and Patch.com report that radio personalities Dorin Dickerson and Adam Crowley are the permanent hosts of KDKA-FM's morning show. They have replaced long-time hosts Colin Dunlap and Chis Mack at the sports-format station (marketed as "The Fan"). A company official explains that "Dunlap and Mack have transitioned into multimedia roles" for all five Audacy's Pittsburgh stations.

Haddad's Sound Stage

Pittsburgh has a new film facility, reports Joshua Axelrod for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

That facility is a purpose-built sound stage erected by local transportation rental company owner David Haddad. To date, stages in the region have been renovated warehouses. Axelrod explains that the 17,500-square-foot building "comes complete with an office area and filming

space featuring a 35-foot ceiling, three loading docks, four massive garage doors and a structural grid system mounted to the ceiling that can hold 1,000 pounds at its intersections."

His company, **Haddad's Inc.**, has been involved in an estimated 5,000 film projects since providing services to the hit 1980's film "Flashdance." More information is available by reading Axelrod's full article by clicking [here](#).

Radio Cut Backs

Growing expenses are forcing changes at **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting** (PCB), reports Stephanie Ritenbaugh for the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*. The nonprofit corporation owns local public radio stations WYEP-FM and WESA-FM.

"We are now facing some difficult decisions that may result in changes for us," Ritenbaugh quotes PCB chief Terry O'Reilly in a letter to staff. Apparently, the organization is already planning to offer voluntary buyouts to at least two reporters.

PCB has already made cost-sensitive moves such as a hiring freeze and eliminating one senior management position. For details, read Ritenbaugh's full article by clicking [here](#).

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Happy Birthday Jim!

Jim Richards' birthday is July 29 and he'd appreciate your support with a gift to help his most recent project, Channel Pittsburgh!

Sony AnyCast



This is a portable production switcher that can be used for creating professional-quality shows for Channel Pittsburgh.

Click on the photo to learn more and to order.



Read the terrific article about Channel Pittsburgh in a recent issue of *Pittsburgh City Paper*.

External Hard Drive

A repeated challenge for Jim: computer memory space. This drive has six terabytes.

Click on the photo to learn more and to order.



HDMI-S Video



This adapter will allow Jim to use inexpensive consumer video cameras with devices like the AnyCast as well as the semi-professional wireless lavaliers he has obtained.

Click on the photo to learn more and to order.



Tripod (with Casters)

Jim does have cameras and tripods; however, none of these tripods have casters — something needed for a studio setting.

Click on the photo to learn more and to order.



**Questions?
Email Jim**

jim@james-richards.com

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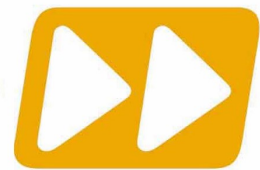
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Tcherkassky Retires

Marianna Tcherkassky has announced her retirement from the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** (PBT), reports OnStagePittsburgh.com.

 Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Tcherkassky's impressive career of more than five decades features an early accomplishment: performing the title role in a 1976 production of "Giselle" opposite the legendary Mikhail Baryshnikov.

After dancing for the prestigious **American Ballet Theatre** (ABT), she came to Pittsburgh in 1997 when her husband, Terrence S. Orr, became the PBT's artistic director. Tcherkassky also joined the PBT staff as rehearsal director.

The PBT is planning a special event celebrating Marianna Tcherkassky later this year. Read the [full article](#) to learn more.

AWC Hires

Three key positions have been filled at the **August Wilson African American Cultural Center** (AWAACC), reports OnStagePittsburgh.com.

Amanda Brandes has been named Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Sheila Rawlings as Senior Director of Institutional Advancement; and Kimberly Jacobs as Exhibitions Manager & Assistant Curator.

"These accomplished individuals bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to African American arts and culture, further solidifying AWAACC's position as a leading cultural institution," the web site quotes the center's official statement, "ensuring the legacy of August Wilson continues to thrive."

Click [here](#) to learn more.

DGA Ratifies Pact

Members of the **Directors Guild of America** (DGA) have overwhelmingly ratified a new contract with producers represented by the **Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers** (AMPTP).



A union press release enthusiastically states: "DGA Members approved the new three-year agreement by a vote of 87% in favor. 6,728 members voted out of 16,321 eligible voters (41%). The turnout level exceeded any prior DGA ratification vote."

The new pact includes "significant improvements" for members "in all categories" ranging from wages and residuals to safety concerns and creative rights. As to the potential and current strikes affecting entertainment, the union's presi-

dent, Lesli Linka Glatter insists that the DGA stands "united" with the other unions. "We won't be satisfied until we all have fair contracts that reward us for our creative work --- we must create a vibrant, sustainable industry that fairly values us all."

DGA's deal went into effect July 1, 2023 and runs until June 30, 2026. For details on this and other relevant agreements, click [here](#).



CMU Gets High Grades

The editors of the *Hollywood Reporter* consulted with educators and entertainment industry leaders to identify the nation's best drama schools --- with **Carnegie Mellon University** (CMU) in the top ten.

Carnegie Mellon University

Among the qualities the panel praised these schools, was teaching students "how to create the best self-taped auditions and coming out of school with jobs booked."

CMU ranks #7 with its "strong undergraduate musical theater and acting program" particularly cited. In addition, **Pennsylvania State University** placed #21. Three colleges in New York City comprise the list of 25, led by the prestigious **Julliard School** which was named #1.

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

IATSE To Census Members

Starting this month, the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) is conducting a census of its membership.

According to the union's quarter magazine, the goal is to "to count every member, identify future needs, determine how best to use resources and see who makes up our membership."



IATSE is working with the Worker Institute, a program at **Cornell University** which "engages in research and education on contemporary labor issues, to generate innovative thinking and solutions to problems related to work, economy and society." [Learn more by clicking [here](#) – ed.]

The census is being conducted in three languages (English, Spanish and French). All responses will be "confidential and anonymized, meaning names will never be tied to individual responses or shared with IATSE." Informational web sites will be launched sometime this month.

PSO's New CD Coming

A new album is coming later this month from **Reference Recordings** of a "new interpretation" of a classic work by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO).

Launched in 1976, Reference Recordings is a privately-owned record label specializing in classical, jazz, blues and world music artists.



The new interpretation is that of a symphony written by Russian composer Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony has accompanied me since my earliest years as a conductor," explains PSO music director Manfred Honeck in a press release. "Additionally, it took on special significance for me as it was the first major work

that I conducted together with" the orchestra in 2006.

Tchaikovsky's work is being paired with one by Austro-Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942). That piece is 1924 composition "Five Pieces for String Quartet." Although popular in his lifetime, Schulhoff is little known today. He perished in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II (1939-1945).

The compact disc comes with an informational booklet written by Honeck. Further details are available from the [official press release](#).



**Channel
Pittsburgh**

Patron Rebrands

As of June 27, **Patron Technology** has a new name: **Leap Event Technology**. The company owns Pittsburgh-based ticketing service ShowClix.



"Our mission is to empower our clients to expand and elevate how attendees experience events," said CEO Marc Jenkins in a press release. "Transforming Patron Technology into Leap Event Technology signifies a huge step in advancing that mission. Our unified approach, enabling organizers to manage events from start to finish with just one technology vendor, also means that valuable data is no longer being left uncaptured. Leap, as a company, represents an elevation of the overall event experience by capturing and acting on this data, all in one place."

Leap's other divisions include GrowTix, Ticketleap, CRM PatronManager, Fan Interactive and Greencopper. The company is reassuring clients they "should not expect any operational changes" in their contracts or services.





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Sinclair Exec Honored

Lucy Rutishauser of **Sinclair Broadcast Group** (SBG) has been named a “Woman to Watch” by **50/50 Women on Boards**.



SBC owns two Pittsburgh television stations. 50/50 Women on Boards is a nonprofit organization “committed to accelerating gender balance and diversity on” corporate boards of directors.

The organization has recently published its “50 Women to Watch for Boards” list. Lucy Rutishauser is among them.

“This is an incredible honor to be selected as one of ‘50 Women to Watch’ for board opportunities,” expressed Rutishauser. In an SBC press release “I have spent my career helping companies grow and transform, while navigating complex and unique situations; learnings that can provide valuable insights to boards and advice to other management teams in their journey.”



Images



Starting this month is the inflatable walk-in installation “Daedalus” will be available in the Pittsburgh Cultural District.



TUE
4



FRI
14



THU
6



SAT
15



SAT
8



TUE
25



TUE
25



TUE
11



SUN
30

Opportunities

Applications are being accepted by **Handmade Arcade** for this year's holiday program. Learn how to participate by clicking [here](#).

The local **iHeart Media** radio stations are seeking a part-time promotions person with an interest in special events. Information [here](#).

July 31 is the deadline set by the **Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre** for those interested in becoming the company's new rehearsal director. Learn more [here](#),

The **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPA) and the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts** (PCA) are accepting applications through August 15 for Creative Sector Flex Fund (CSFF) grants. The CSFF is designed to address the changing needs of dynamic PA arts organizations with average annual revenue between \$10,000 - \$200,000. Details [here](#).

Art lovers may apply to the **Mattress Factory** to become a part-time tour guide. Learn more [here](#).

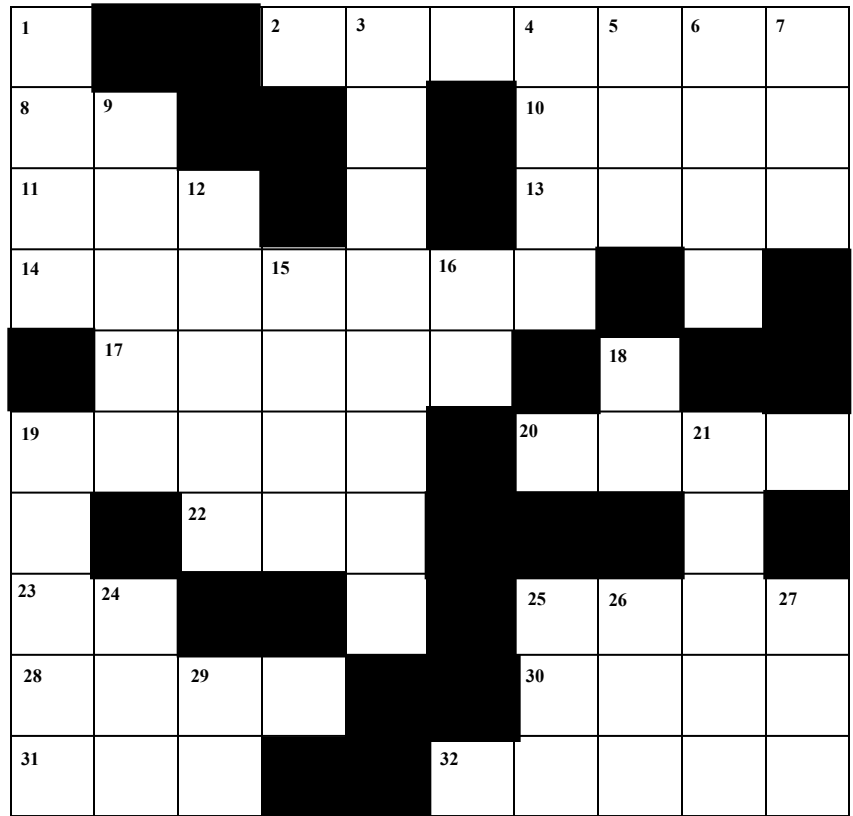
October 1 through 5 are the dates set aside by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** for two cellist positions. Details [here](#).

Someone with a background in digital media and marketing is being sought by **Hearst Communications** for local station WTAE-TV. Click [here](#).



Across

2. Subject of a 18th Century tax revolt near Pittsburgh (and subject of this puzzle)
8. State south of WI
10. Facial mark
11. Common vehicle fuel
13. Second word in many fairy tales
14. Family that owns 32-Across
17. Popular form of outdoor cooking
19. Like 9 to 5 or 10 to 6
20. Sit, as for a headshot
22. Dawn Keezer runs it, initially
23. Hospital cutting space, commonly
25. Twosome
28. Part of a traditional film
30. Greasy
31. Old fashioned traveler's guide
32. Local distillery named for a participant in 2-Across



Down

1. Stop or Yield
3. US Treasury Secretary when 2-Across occurred
4. Arrogant expression
5. Keystone comedian?
6. Mr. Musk, to pals
7. Tokyo currency
9. Respond to a joke
12. District where 32-Across is located
15. Minor spat
16. Netherlands, per the internet
18. Monopoly's \$200 square
19. Comedic actress Gale
21. How 2-Across was commonly made in the 18th Century
24. Actor Stephen
25. Luau cuisine
26. Multinational financial firm, initially
27. Common ingredient in 2-Across
29. "Jailhouse Rock" singer, initially

Last Month's Solution

H	O	M	E	W	O	O	D		
O	R	E	G	O	N		U	P	S
R	E	G	E	N	T		K	I	T
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	F	I	G		R	A	Z	O	R
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