

Pros Opine On Strike: Blame Studios & Nets

Media magnate Barry Diller has this advice for his peers: kick the streaming companies to the curb and make a deal with the unions.

Deadline.com's Dade Hayes posted a report on [August 31](#) about Diller's recent podcast interview. "They should certainly get out of the room with their deepest fiercest and almost conclusive enemy, **Netflix**, and probably with **Apple** and **Amazon**," Diller is quoted. "Because Netflix is in one business and they are the rulers of the business they're in. The other two, Apple and Amazon Prime, are in completely different businesses that have no business model relative to production of movies and television."

Diller labeled Netflix "the architects" of the dual strikes. "[The studios and networks] degraded their investment in cable because of the effect of Netflix on cable. They degraded their investment in their broadcasting arms" -- an assessment not all that different from that of *Pittsburgh Applause* editor James A. Richards [[See Pittsburgh Applause; August 31; Special Strike Report – ed.](#)]

He adds that the mainstream media firms should tell themselves that "we each own a great television network" and "let's take some of our shows and our creativity and build our networks back up."

Diller isn't alone. *The Hollywood Reporter's* Alex Weprin writes that, in a conference call with Wall Street analysts, **Charter Communications'** Chris Winfrey "programmers are caught in a self-imposed dilemma" by focusing on

"short-term profit maximization . . . management teams are not incentivized to drive business for the long-term."



OTHER UNIONS DONATE TO FUND

The executive board of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) has authorized an additional \$2 million donation to the **Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF)**. \$100,000 is also being donated to the MPTF by the **Directors Guild Foundation**

MPTF is a charitable organization that was established in 1921 to provide assistance to people working in the film and television industry. MPTF's contribution is to help those on strike who are having financial difficulties. Information on the available assistance is available by clicking [here](#).

VIDEO GAMES MAY BE NEXT

Actors may soon add video game producers to their national strike, reports David Robb for Deadline.com.

In addition to pay raises, **SAG-AFTRA** "is also asking for on-camera performers to have the same five-minutes-per-hour rest period that off-camera performers are entitled to. The guild also wants a set medic present when stunts or hazardous work is performed, just like on a film or television set; prohibitions against stunts on self-taped auditions; and vocal stress protections." Read the full article [here](#).

THE PAPER CEILING:

(noun): The invisible barrier that comes at every turn for workers without a bachelor's degree. See also: no alumni network, biased algorithms, degree screens, stereotypes, and misperceptions.

Millions of qualified STARS — workers Skilled Through Alternative Routes — with experience, skills and diverse perspectives are being held back by this silent barrier.

Learn more at [ThePaperCeiling.org](#)



MORE ON PAGES 3 AND 9

GPAC Victory: City Funding Cut Averted

Efforts supported by the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) to prevent an attempt to cut \$650,000 in COVID-related arts funding have succeeded.

As this newsletter reported last month [[Pittsburgh Applause: August 2023; page 2 - ed.](#)], a proposal was being considered by the Pittsburgh City Council to amend a previous resolution regarding money provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“Our role in the community requires us to be an advocate for the artists who live and work in our community and it also requires us to be a partner of others in the community,” said GPAC’s Pat-

rick Fisher in a press release. “As such, we’re happy to partner with the city’s administration in any way possible for a win-win scenario to make sure that the funds dedicated to the arts through ARPA are utilized in a manner that is equitable and impactful.”

GREATER PITTSBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL



Arts loud and clear

GPAC has also announced new members to the organization’s Black Arts Action Committee (BAAC). The committee strives to support African American art-

ists and arts groups. New to the BAAC are marketing professional Michael Carroll; choreographer Savionne Chambers; youth leader Kahlil Darden; multidisciplinary artist Petra Floyd and visual artist Ashante Josey.

In addition, GPAC has announced partnership with **Jazz-space Consulting** for its second Pittsburgh’s Racial Equity in the Arts report. The report seeks to assess the role of race



Channel
Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Symphony Partners With Rapper

Local music history will be made this November, as the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) has announced it partnering with an award-winning rapper for a unique concert.



That rapper is Pittsburgh native Harvey “Frzy” Daniels, who won a regional Emmy Award for his hip-hop remake of “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” It is the beloved theme song of the popular children’s television series “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Frzy performed at a 2018 Byham Theater fundraising concert for survivors of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting. In 2020, he

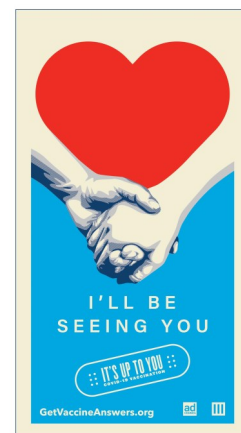
unofficially broke the world’s record for the longest freestyle rap at 31 hours.

The one-night-only concert will be an orchestration of Frzy’s new rap album, “Success.” This is the first time that a full orchestration of a full rap album has been performed by either Frzy or the PSO. Local composer and writer Christian Kriegeskotte is crafting the musical arrangements. Frzy has described the album as his “love letter” to Pittsburgh.

“It was my childhood dream to be on the Heinz Hall stage with the PSO because classic music represented genius to me,” the rapper explains in a press release. “I never learned to read music, so I learned how to speak it . . . the performance promises

to transcend the audience to a place where they are the ink, the orchestra is the pen, and the stage is the paper.”

The concert is scheduled for November 8 at Heinz Hall. Tickets are available.



Keep Up on the Latest Strikes News!



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arts & entertainment newsletter



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Carnegie Music Hall Begins Renovations

Restoration and renovation have begun on the historic music hall at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CMP).

Part of the original 1895 structure, the ornate hall has hosted thousands of performances and lectures. The focal point is the handsome pipe organ and its 8,600 pipes. Among the legends to appear on the hall's stage are operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti (1935-2007), jazz vocalist Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996), new wave pioneer David Byrne and rock icon Patti Smith.

San Francisco architectural firm **Gensler** is spearheading the project with two local firms providing construction and engineering services. The new space," explains a press release, "will meet Carnegie Museums' cultural and recreation-

al needs and amplify the economic activity the Music Hall stimulates."



Founded in 1965 by architect Art Gensler (1935-2021), Gensler is an international design firm with offices in 49 countries. Among its most notable projects is the 128-story Shanghai Tower in China. The family owned **Volpatt Construction** (established in 1991) has won awards for its work on other historic structures such as St. Paul's Cathedral. CJL Engineering was founded in 1938 and has extensive experience in mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems.

The grand proscenium arch and murals throughout the hall are to be restored. The electrical system will be updated. Seating will be added to better comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A new HVAC (heating/ventilation/ air conditioning) system will be installed.

Other local companies involved with the project are **Patrinos Painting & Contracting Company** (founded in 1969) and contractors **McKamish Metals** (founded in 1975) and **Keystone Electrical Systems** (founded in 1997).

The music hall is expected to reopen in early 2024.

Row House To Run Denis

An agreement has been reached between **Row House Cinema** and the **Denis Theatre Foundation** to revitalize a historic suburban movie house.

The Denis Theatre in Mt. Lebanon was built in 1938 by the **Harris Amusement Company**. The firm was established by Pittsburgh entrepreneur John P. Harris (1871-1926), is credited with creating the earliest cinema showrooms called nickelodeons. The theatre was named after Harris' brother, Denis. It has had several owners over the decades until being acquired by the foundation in 2010. There have been efforts to revitalize the currently empty facility since.

Plans call for Row House to manage the Denis after its renovation. "We are thrilled to be involved with this project and intend to make The Denis a unique and exciting entertainment destination that will strengthen the regional film scene," said Row House owner Brian Mendelsohn said in a press release. "We have learned a lot about operating a community cinema in the last nine years in Lawrenceville and look forward to bringing that knowledge and experience to the South Hills."

The Denis Theatre Foundation will have use of The Denis for special programming. Fundraising is underway to pay for the renovation.

Station Switch

The struggling CW network has found a new Pittsburgh affiliate.



After **Paramount Global** sold most of its stake in The CW, local station WPCW-TV (also owned by Paramount) dropped the miniweb. **Sinclair Broadcast Group's** WPNT-TV is picking it up as of September 1.

It is part of a multiyear deal involving 35 Sinclair stations and **The CW Network, LLC**, which is primarily owned by **Nexstar Media Group**.

Leap Adds New Service

The parent company of Pittsburgh-based Showclix, **Leap Event Technology**, has announce the



launch of a “fully integrated merchant services solution included as part of its unified, start-to-finish suite of event technology and service offerings.”

Leap is utilizing the technology of Irish-American financial services firm **Stripe, Inc.** The firm was founded in 2009 by a pair of Irish brothers working in San Francisco.

“By offering a secure, [payment card industry] compliant option for merchant services, we’re not just improving the overall process for clients; we’re also making it easier to further elevate the attendee experience,” said Michael Marty, President of Leap Event Technology in a press release. “For our clients, housing a modern payment platform with our selection of vertical-specific ticketing solutions leads to an even more seamless attendee purchase experience. This greases the wheels for easier ticket sales, as well as add-ons like pre-purchased merchandise and VIP perks. Plus, our enhanced fraud protection tailored for live events gives an extra layer of security to our clients and their ticket buyers, all while placing no additional burden on the event organizer.”

Welsh Heads Opera Board

Retired accountant and active philanthropist Gene Welsh has been named president of the **Pittsburgh Opera’s** board of directors.

PITTSBURGH OPERA

This is the second time he has held the position at the Pittsburgh Opera. According to a brief online search, Mr. Welsh also serves on the board of the non-profit **Persad Center** and of the neurophysiological technology company **Computational Diagnostics**.

Joining the board are youth program leader Hilda Fu, attorney

Paul J. Gitnik and attorney Dominic Rupprecht.

Separately, the Opera has announced seven vocalists to this season’s resident artist program. A press release explains: “After completing advanced education such as graduate degrees, Pittsburgh Opera’s Resident Artists further their careers under the guidance of the opera world’s leaders and innovators, including master classes with opera legends. They study languages, diction, movement, and acting, while developing their vocal skills, expanding their repertoire, and performing on stage in Pittsburgh Opera productions.”

Learn about each of these young artists by clicking [here](#).

QED Upgrades Tech

Taiwanese technology company **Infotrend** has announced an agreement to provide data storage services to **WQED Multimedia**.



Infotrend explains in a press release that the public broadcaster’s growing content necessitated an upgrade. “The existing storage could not satisfy the needs of the [station] neither with throughput nor with capacity requirements causing video playback stuttering, inability to expedite, edit, encode videos on time, which considerably slowed down their projects. Moreover, the outdated storage required excessive maintenance, which was time- and cost-consuming for [the information technology] support department.”

Among other benefits, the new service connects fourteen media editing stations and provides a petabyte of storage.



Pens Owner Buys Cable TV Net

What was local unit of AT&T SportsNet is being acquired by the owners of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The cable channel began in 1986 as Pirates Cable Network and has gone through multiple owners and names since. It is part of a collection of regional sports networks that are being divested by the heavily indebted **Warner Bros. Discovery**. The buyers, **Fenway Sports Group**, is rebranding it as SportsNet Pittsburgh. In addition to the Penguins, Fenway's assets include the Boston Red Sox and Liverpool F.C.

John Ourland reports for *Sports Business Journal* that the Pirates are still "considering cutting a deal with Fenway Sports Group to remain on a Pittsburgh-based RSN with the Penguins. Sources say the team is more likely to send its rights to [**Major League Baseball**], but that decision still hasn't been made." Read his full article [here](#).



Mac Miller Shoes

The skateboard-themed retail chain Van's (a division of **VF Corporation**) is releasing a new line of sneakers in honor of late Pittsburgh rapper Mac Miller.

Malcom "Mac Miller" McCormick (1992-2018) was a self-taught musician who began rapping at the age of 14. He died of an accidental overdose after relocating to Los Angeles. His final album, "Swimming," was released about a month earlier.

Vans has long been connected to music, particularly through sponsorship of the Warped Tour from 1995 to 2019. The shoes are being produced by **Authentic Brands Groups**, whose sub-

sidiaries include Nine West, Brooks Brothers and Reebok.

A portion of the proceeds from the shoes' sales will benefit Miller's nonprofit which supports young musicians. More is available in a [Patch Pittsburgh article](#).



Images



James "Jimmy Jam" Harris and Terry Lewis go from producing others' music to performing their own at this year's Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival.

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Teen Media Awards

The winners of the annual Teen Media Awards have been announced by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh** (CLP).

More than 100 young creators were invited “to reflect on beauty, to dwell in complexity, and to celebrate joy where we find it.” Thirty



nine of them have had their works of poetry and prose published in an anthology that can be read by clicking [here](#).

Other categories include Short Film, Music, Photography, Three-Dimensional and Two-Dimensional Art, and Fashion. The entire list of winners is available [here](#).

WESA Adds Vox Series

A replacement has been announced by **Pittsburgh Community Broadcasting Corporation** for WESA-FM’s cancelled “Confluence” series. The news was reported by Ryan Deto in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

“Confluence” was a well-regarded daily program that took an in depth look at local issues and events. It was pulled from the public station’s schedule as part of cost-cutting efforts.

In its place, WESA is now carrying “Today, Explained,” a daily series produced and distributed by Vox Media. For details, click [here](#).

WGA Candidates

Candidates have been announced by the **Writers Guild of America East** (WGAE) for the union’s governing body.



Membership in the 20-member council breaks down as: twelve (12) Film/TV/Streaming Council

members, five (5) Online Media Council members and three (3) Broadcast/Cable/Streaming News Council members), plus five (5) officers: President, Secretary-Treasurer, and three (3) Vice Presidents, one from each work sector.

Some seats have a single candidate running unopposed. However, there are 13 people vying for the six seats reserved for the Film/TV/Streaming sector. More information is available by clicking [here](#).



Channel
Pittsburgh

**ED OCHESTER
(1940-2023)**



WED
6



TUE
12



TUE
19



FRI
22



SAT
8



SAT
23



SAT
9



WED
27



THU
28



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Opportunities

Submissions are being accepted by **City of Asylum/Pittsburgh** for an upcoming poetry anthology. The deadline is October 15. [Details here.](#)

Audition information for planned **Prime Stage** productions is available [here.](#)

WTAE-TV, part of **Hearst Communications**, is seeking a photographer for its news department. [Click here.](#)

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre continues to search for a new executive director as well as an assistant stage manager. [Click here.](#)

Audition dates have been set by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** for cello and concertmaster positions. [Click here.](#)

The position “Marketing Project Manager” remains posted on the **Mattress Factory** [web site.](#)

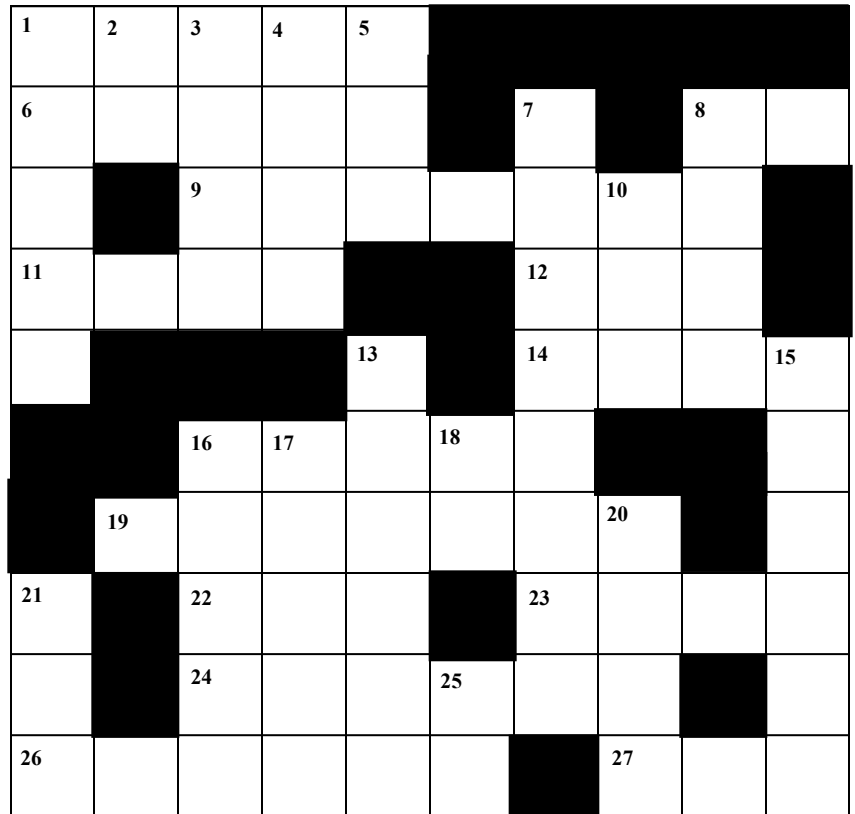
A part-time board operator is being sought by **iHeartMedia** for one of their Pittsburgh radio stations. [Click here.](#)

Several positions are posted online by the National Aviary in areas as diverse as developing, events and education. [Click here.](#)



Across

1. Famed museum located in 15-Down
6. Artist also known as Know Hope, to pals
8. Pass this while playing Monopoly and get \$200
9. Artist with works in 1-Across
11. Actress Anderson, to pals
12. Controversial chief of Enron
14. Muslim prayer leader
16. Popular percussion show and troupe
19. Gone bad
22. Once big internet initials
23. 2012 skateboarding film directed by Patrick Barry
24. Peninsula and location of 16-Down
26. One of three North American nations
27. With blue and green, one of color television's primaries



Down

1. Artist Picasso, to pals
2. Chronz's girl group
3. Yemeni port city
4. Artist Salvador, more ommonly
5. Shocking internet letters
7. Current monarch of 16-Down
8. Artist with works in 1-Across
10. It may be attached to your PC, in brief
13. Worked hard
15. The capital city of 16-Down
16. Bourbon kingdom
17. Pakistani filmmaker Syed, to pals
18. Tiny metric measurement, briefly
20. Special
21. Bio bag?
25. Dorm chief, initially

Last Month's Solution

F	R	A	N	K		B	I	B	
O	A	F		U		U	B	E	R
R	D	A		S		R	A	V	I
G	O	R	S	H	I	N			D
E	N		L			S	T	U	D
T		L	O	G				N	L
	L	E	V	E	E		W	O	E
U		G	E	O	R	G	E		X
S	T	U	N		O	I	L	S	
E		P	E	A	B	O	D	Y	