

QUARTERLY PROGRAM TOPIC REPORT
WETA TV26 PROGRAMMING

4th Quarter 2013
October, November, December

As the program schedule for WETA TV26 is planned, consideration is given to a variety of special interests in the Washington metropolitan area. During October, November, December, the following issues were covered in a variety of programming.

American History / Biography
Arts
Business / Industry
Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement
Economy
Environment / Nature / Natural Disasters
Health / Health Care
National Politics
Science / Technology
War / Veterans / National Security

The programming listed below represents ongoing series that continually touch upon the previously mentioned topics.

BBC World News (Weeknights)
Charlie Rose (Weeknights)
Frontline (Weekly)
PBS Newshour (Weeknights)
Nightly Business Report (Weeknights)
To the Contrary (Weekly)
Need To Know (Weekly)
Washington Week (Weekly)

Top Categories
Quarterly Program Topic Report
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American History / Biography

LATINO AMERICANS: PREJUDICE AND PRIDE/PERIL AND PROMISE (120) minutes

Aired October 1, 2013 at 8:00pm

Witness the creation of the proud “Chicano” identity as labor leaders organize farm workers in California, and as activists push for better education opportunities for Latinos, the inclusion of Latino studies and empowerment in the political process.

AMERICAN MASTERS: JIMI HENRIX (120) minutes

Aired November 5, 2013 at 9:00pm

Experience the pioneering guitarist Jimi Hendrix’s life and music through never-before-seen performance footage, archival interviews, photographs and family letters. The film features new interviews with Hendrix family members, band mates, Paul McCartney and others.

INDEPENDENT LENS: WONDER WOMEN! THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROINES (60) minutes

Aired December 22, 2013 at 2:00am

Trace the fascinating evolution and legacy of Wonder Woman. From the birth of the comic book superheroine in the 1940s to the blockbusters of today, Wonder Women! looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society’s anxieties about women’s liberation.

Arts

SUPERHEROES: A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE (180) minutes

Aired October 15, 2013 at 8:30pm

During the Depression, the popularity of dozens of superhero characters opens the door for a new generation of artists and writers. World War II creates a patriotic fervor for star-spangled adventurers to represent the American spirit at war and on the home front, but in the 1950s, superheroes are caught in the fire of government scrutiny and regulation. In the 1960s, a new breed of superhero emerges in pages of Marvel Comics, inspired by the age of atomic energy and space travel and, in turn, inspiring the pop culture and pop artists of the time. Spider-Man, the Hulk and others are the first to have “problems” with which an adult audience can identify, and contemporary social issues make their way into comic books. Black powerhouses such as the Black Panther and Luke Cage appear on the scene, and the pages of “Green Lantern/Green Arrow” explode with relevant storylines as comic books are forced to confront the reality of an increasingly complex world. Superheroes are enthusiastically embraced in all forms of media and by all demographics, beginning with the historic Superman movie featuring Christopher Reeve as the Man of Steel. In 1986, Batman is overhauled as The Dark Knight to reflect the nocturnal underside of his character, and Watchmen brings new sophistication to comic book narratives, illuminating a violent and politicized world. In the new millennium, superheroes have taken over popular culture with feature films, television shows and video games complementing a new generation of web-based comics that bring superhero adventures to every corner of the world.

THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS: MAKING A WAY OUT OF NO WAY (1897-1940) (60) minutes

Aired November 12, 2013 at 8:00pm

“Making a Way Out of No Way” portrays the Jim Crow era, when African Americans struggled to build their own worlds within the harsh, narrow confines of segregation. At the turn of the 20th century, a steady stream of African Americans left the South, fleeing the threat of racial violence and searching for opportunities in the North and West. Leaders like Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois, Booker T. Washington and Marcus Garvey organized, offering different strategies to further black empowerment and equality. The ascendance of black arts and culture showed that a community with a strong identity and sense of pride was taking hold in spite of Jim Crow. “The Harlem Renaissance” redefined how America saw African Americans — and how African Americans saw themselves.

INDEPENDENT LENS: BEAUTY IS EMBARRASSING (90) minutes

Aired December 22, 2013 at 12:30am

Art-world darling Wayne White got his big break when he helped create the unhinged children’s show “Pee-Wee’s Playhouse.” His off-kilter style and self-deprecating sense of humor offer a peek into an imagination that refuses to grow up. This film chronicles the vaulted highs and the crushing lows of this Tennessean commercial artist as he struggles to find peace and balance between his work and his art.

Business / Industry

FRONTLINE | LEAGUE OF DENIAL: THE NFL'S CONCUSSION CRISIS (120) minutes

Aired October 8, 2013 at 9:00pm

The National Football League, a multibillion-dollar commercial juggernaut, presides over America's indisputable national pastime. But the NFL is under assault as thousands of former players and a host of scientists claim the league has covered up how football inflicted long-term brain injuries on many players. In this special investigation, FRONTLINE and prize-winning journalists Steve Fainaru and Mark Fainaru-Wada of ESPN reveal the hidden story of the NFL and brain injuries, drawn from their forthcoming book *League of Denial: The NFL, Concussions and the Battle for Truth* (Crown Archetype, October 2013). What did the NFL know and when did it know it? What's the truth about the risks to players? What can be done? The FRONTLINE investigation details how, for years, the league denied and worked to refute scientific evidence that the violent collisions at the heart of the game are linked to an alarming incidence of early onset dementia, catastrophic brain damage, death, and other devastating consequences for some of football's all-time greats.

RAW TO READY: BOMBARDIER (60) minutes

Aired November 6, 2013 at 10:00pm

Short-range regional jets are the backbone of domestic air travel. To withstand a high volume of flights, these jets must be comfortable, durable and fuel efficient, like the Bombardier CRJ-1000. Glass, titanium, fiberglass, lacquer and aluminum alloy each transcend their original states, harnessed to create a modern cutting-edge machine.

RED METAL: THE COPPER COUNTRY STRIKE OF 1913 (60) minutes

Aired December 17, 2013 at 8:00pm

An epic labor strike that devastated Michigan's Copper Country in 1913 haunts the American labor movement to this day. Among the notable elements of that strike was the death of 73 children at a union Christmas party, a tragedy immortalized by Woody Guthrie in his ballad "1913 Massacre," performed in the film by Steve Earle. The event remains the deadliest unsolved manslaughter in U.S. history. This program traces the Copper Country strike from its hopeful start to its heartrending conclusion. Between those endpoints, it explores the intensifying battle between organized labor and corporate power, as well as issues of immigration and technology. Richard Harris narrates.

Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement

TO THE CONTRARY WITH BONNIE ERBE (30) minutes

Aired October 25, 2013 at 5:30pm

Mother vs Fetus: Challenging the Fetal Protection Law. UN Women Ad Campaign: What Google searches reveal about discrimination. Behind the Headlines: Gov. Mary Fallin, new Chair of the NGA. PANELISTS: Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Spike the Watercooler Founder Marjorie Clifton, The Heritage Foundation's Jennifer Marshall, Red Alert Politics Editor Francesca Chambers.

NOVA: COLD CASE JFK (60) minutes

Aired November 13, 2013 at 9:00pm

Fifty years later, what can science tell us about the Kennedy assassination — and the investigations that followed? The 1963 murder, in broad daylight in front of hundreds of witnesses, was a homicide investigator's best-case scenario. Yet somehow the JFK assassination became a forensic nightmare, plagued by mishandled evidence, a controversial autopsy and, incredibly, a prime suspect murdered while in police custody before he could be tried — all of it captured on film. Now, NOVA follows a group of experts trying to unravel the lingering mysteries of the assassination: private investigator Josiah Thompson; gunshot wound authority Larry Sturdivan; laser scanning specialist Tony Grissim; medical examiner and forensic neuropathologist Peter Cummings; and firearms experts Lucien and Mike Haag.

TAVIS SMILEY (30) minutes

Aired December 10, 2013 at 6:00pm

Chef Jeff Henderson: Henderson shares lessons learned on his redemptive journey from incarceration to celebrity chef to mentor and best-selling author.

Economy

PBS NEWSHOUR (60) minutes

Aired October 28, 2013 at 7:00pm

Mich. Gov. Snyder testifies under oath that Detroit bankruptcy was last resort: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder took the stand in bankruptcy court to testify about the decision-making process the city went through before filing in order to prove that Detroit is insolvent. Jeffrey Brown gets an update on the city's struggle to right its teetering finances from Christy McDonald of Detroit Public Television.

WASHINGTON WEEK WITH GWEN IFFILL (30) minutes

Aired November 29, 2013 at 8:00pm

We asked our viewers to send us videos about the most important issues to them from the healthcare debate to the state of the economy. We'll have answers to their questions and analysis from some of the top journalists in Washington. Joining Gwen: Karen Tumulty, Washington Post; Jeff Zeleny, ABC News; Peter Baker, The New York Times; and Michael Duffy, Time Magazine.

WETA STUDIO W: RIC EDELMAN (60) minutes

Aired December 10, 2013 at 8:00pm

WETA's new series of interviews with authors, experts and artists. In December, Paul Anthony will talk with acclaimed financial advisor Ric Edelman.

Environment / Nature / Natural Disasters

NOVA: MAKING STUFF WILDER (60) minutes

Aired October 23, 2013 at 9:00pm

What happens when engineers open up nature's toolbox? David Pogue explores bold innovations inspired by the Earth's greatest inventor, life itself. From underwater wi-fi based on dolphin communication, to robotic "mules" and "cheetahs" for the military, to swarms of robotic bees, Pogue travels the world seeing the "wildest" ideas put into action in new inventions and technologies. It is a journey that sees today's bacteria turned into tomorrow's metallurgists, viruses building batteries, and even DNA, the Code of Life, put to work in "living" computers. Will the stuff of the future take on a life of its own?

NATURE: LOVE IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM (60) minutes

Aired November 6, 2013 at 8:00pm

Animals dance, sing, flirt and compete with everything they've got to find and secure a mate. For many, the all-important bonds they share as a couple are what enable the next generation to survive. Can we call these bonds love? In this delightful, provocative look at the love life of animals, watch the feminine wiles of a young gorilla, the search for Mr. Right among a thousand flamingos, the open "marriages" of blue-footed boobies, the soap opera arrangements of gibbons and all the subtle, outrageous, romantic antics that go into finding a partner.

NOVA: EXTREME ICE (60) minutes

Aired December 18, 2013 at 9:00pm

Follow photojournalist James Balog to some of the most remote and beautiful places on Earth as he documents the disappearance of an icy landscape that took thousands of years to form. An artist, scientist, explorer, and former mountain guide, Balog braves treacherous terrain to site his cameras in ideal locations to record the unfolding drama.

Health / Health Care

FRONTLINE: HUNTING THE NIGHTMARE BACTERIA (60) minutes

Aired October 22, 2013 at 10:00pm

“Nightmare bacteria.” That’s how the CDC describes a frightening new threat spreading quickly in hospitals, communities and across the globe. FRONTLINE reporter David Hoffman investigates the alarming rise of untreatable infections: from a young girl thrust onto life support in an Arizona hospital, to a young American infected in India who comes home to Seattle, and an uncontrollable outbreak at the nation’s most prestigious hospital, where 18 patients were mysteriously infected and six died, despite frantic efforts to contain the killer bacteria. Fueled by decades of antibiotic overuse, the crisis has deepened as major drug companies, squeezed by Wall Street expectations, have abandoned the development of new antibiotics. Without swift action, the miracle age of antibiotics could be coming to an end.

NOVA: MAKING STUFF SAFER (60) minutes

Aired November 6, 2013 at 9:00pm

Is it possible to engineer an absolutely safe world for ourselves? Host David Pogue explores the extent to which science and technology can protect us from monumental forces of nature such as earthquakes and epidemics. He challenges researchers to save us from dangers of our own making, such as traffic accidents and contact sports. Our increasing reliance on the internet makes us vulnerable to new risks: Pogue delves into cyber security, where computer experts work to shield us from attacks from hackers and terrorists. Risk is all around us — but we can be smart about it.

3 STEPS TO INCREDIBLE HEALTH WITH JOEL FUHRMAN, MD (120) minutes

Aired December 4, 2013 at 11:00pm

Directly addresses the crisis of obesity and chronic disease plaguing America. Dr. Fuhrman offers a healthy, effective, and scientifically proven plan for shedding weight quickly and reclaiming the vitality and good health we all deserve.

National Politics / Government

HELD HOSTAGE (60) minutes

Aired October 22, 2013 at 9:00pm

HELD HOSTAGE is the real and terrifying story of ordinary foreign workers who came face to face with Al Qaeda — told through a compelling combination of first-person interviews with hostage survivors and their families, many speaking on camera for the first time, and dramatic reconstruction of key events during the tense four days that were punctuated with gun battles and dramatic tales of escape and human bravery in the most desperate of conditions.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: JFK (PART 1) (120) minutes

Aired November 11, 2013 at 9:00pm

Follow JFK's rise to power from his birth to his election as president in 1960 — the youngest man ever to be elected to the office. With illuminating interviews from family members including sister Jean Kennedy Smith, niece Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, historian Robert Dallek and author Robert Caro, this episode offers new insight into Kennedy's early years, from his transformation from a sickly youth to Washington's most eligible bachelor to the nation's president.

FRONTLINE: THE LONG WALK OF NELSON MANDELA (120) minutes

Aired December 6, 2013 at 8:30pm

FRONTLINE profiles the most widely known and revered political leader in the world -- Nelson Mandela. Credited with the reversal of apartheid in a South Africa controlled by two generations of stern Afrikaner leaders who enforced the ideology of racial separation, Mandela stands as an all-embracing giant who brought about his nation's extraordinary peaceful transformation to democracy. In this in-depth film biography of Mandela, the broadcast tells the story of his life through interviews with intimates from his most trusted associates to his jailers on Robben Island, the prison where he was held for 27 years. The two-hour film offers an insider's account of his extraordinary will to lead and of the great risk and personal sacrifice he endured to achieve democracy and equality for the people of his nation.

Science / Technology

NATURE: EARTHFLIGHT: ASIA AND AUSTRALIA (60) minutes

Aired October 2, 2013 at 8:00pm

Japanese cranes dance in the snow, swallows and swifts visit the Forbidden City, lorikeets, cockatoos and budgies form giant flocks in Australia, pigeons guide viewers through India, and geese fly miles above the Himalayas.

COMET ENCOUNTER (60) minutes

Aired November 20, 2013 at 10:00pm

In this program, scientists around the world follow a once-in-a-lifetime event, the path of the sun-grazing comet ISON. The comet, somewhere between one and 10 kilometers in diameter, is currently just beyond the orbit of Jupiter. As it races past Earth toward the sun, it will likely develop a tail to light up the night skies. Then ISON will slingshot around the back of the sun, to emerge perhaps brighter than ever. But there's jeopardy, too; ISON could evaporate completely, or the sun's gravity could tear it apart, producing a so-called "string of pearls" – several small comets arching across the night sky. Don't miss the breathtaking images captured in this special.

NOVA: BUILDING THE GREAT CATHEDRALS (60) minutes

Aired December 25, 2013 at 9:00pm

Take a dazzling architectural journey inside those majestic marvels of Gothic architecture, the great cathedrals of Chartres, Beauvais and other European cities. Carved from 100 million pounds of stone, some cathedrals now teeter on the brink of catastrophic collapse. To save them, a team of engineers, architects, art historians, and computer scientists searches the naves, bays, and bell-towers for clues. NOVA investigates the architectural secrets that the cathedral builders used to erect their towering, glass-filled walls and reveals the hidden formulas drawn from the Bible that drove medieval builders ever upward.

War / Veterans / National Security

FRONTLINE: INSIDE JAPAN'S NUCLEAR MELTDOWN (60) minutes

Aired October 1, 2013 at 10:00pm

FRONTLINE continues its investigation of nuclear safety with an unprecedented account of the crisis inside the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex after a devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Japan on March 11, 2011. With exclusive eye-witness testimony from key figures in the drama--including the Japanese Prime Minister and senior executives at the power company Tepco--FRONTLINE tells the story of the workers struggling frantically to reconnect power inside the plant's pitch-dark and highly radioactive reactor buildings; the nuclear experts and officials in the Prime Minister's office fighting to get information as the crisis spiraled out of control; and the plant manager who disobeyed his executives' orders when he thought it would save the lives of his workers. The story profiles the Japanese soldiers and firefighters drafted to cool the reactors, who were wounded when the reactor housings exploded; and the families living near the nuclear plant, who unknowingly fled in the same direction as the radioactive plume, exposing themselves to dangerously high radiation levels.

PBS NEWSHOUR (60) minutes

Aired November 22, 2013 at 7:00pm

News Wrap: U.S. steps up pressure for Afghan security deal: In our news wrap Friday, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel argued that waiting to sign a security deal until the next Afghan president is in office won't give U.S. forces enough time to plan for keeping troops in the country. Also, the Pakistani doctor who helped the CIA track down Osama bin Laden was charged with murder.

CHARLIE ROSE (60) minutes

Aired December 10, 2013 at 1:00am

A conversation with General Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, who successfully implemented the 2007 surge and for his unit's capture of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.