

SEVEN

September 2023 | A Benefit of Membership



**America Outdoors
with Baratunde Thurston**

Begins Wed., September 6, 7PM



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Manager's Memo



James Davie
Station Manager PBS Utah

It's an incredibly eventful time in politics, not just nationally, but locally with upcoming mayoral elections, the 2nd congressional district special election, and of course, preparations for the legislative session in January. That's why I, as a viewer, am grateful to have Jason Perry and his rotating panel of experts and insiders return this month for **Season 8 of The Hinckley Report**. Each week Perry and his guests break down the week's political news and offer context and analysis. These conversations are fast-paced, insightful, and entertaining. Even if you think politics isn't your thing, I encourage you to check out the show Fridays at 7 p.m. on PBS Utah, or streaming on the free PBS App.

For decades, PBS Utah viewers have made **Washington Week** a part of their Friday evenings. Just last month, **Washington Week** announced an editorial partnership with The Atlantic and named that publication's editor in chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, the new permanent

host. Now named **Washington Week with The Atlantic**, the show follows **The Hinckley Report** at 7:30 p.m.

The reason that shows like these endure is the trust that they have built with you, the viewer. PBS Utah is committed to our mission to serve the public, and our work is centered on the core principles of independence, accuracy, fairness, transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability. I invite you to review the PBS editorial standards and guidelines here: pbs.org/standards. If you ever have questions or concerns about the journalistic integrity of national content, you can reach out to the PBS public editor here: pbs.org/publiceditor/about. For concerns or questions about local content you are welcome to email me at jdavie@pbsutah.org.



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America Outdoors

With Baratunde Thurston



Welcome to **America Outdoors**, the 6-episode series exploring the beauty and complexities of the outdoors with host Baratunde Thurston. Produced by Part2 Pictures for Twin Cities PBS, the show promises to be an exciting and thought-provoking journey through the landscapes and cultures that make America unique. **America Outdoors** is set to premiere Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m.

But who is Baratunde Thurston? A renowned author, cultural activist, and Emmy-nominated host, Thurston brings his unique talent for holding hard and nuanced conversations, infusing them with humor, inquisitiveness, and the ability to synthesize themes of race, culture, politics, and technology.

Thurston's Social Impact Award from iHeartRadio and his TED Talk, which has over 5 million views and was called "one of the greatest of all-time" by MSNBC's Brian Williams, speak to his ability to engage audiences with authenticity and insight.

In **America Outdoors**, Thurston will take viewers on a journey through some of the country's most beautiful natural landscapes, from the Pacific coast to the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic seaboard. But this isn't just a beautiful travelogue. Thurston uses his unique perspective to explore the nuances of these places, speaking to people from diverse backgrounds, and investigating their relationship with the natural world.

Thurston's approach to storytelling isn't to shy away from the complicated issues

that these landscapes and cultures present. Instead, he leans into them. By examining the intersectionality of race, culture, and environment, Thurston proves that the outdoors is a space for everyone, and that the beauty and complexity of these places can help connect us as a nation.

Part2 Pictures is no stranger to telling captivating and human-centered stories. The production company has received dozens of awards and nominations, including Emmys, Gracies, and Critics Choice Awards for its human-first approach to storytelling. This philosophy aligns perfectly with Thurston's approach to hosting, creating a powerful synergy between host and producer.

Twin Cities PBS, with its mission to enrich lives and strengthen communities through the power of media, provides the perfect platform for **America Outdoors**. The public service media organization has a history of recognized innovation and creativity, including multiple Peabody Awards and national and regional Emmy® Awards.

As we tune in to **America Outdoors**, we are sure to be enthralled by Thurston's humor, empathy, and passion for exploring the outdoors. By looking at some of the most beautiful places in America through a human lens, we will come away with renewed appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the natural world and our place within it.

Wed., September 6, 7:00PM

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**PIONEER
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Entering its 62nd season as Salt Lake's major regional theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company offers a wide range of exceptional theatre exploring the breadth of the human experience — challenging the intellect, stirring emotions, igniting imaginations, and encouraging conversation.

A fully professional theatre in-residence at the University of Utah, Pioneer Theatre Company produces a seven-play season, running from September through May. Each season includes a mixture of classics, large-scale musicals, and contemporary dramas and comedies. Over the past ten years, it has developed a reputation for Broadway-quality productions and has mounted numerous Utah premieres and regional theatre premieres.

Notably, Pioneer Theatre Company was the first regional theatre in the country to earn the rights to produce *Les Misérables*, the closing musical of the 2006-2007 season. Running for a record 82 sold-out performances, *Les Misérables* cemented PTC's reputation as a theatre capable of producing large-scale productions.

In fall 2022, Pioneer Theatre Company produced the Broadway-bound musical, *Shucked*. The world premiere was directed by three-time Tony Award winner Jack O'Brien and written by the Grammy and Tony Award-winning team of Robert Horn, Shane McAnally, and Brandy Clark. The production went on to Broadway, where was nominated for nine Tony Awards. This marks the first time (*ever*) that a

Utah-based theatre served as an out-of-town tryout for a Broadway musical.

The upcoming 2023/2024 season includes productions such as Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Christmas in Connecticut*, and *Bonnie and Clyde*, among others. In March 2024, PTC will present *The Lehman Trilogy* in the brand-new Meldrum Theatre in the Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse.

Pioneer Theatre Company is located at the top of Broadway (300 South) and 1400 East. Ticket prices vary depending on the day of the week, the type of show and which seats are selected. To learn more about the theatre's 2023/2024 season and purchase tickets, visit PioneerTheatre.org.

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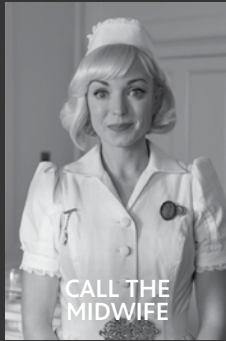
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SEVEN

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UTAH'S WEEKLY POLITICAL ROUNDUP



THE
**HINCKLEY
REPORT**
WITH
JASON PERRY

SEASON 8 PREMIERES
FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, AT 7PM

In partnership with the Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah, **The Hinckley Report** provides insight and analysis into Utah politics, covering the most pressing political issues facing our state. Hosted by Jason Perry, director of the Hinckley Institute of Politics, each week's guests feature Utah's top journalists, lawmakers, and policy experts.



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