

QUARTERLY PROGRAM TOPIC REPORT
WETA TV26 PROGRAMMING

4th Quarter 2020
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, and 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.

Amanpour and Company (Weeknights)
BBC World News America (Weeknights)
Firing Line with Margaret Hoover (Weekend)
Frontline (Weekly)
Nightly Business Report (Weeknights)
Open Mind (Weekend)
PBS NewsHour (Weeknights)
PBS NewsHour Weekend (Weekends)
To the Contrary (Weekly)
Washington Week (Weekly)

Top Categories
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American History / Biography

DRIVING WHILE BLACK: RACE SPACE AND MOBILITY IN AMERICA (120) minutes

Aired Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Discover how the advent of the automobile brought new freedoms and new perils for African Americans on the road in this deep look into the dynamics of race, space and mobility in America over time.

PILGRIMS: AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (120) minutes

Aired Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Discover the harrowing and brutal truths behind the Pilgrims' arrival in the New World and the myths of Thanksgiving. Director Ric Burns explores the history of our nation's beginnings in this epic tale of converging forces.

TELL THEM WE ARE RISING: THE STORY OF BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (120) minutes

Aired Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities is a documentary and interactive project that explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played in American history, culture, and national identity. Today, over half of all African American professionals are graduates of HBCUs. More than 50% of the nation's African American public school teachers and 70% of African American dentists earned degrees at HBCUs. The film brings to a broad national audience for the first time the story of HBCUs and the power of higher education to transform lives and advance civil rights and equality in the face of intolerance and injustice.

Arts

AMERICAN MASTERS: MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS—WHERE NOW IS (120) minutes

Aired Friday, October 23, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Discover the Grammy-winning conductor, pianist and composer. A National Medal of Arts recipient and longtime music director of the San Francisco Symphony, he helped set the standard that an American orchestra should champion modern American music.

GREAT PERFORMANCES: FIDDLER—A MIRACLE OF MIRACLES (90) minutes

Aired Friday, November 13, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Travel through the history of the iconic musical exploring its reach across time and cultures featuring appearances by composer and lyricist Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick as well as famous fans including Lin-Manuel Miranda, Topol and more.

ELLA WISHES YOU A SWINGIN' CHRISTMAS (60) minutes

Aired Friday, December 18, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Enjoy an evening celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's entire iconic album of holiday classics presented by the American Pops Orchestra. Featuring appearances by Dee Dee Bridgewater, Norm Lewis, Carmen Ruby Floyd, Nova Payton, Dave Detwiler and Morgan James..

Business / Industry

PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND (30) minutes

Aired Saturday, October 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm

For Preble Street Resource Center, a social services agency in Portland, Maine, adapting to the pandemic has meant the soup kitchen can't serve indoor meals, social workers can't meet clients in their offices, and limiting the number of people allowed in shelters -- all at a time when these services are needed the most. Christopher Booker reports on how a truck has helped solve the problem.

INDEPENDENT LENS: JONATHAN SCOTT'S POWER TRIP (90) minutes

Aired Friday, November 16, 2020 at 10:00 pm

Follow home renovation expert Jonathan Scott on his mission to flip the switch on how Americans access power. He travels the country and interviews a host of experts, and quickly learns how little choice the public has in how they source energy.

VERNON JORDAN: MAKE IT PLAIN (60) minutes

Aired Monday, December 28, 2020 at 10:00 pm

The film chronicles Jordan's modest origins through his rise to national renown as a pioneering attorney, businessman, civil rights leader and counselor to presidents spanning the era from LBJ to Barack Obama.

Crime / Legal Issues / Law Enforcement

POV: THE INFILTRATORS (90) minutes

Aired Monday, October 5, 2020 at 10:00 pm

Meet two young immigrants who get purposefully arrested by Border Patrol and put in a shadowy for-profit detention center. Marco and Viri, members of a group of radical Dreamers, believe the best place to stop deportations is in detention.

INDEPENDENT LENS: BELLY OF THE BEAST (90) minutes

Aired Tuesday, November 23, 2020 at 10:00 pm

Hear the horrifying truth about modern-day eugenics and reproductive injustice in California prisons through intimate accounts from currently and formerly incarcerated people filmed over the course of seven years.

CITY HALL (270) minutes

Aired Tuesday, December 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Explore the role of city government and see how Boston provides services for its citizens. Mayor Walsh and his administration grapple with their policy priorities, which include racial justice, affordable housing, climate action and homelessness.

Economy

FRONTLINE: AMERICA'S MEDICAL CRISIS (60) minutes

Aired Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 10:00 pm

Why was the U.S. left scrambling for critical medical equipment as the coronavirus swept the country? With the Associated Press, an investigation of the fragmented global medical supply chain and its deadly consequences.

AMANPOUR AND COMPANY (60) minutes

Aired Friday, November 13, 2020 at 11:00 pm

Christiane speaks with French Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire about the anniversary of the Paris terrorist attacks. She also speaks with novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Hari Sreenivasan speaks with Renee DiResta, technical research manager at the Stanford Internet Observatory, about the dangers of false narratives on the internet.

PBS NEWSHOUR (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Lawmakers are under pressure to reach another economic relief deal as COVID-19 cases and deaths spike across the country. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin is the second-highest ranking Democrat in the U.S Senate. He joins Judy Woodruff to discuss a new bipartisan proposal and why Democrats have changed their stance on a relief bill.

Environment / Nature / Natural Disasters

NATURE: THE STORY OF CATS: ASIA TO AFRICA (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Discover how the first cats arose in the forests of Asia, how they spread across the continent and later came to conquer Africa. We reveal how cats evolved with an in-depth look at lions, servals, caracals, cheetahs, tigers, fishing and sand cats.

NATURE: SANTA'S WILD HOME (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Get an intimate look into life in Lapland, fabled land of Santa Claus and actual home of tenacious wildlife such as reindeer, wolverines, Brown bears and more

NATURE: COLD WARRIORS—WOLVES AND BUFFALOS (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Uncover the variety of activity, both human and natural, that occurs on the slopes of active volcanoes. See the surprising number of animals that survive and thrive alongside these fiery natural phenomena.

Health / Health Care

AMERICAN MEDEVAC (60) minutes

Aired Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10:00 pm

American Medevac is an eye witness report about courage, selflessness, pain and recovery. The hour-long documentary had its beginnings during the Vietnam War when correspondent Morton Dean and cameraman Greg Cooke, then on assignment for CBS News, flew on a harrowing medevac mission to rescue three wounded infantrymen from an enemy infested rice paddy

FRONTLINE: AMERICAN VOICES IN TURMOIL (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:00 pm

A FRONTLINE special: the lives, fears and hopes of Americans from the pandemic to the polls. Filmed around the country for much of the year, Americans confront the pandemic, racial tensions, the polarizing election and its aftermath.

NOVA: MYSTERIES OF SLEEP (90) minutes

Aired Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 9:30 pm

Like virtually every other animal, humans need sleep to survive. But why? Scientists peer into the brain to see what happens while we snooze and understand the powerful role that sleep - or lack of it - plays in memory, trauma and emotion regulation.

National Politics / Government

INDEPENDENT LENS: REPRESENT (90) minutes

Aired Monday October 26, 2020 at 10:00 pm

Leading up to the 2018 midterm elections in the heart of the Midwest, three women take on entrenched local political networks in their fight to reshape politics on their own terms.

FRONTLINE: THE CHOICE 2020 (120) minutes

Aired Tuesday, November 2, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Investigating the lives and characters of Joe Biden and Donald Trump as they compete to be president. Those who know them best reveal key moments that made both men and shape how they would lead America through a time of crisis.

CITY HALL (270) minutes

Aired Tuesday, December 21, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Explore the role of city government and see how Boston provides services for its citizens. Mayor Walsh and his administration grapple with their policy priorities, which include racial justice, affordable housing, climate action and homelessness.

Science / Technology

NOVA: CAN WE COOL THE PLANET (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 9:00 pm

As global temperatures rise, scientists are exploring geoengineering solutions, from planting trees to sucking carbon out of the air to physically blocking out sunlight. But would it work? And what are the risks of engineering Earth's climate?

SECRETS OF THE DEAD: ABANDONING THE TITANIC (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, November 27, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Join a team of investigators as they search for the identity of the captain of a "mystery ship" that turned away from the "unsinkable" Titanic in its darkest hour, abandoning thousands of lives to the icy waters and their deaths.

NOVA: EINSTEIN'S QUANTUM RIDDLE (60) minutes

Aired Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:00 pm

Quantum entanglement is poised to revolutionize technology from networks to code breaking, but first we need to know it's real. Join physicists as they capture light from across the universe in a bid to prove Einstein's "spooky action at a distance.".

War / Veterans / National Security

ANGLE OF ATTACK (60) minutes

Aired Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 9:30 pm

The first part of this two-part documentary series begins by following young men and women on their way to "earning their Wings." In a rigorous course of instruction, they learn to lift off and land a supersonic aircraft on the deck of an aircraft carrier in the middle of the ocean, still considered one of the most difficult and hazardous tasks. Eugene Ely first attempted the death-defying feat in 1911. Ely's act of landing a fragile bi-plane on a make-shift wooden deck would eventually transform into a weapon of unprecedented power and influence. The episode concludes with World War II and the U.S. victory in the Pacific, when carrier aviation reigned supreme. However, Naval soon would face a threat to its existence - not from an enemy source, but from a competing technology - the nuclear bomb.

RISE OF THE NAZIS: NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES (60) minutes

Aired Monday, November 11, 2020 at 10:00 pm

See how Hitler finds himself caught between Germany's president and the Nazis' power base. His advisors persuade him to destroy the Nazi stormtroopers and their leader -- one of his oldest friends -- to make the SS Germany's only paramilitary force.

GI JEWS-JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II (120) minutes

Aired Monday, December 7, 2020 at 8:00 pm

Discover the story of these brave servicemen and women who fought for equality and tolerance around the world. Featuring new interviews with Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Henry Kissinger, the late Bea Cohen and others.