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## **TELLY AWARD-WINNING TV SHOW TAPES SECOND SEASON APRIL 1- JULY 13, 2011**

*"I have watched every program for the past three weeks, and I learn something new every time I watch this series. I had no idea George Washington owned slaves. Thanks PHC." — Season 1 Blog Comment*

Philadelphia, PA — **Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC)** announces the second season of an arts and culture-themed television show co-produced with **Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN-TV)**. *Humanities on the Road* once again crisscrosses the state to shine a spotlight on some of Pennsylvania's most accomplished artists, scholars and storytellers.

Filmed in front of live audiences at some of Pennsylvania's most intriguing cultural landmarks and communities, *Humanities on the Road* features interactive presentations on stories of black Civil War soldiers, the legacy of Rachel Carson, the influence of America on Dvorak and more. Twelve episodes are featured as part of Season 2. The first episode tapes on Friday, April 1 in Harrisburg and the season wraps on Wednesday, July 13 in Philadelphia. On-air broadcast of the Season 2 premieres in the fall.

Hosted by award-winning broadcast journalist **Tracey Matisak** and featuring talent from PHC's speakers bureau, the series is available to 3.3 million subscribers through PCN-TV, the state's version of C-SPAN.

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## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

Series host Tracey Matisak is excited to return for a second season. *“I want people to come away, as I have, saying, ‘Wow, I learned something.’”* says Matisak. *“I hope that people come away with a greater appreciation for the humanities which I see as a perfect marriage between academics and the arts. That it opens people’s eyes to what PHC does and just inspires people to want to learn and explore what the humanities has to offer.”*

*Humanities on the Road* Executive Producer Laurie Zierer adds, *“It’s important for the public to see the humanities in action. Many times we as a staff at PHC, we find it hard to convey what the humanities are all about. It’s not something you write up and give to someone and expect them to understand. You have to be able to show it as a dance, as a talk, or as someone asking a question and understanding for the first time how important it is to know your own history. Humanities on the Road is inspired by what PHC does every day for free in communities across Pennsylvania.”*

Brian Lockman, President and CEO of PCN concludes, *“We are extremely excited to work with PHC to produce the Humanities on the Road program. PCN has always been about showcasing the culture and heritage of Pennsylvania with all of its residents. This is a natural partnership and we could not be more pleased about working together.”*

## **SEASON 2 TAPING SCHEDULE**

**The live tapings are free and open to the public. To attend: please contact the specific cultural site hosting the event for admission information.**

### **HEALING AFRICAN DANCE**

**Date:** Friday, April 1, 6pm  
**Host:** Danzante Community Arts Center in Harrisburg (Dauphin County)  
**Presenter:** Choreographer Angela Watson  
**Topic:** An exploration of one of the most essential elements of African dance — its ability to heal.

### **BLACKS AND JEWS ON STAGE AND SCREEN**

**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 7pm  
**Host:** Temple Sholom in Broomall (Delaware County)  
**Presenter:** Dramaturg Warren Hoffman  
**Topic:** An examination of the complex history of blacks and Jews as manifested in films and plays.

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**RACHEL CARSON AND NATURE'S TREASURES**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 26, 6pm  
**Host:** The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)  
**Presenter:** Museum Educator Vivienne Shaffer  
**Topic:** Featuring word games and writing activities to explore how Rachel Carson changed the world.

**THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE**

**Date:** Saturday, April 30 at 11am  
**Host:** Mount Jackson Schoolhouse at Shippensburg University (Cumberland County)  
**Presenter:** Historian Jonathan Zimmerman  
**Topic:** A look at why the "little red schoolhouse" became an American icon.

**MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THIS DANCE?**

**Date:** Thursday, May 5, 6pm  
**Host:** Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple (Lackawanna County)  
**Presenter:** Dance Historians Nancy Walker and Jef Savage  
**Topic:** A performance of social dances spanning the Presidencies of James Buchanan to Teddy Roosevelt. With explanation, demonstration and interaction.

**DVORAK'S NEW WORLD**

**Date:** Thursday, May 12, 6pm  
**Host:** Mishler Theater at the Blair County Arts Foundation in Altoona (Blair County)  
**Presenter:** Conductor and Composer Karl Middleman. With the Altoona Symphony Orchestra conducted by Teresa Cheung  
**Topic:** A look at the inspirations behind Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, the most performed symphonic work composed on American soil.

**CELEBRATE PENNSYLVANIA IN STORY AND SONG!**

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 1:30pm  
**Host:** Debence Antique Music World in Franklin (Venango County)  
**Presenter:** Performer Paula Purnell  
**Topic:** A family-friendly and interactive presentation featuring songs written by and about the people of Pennsylvania.

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**STEELTOWNS, COALFIELDS AND THE UNBROKEN CIRCLE**

**Date:** Saturday, June 4, 1pm  
**Host:** Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in Homestead (Allegheny County)  
**Presenter:** Folk artist Tom Breiding  
**Topic:** Featuring unique musical stories of life in American towns over the last century. From Pittsburgh's forgotten steel mills to the coalfields of West Virginia.

**DESERTER COUNTRY**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 5:30pm  
**Host:** The Union League of Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)  
**Presenter:** Historian Robert Sandow  
**Topic:** A study of the widespread and sometimes violent opposition to the Civil War by people in the Appalachian lumber country of northern Pennsylvania.

**LINCOLN AND THE WIDOW BIXBY**

**Date:** Saturday, June 25, 2pm  
**Host:** Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)  
**Presenter:** Historian Judith Giesberg  
**Topic:** Through the life of a mother of five sons killed in the Civil War, audiences consider how ordinary women experienced the war and survived loss.

**ROSANNA OF THE AMISH**

**Date:** Saturday, July 9, 3pm  
**Host:** Huntingdon County Arts Council in Huntington (Huntington County)  
**Presenter:** Writer and Poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf  
**Topic:** Using the 1940 novel by Joseph W. Yoder, a study of Rosanna and her son, as well as a conversation about fact and truth in literary work, especially memoirs.

**SALUTING CAMP WILLIAM PENN**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 13, 6:30pm  
**Host:** National Archives in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)  
**Presenter:** Journalist Donald Scott  
**Topic:** A focus on the moving stories of Pennsylvania's black warriors who served valiantly during the Civil War.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Pennsylvania Humanities Council**, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning. PHC's statewide speakers bureau and packaged book discussion

program serve as resources for residents of Pennsylvania. PHC also offers grants which support humanities programs centered in the arts, history, literature and other humanities fields. One of PHC's newest initiatives, *Humanities on the Road* is an arts and culture-themed TV show produced with PCN-TV. For more information on PHC, visit [www.pahumanities.org](http://www.pahumanities.org). Visit the series blog at [www.humanitiesontheroad.org](http://www.humanitiesontheroad.org).

Since 2000, PHC has partnered with the **Pennsylvania Cable Network** to feature talks by nationally-known authors like Frank McCourt. Our state's version of C-SPAN, PCN provides live unedited coverage of state government and original programs like *PA Books* and *It's History*. PCN is a nonprofit, noncommercial news organization created and supported by cable television companies. PCN receives no state or federal funding. Network programming is distributed on more than 150 cable systems in Pennsylvania serving more than 10 million Pennsylvanians in 3.3 million homes. A complete listing of PCN affiliates and network channel designations is available by visiting PCN's website at [www.pcntv.com](http://www.pcntv.com).

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