

WBGO (88.3 FM) ASCERTAINMENT: ISSUE-RESPONSE PROGRAMMING FROM WBGO

For the Period: April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021

TOPICS ADDRESSED

Arts and Culture

Business and Economy

Health Care

Crime

Education

Environment

Government and State Agencies

Politics

Technology

Race and Ethnicity

Arts and Culture

George Street Playhouse's Streaming Season Continues with "Fully Committed" directed by David Saint and starring Maulik Pancholy (34:39)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-02/george-street-playhouses-streaming-season-continues-with-fully-committed-directed-by-david-saint-and-starring-maulik-pancholy>

The George Street Playhouse's streaming season, off the heels of *Bad Dates*, is back with **FULLY COMMITTED**, the hit comedy written by Becky Mode and directed by David Saint.

Saint, GSP's Artistic Director and Maulik Pancholy, the award-winning actor, author and activist joined WBGO's Doug Doyle to talk about the virtual production that will be available to stream through April 11.

The hilarious one-act play features 40 diverse characters, all played by Pancholy, follows a day in the life of "Sam", an out-of-work actor who mans a red-hot reservation line at Manhattan's trendiest restaurant.

Two-Day Virtual Gathering on April 22 and 23: "Creating Change: Moving Toward Equity, Justice and Anti-Racism in the New Jersey Arts Community" (30:52)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-18/two-virtual-gathering-on-april-22-and-23-creating-change-moving-toward-equity-justice-and-anti-racism-in-the-new-jersey-arts-community>

New Jersey Theatre Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey, the states two largest arts service organizations are partnering on a two-day virtual gathering April 22 and 23 titled *Creating Change: Moving Toward Equity Justice and Anti-Racism in the New Jersey Arts Community*.

Two of the headliners of the arts symposium are New Jersey-based and OBIE Award-winning actor and playwright Nikkole Salter and Non Profit expert Vu Le from Seattle. They spoke to WBGO's Doug Doyle.

Academy Award-nominated Quo Vadis, Aida? is Directed by the Bosnian Filmmaker Jasmila Zbanic (5:51)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-19/academy-award-nominated-quo-vadis-aida-is-directed-by-the-bosnian-filmmaker-jasmila-zbanic>

Quo Vadis, Aida? is up for an Academy Award in the International Feature Film category. The fictionalized account of events leading up to the 1995 massacre of Muslims during the Yugoslav War was directed by the Bosnian filmmaker Jasmila Zbanic, who was living in Vermont when the killings took place.

WBGO's Jon Kalish reports on the impact working with an American theater group had on the director's artistic development.

Business and Economy

Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche is out with a New Financial Book (5:35)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-10/tiffany-the-budgetnista-aliche-is-out-with-a-new-financial-book>

WBGO's resident-reporter James Frazier chats with Tiffany "The Budgetnista" Aliche about her new book *Get Good with Money*.

RUST: Newark Filmmakers Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno's Third Doc on Urban America (31:30)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-30/rust-newark-filmmakers-marylou-and-jerome-bongiornos-third-doc-on-urban-america>

RUST is the third documentary in Newark filmmakers Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno's 3Rs Trilogy on Urban America.

Following the success of critically-acclaimed, award-winning national PBS broadcast REVOLUTION '67 (2007) on riots/rebellions of the 1960's and THE RULE (2014) on urban school reform, RUST uses Newark, New Jersey as a microcosm to take a deeper look into Rust Belt poverty, racism and mass incarceration while detailing industrialization and deindustrialization. The Bongiornos spoke with WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle.

Jersey Shore Restaurant and Bar Owners Facing Challenges this Memorial Day Weekend (16:09)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-29/jersey-shore-restaurant-and-bar-owners-facing-challenges-this-memorial-day-weekend>

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has lifted mask and social distancing restrictions for bars and restaurants just in time for this Memorial Day weekend, but many of the owners of those establishments say they didn't have enough time to prepare and hire employees for the expected crush.

"Could there have been maybe the smallest bit more clarity that things were going to back work to normal for Memorial Day weekend, so maybe you could have had two or three more weeks to try and put a staff together."

That's Matt Harmon, co-owner of the Boathouse Bar & Grill in Belmar, New Jersey, who also stresses it's been a difficult time getting people to come off unemployment. Harmon spoke to WBGO's Doug Doyle via Zoom.

Healthcare

The Battle against COVID-19: Vaccinations Ramp Up during Third Wave of the Coronavirus (5:15)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-03/the-battle-against-covid-19-vaccinations-ramp-up-during-third-wave-of-the-coronavirus>

New York City officials are warning folks to be careful with gatherings for Passover and Easter.

New York City's Health Commissioner Dr. David Chokshi calls the next few weeks a crucial time in the pandemic because he says the city is seeing a worryingly high level of cases. He says holiday gatherings should be small and outdoors if possible.

J&J 'pause' is also halting efforts to vaccinate homebound New Jerseyans (4:09)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-17/j-j-pause-is-also-halting-efforts-to-vaccinate-homebound-new-jerseyans>

News that New Jersey was going to follow the federal government's recommendation and pause use of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine came as health officials had begun to ramp up efforts to inoculate the state's more than 11,000 homebound people. WBGO's Kenneth Burns reports.

Grammy Award-winning Singer-Songwriter and Breast Cancer Survivor Sheryl Crow Talks Women's Health and Jazz (16:02)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-13/grammy-award-winning-singer-songwriter-and-breast-cancer-survivor-sheryl-crow-talks-womens-health-and-jazz>

It's National Women's Health Week. In the U.S., COVID-19 has resulted in a projected delay of more than 22 million screening tests for cancer and a 20% reduction in oncology visits between March and June 2020.

Now, Grammy Award-Winning Artist and Breast Cancer Survivor Sheryl Crow is encouraging all women to prioritize their critical health exams, schedule their annual mammograms and also spread the word to the women they love to do the same. WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle spoke with Sheryl Crow.

Crime

The Derek Chauvin Guilty Verdict Brings Emotional Reaction from Bloomfield College President Dr. Marcheta Davis (14:52)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-24/the-derek-chauvin-guilty-verdict-brings-emotional-reaction-from-bloomfield-college-president-dr-marcheta-davis>

The death of George Floyd last year in Minnesota prompted protests across the country. So, emotions were running high before and after the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. That certainly was the case on the campus of Bloomfield College in New Jersey. College President Dr. Marcheta Evans says she was nervous before she heard "guilty, guilty, guilty" and then she broke down in tears.

Newark Police Department: Five Years After Federal Consent Decree to Reform (3:05)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-22/newark-police-department-five-years-after-federal-consent-decree-to-reform>

The May edition of ***Newark Today*** focused on police reform in Newark five years after a federal consent decree was handed down to the city.

Host Michael Hill was joined by Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark Public Safety Director Brian O'Hara and Independent Monitor and former State Attorney General Peter Harvey.

WBGO's Doug Doyle gives us the highlights from the one-hour call-in program.

Commentator Mildred Antenor: A Deeper Look into Black on Asian Hate Crime (4:36)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-06-21/commentator-mildred-antenor-a-deeper-look-into-black-on-asian-hate-crime>

From Commentator Mildred Antenor: Recently the United Nations issued a report that said that former President Donald Trump's rhetoric against Asians and the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rise in attacks against Asian-Americans.

When I think about Asian hate crimes, aside from being disgusted and horrified when I see footage of Asians being the victims of unprovoked attacks, I also see a racial cast system with white people at the top, black people at the bottom and a mixture of all other ethnic groups in between. Struggling their way to the top of the ladder.

Education

New Jersey's High Court Upholds State's 2016 Decision to Allow Several Newark Charter Schools to Expand (:53)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-06-24/new-jerseys-high-court-upholds-states-2016-decision-to-allow-several-newark-charter-schools-to-expand>

New Jersey's high court on Tuesday upheld the state's 2016 decision to allow several Newark charter schools to expand, rejecting a bid to reverse the schools' growth.

The Education Law Center filed the suit back in 2016 opposing the state's decision to allow the charter schools to enroll an additional 8500 students. The group said would it harm district students by diverting money to charter schools and intensifying segregation. Harry Lee, President of the New Jersey Charter School Association says that's just not the case.

Peanut Allergies for Kids and Teens: What You Should Know (10:59)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-25/peanut-allergies-for-kids-and-teens-what-you-should-know>

While caring for your baby, imagine you see her face turn bright red and a skin rash flare up, and hear her scream, but not know why?

This was the experience of Robyn Lao of California while she was nursing her infant daughter Addie at the time. Lao spoke with WBGO Journal host Doug Doyle.

The Institute of Music for Children Pushes Through Pandemic and Gears Up for Summer Camp and Fun (22:56)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-06-05/the-institute-of-music-for-children-pushes-through-pandemic-and-gears-up-for-summer-camp-and-fun>

The Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth, New Jersey has been able to keep its amazing tradition of engaging youth and others in artistic expression and the creative process during the coronavirus pandemic. Alysia Souder, Executive Director of the Institute of Music for Children, joined WBGO's Doug Doyle via a zoom chat to talk about the challenges the non-profit organization faced during the height of the pandemic and how she handled it.

Environment

[Montclair State Professor Grades New Jersey Environment on Earth Day](https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-04-22/montclair-state-professor-grades-new-jersey-environment-on-earth-day)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-04-22/montclair-state-professor-grades-new-jersey-environment-on-earth-day>

It's Earth Day! What kind of grades does New Jersey get for protecting the environment?

Greg Pope is chairman of the department of earth and environmental studies at Montclair State. He said old problems still haunt us.

"We still have our legacy pollutions that just reside in the soil and the groundwater and things like that from decades ago," said Pope. "People just ... they weren't necessarily malicious about polluting, they just didn't know."

Construction Starting For Flood Resiliency Project (:35)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-04-18/construction-starting-for-flood-resiliency-project>

Construction is now underway on the massive East Side Coastal Resiliency project in Lower Manhattan.

It's a system comprised of raised parkland, flood walls, berms and movable flood gates to help protect Lower Manhattan from powerful storms in the future and sea level rise. Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver appeared in a video about the project.

"This will be a 2.4 mile flood barrier that will protect residents from Montgomery Street to East 25th Street. The park will both be fun and functional."

That section got hit hard by Superstorm Sandy. The project is expected to cost nearly one and a half billion dollars and be complete by year 2025.

Birds of prey protect beachgoers from seagulls in Ocean City, N.J. for fourth year (1:39)

[tps://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-06-07/birds-of-prey-protect-beachgoers-from-seagulls-in-ocean-city-n-j-for-fourth-year](https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-06-07/birds-of-prey-protect-beachgoers-from-seagulls-in-ocean-city-n-j-for-fourth-year)

Among the many attractions in Ocean City, N.J. are a couple of [Harris' Hawks](#) that patrol the boardwalk.

For the fourth year in a row, the Jersey Shore community are turning to birds of prey to protect people from seagulls that have wreaked havoc for plenty of beachgoers.

"[You had] aggressive seagulls that were inundating the boardwalk and attacking people, attacking their food [and] bothering young children," said Erik Swanson, the owner of East Coast Falcons, based in Lodi.

Farmers Against Hunger plants base on a former Delran farm (:49)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-04-23/farmers-against-hunger-plants-base-on-a-former-delran-farm>

New Jersey [Farmers Against Hunger](#) will now have a centralized base of operations at Laurel Run Park in Delran, Burlington County.

Officials broke ground on a 3-acre parcel of the park that will be used to grow produce and teach the community about agriculture.

As part of an agreement with Burlington County, Farmers Against Hunger will have access to the farm buildings, including the former farm market, packing shed, and refrigerated storage space.

The county made the organization aware of the property in 2018, according to Brian Strumfels, operations director of Farmers Against Hunger.

Government and State Agencies

NYC'S Remote Workforce Eyes May 3 Return Date (7:21)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-28/nycs-remote-workforce-eyes-may-3-return-date>

Doug Doyle speaks with Bob Hennelly

DOYLE: This Monday, May 3, is the day that New York City Bill de Blasio has said he wants city agencies to start to bring back tens of thousands of employees who have been working remotely since March of 2020 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With us now is WBGO's Bob Hennelly, who is also the City Hall correspondent for the Chief Leader that's been covering the civil service since 1897.

Bob joins us now with this update.

Juneteenth March and Rally in Newark to Call for Passage of Pending Legislation to Create a Reparations Task Force in NJ (24:31)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-06-19/juneteenth-march-and-rally-in-newark-to-call-for-passage-of-pending-legislation-to-create-a-reparations-task-force-in-nj>

This year, New Jersey will celebrate Juneteenth as a state holiday for the first time.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, has been a tradition in the United States for more than 150 years, and marks the day on June 19, 1865 when enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas finally learned about their freedom – more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice holds a Juneteenth march and rally in Newark today (Saturday) June 19 to call for passage of pending legislation that would create a Reparations Task Force in New Jersey.

The Next Edition of "Ask Governor Murphy" is tonight (May 27) at 7pm on WBGO

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-05-27/the-next-edition-of-ask-governor-murphy-is-tonight-may-27-at-7pm-on-wbgo>

Ask Governor Murphy is a WBGO News production in collaboration with WNYC and WHYY. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and host Nancy Solomon of WNYC will be taking our phone calls and social media questions this evening on a range of topics including the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions ahead of Memorial Day weekend, vaccinations, the primary ballot and many other topics.

Politics

WBGO Statehouse Reporter Joe Hernandez previews the June Primary in New Jersey (4:17)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-14/wbgo-statehouse-reporter-joe-hernandez-previews-the-june-primary-in-new-jersey>

New Jersey's primary election is Tuesday, June 8 and it will look a bit different than the state's elections did last year at the height of the pandemic.

Here to discuss what you need to know about how to cast your vote and who's on the ballot is Joe Hernandez. WBGO's New Jersey State House reporter.

It's NYC Voters Turn to Weigh In on City's Future (9:25)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-06-18/its-nyc-voters-turn-to-weigh-in-on-citys-future>

Every elective office is on the line in the primary contest ahead of November general election. WBGO's Bob Hennelly talks with News Director Doug Doyle

DOYLE: Voting has already started in New York City's June 22 primary that will determine which candidates will be on the ballot in November for Mayor, City Comptroller, Public Advocate, and for all 51 City Council seats. The campaign has been climaxing as the city has been emerging for the COVID crisis that killed 34,000 residents. With us now to talk about the election and the city's overall political landscape as voters mull a replacement for Mayor de Blasio, is WBGO's Bob Hennelly, who is also the City Hall reporter for the Chief-Leader.

N.J. coronavirus update: Eviction moratorium could end sooner for some renters

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-06-23/n-j-coronavirus-update-eviction-moratorium-could-end-sooner-for-some-renters>

The New Jersey Legislature is moving to end the eviction moratorium sooner for renters with higher incomes.

Under [the bill](#), the moratorium would end on Aug. 31 for tenants whose annual household income is above 80% of the median income in their area. Renters who make less would be safe until Dec. 31 when the current moratorium is set to end.

The measure passed both Senate and Assembly budget committees on Tuesday, according to [NJ.com](#). A vote on the measure could happen as soon as Thursday.

When Gov. Murphy lifted the state emergency [earlier this month](#), it left several economic protections in place including moratoriums on utility shut-offs, wage garnishments, and evictions.

Technology

Electronics Manufacturers are Providing Hope for those with Hearing Loss (5:35)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-05-22/electronics-manufacturers-are-providing-hope-for-those-with-hearing-loss>

It is estimated that only 20% of the people who could benefit from hearing aids actually acquire and use them. Two important factors are cost and stigma. But now electronics manufacturers are increasingly providing consumers with software and products that eliminate both.

WBGO's Jon Kalish reports on the latest technology that making a difference.

June Edition of Newark Today focuses on Reopening of Newark This Summer and Juneteenth (30:00)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2021-06-16/june-edition-of-newark-today-focuses-on-reopening-of-newark-this-summer-and-juneteenth>

On our next *Newark Today* broadcast, Mayor Ras Baraka will be joining host Michael Hill to discuss the re-opening of New Jersey's largest city to what's next for summer 2021 in Newark. That also includes technology issues throughout the schools.

We'll also be joined by law and police director with the New Jersey Institute For Social Justice Andrea McChristian to talk about the upcoming Juneteenth celebration as Congress moves to establish the day as a national holiday.

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Race and Ethnicity

Sold without Proper Knowledge: A Bad Deal (7:45)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2021-04-16/sold-without-proper-knowledge-a-bad-deal>

Officially known as “The Islamic Society of Essex County,” this space was donated to the Muslims of Newark decades ago in 1982. The mosque was sold last year without community knowledge. Faith-based places are integral to the vibrant city of Newark. People from different social-economic levels, racial backgrounds, and ages come together to worship and serve the community. This is all the reason why what’s happening with the mosque on Branford Place, downtown Newark, is disheartening to many community members. WBGO resident reporter Habeebah Yasin reports.

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