

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

For the Period: October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

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

Author Ann Davila Cardinal's Magical Touch with Young Adults is a Perfect Halloween Treat (5:26)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-16/author-ann-davila-cardinals-magical-touch-with-young-adults-is-a-perfect-halloween-treat>

Halloween is approaching and because of the pandemic, this is going to be a very different Halloween.

If you have teenagers in the house and they're staying in this year, TV is not the only source of scary content.

WBGO's Jon Kalish introduces us to an author who writes horror fiction for young adults.

Women In Media - Newark 2020 Virtual Film Festival Features Nigerian Project From Joyce Adewumi (25:49)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-19/women-in-media-newark-2020-virtual-film-festival-features-nigerian-project-from-joyce-adewumi>

Joyce Adewumi is the Director and Producer of *We Are The Endless Roar*, a film that gives a better understanding of traditional African cultural practices and beliefs.

We Are The Endless Roar will be screened April 3 as part of the [Women In Media - Newark 2020 Film Festival](#). Adewumi's project is being shown virtually after COVID prompted the festival to postpone the showing that was to have taken place at the T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center in Red Bank, New Jersey. You can now see the film [here](#).

Adewumi, an accomplished singer, choreographer and educator based in Harlem, is the Founder and President of the New York African Chorus Ensemble and heads the NYC Multicultural Festival. She came into WBGO to speak with News Director Doug Doyle.

ABC News Veteran John R. Green Creates a Safe and Magical Dream World through Children's Books (25:51)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-07/abc-news-veteran-john-r-green-creates-a-safe-and-magical-dream-world-through-childrens-books>

Emmy Award-winning ABC TV producer and writer John R. Green is a proud dad. His 8-year old twins inspired him to create companion children's books that transform bedtime rituals into whimsical adventures.

Green chats with WBGO's Doug Doyle.

Green's twins, A.J. and Francesca, had issues when it came to getting a good night sleep. That prompted the New Jersey resident to develop *Dream Grabber* and *Dream Jumper* (Archway Publishing) based on his real-life experiences with his children.

Alvin Ailey Choreographer Jamar Roberts: "A Jam Session for Troubling Times" Honors "Bird" (25:38)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-14/alvin-ailey-choreographer-jamar-roberts-a-jam-session-for-troubling-times-honors-bird>

As part of the free Ailey Forward first-ever virtual holiday season celebrating six decades of *Revelations*, comes tonight's world premiere of ***A Jam Session for Troubling Times*** on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's [website](#). It's the latest work from acclaimed Ailey dancer and choreographer Jamar Roberts.

During his Zoom chat with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle, Roberts talked about how the December 14 virtual world premiere (7:30pm) that marks the centennial (dubbed Bird100) of jazz revolutionary saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker.

Business and Economy

Self Made: Photojournalism Project Profiles 9 Black Women Business Owners in Newark (17:03)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-09/self-made-photojournalism-project-profiles-9-black-women-business-owners-in-newark>

The [Self Made photojournalism](#) project profiles nine Black women business owners in Newark who were documented just before the COVID-19 outbreak. It celebrates their creativity and connection to community at a time when the future of small businesses everywhere, especially those owned by Black women, is uncertain.

The *Self Made* women, who make the products they sell, were photographed by Tinetta Bell and interviewed by journalist Carrie Stetler between July 2019 and January of 2020.

Stetler joined WBGO News Director Doug Doyle for a chat about the photojournalism project.

Jazz Standard Closes Due to Pandemic, But May Reemerge (0:43)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-04/jazz-standard-closes-due-to-pandemic-but-may-reemerge>

The pandemic has claimed its first major New York City jazz club. Jazz Standard, which opened in 1997, has shut its doors.

Recordings of many artists were made there, among them the Maria Schneider Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, trumpeter Dave Douglas, and pianist Fred Hersch. Artistic director Seth Abramson says the reaction from the jazz community has been overwhelming. "The overarching sentiment is one of great loss and then one of great gratitude," he said, "for having had the opportunity to be a part of the room and for the opportunity to play in and (be) given the freedom to express themselves."

It's not all bad news though for Jazz Standard. The club's owners say they hope to resurrect it somewhere at some point in the future. Abramson says the club had a unique vibe. "The club was a home and a venue for the artists and the fans to congregate," he said. "It gave the artists a stage to do what they wanted to do and have their fans be able to be there and enjoy the entire experience."

N.J. bars and restaurants figure out next course in keeping business open (5:01)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-15/n-j-bars-and-restaurants-figure-out-next-course-in-keeping-business-open>

When New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy [instituted new restrictions to mitigate a further spike in COVID-19](#), bars and restaurants in the state were just starting to get used to operating indoor dining again with seating at just 25% of the dining room's capacity. Murphy has kept the capacity limit in place, but has prohibited dine-in service between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and has prohibited bar seating.

Some establishments will be less hampered by the new restrictions.

Kathleen Rana, chef/owner of Jersey Girl Café in Hamilton, Mercer County, says even with their adjusted operating hours, they are well within the governor's restrictions.

Here's what's next for New Jersey's budding cannabis industry (1:38)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-04/heres-whats-next-for-new-jerseys-budding-cannabis-industry>

Now that New Jersey voters told officials to legalize recreational marijuana – 2 to 1 – the next phase of bringing the "adult cannabis market" to the state begins.

Suffice to say, don't light up just yet.

The new constitutional amendment permitting recreational pot does not take effect until Jan. 1, 2021.

An [interim guidance to prosecutors and law enforcement](#), Attorney General Gurbir Grewal wrote that the amendment "neither legalized, nor decriminalized, the sale or possession of "unregulated" marijuana."

Newark Today Addresses COVID Response The Vaccine And Financial Relief For Businesses and Renters (59:00)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-17/newark-today-addresses-covid-response-the-vaccine-and-financial-relief-for-businesses-and-renters>

On this month's broadcast host Michael Hill is joined Mayor Ras Baraka and Dir. of Health and Human Services Dr. Mark Wade along with President and CEO of Newark's University Hospital Dr. Shereef Elnahal to talk about all the latest around COVID-19 response in New Jersey's largest city and the largest vaccination effort in U.S. history. They also discuss financial relief for businesses and renter in the city.

Health Care

4th Annual "Building a Culture of Health in Newark" Conference Targets COVID Impact (26:42)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-22/4th-annual-building-a-culture-of-health-in-newark-conference-targets-covid-impact>

[Believe in a Healthy Newark](#) resumes its 4th Annual "Building a Culture of Health in Newark" Conference Monday, October 26.

The virtual conference engages nationally-recognized speakers to discuss the physical, social, emotional and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The Chair of the Believe in a Healthy Newark steering committee Dr. Denise V. Rodgers and Catherine Wilson, President and CEO at [United Way of Greater Newark](#) joined ([via zoom](#)) WBGO News Director Doug Doyle on the WBGO Journal.

This year's conference is titled "Promoting Health, Healing, and Sustainable Recovery".

New COVID Restrictions in Newark As Cases Surge in New Jersey's Largest City (0:54)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-26/new-covid-restrictions-in-newark-as-cases-surge-in-new-jerseys-largest-city>

The city of Newark is imposing new restrictions on businesses as COVID 19 cases continue to rise.

The positivity rate in the city's east ward has now surpassed 25 percent with the city surging above 11 percent, prompting Mayor Ras Baraka to take action. Baraka says beginning Tuesday all non-essential businesses must close at 8 p.m. except grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations.

Essex County Sets Up Five Sites for Covid Vaccinations (0:45)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-18/essex-county-sets-up-five-sites-for-covid-vaccinations>

Essex County is ready to go with Covid vaccinations. Five sites are set up and waiting for vaccine delivery.

Freeholder President Brendan Gill says there's a system to insure the process goes smoothly. "There's a set amount of towns that are assigned to each of those sites," he said. "Newark, if you are a resident of Newark you can use any of the five since Newark is our largest, obviously, city."

Two of the sites are in Newark. The others are in West Orange, Livingston and West Caldwell. The sites will be open 9am to 5pm. Residents can make appointments at www.EssexCOVID.org. Health care workers and high-risk people will be first in line. There will be no out of pocket cost.

Newark Today Addresses Latest COVID Restrictions Across N.J.'s Largest City (52:47)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-18/newark-today-addresses-latest-covid-restrictions-across-n-j-s-largest-city>

On this month's edition of Newark Today, host Michael Hill is joined by Mayor Ras J. Baraka along with Director of Health and Community Wellness Dr. Mark Wade.

They discuss the the latest COVID-19 restrictions in New Jersey's largest city.

As COVID Spikes, NJ Steps Up to Protect All Workers (5:46)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-05/as-covid-spikes-nj-steps-up-to-protect-all-workers>

Vaccines in the wings but basic public health measures need to endure.

Reporter Bob Hennelly speaks with News Director Doug Doyle

DOYLE: This week the nation faced the worst week since the start of the coronavirus pandemic last winter. Here in New Jersey, the trend lines are also up significantly, but not to the catastrophic levels we saw in the first wave. For our essential workforce the risks of contracting the deadly virus remain a constant source of anxiety. With us now is WBGO's Bob Hennelly, who as a reporter with the Chief Leader, has been covering the challenges that essential workers have faced during pandemic. Thanks for joining us Bob.

HENNELLY: *Thanks for having me.*

DOYLE: So, we are ten months into this once in a century public health crisis. Before we get into some of the latest efforts to keep our first responders, healthcare personnel, and essential workers safe can, you give us a sense of the toll the pandemic has taken on this workforce so far?

HENNELLY: *This is really one of the big challenges to get a sense of the scale of what is happening. We know, thanks to the Guardian newspaper and Kaiser Health News, that at least 1,300 health care professionals in the United States have perished as a consequence of their occupational exposure while treating patients with COVID. We then have to go and hunt and peck around the country. We know [in New York City we have lost 300 municipal civil servants](#). We know in New Jersey dozens have perished. We know the CWA in New Jersey has lost dozens, particularly among those members that interface with the public. This is really one of the important things about contact tracing is getting a handle on the impact of the pandemic on our essential workers so we can right size the programs to help them because we are realizing the lingering consequences here with as many as one in five of those individuals dealing with COVID having some long term health consequences.*

Crime

Jersey City Terror Attacks Remembered One Year Later (5:57)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-10/jersey-city-terror-attacks-remembered-one-year-later>

It's been a year since the terror attacks in Jersey City that left five people, including the shooters, killed at a kosher grocery. And a detective was shot dead by the same assailants at a nearby cemetery just before the attack at the store.

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said the attacks were acts of hate and domestic terrorism fueled by anti-Semitism and hatred of the police. On Thursday he held a panel discussion to mark the anniversary of the attacks.

US Attorney Craig Carpenito said it was just a taste of what 2020 would bring. "The saddest part of all of this is it was a prelude to a year where I think what we saw was just total and utter intolerance throughout this country," he said.

Commentator Mildred Antenor: ICE Detention Centers' Treatment of Women (3:42)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-31/commenator-mildred-antenor-ice-detention-centers-treatment-of-women>

WBGO commentator Mildred Antenor is expressing concerns about the ICE Detention Centers, especially when it comes to treatment of women.

Mildred Antenor is a professor and the author of *The Gladioli Are Invisible: A Memoir*.

"The Writing On The Wall" Project Started in New York (4:31)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-03/the-writing-on-the-wall-project-started-in-new-york>

A project called "The Writing On The Wall" has been bringing writings by incarcerated individuals to public attention using unconventional avenues of distribution.

The project is a collaboration between two New Yorkers, a conceptual artist and a college professor.

Education

Steven Van Zandt and TeachRock's "Stand With Teachers" Virtual Fundraiser December 21 (42:53)
<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-20/steven-van-zandt-and-teachrocks-stand-with-teachers-virtual-fundraiser-december-21>

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, musician, singer, songwriter, producer, arranger, actor, human rights activist and educator Steven Van Zandt launched [TeachRock](#) in 2002, an organization providing online music education and many other resources to teachers and students.

Van Zandt, a huge Jazz fan and listener and supporter of WBGO, and his Rock & Roll Forever Foundation's Teach Rock chats via Zoom with WBGO News Director Doug Doyle about the big fundraiser Monday night, December 21 titled "[Stand With Teachers](#)" at 8pm.

Trombonist Conrad Herwig and RU's Mason Gross School of the Arts Virtual Jazz Concerts (29:42)
<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-27/trombonist-conrad-herwig-and-rus-mason-gross-school-of-the-arts-virtual-jazz-concerts>

Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Art's Jazz program is headed by New York-based trombonist Conrad Herwig, who is one of the world's most complete jazz musicians, atop both the performing and jazz education fields with an abundance of composer and arranger credits.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Herwig's Jazz program is doing its best to maintain some measure of normalcy for his students. With that in mind, the Mingus Ensemble is set to perform 2 virtual concerts this semester, as is the Rutgers Jazz Ensemble. All concerts will be released on the Mason Gross Facebook page as a Facebook Premiere, as well as on its YouTube channel.

Herwig and two of his top students, trumpeter Grace Fox and grad student and tenor saxophonist Evan Kilgore joined WBGO News Director Doug Doyle for a Zoom chat about the program and the upcoming concerts that begin October 28 (with guest soloist Walter White).

Jazz Historian Lewis Porter on His Final Deep Dive, and His Plans as a Pianist and Educator (20:44)
<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-20/jazz-historian-lewis-porter-on-his-final-deep-dive-and-his-plans-as-a-pianist-and-educator>

Jazz historian, pianist and retired Rutgers-Newark Professor of Music [Dr. Lewis Porter](#) plans to spend more time on his own music these days.

With that goal in mind, Dr. Porter gave his final [Deep Dive](#) analysis for WBGO this week, an [in-depth analysis](#) of John Coltrane's riveting instrumental "Alabama," which was the saxophonist's reaction to the horrific 1963 bombing of a church in Birmingham.

Dr. Porter spent more than four decades in the educational sector but the administrative duties associated with being a full-time professor became draining for him. As he reflects in our interview for the WBGO Journal, he will always love teaching, especially his Jazz History program.

Environment

Murphy approves N.J. ban on plastic and paper bags, won't take effect until 2022 (:40)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2020-11-04/murphy-approves-n-j-ban-on-plastic-and-paper-bags-wont-take-effect-until-2022>

After years of efforts and several different iterations, New Jersey will implement one of the strongest plastic and paper bag bans in the country.

Environmental advocates say the omnibus ban will reduce the amount of litter, especially in waterways, and help combat climate change.

On Wednesday, Gov. Phil Murphy signed the law, which will outlaw single-use plastic bags, paper bags in large grocery stores, and polystyrene food containers.

4th Annual "Building a Culture of Health in Newark" Conference Targets COVID Impact (26:42)

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This year's conference is titled "Promoting Health, Healing, and Sustainable Recovery".

Virtual Village App Takes Jazz Lovers on Walking Tours of Historic Sites (10:40)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-23/virtual-village-app-takes-jazz-lovers-on-walking-tours-of-historic-sites>

The history of jazz in Greenwich Village is in danger of disappearing -- so many buildings important to jazz history have not gotten landmark status.

Village Preservation is trying to safeguard jazz history. It's launched the Virtual Village, an app that offers self-guided, interactive walking tours of sites significant in jazz. The neighborhood south of Union Square, which spans just six city blocks from 9th to 14th Streets between Third and Fifth Avenues, was once home to jazz great Randy Weston, The Columbia Phonograph Company (present day Columbia Records) where John Hammond first recorded Billie Holiday and Garland Wilson, and famed jazz club Bradley's where greats like Roy Hargrove, Cyrus Chestnut, and Jackie Terrason made their reputations.

In addition to the sites mentioned above, the area contains several more locations associated with esteemed jazz artists including Frank Sinatra, Milton J. Hinton, Benny Carter, and Ethel Waters.

Government and State Agencies

"Ask Governor Murphy" addresses COVID, Unemployment Claims and Indoor Sports (59:00)

<https://www.wbgo.org/news/2020-12-04/ask-governor-murphy-addresses-covid-unemployment-claims-and-indoor-sports>

The most recent edition of *Ask Governor Murphy* on WBGO covered a variety of topics and host Nancy Solomon and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy took a barrage of phone calls and social media questions.

Ask Governor Murphy is a WBGO News production in collaboration with WNYC and WHYI.

Newark Today Addresses Latest COVID Restrictions Across N.J.'s Largest City (52:47)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-18/newark-today-addresses-latest-covid-restrictions-across-n-j-s-largest-city>

On this month's edition of Newark Today, host Michael Hill is joined by Mayor Ras J. Baraka along with Director of Health and Community Wellness Dr. Mark Wade.

They discuss the the latest COVID-19 restrictions in New Jersey's largest city.

N.J. coronavirus update: New restrictions 'close' as infections rise; voter turnout record smashed (0:45)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-05/n-j-coronavirus-update-new-restrictions-close-as-infections-rise-voter-turnout-record-smashed>

New Jersey recorded another 2,104 cases of coronavirus Thursday, bringing its cumulative total to 247,219 infections since the pandemic began.

Another 12 people died from COVID-19. There have now been 14,603 lab-confirmed deaths and another 1,800 probable fatalities in New Jersey.

The testing positivity rate was 7.74% for coronavirus tests administered on Nov. 1.

New restrictions 'close' as infections rise

Gov. Phil Murphy said Thursday he was "close" to ordering new coronavirus restrictions, as infections continued to climb and topped 2,000 for the second day in a row.

Politics

Steve Adubato on the Passing of His Father "Big Steve"

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-20/steve-adubato-on-the-passing-of-his-father-big-steve>

Stephen N. Adubato Sr. was an iconic Newark and New Jersey political power broker who created the North Ward Center, a non-profit community service organization during the turbulent 60's in the state's largest city. "Big Steve" also built the Robert Treat Academy Charter School.

Tributes from politicians, community leaders, school officials and residents have been pouring in since Steve Adubato, Sr. passed away last Friday at the age of 87.

Public Television personality, WBGO host and former State Assemblyman Steve Adubato, Jr. joined News Director Doug Doyle for an emotional journey into the life of his complicated but loved father.

Columbia University Professor Ester Fuchs Fondly Remembers Her Friend and Colleague David Dinkins (36:45)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-27/columbia-university-professor-ester-fuchs-fondly-remembers-her-friend-and-colleague-david-dinkins>

For many years Ester R. Fuchs' office was right next to David Dinkins' office at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Fuchs is Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science there.

Dr. Fuchs also worked in the Michael Bloomberg administration from 2001 to 2005.

The self-described Pragmatic Utopian spoke to WBGO News Director Doug Doyle [via Zoom about her friendship and respect for New York's first and only black mayor.](#)

Professor Fuchs says when Dinkins taught at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs he brought his wealth of experience and knowledge into the classroom.

New Jersey Election Results: Analysis from Eagleton Institute of Politics (21:01)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-07/new-jersey-election-results-analysis-from-eagleton-institute-of-politics>

Not all the local congressional races were called on Election Night but all three ballot questions were approved by voters in New Jersey. Voters approved the legalization of recreational marijuana in New Jersey

To get a better perspective legalizing recreative marijuana as well as the local election results, WBGO's Janice Kirkel spoke this week with John Weingart, Associate Director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

Party-flipper Van Drew beats political newcomer Kennedy in close South Jersey race (:042)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-06/party-flipper-van-drew-beats-political-newcomer-kennedy-in-close-south-jersey-race>

U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew will hold onto his seat in New Jersey's southernmost congressional district after beating Democrat Amy Kennedy.

The Associated Press called the race for the now-Republican Van Drew on Friday, after the race remained too close to call for days despite ongoing ballot-counting.

"I would like to thank President Trump as well as all of the Republican, Democrat, and independent voters who stood with me and continued to place their trust in me to fight for them and all of South Jersey in Washington," he said in a statement. "The United States of America is an exceptional nation, and I will continue to work with anyone willing to put party aside to fight for a strong America and a strong South Jersey."

Van Drew was the incumbent, though he first won the seat in 2018 as a Democrat.

Booker Declares Victory In One of The First Races Called Out of New Jersey (0:51)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-11-04/booker-declares-victory-in-one-of-the-first-races-called-out-of-new-jersey>

Former Newark Mayor Cory Booker declared victory Tuesday night in one of the first races called out of New Jersey.

Booker easily defeated Rik Mehta, a business executive with a law degree and a doctorate in pharmacy, who staunchly supported President Donald Trump.

Booker, who won a special election in 2013 after the death of Democrat Frank Lautenberg before winning his first full term in 2014, delivered brief remarks from his home in Newark during a virtual celebration held by the New Jersey State Democratic Committee.

Technology

Village Halloween Parade Streamed Tonight with the Help of Broadway's Best (4:58)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-31/village-halloween-parade-streamed-tonight-with-the-help-of-broadways-best>

The Village Halloween parade has delighted New York locals and tourists for nearly 50 years.

But this year it fell victim to the pandemic. So some of the city's best out-of-work stage designers and puppeteers were commissioned to create a miniature parade which has been filmed and will be streamed Halloween night.

Steven Van Zandt and TeachRock's "Stand With Teachers" Virtual Fundraiser December 21 (42:53)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-20/steven-van-zandt-and-teachrocks-stand-with-teachers-virtual-fundraiser-december-21>

Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, musician, singer, songwriter, producer, arranger, actor, human rights activist and educator Steven Van Zandt launched [TeachRock](#) in 2002, an organization providing online music education and many other resources to teachers and students.

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Virtual Village App Takes Jazz Lovers on Walking Tours of Historic Sites (10:40)

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The history of jazz in Greenwich Village is in danger of disappearing -- so many buildings important to jazz history have not gotten landmark status.

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In addition to the sites mentioned above, the area contains several more locations associated with esteemed jazz artists including Frank Sinatra, Milton J. Hinton, Benny Carter, and Ethel Waters.

Race and Ethnicity

Film Critic Harlan Jacobson: "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" on Netflix

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-12-28/film-critic-harlan-jacobson-ma-raineys-black-bottom-on-netflix>

Our film critic Harlan Jacobson got the Blues this Christmas by dropping in on *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, the new film based on an August Wilson play from 1984.

The film is produced by Netflix, which is in the holiday audience and Oscar hunt.

HJ: Just the sound of the title, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, as it rolls off the tongue, promises some kind of lusty commitment to a life of defiance, like we're in for a wild ride in a convertible careening out of control.

Poets Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month With Virtual Creativity (4:56)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-23/poets-celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-with-virtual-creativity>

October is Hispanic Heritage Month. Usually this is a month filled with celebrations that honor history, family and traditions. But this year is different. COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the Latinx community.

A group of poetic artists wanted to carve out an event to still celebrate Latin culture though a local New York club called [Nuyorican Poets Cafe](#). Nearly a dozen poets and writers from around the country gathered on Zoom this month to spit rhymes and swap stories.

It's called the Nuyorican Showcase and Bloomfield College Open mic. A celebration of Latin Heritage and creativity organized by poet and Bloomfield College professor Paul LaTorre.

Newark Native Filmmaker Nicole Thompson's "Black Bird": Virtual Women in Media - Newark Film Fest (14:45)

<https://www.wbgo.org/show/wbgo-journal/2020-10-19/newark-native-filmmaker-nicole-thompsons-black-bird-virtual-women-in-media-newark-film-fest>

Nicole L. Thompson, a filmmaker born and raised in Newark, will kickoff the virtual [Women In Media - Newark 2020 Film Festival](#), which runs through October 21. Thompson is the Director and Producer of *Blackbird*, an aspirational tale about Sherri Jones, an African American young woman who cleans planes for a living, but dreams of being a pilot.

Thompson spoke to WBGO News Director Doug Doyle from her home in Los Angeles.

Nicole graduated from the University of Southern California with a Masters of Fine Arts in Film and TV production, where she focused in directing at the School of Cinematic Arts. Prior to that she received her Bachelor of Arts from The College of New Jersey where she majored in Communications Studies with a concentration in Radio/TV/Film.

Thompson says her grandmother worked at Newark Airport and inspired the making of *Blackbird*.