

# Insider News

## ONCE UPON A TIME IN SPACE



This past April, NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen embarked on Artemis II, a ten-day exploration around the moon and back to earth. Apollo 17, the last moonshot mission, took place in 1972. Thus, a deep space mission had not been completed for more than a half-century.

Yet many space missions have advanced space travel during the intervening years. *Once Upon a Time in Space* follows the trail of the human space program — from the space shuttle to the International Space Station. During the lengthy post-Apollo period, there have been 135 space shuttle missions, construction and growth of the International Space Station, and a rise in commercial space ventures. At the same time we've seen shifting alliances as a 21st-century space race appears to be dawning for a renewed wave of moon landings.

It's not often that you get to hear from people who have spent months or years in space. *Once Upon a Time in Space* will introduce you to some of the astronauts and other participants in the field who have lived through extraordinary moments in space travel history. Filmmaker James Bluemel allows the contributors who were there to do the talking throughout the four-part documentary.

Episode 1: "America First" — The first part focuses on the rise of the space shuttle, beginning in the 1970s. It features two astronauts who defied the stereotypes of the time. Anna Fisher became the first mother in space. The physician and astronaut took part in three major programs while enduring media scrutiny that questioned her decision as a mother to pursue the risks of space travel. Entering the shuttle program at the same time, physicist and astronaut Ronald McNair became a beloved celebrity. He will be remembered as the first African American astronaut and a member of the doomed Space Shuttle Challenger mission.

The three remaining episodes ("The Russian Thing," "Politics Always Wins," and "Friends Forever") look at how America and Russia ended the space race by cooperating in joint ventures with crew members from many countries inhabiting modular space station Mir and the International Space Station. The documentary shows how these collaborations resulted in lifelong friendships based upon a powerful sense of belonging. "For a little while I lived in a world that didn't operate the same way," said former NASA Flight Director Ginger Kerrick. "And it was beautiful." Be sure to include this moving and meaningful series on your PBS watch list.

**Airs Tuesdays at 8 p.m. beginning July 14 and  
Wednesdays at 9 p.m. beginning July 15.**

# AMERICA MADE IN VIRGINIA

## VA250

Independence Day is always a time to celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; but this year is special. It's our nation's 250th birthday and you are invited to experience *America Made in Virginia: 250 Years Together* — a live television event set in Colonial Williamsburg. Singer-songwriter Judy Collins opens the evening, followed by a recitation of poetry by retired Honorable Virginia Supreme Court Justice John Charles Thomas. The United States Air Force Heritage of America Band will inspire viewers with patriotic favorites. The evening concludes with the Lights of Freedom fireworks extravaganza.

Rooted in Virginia's central role in the nation's founding — from Jamestown to Williamsburg to Yorktown — *America Made in Virginia: 250 Years Together* underscores the enduring impact of the Commonwealth in shaping the United States. Designed as both a celebration and a unifying national moment, the broadcast invites viewers to reflect on the past, engage in the present, and see themselves reflected in America's continuing story.

**Airs Saturday, July 4, at 7 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.**

## RESOLVE TO SOLVE

Who are the people offering actual solutions to big world problems? Award-winning journalist and science correspondent for *PBS News Hour* Miles O'Brien seeks them out in this new series, premiering in August on PBS.

*Resolve to Solve* begins with people. Who are the solvers, and what drives them on their relentless journey to make life better for others? Each episode highlights an urgent global problem. Then it explores cutting-edge solutions through a compelling personal profile of a leading innovator who has resolved to come up with a workable conclusion. This science series flips the script, introducing viewers to people who address formidable problems and their backstories first. It then leads audiences toward an understanding of the promise of their potential solutions.

"If there's a common thread with all of the individuals we're profiling, it's that they are undaunted by a big challenge," said O'Brien. "I am in total awe of people like that who will drill down and pursue these goals even when they face all kinds of pushback and obstacles and being told it can't be done."

**Airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. beginning August 19.**

## THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Experience the story of the Colorado River, from its headwaters to the sea, and witness the extraordinary wildlife and landscapes that define the American West. Narrated by Quannah Chasinghorse, this breathtaking documentary is a love letter to the river, the region's landscapes, and its spectacular wildlife. Viewers will follow the story through the perspective of some of the Southwest's most charming characters, including industrious beavers, bugling elk, and soaring condors.

It was also important for Director of Photography and Producer Ryan Olinger to accurately portray the Southwest

and what it represents. That started by acknowledging who first lived on these lands. "The Indigenous voice is powerful, and it's something that needs to be heard," says Olinger.

There's a reason why *The American Southwest* was an official selection of the 2025 International Wildlife Film Festival, among others. It will inspire viewers to cherish, love, and want to conserve this unique region.

**Airs Wednesday, July 8 at 9 p.m.**

**klrn** TEXAS DANCE HALLS  
**STILL SWINGIN'**

Texas Dance Halls: Still Swingin' is a five-part series that invites viewers to step into a living piece of Texas history.

**Stream On Demand**

[www.KLRN.org/txdancehalls](http://www.KLRN.org/txdancehalls)

Host Jay Pennington

**klrn** Download the PBS App

Watch the best of PBS anytime, anywhere on the free PBS app

**klrn** **Back to School Event**

**July 11, 2026 | 10AM - 1PM**

**San Antonio Food Bank, 5200 Historic Old Hwy 90, 78227**

- Free School Supplies
- Games & Activities
- Costume Character Visit
- Cooking Demos & More!

**RSVP NOW**

[klrn.org/events](http://klrn.org/events)



### Viewer Comments

PBS is precious. Irreplaceable. Necessary. I cannot imagine an America without it. It's enriched my life incalculably. Thank you for all that you do. – Kenneth F.

Thank you KLRN for providing truth in reporting and programming. We sincerely appreciate the wide range of topics that you bring to the SATX area. We remain impressed with the dedication of the staff to providing the ultimate service to its customers. As a side note, we hope even without government funding, KLRN will continue to be a vibrant member of the community. – Lee D.

Happy to donate! I feel like I am getting the better end of this deal. Love your programming! – Elizabeth J.

**klrn**

**Keep the Signal Strong for Future VIEWERS LIKE YOU**

**August is Make a Will Month**

**LEARN MORE**

[QR Code](#)