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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

Insider News



Experience the euphoria and the heartbreak of America's space race in this immersive performance narrated by historian John Monsky and directed by Tony Award winner Michael Mayer. With his signature mix of soaring music, archival film and photography, historic flags, and personal stories of all those involved, Monsky tells the story of America's race to space and decision to land a man on the Moon in one of the most ambitious science and exploration achievements in history.

Filmed live at Carnegie Hall in April 2026, this extraordinary production brings together a 45-piece orchestra and band — including the rare tone of an electronic theremin — along with Broadway vocalists and breathtaking photographs. "We tried to do something that I call emotional history," says Monsky. "We weave music and song and dance so that you don't just read it or hear it or see it; you feel it."

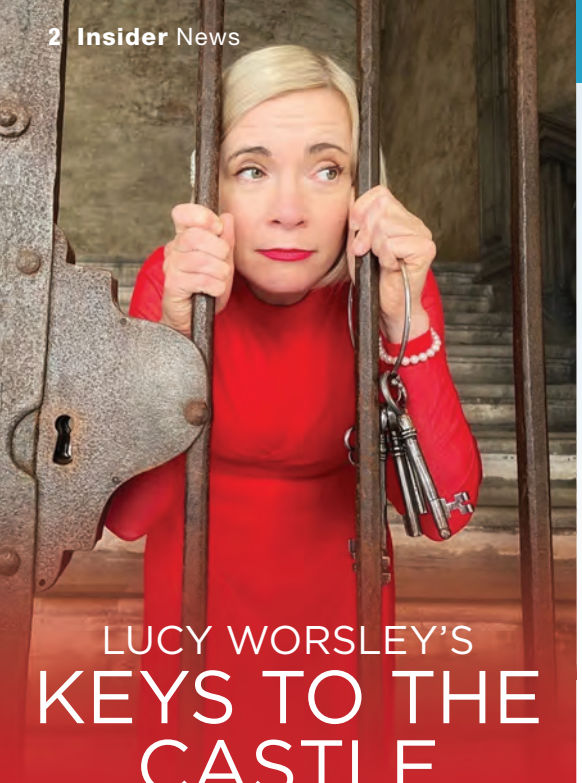
Viewers will feel like eyewitnesses to this historic first, from quaking launch pads at Cape Canaveral to the tension-filled rooms of Mission Control. The presentation will also take you into the living rooms where families of the astronauts watched their loved ones disappear into the sky as the world watched history unfold in real time.

We Chose to Go to the Moon tells the story through the first-person perspectives of the people who lived through this extraordinary moment: astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and Ed White; Mission Control's Poppy Northcutt and NASA's *Hidden Figures* mathematician Katherine Johnson; and family members such as Janet Armstrong and Betty Grissom. Their words recall the excitement, fear, and triumph of the space race.

> "When future generations of Americans look back at the defining moments in history, I believe the Moon landing on July 20, 1969, will endure as one of our most important achievements," says John Monsky.

"We're proud that this show airs timed to Veterans Day — nearly all the Apollo astronauts were veterans, and their legacy of service to our country is immeasurable."

Airs Tuesday, November 10, at 7 p.m.



LUCY WORSLEY'S KEYS TO THE CASTLE

Lucy Worsley is back and she's ready to spill the tea! With the keys to secret rooms in hand, the beloved historian takes viewers into the hidden chambers, sealed archives, and private spaces of four iconic European palaces to uncover the untold stories of the buildings and the people who lived in them.

Across four episodes, Lucy unlocks the secrets of Britain's majestic Blenheim Palace, the glittering Versailles Palace in France, the fairytale castle Neuschwanstein in Germany, and Venice's intriguing Doge's Palace.

While these spectacular palaces host millions of visitors every year, *Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle* is no ordinary tour. Explore with her beyond the public spaces to savor a fascinating and surprising take on some of history's most important events, and the people who lived through them.

Airs Sunday, December 6, at 7 p.m.

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KLRN - Public Television
501 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-270-9000

Questions?
membership@klrn.org

Words from the President...

Dear Friends,

Usually I associate KLRN's musical programming with *Great Performances* or *Austin City Limits*. But I like something unexpected too. That's one of the reasons I'm excited about *We Chose to Go to the Moon*. The pairing of live music with the story of the space race puts this special program at the top of my watch list.

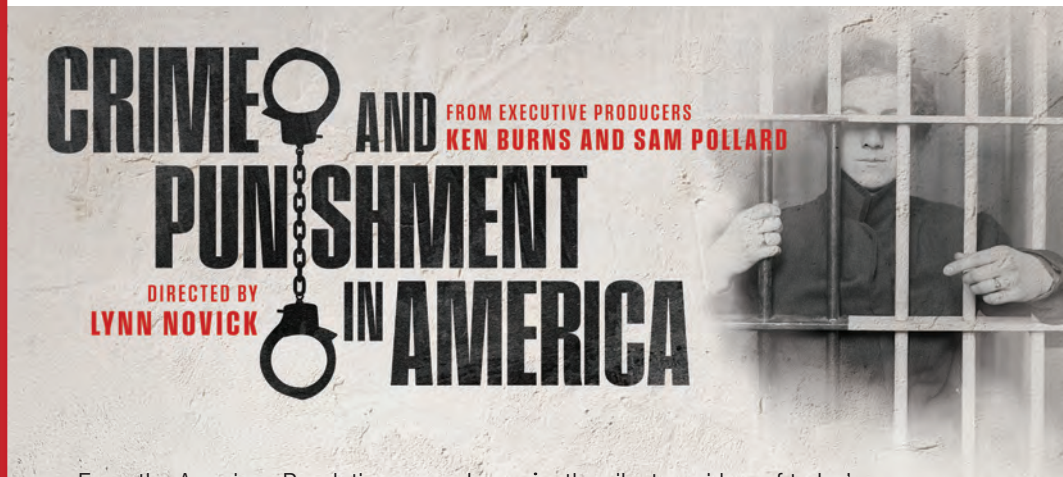
Yet this theatrical documentary isn't the only thing I'm looking forward to. Another highlight is *Lucy Worsley's Keys to the Castle*. British historian Lucy Worsley always has a good yarn to spin. And when her accounts are paired with glimpses behind the scenes of four iconic palaces, I say, "Yes, please!"

No matter what you watch on KLRN, I hope you do so with pride. You've stood by us through some difficult days. What's more you make a real difference in sustaining our future. While two simple words can never fully capture our gratitude, I will say them anyway. Thank you! We are honored to know you are a proud member of the KLRN family.

Best wishes to you and yours this holiday season!

Sincerely,

Arthur R. Emerson
President and CEO



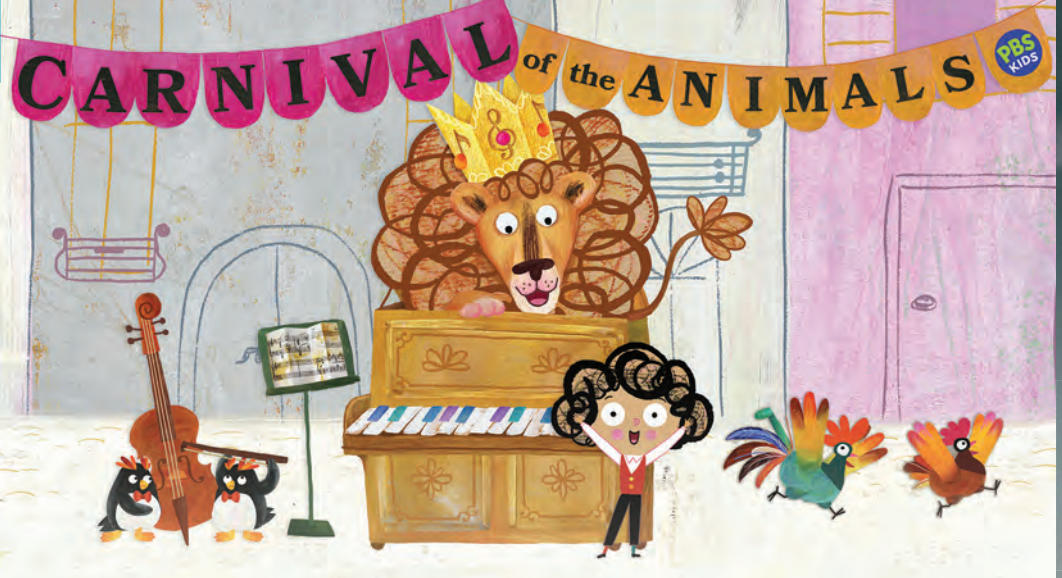
From the American Revolution onward, Americans have argued about whether the goals of the criminal justice system should be punishment, rehabilitation, or both. *Crime and Punishment in America* is a four-part documentary that explores this issue and many others as it delves into the history of criminal justice in America.

From public hangings in Colonial America to Franklin D. Roosevelt and J. Edgar Hoover's federal war on crime, from early television police procedurals to modern-day true crime, from Jim Crow chain gangs to the silent corridors of today's supermax prison facilities — the series examines how the intertwined forces of law, power, race, and class have shaped and reflected the American experience.



Director Lynn Novick uses evocative archival footage and first-person voices drawn from letters, memoirs, and testimony to ground the documentary in the stories of individuals whose lives were shaped by the policies and politics of their time. In addition, a distinguished advisory group of scholars, formerly incarcerated advocates, legal experts, and cultural historians provide a wide range of perspectives. Produced by Ken Burns and Sam Pollard, *Crime and Punishment in America* is a don't-miss experience.

Airs Monday, November 16, at 7 p.m.



Camille Saint-Saëns' classical music treasure *The Carnival of the Animals* comes to life in vibrant animation accompanied by the Los Angeles Philharmonic in a live performance conducted by Gustavo Dudamel at the Hollywood Bowl. The story opens in a colorful town inhabited by animals. Everyone is getting ready for a carnival parade. All the animals are working in harmony, building floats, and practicing their dancing. But once the Lion's crown is stolen, our hero is whirled into an adventure with breakneck chases, mischievous chickens, wild donkeys, dancing tortoises, a prancing elephant, hapless penguin pianists, and more as he races to find the crown and restore the city's feeling of community — just in time for the carnival.

"Music has a beautiful way of opening the imagination and helping us see the world with fresh eyes," says Dudamel. "My hope is that every child who watches will discover that music is a place where curiosity, creativity, and possibility can always grow."

Airs Monday, November 16, at 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.



CRAFT IN AMERICA

NORTH and SOUTH

Handwork: A Craft in America 250 Special concludes its celebration of America's history of handmade artistry with *NORTH* and *SOUTH*. *NORTH* looks at the impact of the environment on craft artists. Indigenous canoe practices, reclaimed materials, a craft school in the forest, and others demonstrate how natural and urban landscapes inspire the handmade in the great North. *SOUTH* visits craft artists who are building an inclusive and hopeful future. The elaborate costumes of the masking societies in New Orleans, beautiful stained glass in Miami, and the vibrant artist community rebuilding after the hurricane in North Carolina demonstrate the many facets of resilience and creativity of the art of the South.

The stories in *NORTH* and *SOUTH* are told through the hands of makers and explore ancestral traditions and modern innovation. They celebrate the significance of handcrafted objects in shaping and reflecting America's diverse cultural heritage. You can view *EAST* and *WEST*, as well as all *Craft in America* episodes, on PBS Passport.

Airs Friday, December 18, at 8 p.m.



EVOLUTION

THE MATING GAME

The Mating Game is the fourth episode of *NOVA*'s *Evolution* miniseries, which traces the epic journey of life, from a single ancient cell to the amazing variety of species alive today. *The Mating Game* uses gorgeous photography and animation to explore how shuffling the genetic deck unleashed variation. This, in turn, fueled diversity and threw evolution into overdrive.

But how did this radical innovation begin? From the first exchange of genes to the origins of males and females, the film uncovers the evolutionary leaps that reshaped life. Viewers will follow the ostrich to discover how the egg became a breakthrough that allowed life to conquer land — and how feathers evolved as insulation and tools of courtship before they were ever used for flight.

NOVA is the most popular primetime science series on American television, demystifying the scientific and technological concepts that shape and define our lives, our planet, and our universe. For more than 50 years, it has offered science adventures for curious grown-ups and in the process garnered many prestigious awards including Emmys, Peabody Awards, and AAAS Science Journalism Awards.

Airs Wednesday, November 4, at 8 p.m.



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THE BUSINESS OF BUSINESS
SAN ANTONIO

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THE Jim Lehrer SOCIETY

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Named after the iconic PBS journalist and San Antonio native, The Jim Lehrer Society is a group of committed supporters whose philanthropic gifts enable KLRN to fulfill our mission of providing trustworthy and enriching programs and services to our community.

The President's Circle within the Jim Lehrer Society offers a unique way to drive change through public television. You're not just a donor - you're a patron of quality, integrity, and meaningful storytelling.

Viewer Comments

"I adore ALL the programs on KLRN!
We watch several programs daily."

"You always learn new things here. I also get to enjoy my British and international shows/dramas. There is usually always something on that is intriguing."

"I would love to have more local history and arts content! I am loving access to the various British dramas, and would love more antiques roadtrips (I also love *Antiques Roadshow!*)!"

klrn Originals

ON THE RECORD with RANDY BEAMER

TEXAS DANCE HALLS STILL SWINGIN'

Terra Verde

Hank & Emma Faye

Watch On Demand

KLRN.org/Originals