



**AUSTIN OPERA SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Four star soloists will headline *An All-Star Concert*, featuring the Austin Opera Orchestra and Timothy Myers in his first performance as the company's principal conductor and artistic advisor. Making their Austin Opera debuts are mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard and bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green, both of whom are mainstays at The Metropolitan Opera. And returning to the Long Center stage are soprano Sara Gartland and tenor Chad Shelton. This concert, filmed under strict COVID-19 regulations, will be edited into a special that will air on Austin PBS this spring! Check your local listings for the upcoming broadcast.



Austin PBS is one of ten PBS stations awarded a \$7,500 grant from Sesame Workshop and WNET. The purpose of the grant is to provide Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC) digital and hands-on resources to caregivers, families and children in rural areas. We're seeking to build awareness of this extensive bank of free, bilingual resources and help child care providers think about how to use them on-site and in homes. As part of the grant, Austin PBS will partner with local community-based organizations and early childhood programs to recruit 100 caregivers to participate in virtual SSIC trainings focused on two key "kits" within the larger collection: early learning/school readiness; and health and well-being for children ages birth-5 and their families.

**DECIBEL'S NEW COMMUNITY**

Last year *Decibel* embarked on a new journalism approach, one that made time and space for thorough storytelling and listening. A core component of this redesign involves allowing communities we cover to lead reporting. We visit communities, learn, listen and, then, report on them. *Decibel's* first community collaboration was with Asian-Americans living in and around Austin. Check back soon at [decibelatx.org](http://decibelatx.org) for announcements of other communities we plan to cover in 2021 and see how you can get involved!



**NELY'S STORY**

In early March 2020 Nely Avelar signed up for a family literacy workshop modeled after the PBS KIDS show *Molly of Denali*. She'd heard about it from teachers at her daughter Amelie's daycare center and thought it sounded like a great fit for Amelie's big sister. And so plans were made to attend in April with her 8-year-old daughter Analy. When the pandemic hit, those plans changed. Nely wanted to find a way to make sure her family stayed safe without losing out on educational opportunities. You can watch's Nely's full story here: [web.austinpbs.org/3p1nSTJ](http://web.austinpbs.org/3p1nSTJ)

**COMING UP ON**

**CentralTexas Gardener**

Spring into planting with Square Foot gardens, sweet potatoes and native plants in containers. Explore a couple's very first garden and see how residents at Community First! Village are growing their future, all coming up on *CTG*. Visit [centraltexasgardener.org](http://centraltexasgardener.org) to watch online and subscribe to the *CTG* newsletter for a bounty of how-to-grow tips.



**Amplify Austin**

**GIVING BACK IN AUSTIN FOR 24 HOURS**

Amplify Austin is back for 2021, encouraging Central Texans to generate buzz for their favorite nonprofits, all in a single 24 hours. This year Amplify Austin goes from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. March 4-5. The entire city contributing to good causes at the same time creates giving energy that benefits everyone. Show your support at [austinpbs.org/amplify](http://austinpbs.org/amplify) and take part in this once-a-year event!

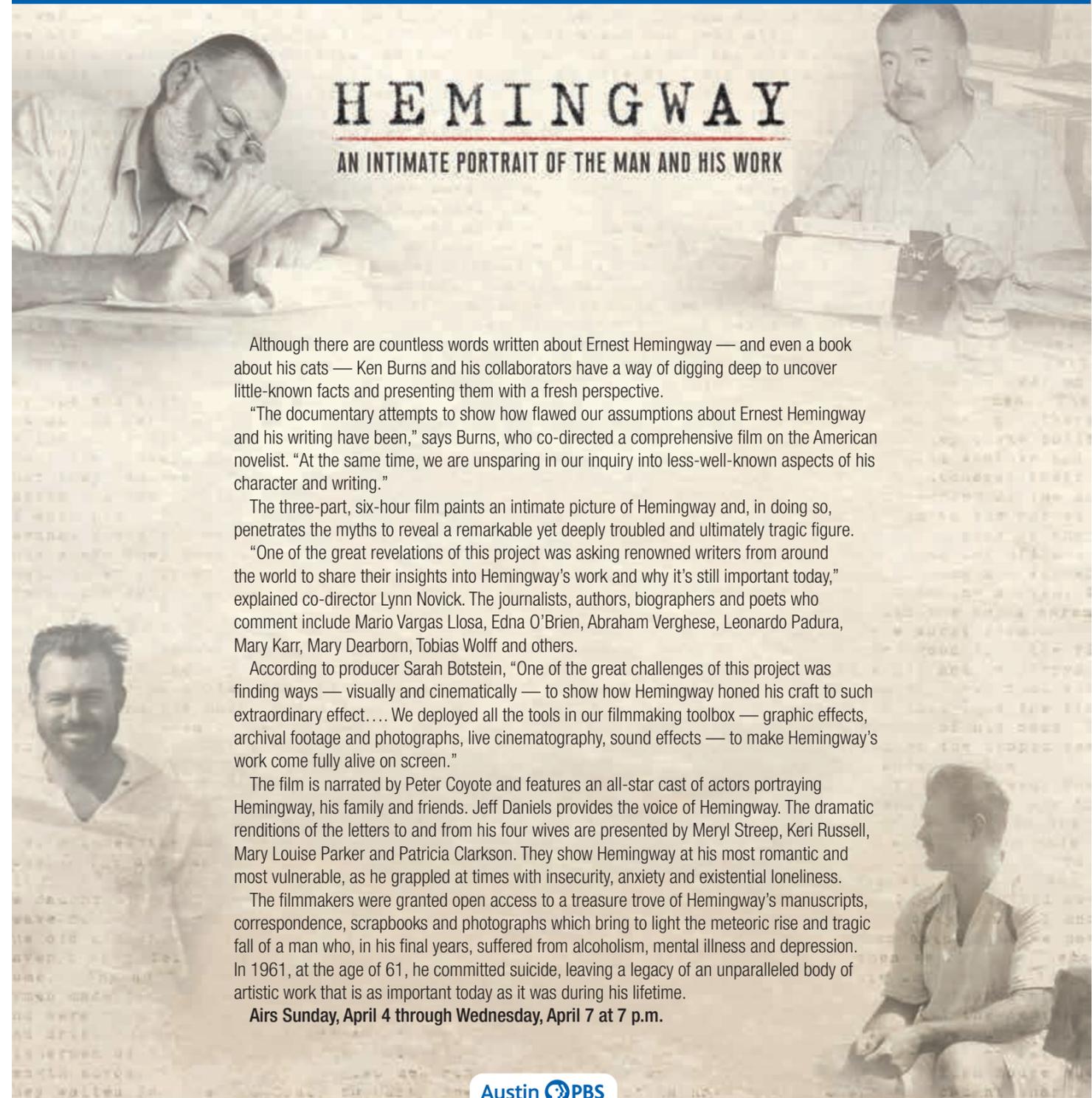


**SPRING CLEANING**

It's such a nice feeling to get rid of items taking up too much space! If your old car, truck, RV or boat is no longer useful to you, it can still be of great use to Austin PBS. Vehicle donation is a wonderful way to give back. Your vehicle receives new life as we channel funds from its auction into programming and vital resources for our community. We'll take care of pick-up followed by a tax receipt for your deduction. Simply call (855) 996-KLRU or fill out our short form at [austinpbs.org/car](http://austinpbs.org/car). Here's to cleaning up and helping out! Thank you!

**Austin PBS**

**MemberNews**



**HEMINGWAY**  
AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF THE MAN AND HIS WORK

Although there are countless words written about Ernest Hemingway — and even a book about his cats — Ken Burns and his collaborators have a way of digging deep to uncover little-known facts and presenting them with a fresh perspective.

"The documentary attempts to show how flawed our assumptions about Ernest Hemingway and his writing have been," says Burns, who co-directed a comprehensive film on the American novelist. "At the same time, we are unsparing in our inquiry into less-well-known aspects of his character and writing."

The three-part, six-hour film paints an intimate picture of Hemingway and, in doing so, penetrates the myths to reveal a remarkable yet deeply troubled and ultimately tragic figure.

"One of the great revelations of this project was asking renowned writers from around the world to share their insights into Hemingway's work and why it's still important today," explained co-director Lynn Novick. The journalists, authors, biographers and poets who comment include Mario Vargas Llosa, Edna O'Brien, Abraham Verghese, Leonardo Padura, Mary Karr, Mary Dearborn, Tobias Wolff and others.

According to producer Sarah Botstein, "One of the great challenges of this project was finding ways — visually and cinematically — to show how Hemingway honed his craft to such extraordinary effect. . . . We deployed all the tools in our filmmaking toolbox — graphic effects, archival footage and photographs, live cinematography, sound effects — to make Hemingway's work come fully alive on screen."

The film is narrated by Peter Coyote and features an all-star cast of actors portraying Hemingway, his family and friends. Jeff Daniels provides the voice of Hemingway. The dramatic renditions of the letters to and from his four wives are presented by Meryl Streep, Keri Russell, Mary Louise Parker and Patricia Clarkson. They show Hemingway at his most romantic and most vulnerable, as he grappled at times with insecurity, anxiety and existential loneliness.

The filmmakers were granted open access to a treasure trove of Hemingway's manuscripts, correspondence, scrapbooks and photographs which bring to light the meteoric rise and tragic fall of a man who, in his final years, suffered from alcoholism, mental illness and depression. In 1961, at the age of 61, he committed suicide, leaving a legacy of an unparalleled body of artistic work that is as important today as it was during his lifetime.

**Airs Sunday, April 4 through Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m.**





# CODED BIAS

Isn't technology supposed to be bias free?

During her first semester at MIT, researcher Joy Buolamwini received computer vision software that was supposed to track her face. It didn't work until she put on a white mask. At first she thought the issue might be the lighting or the angle from which she was looking at the camera — then she began to think the cause may be something entirely different. Her investigation led her to discoveries that a majority of facial recognition software does not accurately identify darker skinned faces and that there are widespread biases in software that affect our lives.

*Coded Bias* investigates the premise that ideas about technology that we think are normal come from a small and homogeneous group of people who embed their biases into artificial intelligence. And biases are not just in face classification; they're built into any data-centric technology.

Technology becomes problematic or even dangerous when decisions are made based on faulty data and algorithms. What can we do about it? What is the solution? **This thought-provoking program airs Monday, March 22 at 9 p.m.**

## Austin PBS

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## A Word from ... BILL STOTESBERY

Dear Austin PBS Member,

Austin PBS staff are still working remotely, but key operations continue to transfer to our new space at Austin Community College Highland. With this move not only are we continuing to provide the programming and services you have come to expect, but we're also creating a new generation of public media by establishing a Media Innovation Center. This collaborative learning space — which we call the Austin Media Center — is a meeting point between technology, curriculum and culture that will shape tomorrow's storytellers and journalists. Built to support public dialogue, civic engagement and positive community change, the Austin Media Center fuses the power of local organizations, ACC faculty and Central Texas into a curriculum designed for new media professionals. Amplifying

community issues, highlighting champions and finding solutions will start here. An additional benefit will come from competitively selected paid interns, designated as Johnson Scholars, providing ACC students firsthand knowledge of public media's mission and access to educational and career advancement options. Austin PBS believes its vision to enrich lives and transform communities will be more realized than ever with these expanded opportunities for education and outreach.

Sincerely,

**Bill Stotesbery**  
 General Manager/CEO  
 and Loyal Member



**FLANNERY**

**AMERICAN MASTERS**  
 presents

and



*Twyla Moves*

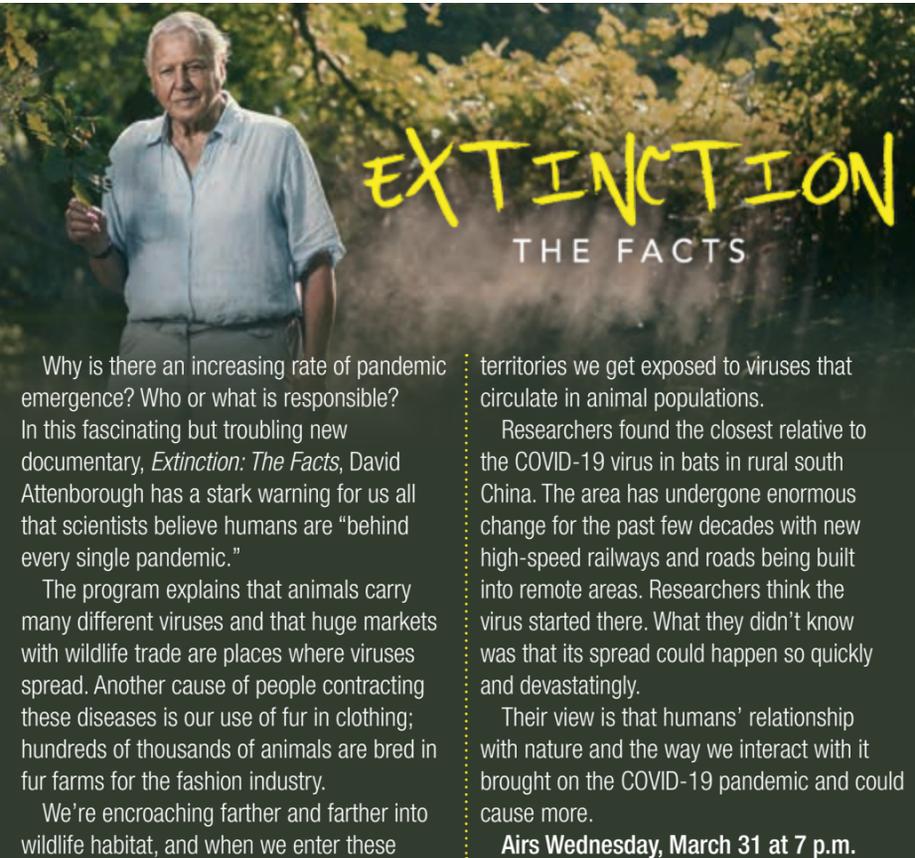
As part of the Women's History Month celebration, *American Masters* is premiering two documentaries featuring women who are legends in their respective fields: Flannery O'Connor and Twyla Tharp.

*Flannery* explores the life and work of American novelist and short story writer Flannery O'Connor. Although she was diagnosed with lupus at 25 and died before she was 40, O'Connor had a prolific career — writing 32 short stories and two novels. Much of her work focuses on the timely and controversial themes



of racism, religion and socioeconomic disparity. Included in the film are newly discovered personal letters and conversations with those who knew or were inspired by her including Mary Karr, Tommy Lee Jones and Hilton Als. **Airs Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.**

*Twyla Moves* presents the storied career and creative process of Twyla Tharp. A pioneer of modern dance and ballet, Tharp shares the intimate details behind her trailblazing dances including "The Fugue" and "Baker's Dozen," her cinematic partnership with Miloš Forman and her immensely successful time on Broadway. Interviews with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Billy Joel, David Byrne and Bob Dylan reveal details about her work and those she has influenced throughout her life. In talking about the film, Tharp said, "I've made a lot of pieces, though never participated in one about myself. I look forward to discussing why and how I make dance." **Airs Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m.**



# EXTINCTION

THE FACTS

Why is there an increasing rate of pandemic emergence? Who or what is responsible? In this fascinating but troubling new documentary, *Extinction: The Facts*, David Attenborough has a stark warning for us all that scientists believe humans are "behind every single pandemic."

The program explains that animals carry many different viruses and that huge markets with wildlife trade are places where viruses spread. Another cause of people contracting these diseases is our use of fur in clothing; hundreds of thousands of animals are bred in fur farms for the fashion industry.

We're encroaching farther and farther into wildlife habitat, and when we enter these

territories we get exposed to viruses that circulate in animal populations.

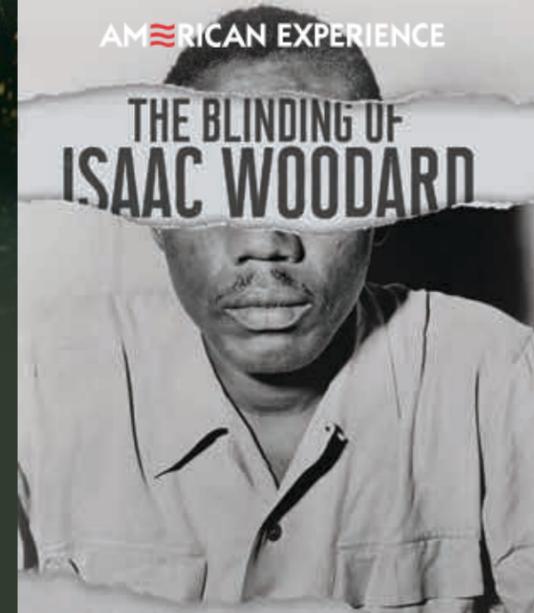
Researchers found the closest relative to the COVID-19 virus in bats in rural south China. The area has undergone enormous change for the past few decades with new high-speed railways and roads being built into remote areas. Researchers think the virus started there. What they didn't know was that its spread could happen so quickly and devastatingly.

Their view is that humans' relationship with nature and the way we interact with it brought on the COVID-19 pandemic and could cause more.

**Airs Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m.**

## AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

# THE BLINDING OF ISAAC WOODARD



His attack sparked national outrage and galvanized the civil rights movement in the United States. Presented by *American Experience*, *The Blinding of Isaac Woodard* tells the story of this decorated African American World War II veteran who was horribly beaten and blinded for life.

On February 12, 1946, just hours after being honorably discharged from the Army in Atlanta, Georgia, and still in uniform, Woodard was taking the bus home to reunite with his wife. When the bus stopped en route, Woodard asked if he had time to use the bathroom. The driver agreed to the request after an argument, and when the bus stopped in Batesburg, South Carolina, the driver told the police about what he said was "Woodard's impudence." Woodard was removed from the bus and repeatedly beaten by several policemen. When he regained consciousness, Woodard was blind.

This documentary details the national attention the beatings received, the significant role of the NAACP, court rulings and President Truman's subsequent actions including directing the Justice Department to open an investigation, establishing the Civil Rights Commission and issuing executive orders 9980 and 9981 banning racial discrimination in the U.S. armed forces and the federal government.

**Airs Tuesday, March 30 at 8 p.m.**

## Great Performances at the Met Presents

# Renée Fleming

### in Concert

While many live concerts have been canceled because of the health crisis in this country, we are fortunate to be able to turn to PBS to watch programs such as *Great Performances at the Met*, which is presenting *Renée Fleming in Concert*.

Recorded at the Music Room of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., Fleming performs a range of work from arias by Puccini and Massenet to selections by Handel and Korngold.

Fleming has a magnificent lyric soprano voice. In addition to singing in her native English, she has performed operatic roles in Italian, German, French, Czech and Russian. Her signature roles include Countess Almaviva in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Desdemona in Verdi's *Otello*, Violetta in Verdi's *La traviata*, Tatyana in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and others.

Fleming was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 2013 and has won four Grammy Awards. Among her numerous positions, she is artistic director of SongStudio at Carnegie Hall, a program for young performers dedicated to the art of song recital. Her memoir, *The Inner Voice: The Making of a Singer*, is the story of her life and her career as an international performing artist.

**Coming this month! Check local listings.**

