



FPA PLAYBACK

Fairfax Public Access is Celebrating 25 Years!

In May of 1984, Fairfax Public Access aired their first programs on Media General Cable, beginning with just a few hours a week. 25 years later, radio and television producers are airing over 5,000 hours of original programming per year on our three cable stations carried on Cox Communications and Verizon FiOS TV.

To celebrate this milestone in our continuing history, FPA will host a 25th anniversary awards gala for our membership at the Kena Temple in Fairfax on May 16th from 7:30- 11:00pm. Formal invitations will be mailed the first week of April to all current, active members in good standing. To attend the gala, all a member needs to do is RSVP to Steve Ruddell, Director of Operations by phone or e-mail before the deadline of May 1. The event is free to members. Non-member guests will be charged \$ 26.00, which can be used as their membership fee to FPA if they wish to become a member and they fill out and submit the required membership application, though they are under no obligation to become a member if they are merely attending in a support capacity. Due to the size of our membership entry to the event will be granted only to those who properly RSVP, and no reservations or payments will be accepted at the door. Any non-member guest payments must also be received by the May 1 deadline, along with membership forms if those guests wish to use their payments toward a membership. To reach Steve Ruddell for RSVP's, contact him directly Monday through Friday during business hours at 571-749-1108 or by e-mail at sruddell@fcac.org.



John Harter in FPA's Studio A, appearing on "Out of the Past"

The gala promises to be a memorable evening, with music provided by local non-profit group Virginia Music Adventures, catering from Capital Cuisine and a variety of special guests. Former WJLA/ABC 7 News anchor John Harter will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Mr. Harter, an Emmy Award-winning veteran reporter, covered greater Washington for nearly 40 years and was recognized for having made significant contributions to the television industry for over 25 years with the National Television Academy of Arts & Sciences Silver Circle Award. As part of the evening's festivities, FPA will also recognize and honor several of our members for their achievements and commitment to the organization throughout the years.

Attire for the event will be business casual. The Kena Temple is located at 9001 Arlington Blvd. (Rt 50) in Fairfax, approximately 2 miles from the FPA studios. For directions, visit their website at www.kena.org and click on the Contacts link which will take you to Google maps.

We look forward to seeing all our members at this very special event as we celebrate the last twenty-five years of service to our community and plan ahead for the next twenty five!

FPA Returns to Celebrate Fairfax!

Fairfax Public Access will again be represented at Celebrate Fairfax!, the Northern Virginia area's largest festival this year on June 5, 6 and 7 on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center. Radio and television producers and volunteers are needed to staff the FPA booth as in years past, with the opportunity to promote both the station and individual programs that appear on it to over 50,000 people who attend the fair. Sign-up sheets will be posted at the end of April outside the programming department for three-hour shifts, with volunteers granted free access to the festival upon completion of their shift. In the interest of fairness to all who would like to participate, only one shift per volunteer will be accepted for the weekend.

The 2009 festival will be notable, and not just because FPA is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. We will be in a new location with a larger booth than previous years and throughout the weekend we will be intermittently broadcasting a number of television shows LIVE before a small audience! While we will not be doing live radio remotes, radio producers who will be on-air in the studio are encouraged to have field correspondents call in to give live reports from the fair.

For more information about the festival itself, and schedules for the performers that will be appearing, visit www.celebratefairfax.org. In the meantime, make sure to mark the weekend on your calendar, and plan on signing up for a volunteer slot to represent FPA.



A shot of some of the volunteers from Celebrate Fairfax! 2008

*Standing : Mary Phelan and Neville Johnston of "Telepathic TV"
with Jerry Moore of " Monster Madhouse"*

*Seated: Chief Engineer Greg Gutierrez and
Executive Director Chuck Peña*

Photo by Jamie Plesko

From the Production Department

Coming up sometime in late May to early June, the Production Department will be working with producers to create a new set of promotional pieces and I.D.'s for radio and television programs airing on FPA, as many of the ones currently seen airing are out of date and will be pulled from rotation. Producers should be thinking ahead as to how they would like to present themselves in their spot, and script out their ideas in 30 seconds or less. There's no requirement as to how you would like to promote your program, other than that you must have an established, permanent time slot for your show, and you must have filled out a renewal form for the rest of the 2009 programming season. Studio time will be blocked out for these staff-assisted promo shoots, and availability will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. More information will be posted at the equipment room the first part of May, so keep an eye out for these upcoming dates in the near future.

From the Programming Department

Renewal forms will be sent to all producers of record who have submitted programming during the current January through June '09 programming season in preparation for the July through December '09 season. Any returning or continuing program airing through FPA **must** have a completed renewal form stating the number of programs to be submitted during the upcoming season, as the Programming Department relies on this information to make appropriate scheduling decisions. Programs submitted without a renewal will not be scheduled and will be returned to the producer without airing.

First-time producers or veteran producers beginning brand new programs will still need to submit Program Proposal forms (rather than Renewal forms) and all producers should be aware of the criteria governing time slots based on the planned number of new programs to be submitted over the incipient 26 week season:

- Monthly - no less than 1 new programs must be submitted every month
- Bi-weekly - no less than 12 new programs must be submitted over six months
- Weekly - no less than 18 new programs must be submitted over six months
- Specials - scheduled as they are submitted in accordance with space availability

Producers who do not fulfill the requisite number of submitted programs risk losing their preferred time slot and may be rescheduled based on their actual output. In such cases, FPA may also limit reservation of studios or field equipment to producers whose output is not commensurate with those reservations. Renewal forms will be mailed the first week of April and will be due no later than May 3rd at 8pm. For any questions about new program proposals, renewals or subsequent scheduling, contact Maryam Shah, Director of Programming at 571-749-1118.

From the Training Department

In partnership with the Fairfax County Public School system, much of FPA's class schedule is now advertised in the Adult and Community Education catalog under Broadcast Production, a sub-section of their Communication classes. The ACE program gives county residents an affordable way to learn a new subject or skill, or training in a field they enjoy and contributes to a culture of lifelong learning - in short, a perfect complement to FPA's mission.

From the Engineering Department

Chief Engineer Greg Gutierrez is pleased to announce a new addition to his department. Daniel Olewine joins the FPA staff as full-time engineer, replacing former engineer Pete Misco. Danny previously had been the staff engineer at Falls Church Community TV and looks forward to being a member of the FPA team. A key element of the department is also the promotion of Patrick Cowan. Patrick is well known to active members as a Technical Advisor in the equipment room, but his duties have now expanded to include part-time IT assistance and engineering help.



Daniel Olewine

Photo: Greg Gutierrez

Members and guests to the station have seen a flurry of activity within Master Control, all part of an effort to re-wire and reconfigure it to accommodate future technological advances. After the renovation is complete, the next step will be to retrofit the control room in Studio A, including complete re-wiring and replacing the monitors, affording a cleaner signal from camera to tape. The work is scheduled to occur sometime around the summer hiatus in late June and early July. Every attempt will be made to complete that project during the scheduled week-long closing, but if it is deemed necessary to extend that time-frame, every effort will be made to contact producers in advance so as not to unduly disrupt taping schedules.

FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS

2929 Eskridge Rd.
Suite S
Fairfax, VA 22031

Phone: 571-749-1100
Fax: 571-749-1112
E-mail: askfpa@fcac.org

"PROUDLY SERVING FAIRFAX
COUNTY FOR 25 YEARS"



Hours of Operation

Mon - Fri Noon to 10pm
Sat / Sun 8am to 8pm

FPA Board of Directors

President

Georgia Graves

Vice-President / Internal Affairs

Jim Housel

Treasurer

Steve Mullen

Secretary

Ayme Pointer

Internet and Technology

Jim Southworth

Parliamentarian

Ahmed Selim

Membership

Bob Giarrusso

Fundraising

Craig Kendall

Public Relations

Paul Porzio

Holidays and Closings

For the spring quarter 2009, the station will be closed to members and the general public on the following dates:

April 12 - Easter Sunday

May 25 - Memorial Day

June 29 through July 3 - Technical Interval / Hiatus

July 4 - Independence Day

The station will also close at 4pm on May 16th so that all members and staff may attend the 25th Anniversary Gala.

Meet the Staff

FPA has added a few part-time technical advisors to the roster, with two new faces and one who should be familiar to members who have been around the building in the last couple of years. New to us are Tim Ruth and Krystle Champagne. Tim is a graduate of McKinley Technology High in Washington, DC where he studied Broadcast and Radio, and is currently attending NVCC in Sterling. Krystle graduated from Howard University with a BA in Broadcasting, with experience working on WHUT-32 programming. Lastly, the familiar face belongs to Thom Fricke, a long time FPA member, producer, volunteer and instructor. We're pleased and lucky to have such talented individuals on-board to help our members.



Tim Ruth



Krystle Champagne



Thom Fricke

"One of the good things about television is that there's such alternatives now to what's often homogenized network entertainment." - Frank Rich