



Media Made
Possible by
All of You

MEDIA INFORMATION

Press Contact:

Elizabeth Boone, The WNET Group, 212.560.8831, booneb@wnet.org

Gabrielle Torello, Grand Communications, 212.584.1133 gab@grandcommunications.com

Alison Grand, Grand Communications, 212.584.1133, alison@grandcommunications.com

Press materials: pbs.org/pressroom or thirteen.org/pressroom

The WNET Group Presents New Star-Studded Series ***PBS Arts Talk*** Beginning Friday, September 1 on PBS

*Interviewers include famed ballerina **Misty Copeland**, renowned journalist **Ann Curry**, Pulitzer Prize and Grammy-winning musician **Rhiannon Giddens** and Emmy-winning actor **Henry Winkler***

Artists and cultural icons break down their craft and careers in the new arts series ***PBS Arts Talk***. Through intimate, thought-provoking conversations, guests share personal memories and stories behind some of their greatest work with interviewers also at the top of their field: Renowned journalist **Ann Curry**, Pulitzer Prize and Grammy-winning musician **Rhiannon Giddens**, Emmy-winning actor **Henry Winkler** and famed ballerina **Misty Copeland**. ***PBS Arts Talk*** peeks behind the curtain at the works of Grammy-winning musician **Seal**, Tony winner **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, bestselling author **Min Jin Lee**, award-winning painter **Nathaniel Mary Quinn**, Grammy-winning musician **Elvis Costello**, Emmy winner **Jimmy Kimmel** and dance icon **Twyla Tharp**. Now streaming on pbs.org and the PBS App, ***PBS Arts Talk*** premieres beginning Friday, September 1 on PBS ([check local listings](#))

"We're excited to further our commitment to the arts with ***PBS Arts Talk***," said Neal Shapiro, CEO of The WNET Group. "We hope viewers will be uplifted and inspired by the in-depth, extended conversations with those who have made contributions to our cultural landscape."

Episode 1: Henry Winkler with Seal

Four-time Grammy-winning musician Seal sits down with Emmy-winning actor Henry Winkler to discuss his musical inspiration, his personal upbringing, and the way he

approaches songwriting. From being partially raised in a foster home to discovering his musical talent at age 11, Seal reveals deeply personal anecdotes from the start of his career including how he first shared his song “Crazy” at the recording studio he worked at and plays an intimate performance of the hit song on an upside-down right-handed guitar.

Episode 2: Rhiannon Giddens with Brian Stokes Mitchell

Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning musician Rhiannon Giddens and Tony Award winner Brian Stokes Mitchell sit down for a candid discussion about theater and music. Having met briefly in 2016 while working on Broadway’s “Shuffle Along,” the two energetically connect on the emotional power of music, and how musical genres may be universally adapted and “played with” by artists. Mitchell also expands on the impact of the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown on the theater community and how it acted as a catalyst for change for Black artists. Together, they also discuss instruments like the banjo and their mutual love of jazz.

Episode 3: Ann Curry with Min Jin Lee

Award-winning journalist Ann Curry conducts a deep, frank interview with New York State Writers Hall of Fame inductee and bestselling author Min Jin Lee about her book “Pachinko” and beyond. Featuring family photographs and personal memories from her early life in Queens, Lee shares what inspired her novel, explains her extensive research process, and highlights her personal connection to the material of her bestselling novel. Lee also discusses her close relationship with religion and her tenacity in the fight against Asian hate.

Episode 4: Misty Copeland with Nathaniel Mary Quinn

Acclaimed ballerina Misty Copeland leads two-time winner of the National Arts Club Prize, painter Nathaniel Mary Quinn, in a passionate discussion about the deep familial meaning of Quinn’s art. Quinn illustrates his journey with personal memories, from drawing on the walls in his mother’s home on the South Side of Chicago, to graduating with his MFA from New York University, to becoming an internationally celebrated artist. Speaking on the value of therapy, his drive to continue his education, and the pressures of being a Black artist, Quinn and Copeland shine a light on shared human experiences.

Episode 5: Rhiannon Giddens with Elvis Costello

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy Award-winning musician Elvis Costello and Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winner Rhiannon Giddens spotlight the power of collaboration by looking back at Costello’s revered work with music legends Burt Bacharach and Paul McCartney. Using performance and interview footage of Costello, Bacharach and McCartney, Giddens and Costello explore how Costello sees poetry as different from songwriting, and why he values musical surprises. The episode concludes

with a special improvised performance featuring Giddens playing the banjo and Costello on the guitar.

Episode 6: Henry Winkler with Jimmy Kimmel

In a conversation hosted by Emmy-winning actor Henry Winkler, acclaimed late-night television host and comedian Jimmy Kimmel shares how he began in the performing arts industry as a teenager in radio, and shares personal anecdotes from his career through his present-day work. With a spotlight on the personal relationship between Kimmel and Winkler, the pair discuss the art of interviewing, Kimmel's family, and reminisce about significant moments from both of their careers.

Episode 7: Misty Copeland with Twyla Tharp

National Medal of the Arts honoree and dance and choreography icon Twyla Tharp explores her storied career and creative process including what draws her to other dancers with internationally acclaimed dancer and host Misty Copeland. Starting with how the dance legend begins each day, the two break down some of Tharp's most famous pieces, including 1971's "Eight Jelly Rolls" and "Deuce Coupe" from 1973. Touching on specifics like choreographing for a pointe shoe versus a sneaker, both Copeland and Tharp share their experience learning different dance styles and the impact of music on dance, including the work of Frank Sinatra.

PBS Arts Talk is a production of The WNET Group. Gina Kim is executive producer. Ann Benjamin and Annette Jolles are directors. Elizabeth Dwyer and Juliet Fuisz are producers. Amanda Zinoman is editor. Emilio Saldana is associate producer. Executives in charge are Diane Masciale and Stephen Segaller.

Original production funding for **PBS Arts Talk** is provided by the Rosalind P. Walter Foundation and by public television viewers.

###

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the nonprofit parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; and [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider. The WNET Group also operates [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network, and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#). Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series **Nature**, **Great Performances**, **American Masters** and **Amanpour and Company** and trusted local news programs **MetroFocus** and **NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi**. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series **Cyberchase**, interactive **Mission US** history games, and

resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. Community-supported, The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About PBS

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS's premier children's media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math, and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV — including a 24/7 channel — online at [pbskids.org](#), via an array of mobile apps, and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](#).