

Bigger Than Boxing. Larger Than Life.

Muhammad Ali, a new four-part documentary directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns, premieres on NEPM TV on September 19. The new series, which was in development for six years, was also written and co-directed by Sarah Burns and David McMahon, whose previous collaborations with Burns include *The Central Park Five*, *Jackie Robinson* and *East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story*.

The film follows the life of one of the most consequential men of the 20th century, a three-time heavyweight boxing champion who captivated billions of fans with his combination of speed, agility and power in the ring, and his charm, wit and outspokenness outside of it. At the height of his fame, Ali challenged Americans' racial prejudices, religious biases, and notions about what roles celebrities and athletes play in our society, and inspired people all over the world with his message of pride and self-affirmation.

Drawing from an extraordinary trove of archival footage and photographs, contemporary music, and the insights and memories of eyewitnesses — including family and friends, journalists, boxers and historians, among others — Burns, Burns and McMahon have created a sweeping portrait of an American icon. The series details the story of the athlete who competed in some of the most dramatic and widely viewed sporting events ever. *Muhammad Ali* also captures Ali's principled resistance to the Vietnam War, his steadfast commitment to his Muslim faith, and his complex relationships with Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, who profoundly shaped his life and worldview.

Ali's story is full of contradictions. Despite his competitive reputation and ruthless athleticism in the ring, he went on to become a symbol for peace and pacifism. Though committed to a faith that expected obedience and dignified conduct, he was notoriously unfaithful to his wives, at times publicly flaunting his affairs. Ali was a clever showman with an unparalleled genius for promotion and turn of phrase, who occasionally allowed his partners and friends to take advantage of him. He endlessly trumpeted his own greatness as a boxer, but anonymously donated to save a Jewish old age home, made surprise visits to pediatric hospitals, and signed autographs for every last fan.

"Muhammad Ali was the very best at what he did," said Ken Burns. "He was arguably America's greatest athlete, and his unflinching insistence that he be unabashedly himself at all times made him a beacon for generations of people around the world seeking to express their own humanity."

Muhammad Ali:

A Film by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns and David McMahon

Sunday, September 19–Wednesday,

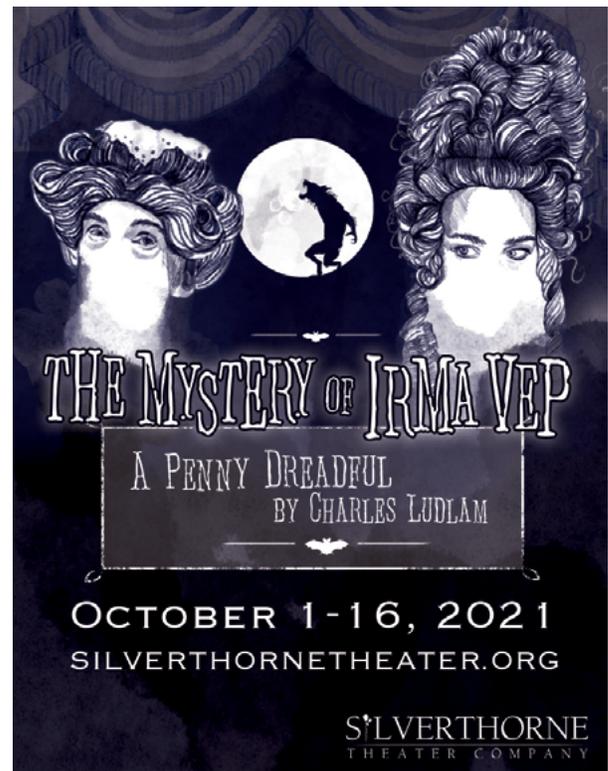
September 22 at 8 p.m.



PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY OF MICHAEL GAFFNEY

Related Local Event

We are partnering with Springfield College to present a local event featuring clips from the film and a discussion on the topic of Muhammad Ali and his legacy of social change. Visit nepm.org for more details.



#SomosNEPM | We are NEPM

#SomosNEPM, translated as “we are NEPM,” is a new name for something we’ve always recognized — the importance of the often-intersecting diverse Hispanic, Latino(a)/Latinx, and Puerto Rican communities of western New England. *Tertulia* and *Presencia* are examples of local content that we’ve produced over the years. Now — with programming, events, relationship-building and community efforts, on TV, radio, online and in the neighborhood — watch and see how we ramp up this important work. #SomosNEPM is not just a hashtag, it’s also a call to action. Follow us on our social media platforms.

Sunday Night Line up on NEPM 88.5

Earlier this year, we made changes to our radio schedule to create a substantial and seamless block of programming centered around the Latino community. Tune in Sundays for news, discussion, commentary and music of all genres.

Latino USA

Sundays at 7 p.m.

Latino USA is the longest running Latino-focused program on U.S. public media and the only nationally distributed English-language radio program produced from a Latino perspective. Emmy® award-winning host Maria Hinojosa combines high-quality news, cultural and public affairs journalism with compelling storytelling to bring a rich understanding of a wide spectrum of topics.

Tertulia

Sundays at 8 p.m.

On NEPM’s *Tertulia*, music lovers find Latin Jazz, Boleros, Salsa, Merengue, Nueva Trova, Tango and Folk music from Puerto Rico, Central America, Colombia, the Andean Region and Spain. Host Raquel Obregon also presents news pieces in English and Spanish, discussion of topics of importance to the local Latino community, and a weekly calendar of local events.

Fiesta

Sundays at 10 p.m.

Fiesta is devoted to Latino concert music, and features artistically significant compositions from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Acclaimed composer, musician, professor, and host Elbio Barilari invites listeners to enjoy and learn about the lively and compelling sounds of Latin American classical music, from the 16th century to the present.



Explore Culture on NEPM TV

It’s National Hispanic Heritage Month — a time when we traditionally honor the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Here are some upcoming shows that you will find on NEPM TV. But, make no mistake, you’ll see that we offer programming like this all year long.

POV: Fruits of Labor

Monday, October 4 at 10 p.m.

Forced to be the breadwinner for her family, a Mexican American teenager works in the strawberry fields in California.

American Masters: Rita Moreno

Just a Girl Who Decided to Go for It

Tuesday, October 5 at 9 p.m.

Discover how Rita Moreno defied her humble upbringing and racism to become one of a select group of Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Award winners.

34th Hispanic Heritage Awards

Friday, October 8 at 9 p.m.

Celebrate the recipients of the annual Hispanic Heritage Awards with performances and appearances by some of the country’s most celebrated Hispanic artists and visionaries.

La Frontera with Pati Jinich

Friday, October 15 at 9 p.m.

Savor the sights, sounds and flavors of the U.S.-Mexico border alongside acclaimed chef Pati Jinich as she experiences the region’s rich culture, people and cuisine.

Visit [NEPM.org](https://www.nepm.org) to learn about more Hispanic Heritage Month programming on radio, TV, and digital.



Giving Voice to Puerto Rican Composers

El Puerto Rico, which debuted in 2018, is the brainchild of Tianhui Ng (Music Director of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra and the Pioneer Valley Symphony) and Don Sanders (Executive Director of Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts). The project commissioned new pieces of chamber music from Puerto Rican composers, created The Victory Players — an ensemble of young virtuoso players from around the world — and brought all the forces to Holyoke for a two-week residency of rehearsals, exchange, and education outreach, culminating in a concert at El Mercado.

El Puerto Rico has grown each year and NEPM has been happy to partner with the project.

COVID-19 eliminated the viability of an in-person residency for *El Puerto Rico 3*. Instead, composers were asked to create duets which the Victory Players recorded individually from their hometowns, and NEPM hosted a thrilling concert event on Zoom.

El Puerto Rico 4 takes the project to a new level. In June of this year, Tianhui Ng and the Victory Players traveled to GBH's Fraser Performance Studio in Boston to record ten new compositions. Videos of all performances will be released for online viewing on September 30, a podcast featuring conversations with the composers will be coming out later in the fall, and selections from *El Puerto Rico 3* and *4* will be broadcast on NEPM 88.5 on back-to-back Sunday evenings.

El Puerto Rico 3

Sunday, September 26 at 6 p.m.
on NEPM 88.5

El Puerto Rico 4

Sunday, October 3 at 6 p.m.
on NEPM 88.5



Stories in Spanish and English — A First for Valley Voices

First Time - A Live Storytelling Event at El Mercado in Holyoke
Thursday, October 28

NEPM and the Academy Of Music's Valley Voices Story Slam, in collaboration with Nueva Esperanza and El Corazón/The Heart of Holyoke are planning an evening of storytelling from the Latinx community, some in Spanish, some in English. All storytellers will have the chance to participate in a workshop with Holyoke's own storytelling diva Kerrita Mayfield before the show and will be supported with encouragement from the storytelling team at Valley Voices and Nueva Esperanza.

We want to hear about your story on the theme of "First Time."

Visit nepm.org to find out how you can audition in Spanish or English.

We're accepting auditions through October 10. Learn more at NEPM.org

Watch



News. Culture. Kids.

	DTuner	Comcast	Spectrum	Time Warner
NEPM-DT	57.1	2	7	12
NEPM-Create	57.4	237	182	1277
NEPM-Kids	57.3	217	180	1276
NEPM-World	57.2	209	181	1275
NEPM-HD	57.1	857	782	1221

Listen



News. Classical. Jazz.

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Great Barrington	98.7 FM
Lee	98.3 FM
Pittsfield/Lenox	106.1 FM
Williamstown	96.3 FM
All Classical	WFCR 88.5-2 HD Radio™

news network

News. Talk. Culture.

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Hampshire County	WAMH 89.3 FM
Franklin County	WNNZ 91.7 FM
South Berkshire County	WNNU 89.5 FM
North Berkshire County	WNNI 98.9 FM
Hampden/Hampshire/Franklin Counties	WFCR 88.5-3 HD Radio™

Stay in Touch!



Questions or Comments?
Call 413-781-2801 or email
us at hello@nepm.org

Dates and times mentioned are accurate at time of printing and are subject to change. Please check nepm.org.

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Watch



Great Performances: The Red Shoes

Friday, September 17 at 9 p.m.

Based on the famous 1948 cinema classic, this stage adaptation — directed by choreographer Matthew Bourne and set to the romantic music of golden-age Hollywood — recounts Hans Christian Andersen's dark fairytale of obsession, possession and one dancer's dream to be the greatest dancer in the world.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Johan Persson



American Experience: Citizen Hearst

Monday, September 27
& Tuesday, September 28 at 9 p.m.

Explore the life of William Randolph Hearst, the pioneering media mogul and inspiration for Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*. Wielding unprecedented power, Hearst forever transformed the media's role in American life and politics.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Library of Congress



Nova: The Cannabis Question

Wednesday, September 29 at 9 p.m.

Nova investigates the story of cannabis in the U.S., from the criminalization that has disproportionately harmed communities of color to the latest medical understanding of the plant. What risks does cannabis pose? How much do we know about its potential medical benefits? As cannabis becomes socially accepted, scientists are racing to understand its long-term health consequences.



Connecting Point

Fridays at 6 p.m.

NEPM's *Connecting Point* has a new beat — the arts & culture beat! Tune in every Friday for coverage and discussion about what's going on throughout the region. Plus, you can get your creative juices flowing during the week with digital exclusives at connectingpoint.nepm.org.

Photo Credit: Joyce Skowrya



Call the Midwife: Season 10

Premieres Sunday, October 3 at 8 p.m.

It's 1966, and it's a challenging time for the midwives. But there's excitement, too, as the women's rights movement intensifies. Trixie and Sister Julianne work to steer Nonnatus House out of its financial quandary, Dr. Turner deals with an array of difficult cases, and Pupil Midwife Nancy Corrigan joins the team.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Nealstreet Production



Alma's Way

Premieres Monday, October 4
at 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Created by actor and writer Sonia Manzano, who positively impacted the lives of generations as "Maria" on *Sesame Street*, this new series from Fred Rogers Productions follows 6-year-old Alma Rivera, a proud Puerto Rican girl who lives in the Bronx with her parents and little brother.



American Veteran

Tuesdays, October 26 – November 16
at 9 p.m.

Trace the veteran experience through a four-part TV series, a 10-part series of digital shorts and a nine-part podcast. From the citizen-soldiers who fought in the nation's earliest conflicts, to the men and women in today's all-volunteer armed forces, it is a rich and deeply moving story told through personal remembrances that draw civilian viewers into an unfamiliar culture.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Scott Olson via Getty Image



Independent Lens: Ferguson Rises

Monday, November 8 at 10 p.m.

Before the explosive global uprising condemning the murder of George Floyd, there was a small town in Missouri that rose up in protest after the Aug 9, 2014 killing of Black teenager Michael Brown Jr. by a white police officer. It was this small town and its people that propelled Black Lives Matter to international prominence and inspired a new global civil rights movement.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Rafael Roy

Listen



Books for Young People Fridays during Morning Edition on NEPM 88.5

You've heard from local authors about their new books during NEPM's Summer Fiction series. Now, we're turning the page to find out what's being offered for younger readers. Listen to interviews with New England authors who are writing books for teens, tweens and early readers.



Code Switch and Life Kit

Saturdays from 6–7 p.m. on the NEPM News Network

During the first half hour, *Code Switch* tackles the subject of race head-on, exploring how it impacts every part of society — politics, pop culture, history, sports and more. Then, *Life Kit* guides you through topics no one prepares you for. Get practical tips about finances, mental health, microaggressions, relationships and other challenging situations.



Boston Symphony Orchestra Broadcasts

Sundays at 1 p.m. on NEPM 88.5

After a wonderful season from Tanglewood, we're looking forward to being able to bring you select broadcasts of concerts from the 2021-22 Boston Symphony Orchestra season, and archival broadcasts. Visit NEPM.org for information on all the symphonies, concertos and overtures that await you.



The Long Form

Sundays at 6 p.m. on NEPM 88.5

This is the place on the NEPM schedule for stand-alone hidden gems — "long form" audio documentaries from independent voices on a wide range of topics. Sometimes we offer a collection of programs to celebrate nationally recognized heritage months. Other times, we explore timely topics — education, the environment, politics, and more.

Stream

Enjoy NEPM Whenever You Want, However You Want

Remember the days when, if you missed *Downton Abbey* on TV you REALLY missed it? Or, if you caught *Fresh Air* on your car radio, it was only because you were driving home from work way too late? These days, you have options for when, how, and where you enjoy the NEPM programming that you love.



Livestream Radio and TV at NEPM.org

You can livestream NEPM TV, NEPM 88.5, the NEPM News Network and All-Classical from the NEPM website on any device. For radio, look for the gray-bar at the top of any page at nepm.org. For TV, look for the "Watch NEPM TV" graphic on our homepage.



On Demand TV via the PBS App

If you like watching (or binging) your favorite PBS or local NEPM shows whenever you want, the PBS video app is for you. You can find it at video.nepm.org, or through streaming services like Roku, Apple TV and Chromecast. Thousands of shows are available, many for weeks after their original broadcast. For more time to watch, or to watch certain shows before they're on TV, or for some exclusive programs there's Passport, which is available to you if you donate \$60 or more to NEPM. Register for NEPM Passport and your PBS video app will be even bigger and better!



NEPM Podcasts

Word Matters, *Beacon Hill in 5*, *The Short List*, *Jazz Beat*, *Valley Voices* and more are all available through the NEPM podcast hub. Go to nepm.org/podcast to find them.



The NEPM App

If your phone is always by your side, you'll want the NEPM app. It's command central for everything NEPM. It gives you a convenient way to hop in and find what you're looking for — radio, TV, podcasts, music and more.



Now: Guilt



September 30:
Seaside Hotel Seasons 1 & 2



October 17: Baptiste Season 2



November 27: Land Girls

#SomosNEPM

We are NEPM



Learn all about it starting on page 2 inside.

NEPM Media Lab Summer 2021. Photo credit: Joyce Skowrya

New England Public Media

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FALL 2021

Muhammad Ali

Premieres Sunday,
September 19 at 8 p.m.

