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MEDIA CONTACT: Allison Alvarez Hedrick

Vice President of Communications

P: (800) 354-9338, ext. 2240

E: ahedrick@wedu.org

This summer on WEDU ARTS PLUS be inspired by local artists and visit Tampa's oldest theatre

WEDU ARTS PLUS airs at 8 p.m. on Thursdays

Tampa, FL – WEDU ARTS PLUS kicks off the summer as they take viewers inside the darkroom of Clearwater photographer Ric Savid where he produces alluring black and white images using only light sensitive photographic materials.

"In **episode 619**, we are featuring local photographer Ric Savid. He's an impressive 'old-fashioned' photographer who still uses film and a dark room to create images," said WEDU producer Farah Vickery.

Savid started as a crime reporter for the *St. Petersburg Times* but is now known for his stunning portraits. In 2012, Savid was named city of Tampa's photographer laureate and went on to produce 50 black and white portraits depicting the diversity of the people living and working in the city.

"His images are striking and his black and white portraits really get at the heart of the subject. We are excited to feature a talented local artist living and working in our community," said Vickery.

Episode 619 airs at **8 p.m. Thursday, June 22.**

WEDU ARTS PLUS: Episode 620 explores the teaching objectives of instructors at New Tampa Piano and Pedagogy Academy. Learn how the local academy shares the value of learning and understanding music.

"We're teaching the whole human being, not just the piano, through the music," said founder Dr. Judith Jain.

Tune in at **8 p.m. Thursday, June 29**, to get a glimpse inside the academy's unique approach to the art of teaching.

Produced by the students at St. Petersburg College in partnership with WEDU, **WEDU ARTS PLUS Episode: 621** follows street musicians from downtown St. Petersburg known as buskers. While other cities may require street musicians to carry permits or waivers in order to showcase their talents on the street, the city of St. Petersburg is more lenient and supportive of artists.

"I love to see it happening in our city. I think it shows creativity, shows that we're adventurous and supportive of the arts. And we have some amazing artists here. So I love to see them come out with a guitar or a little keyboard and play and sing. I love it," said St. Petersburg City Councilman, Steve Kornell.

This episode airs at **8 p.m. Thursday, July 6.**

WEDU ARTS PLUS: Episode 622 tours one of the most beautiful and historic landmarks in Tampa. Built in 1926, the Tampa Theatre is still standing and serving the community with its atmospheric interior which designer John Ebersohn created to transport his guests to a different time and place.

“90 years later, we still want our guests to feel like they’re being transported when they walk into Tampa Theatre,” said Jill Witecki, Director of Marketing & Community Relations.

Take a look into the passionately protected landmark at **8 p.m. Thursday, July 13.**

For **Episode 623**, the students at St. Petersburg College partner-up again with WEDU to shed light on the art of practicing parkour. **WEDU ARTS PLUS** showcases how this activity is a physical form of expression.

“I describe art as expressing yourself through any type of channel and that’s exactly what parkour is – you’re expressing yourself through movement,” said Marvin Ross, World Freerunning Parkour Federation athlete, actor and stuntman.

Learn more about parkour from local enthusiasts at **8 p.m. Thursday, July 20.**

WEDU ARTS PLUS airs **Thursday nights at 8 p.m.** and repeats at 1 p.m. on Sundays and at 2 p.m. on Mondays on channel 3.1. Programs are also available for viewing on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. To learn more about **WEDU ARTS PLUS** or to view past episodes, visit the website at www.wedu.org/artsplus.

ABOUT WEDU PBS ARTS PLUS

WEDU ARTS PLUS is a weekly arts and culture program produced by WEDU PBS. It is devoted to telling stories of the individuals and cultural organizations that make West Central Florida – Florida’s Cultural Coast – such a vibrant region. These stories are combined with others from around the country to form an entertaining weekly series. WEDU ARTS PLUS is more than a television program. It is a celebration of the cultural assets of the WEDU PBS 16-county area, a way to bring communities together through the arts, and an opportunity to educate about and through the arts. WEDU Arts Plus debuted on February 28, 2013. The program features both local stories and segments from other PBS stations around the country. WEDU ARTS PLUS is broadcast to more than 5,000,000 people throughout WEDU’s 16 county viewing area and is available to anyone, anywhere online. The program airs on Thursday nights at 8 PM and repeats several times during the week on WEDU’s multiple channels. Programs are also available for viewing on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU is West Central Florida’s leading PBS station reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station website, www.wedu.org and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU’s focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Marketing & Research Resources, Inc. M&RR, January 2017). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit www.wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.

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