



How Do Today's Top Stories Connect to the Past? New Weekly Series **RETRO REPORT on PBS** Provides Historical Context to Today's Headlines

Premieres this Fall on PBS Stations Nationwide

Featuring New Yorker Humorist Andy Borowitz and Hosted by Journalist Celeste Headlee and Artist Masud Olufani



From Left to Right: Masud Olufani (Courtesy of Natalia Livingston), Andy Borowitz (Courtesy of Howard Schatz), Celeste Headlee (Courtesy of Jeff Rothman Photography)

PASADENA, CA; February 1, 2019 -- Today at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour, PBS announced **RETRO REPORT on PBS**, a new weekly one-hour magazine format program hosted by journalist Celeste Headlee and artist Masud Olufani and featuring *New Yorker* humorist Andy Borowitz. Presented by Georgia Public Broadcasting and produced by Retro Report, a non-profit organization whose mission is to arm the public with a complete picture of today's most important stories, the

series offers viewers a fresh perspective on current headlines, revealing their unknown — and often surprising — connections to the past. **RETRO REPORT on PBS** premieres this fall on PBS.

“Today, more information is available than ever before, and it’s coming from countless sources — with varying degrees of credibility,” said Perry Simon, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager, PBS. “**RETRO REPORT on PBS** takes viewers on a journey into the most important stories of the day, looking at them through the lens of their often surprising historical roots, providing new insights while correcting the record and exposing myths along the way.”

In today's 24-hour news cycle, with breaking headlines, all-news networks and online outlets constantly competing for attention, **RETRO REPORT on PBS** aims to widen the discussion, revealing the story behind the story, in order to gain new insights and shed perspective on events that are still resonant today. Each episode will explore four distinct stories, together with a special weekly segment featuring the wit and wisdom of author and comedian Andy Borowitz.

Topics to be explored include how Colin Kaepernick's bended knee during the national anthem was deeply rooted in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics protest, why the government spends nearly \$50 million a year to care for approximately 100,000 wild horses thanks to an obscure law passed more than 50 years ago, how the modern-day

recycling movement was fueled by a news story about a barge full of garbage in the 1980s, and the tragic story behind why modern U.S. drug approval laws are so strict.

“We are honored to be working with PBS on this program and can't imagine a better partner for this new show,” said Kyra Darnton, Executive Producer, **RETRO REPORT on PBS**. “Together, we hope to bring a deeper understanding of today's important news stories by exploring their roots in history.”

“Public media has always set the bar for objective, balanced news coverage,” said GPB President and CEO Teya Ryan. “As our world becomes more infiltrated with different mediums and an increasing desire to stay informed, **RETRO REPORT on PBS** explores the deeper context of stories and empowers viewers to discern facts and overarching themes in society.”

PBS will partner with its member stations to develop localized content that is inspired by **RETRO REPORT ON PBS** and aimed at telling stories that will connect local communities with their own unique histories.

About Celeste Headlee

Celeste Headlee is an award-winning journalist who has appeared on NPR, PBS World, PRI, CNN, BBC and other international networks. In her 20-year career in public radio, she has been the Executive Producer of *On Second Thought* at Georgia Public Radio and anchored programs including *Tell Me More*, *Talk of the Nation*, *All Things Considered*, and *Weekend Edition*. She also served as co-host of the national morning news show, *The Takeaway*, from PRI and WNYC, and anchored presidential coverage in 2012 for PBS World Channel.

Celeste is the author of *Heard Mentality* and *We Need To Talk: How To Have Conversations That Matter*. She is also a professional speaker and her TEDx Talk, “Sharing 10 Ways to Have a Better Conversation,” has over 19 million total views to date. She is co-host of the *Scene on Radio* podcast – *MEN*. Her work and insights have been featured on *TODAY*, *Psychology Today, Inc.*, *NPR*, *Time*, *Essence*, *Elle*, *BuzzFeed*, *Salon*, *Parade*, and many more. For many years, Celeste has been a mentor and managing editor for NPR's Next Generation Radio Project, training young reporters and editors in broadcasting.

About Masud Olufani

Masud Olufani is an Atlanta-based multidisciplinary artist and actor. He is a graduate of Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey, Morehouse College and The Savannah College of Art and Design, where he earned an M.F.A. in sculpture in 2013. Masud has exhibited his work in group and solo shows in Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, Richmond, Lacoste, France, and Hong Kong. He has completed residencies at The Vermont Studio Center, SCAD Alumni Artist in Residence Program, The Hambidge Center for Arts and Sciences in Rabun, Georgia, and Creative Currents in Portobello, Panama. He is a 2017 Southern Arts Prize State Fellow for Georgia; a recipient of 2018

and 2015 Idea Capital Grants; a Southwest Airlines Art and Social Engagement grant, and a 2015-16 MOCA GA Working Artist Project Grant; and is a member of the 2014-15 class of the Waltham Fellows. He is the lead designer of *Blocked at Five Points*, a site-specific installation created to memorialize the enslaved Africans bought and sold at the Crawford Frazier Auction House, which once stood on the grounds of Atlanta's Five Points MARTA station.

About Andy Borowitz

Andy Borowitz is a *New York Times* best-selling author and a comedian who has written for *The New Yorker* since 1998. In 2001, he created the [Borowitz Report](#), a satirical news column that has millions of readers around the world, for which he won the first-ever National Press Club Award for Humor. The Borowitz Report was acquired by *The New Yorker* in 2012. He has published two recent best-selling books: [The 50 Funniest American Writers](#), which became the first title in the history of the Library of America to make the *Times* best-seller list; and a memoir, [An Unexpected Twist](#), a No. 1 best-seller, which Amazon named the Best Kindle Single of 2012. His Twitter feed, [@BorowitzReport](#), has more than half a million followers and was voted the best Twitter feed of 2011 in a poll by *Time*. As a comedian, he has performed sold-out shows around the world and has made countless television and radio appearances on National Public Radio, VH1 and Comedy Central, among other places. He has been called a "Swiftian satirist" (the *Wall Street Journal*), "America's satire king" (the Daily Beast), "the funniest human on Twitter" (the *Times*) and "one of the funniest people in America" (CBS News' "Sunday Morning").

About PBS

[PBS](#), with nearly 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 90 million people through television and 30 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' 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' 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 [www.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 Pressroom on Twitter](#).

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