First Choice - March 2009

WUSF, University of South Florida

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Rick Steves takes viewers to some of Europe’s less traveled destinations in his special two-hour adventure of the senses, *Rick Steves’ Romantics’ Europe*. This time, destinations include Barcelona in Spain, France’s Dordogne River Valley region and the Czech Republic. Each has its own special charm. In Barcelona, Steves takes an inspiring plunge into the creative spirit of the Catalan culture and the exuberant, daring art of Gaudi, Picasso and Dali. Next, Steves takes a leisurely canoe trip along France’s Dordogne River, exploring dramatic castles and cave paintings along the way, while taking time out to savor the region’s celebrated specialty, foie gras. At journey’s end in the Czech Republic, viewers can vicariously soak in a peat bath, do some river rafting, explore a striking collection of art nouveau masterpieces and get the blood flowing dancing to a contemporary gypsy pub band. It’s the next best thing to being there. Airs on WUSF TV/DT, Monday, March 2, at 8 p.m.
WUSF TV/DT
March Highlights

DANIEL O’DONNELL: HOPE AND PRAISE
This uplifting concert, taped at the Tri-Lakes Center in Branson, Missouri, includes multi-denominational hymns, up-tempo gospel songs and pop tunes. Perennial favorite Daniel O’Donnell is backed by a 24-member young adult choir, a 12-member children’s choir, an orchestra, O’Donnell’s band and the beautiful Mary Duff. **Airs Sunday, March 1, at 8 p.m.**

ED SLOTT’S STAY RICH FOR LIFE
Demonstrates attainable results from Slott’s 20-plus years as a hands-on expert in financial planning with personal stories of clients that powerfully illustrate his practical advice put into effect. **Airs Friday, March 6, at 8 p.m.**

SWEET SOUL: STAX/VOLT REVUE — LIVE IN NORWAY 1967
Filmed in 1967 in Oslo, Norway, this special features live performance footage from the last leg of the Stax/Volt Revue’s European tour, capturing such soul icons as Otis Redding, Sam and Dave, and Booker T. and the MG’s, in concert, in their prime. **Airs Saturday, March 7, at 8 p.m.**
What’s the secret behind WUSF TV/DT’s innovative and inspired programming schedule? Two words: Susan Geiger. Geiger is WUSF’s TV program director. She’s been with the station in some capacity since 1985, only a few months after she graduated with a dual degree in broadcasting and public relations from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. She recently fit us into her busy schedule to share some insight on the craft of programming.

**How do you choose your programming?** I look at the content and how each program complements the rest of our schedule. We try to provide a wide range of enlightening and educational programming, including shows on travel, history, nature and science.

**What’s the main goal behind your program selection?** To educate and entertain. We look for programs that make a difference to our viewers. When the program is over, we hope viewers will take away some useful information.

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How do you work with Sheila Rue, WUSF’s new radio program director? It’s a creative collaboration. WUSF provides multiple media platforms to the community, including our website, radio and television. The formats are different, but our audiences cross over. Sheila and I work together to develop more local programming to serve our audiences on all platforms. *Florida Matters* is a great example of how we’re able to utilize the different media available to us.

**What sets public TV apart from commercial TV?**
Public television offers a better opportunity to explore issues and subject matter in depth. We can do that because there’s simply more time; we don’t broadcast commercials. Commercial television breaks down to 44 minutes of actual content and 16 minutes of advertising. Public television offers 57 minutes of programming.

**What’s your favorite WUSF TV series?**
Probably our two new British dramas, *Lark Rise to Candleford* and *MI-5*. *Lark Rise* is a wonderful period drama based on Flora Thompson’s trilogy about a young woman coming of age in the Oxfordshire countryside in the 1880’s. I especially enjoy *MI-5*. It’s intelligently written and filled with believable storylines about contemporary espionage.

**What appeals to you about the role of a program director?**
Putting the schedule together every month is a real challenge. It’s like solving an enormous jigsaw puzzle, and anyone who knows me will tell you I love puzzles and board games.

**What do you enjoy most?**
That’s hard to say. There are so many rewarding and satisfying things about my job. I love the creativity. Some people joke that I watch TV all day for a living. That’s not really the case, although I do get to watch many excellent programs, and that’s always interesting. I also watch a lot of bad TV, which is the downside, I suppose. But I learn a great deal and I love that. I especially enjoy talking to viewers and listening to their comments about our programs.

**Do you get many comments about the programs?**
Yes. Viewers send us comments all the time. It’s particularly rewarding when a viewer lets you know a certain program has made a difference in their life. *Sit and Be Fit* is one example; it’s a simple fitness program based on exercising from a chair. Many viewers have called to thank us and say it’s helped them stay active or recover from surgery. It’s a true pleasure to hear that.

**Please tell us about the new WUSF Kids channel.**
That’s our new channel that we broadcast 24-7. It’s the only local digital channel devoted to quality children’s programs. We want parents, grandparents and childcare providers to know that WUSF Kids is a fun and safe channel to watch. Any time they choose, children can find programming that feeds their mind and supports positive values.

**What new programming can we look forward to?**
We’re really excited about the expansion of *Florida Matters* to TV and the possibilities of that series. The show was originally launched on WUSF 89.7 about three years ago, and has been very popular with our audience. We already have a terrific team on the radio show, including Carson Cooper, Susan Giles Wantuck, and Joshua Stewart. We’ve added Irene Mayer, formerly with NewsChannel 8, as the host of the TV program, and we’re also working with Larry Elliston, whom you may remember from his days at WTVT Channel 13. The goal is to engage the community across all of our platforms and provide our viewers and listeners with actionable information about Florida. I look forward to hearing the community’s response to the program.

**What is the best way for viewers to give you feedback?**
Email us, or call our main number and ask for TV programming. Larry Demoret, our traffic manager, or I will answer any questions viewers might have. We do our best to respond within 24 business hours. Our viewers are the reason we do what we do. It’s always a privilege to talk with them.

To learn more about WUSF TV/DT’s programming, call 1-800-741-9090, or email sgeiger@wusf.org or ldemoret@wusf.org.
A reason to celebrate

Last year’s bad news isn’t news anymore. We’re living through a financial crisis and everyone knows it. WUSF isn’t immune. The crisis has hit us, too. Like so many of you, we’ve been tightening our belts and striving for greater efficiency. The good news is, we won’t let it stop us from providing you with the same high level of innovative and thought-provoking news, educational, cultural and public affairs programming you’ve come to count on. To borrow a line from our new president: “Yes, we can.”

The reason we can is you, our members. Thanks to you, we’ve successfully overcome the challenges of the past. We’ll get through the challenge of the present—with your help. WUSF has deep roots in this community. For more than 40 years, we’ve served a leadership role by creating a forum for its events, issues and programs, and by providing meaningful content that enhances our region’s quality of life. More than just television and radio broadcasting stations, our programming and partnerships fulfill essential civic needs and inspire critical dialogue. You’ll read about how we approach our TV programming in this issue’s interview with Susan Geiger, WUSF TV/DT’s programming director.

This month is the perfect month to show your appreciation for WUSF Public Broadcasting during our spring radio and TV membership campaigns. We hope you’ll take a moment from your day and become a member or renew your membership. More than ever, we continue to rely on you to show your loyalty and support through your membership contribution. In these hard times, your support at any level will help keep the programming on the air. It’s the ultimate irony that this economy gives us more opportunity to serve our audience. With more folks planning evenings in and family time at home, WUSF is the perfect companion, whether you’re watching, listening or involved on our website.

Despite everything, our area’s cultural life continues to thrive. That vibrant creative spirit will take to the streets early this month—and we plan to be a part of it. WUSF is a proud sponsor of the 39th Annual Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, one of Florida’s premier cultural events, taking place this March 7 and 8. Look around and you’ll see the faces of many of WUSF’s family, including fellow members, on-air hosts and staff. We hope to see you there!

Thanks to all of you, we’re going to weather this storm. We’ve done it before and we’ll do it again. Yes, these are hard times. These are also times of hope and change. And, as far as we’re concerned, that’s something to celebrate.

JoAnn Urofsky General Manager
On March 7 and 8, the Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts will fill the streets of downtown Tampa with art, musical entertainment, children's activities, and special exhibits featuring new and emerging artists. Considered one of Florida's premier cultural events, the Gasparilla Festival, now in its 39th year, ranks among the leading juried festivals nationwide, and features both fine arts and crafts. This year 300 acclaimed artists and craftspeople will exhibit their original works throughout Lykes Gaslight Square Park and along Franklin Street in downtown Tampa.

“WUSF shares a special relationship with the festival,” notes Juli Milas, the festival’s sponsorship chairman. “We’ve enjoyed eight wonderful years of partnership.” Milas explains that the festival showcases the event both on WUSF 89.7 and on WUSF TV/DT. “We reach our target market through this coverage,” says Milas. “You could call it a mutual admiration society!”

WUSF’s General Manager JoAnn Urofsky invites WUSF members from throughout the region to join the festivities. “We’re delighted to partner with the Gasparilla Festival,” she says. “It’s a vital part of this area’s rich cultural tapestry. It’s also a fabulous way to spend a day!”

Admission to the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is free. Festival hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 8. For more information, visit www.gasparilla-arts.com.
Volunteer Power!

In January, more than 20 volunteers, including members of the AARP Brandon Chapter #4442 and the Hillsborough County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.), came by the station to help with our annual tax receipt mailing and monthly membership renewal projects. Throughout the week, these dedicated individuals prepared more than 25,000 pieces for mailing. “We’re so thankful for our volunteers and grateful for everything they do to support the mission of WUSF,” says Patricia J. Hickok, member services director. “It’s a blessing and a pleasure to work with such a generous group of people who know how to get things done and have fun at the same time!”

Spring Membership Campaigns

What’s so special about March at WUSF Public Broadcasting? This is the month that you, our loyal members, are invited to participate in our Spring Membership Campaigns.

Contributions from members and from new members joining us this month support both today’s and tomorrow’s programming. Your support enables WUSF to continue providing the community with the highest quality programming available today. It also paves the way for us to meet the requirements for new and future technologies. Last spring, your support helped us launch our new children’s channel, WUSF Kids. Your contributions also helped to fund the new televised Florida Matters series. Stay tuned for more in 2009.

Thank you for supporting a service that you, your friends, and your community value all year long. We couldn’t do it without you!

WUSF TV/DTV’s membership campaign runs through March 15; WUSF 89.7’s spring campaign is March 17-26.

Met Opera Series

Why are the “Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD” series such a hot ticket? We caught up with some opera fans in Sarasota recently and this is what they had to say:

“No matter what seat you’re in, you see and hear everything,” said Eva Slane, who was volunteering for WUSF that day. “It’s ideal for people who couldn’t otherwise see a Met performance.”

“I love opera and to see a Met performance is an exquisite experience,” said Barbara Shepherd. “That’s why I’m here!”

“I’ve lived and breathed opera since the 1930’s,” said Betsy Bagby. “This is one more wonderful way to feed that obsession!”

“I can’t really afford to buy tickets for Met performances anymore unless I’m in the peanut gallery,” says Cynthia Lichtenstein. “These broadcasts give me the opportunity to sit right up front. I consider this a new art form because our vision of each opera is focused through the director, which can be very enlightening.”

There are two productions scheduled for this month: Cristina Gallardo-Domás sings the title role of Puccini’s Madama Butterfly in Anthony Minghella’s production (March 7, 1 p.m.) and Natalie Dessay and Juan Diego Flórez star in Mary Zimmerman’s new production of Bellini’s La Sonnambula (March 21, 1 p.m.). Visit WUSF’s website for theater locations near you.

Save the Date!

WUSF members are invited to save the date for WUSF’s Midsummer Night’s Dream celebration, April 18, at the home of Helen and James Rosburg in Odessa. The evening, a benefit for WUSF Public Broadcasting, includes live music, inspired libations, and fabulous food and conversation. Tickets are $250. For more information, contact Cathy Coccia at 813-974-8624.
I listen to Florida Matters on WUSF 89.7 for information about what matters in Florida. I’m delighted that Florida Matters now also airs on WUSF TV/DT so that we can see, as well as hear, vital news and information about our region. I’m Sandy Rief, and WUSF is my source for Florida Matters.
Every morning at 5 a.m., Dr. Philip Adler’s alarm clock goes off and his radio switches on—tuned to his favorite program on his favorite station: Morning Edition on WUSF 89.7. “I’m such a news addict that I even have a shower radio,” he says. He notes that he’ll often have three or four radios on simultaneously in his house so he can listen wherever he happens to be. “They’re all set to WUSF 89.7,” he says. “I guess that makes me a WUSF addict, too.”

A Tampa-based pediatrician, Dr. Adler has lived and practiced in the area since he moved here in 1958. He’s been a fan of WUSF since its first days in the early 1960’s. “WUSF has been a part of my life for so long that it’s hard to remember when it wasn’t,” he says. “I began listening shortly after it first came on the air and that was it; I was hooked!”

That’s just his style, as a physician and a human being. When Dr. Adler does something, he does it all the way or not at all. “Half-way commitments don’t work for me,” he says. “It’s either 100 percent or nothing.”

His commitment to WUSF is 100 percent. “I’d say 110 percent,” he laughs.

Dr. Adler expresses his commitment to the station as a longstanding Cornerstone Society member. But he doesn’t stop there. Cathy Coccia, WUSF’s development director, says he becomes personally involved with WUSF 89.7’s membership campaigns.

“In the spring, Dr. Adler always offers a challenge to our listeners, often helping to raise more than $10,000. He has a large network of devoted patients and friends and challenges them to join him in supporting WUSF,” says Coccia.

This celebrated physician is proud to have participated twice in WUSF’s Florida Stories. During one segment, he told the moving story of how he helped integrate Tampa General Hospital during the days of segregated healthcare. In another segment, he related the struggles of an infant with a heart problem he was able to transfer to Boston Children’s Hospital. “She was treated in a pressure chamber and survived,” he remembers. “Now, I take care of her children.”

Dr. Adler’s enthusiasm for WUSF is contagious. As he sees it, WUSF may be habit-forming. But it’s the kind of good habit he wants to pass on to others.

For more information about WUSF’s Cornerstone Society, please contact Cathy Coccia at 813-974-8624.

“WUSF has been a part of my life for so long that it’s hard to remember when it wasn’t.”
The WUSF Radio Reading Service (RRS) is accessible to those who qualify 24 hours a day via a special radio receiver, provided at no charge, or through the WUSF TV/DT Channel 16 SAP option.
Sunday 1st
8:00 p.m. Daniel O’Donnell Hope and Praise
10:00 p.m. Chris Botti: Live in Boston

Monday 2nd
8:00 p.m. Rick Steves’ Romantics’ Europe
10:00 p.m. Eckhart Tolle: Awakening in the Now

Tuesday 3rd
8:00 p.m. Hit Man: David Foster and Friends
10:00 p.m. Suze Orman: Women and Money

Wednesday 4th
8:00 p.m. Yanni Voices: Live from the Forum in Acapulco
10:00 p.m. Ed Slott’s Stay Rich for Life

Thursday 5th
8:00 p.m. Suze Orman: Women and Money
10:00 p.m. Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band Live in Barcelona

Friday 6th
8:00 p.m. Ed Slott’s Stay Rich for Life
9:30 p.m. Chris Botti: Live in Boston

Saturday 7th
8:00 p.m. Sweet Soul: Stax/Volt Revue - Live in Norway 1967

Sunday 8th
8:00 p.m. Great Performances “The Police Certifiable”

Monday 9th
8:00 p.m. Visions: The Great Cities of Europe
9:30 p.m. Ed Slott’s Stay Rich for Life

Tuesday 10th
8:00 p.m. Magnificent Mind at Any Age with Dr. Daniel Amen
9:30 p.m. Viewer Favorites

Wednesday 11th
8:00 p.m. Country Bluegrass Homecoming
9:30 p.m. Suze Orman: Women and Money

Thursday 12th
8:00 p.m. Viewer Favorites

Friday 13th
8:00 p.m. Viewer Favorites

Saturday 14th
8:00 p.m. Viewer Favorites

Sunday 15th
8:00 p.m. Viewer Favorites

Monday 16th

Tuesday 17th
8:00 p.m. Lark Rise to Candleford
9:00 p.m. Doc Martin
10:00 p.m. MI-5

Wednesday 18th
8:00 p.m. Art Wolfe’s Travels to the Edge “Alaska: Arctic National Refuge”
8:30 p.m. Burt Wolf: Travels and Traditions “Cruising Providence”
9:00 p.m. This Old House
9:30 p.m. Hometime “Highland Landscape Wrap”
10:00 p.m. Leading with Kindness

Thursday 19th
8:00 p.m. Nature “White Falcon, White Wolf”
9:00 p.m. Wild! “Wildlife Filmmakers: The Most Dangerous Game”
10:00 p.m. Tornado Glory

Friday 20th
8:00 p.m. Florida Matters
8:30 p.m. Wild Florida “Florida’s Forgotten Coast”
9:00 p.m. Antiques Roadshow “Wichita, KS” Part 2
10:00 p.m. Globe Trekker “New Zealand”

Saturday 21st
8:00 p.m. Janson Movie Star Package “Joan Crawford: Always the Star”
9:00 p.m. Saturday Night Movie “A Thousand Crowns”

Sunday 22nd
8:00 p.m. NOVA “The Incredible Journey of the Butterflies”
9:00 p.m. American Masters “Atlantic Records: The House that Ahmet Built”

Monday 23rd
8:00 p.m. Rick Steves’ Europe “Iran, Yesterday and Today”
8:30 p.m. Smart Travels – Pacific Rim with Rudy Maxa “Hong Kong”
9:00 p.m. Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work – Headquarters
10:00 p.m. Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work – Head of State

Tuesday 24th
8:00 p.m. Lark Rise to Candleford
9:00 p.m. Doc Martin
10:00 p.m. MI-5

Wednesday 25th
8:00 p.m. Art Wolfe’s Travels to the Edge “Peru: Manu”
8:30 p.m. Burt Wolf: Travels and Traditions “Cayman Islands”
9:00 p.m. This Old House
9:30 p.m. Hometime “Digging Out the Yard”
10:00 p.m. Barbara Morgan: No Limits

Thursday 26th
8:00 p.m. Nature “Clever Monkeys”
9:00 p.m. Wild Things “The Chimp’s World”
10:00 p.m. Attenborough Wildlife Collection “Gorillas”

Friday 27th

Saturday 28th continued
9:00 p.m. Saturday Night Movie “Of Mice and Men”

Sunday 29th
8:00 p.m. NOVA “The Spy Factory”
9:00 p.m. American Masters “The Trials of J. Robert Oppenheimer”

Monday 30th
8:00 p.m. Rick Steves’ Europe “The Majesty of Madrid”
8:30 p.m. Smart Travels – Pacific Rim with Rudy Maxa “Sydney”
9:00 p.m. Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work – The Queen and Us
10:00 p.m. Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work – Inside the Firm

Tuesday 31st
8:00 p.m. Lark Rise to Candleford
9:00 p.m. Doc Martin
10:00 p.m. MI-5

Where to Watch

Over the Air
16 WUSF TV (analog)

Digital
16.1 WUSF TV/DT
16.2 WUSF Kids
16.3 Create TV
16.4 Florida Knowledge Network

WUSF on Verizon FiOS
016 WUSF TV (analog)
470 WUSF TV/DT
473 WUSF Kids
472 Create
471 Florida Knowledge Network

WUSF on Bright House
016 WUSF TV (analog)
616 WUSF TV/DT
617 WUSF Kids
618 Create
619 Florida Knowledge Network

WUSF on Comcast
016 WUSF TV (analog)

Programs scheduled are subject to change after printing of this publication.
The switch has been switched!

Now there’s more time to get ready for the digital switch. WUSF will make the digital transition on April 3 at midnight. For more information, visit www.wusf.org.