

2025 AMIA Archival Screening Night



December 3, 2025

Parkway Theatre
Baltimore, MD

Photo Credit: *University of South Carolina —
Moving Image Research Collections*



Welcome to the 34th annual Archival Screening Night!

As always, this program represents the magnificent spectrum of formats, works, and collections protected and preserved by the AMIA community and provides members with an opportunity to showcase recent acquisitions, discoveries, and preservation efforts. We hope you enjoy the show!

— The Archival Screening Night Subcommittee



With special thanks to Jeremy Spracklen, CK Ming, Laura Rooney, Kristina Kersels, Beverly Graham, The AMIA Board and Conference Committee, Eynar Pineda and the staff of the Parkway Theatre, and to all the submitters and presented of tonight's show.

Photo Credit: *[Sun Ra Live At The Famous Ballroom]*, MARMIA

1. **Title:** *Tony Cohen's Walk to Freedom*
 Institution: **Smithsonian National Museum of
 African American History & Culture**
 Original Format: **16mm**

In 1996 Anthony Cohen re-traced the steps of Harriett Tubman's 800-mile walk on the Underground Railroad from Sandy Springs, MD to Ontario, Canada. Cohen traveled by foot, rail, and boat and in one amazing incident emulated Henry "Box" Brown who mailed himself in a wooden crate to Philadelphia. Tony likewise entered a cargo crate and rode from Philadelphia to New York. This amazing footage has been unseen since 1996.

In 2024, NMAAHC staff digitized several 16mm and 1/4" audio tapes documenting the first Walk to Freedom from Tony Cohen through the Great Migration Home Movie Project.

2. **Title:** *[Sun Ra Live At The Famous
 Ballroom]*
 Institution: **Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving
 Image Archive (MARMIA)**
 Original Format: **Super 8**

Amateur footage of Sun Ra and his band—here the "Myth Science Cosmos Swing Arkestra"—performing at the Famous Ballroom in 1978. Band members include saxophonists Marshall Allen and John Gilmore, and vocalist June Tyson. Sun Ra regularly performed at the Famous Ballroom (then located just around the corner, on Charles) thanks to Baltimore's own Left Bank Jazz Society. A film crew can be seen shooting footage for Robert Mugge's 1980 documentary, SUN RA: A JOYFUL NOISE.

This 2K scan from the Super 8 camera original was digitized with support from the Mellon Foundation. Space is the place!

- 3. Title:** *Fox News story D3152-D3153
[Carrollton viaduct celebrates one
hundredth anniversary – outtakes]*
- Institution:** University of South Carolina —
Moving Image Research Collections
- Original Format:** 35mm silent nitrate camera
negative

In December 1929, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company invited cameramen from Fox and other major newsreel companies to record its celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the Carrollton Viaduct in southwest Baltimore. Named after Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737–1832) of Maryland – known as the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence – the viaduct was the first stone masonry bridge built for railroad use in the United States.

The celebration featured an impressive comparison of three modes of locomotion: a horse car, the 1829 Tom Thumb locomotive, and the massive contemporary Lord Baltimore passenger engine, with a lively group of young women posing and riding in each, dressed in period costumes appropriate to each era.

Digital reproduction from a 2K scan of the original nitrate camera negative.

4. **Title:** ***HATTIE THE WITCH'S
THANKSGIVING REUNION***
 Institution: **Cincinnati Museum Center**
 Original Format: **3/4" U-Matic**

This snippet is from a WXIX-TV (Cincinnati, Ohio public access TV) Reunion Special which aired on November 23, 1987. The show features many of the puppet characters created by Larry Smith. Smith was a longtime puppeteer with a number of TV programs in the Cincinnati area from the late 1950s into the 1970s. The premise of the show is a visit and reunion of many of Smith's old puppet characters in a magic forest: Hattie the Witch, Rudy, Teaser, Snarfy, and many others. This clip features the ending number and a goodbye message from Larry Smith. He donated this to the Cincinnati Museum Center in the 1990s.

This has recently been digitized and will be made accessible in our online catalog.



Photo Credit: Cincinnati Museum Center

5. **Title:** ***Being Gay (1981) -
KPRC-TV Collection***
 Institution: **Texas Archive of the Moving Image**
 Original Format: **3/4" U-Matic**

Being Gay is a five-part television news special produced by Houston's KPRC-TV about the city's growing LGBTQ community. In this opening segment, broadcast on May 24, 1981, reporter Ron Tank explains how the Montrose neighborhood serves as the center of the local queer scene. He also talks to prominent community leaders, including activists Ray Hill and Steve Shiflett.

TAMI preserved the video with support from a Digitizing Hidden Collections grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

6. **Title:** ***What Is Television?***
 Institution: **Brown Media Archives & Peabody
Awards Collection,
University of Georgia Libraries**
 Original Format: **2" videotape**

WSB-TV in Atlanta created this inspirational piece in 1965 and submitted it for consideration of a Peabody Award in 1968. Their submission/entry form states: "'What Is Television?' is not really a program; it is perhaps a philosophical narrative. Much has been said by many persons about what television is not. This program is a positive answer to those challenges. It is the verbalization of what one broadcaster feels in his heart."

Transferred to BetaSP in 2001, but that tape is missing. Restored from LTO in 2025.

7. **Title:** ***[Black Experience as Expressed
Through Music featuring Eubie
Blake***
- Institution:** **California Revealed**
- Original Format:** **3/4" U-matic**

This moving image comes from the Bette Yarbrough Cox Collection at the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive. Bette Y. Cox spent decades documenting the city’s Black musical heritage as a Los Angeles music educator and founder of the Black Experience as Expressed Through Music (BEEM) project. Her BEEM interviews with artists across jazz, classical, gospel, and popular music fill in a critical part of African American musical scholarship. In this clip, 95-year-old James Hubert “Eubie” Blake reflects on a lifetime in music, playing piano from memory. Born in Baltimore, he learned gospel and classical styles before embracing the rhythms of ragtime. The collection is preserved with California Revealed, providing online access to materials that celebrate California’s history, arts, and cultures.



- 8. Title:** *Dulles International Airport Engineering Progress Report, Part II*
Institution: National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution
Original Format: 16mm

The bureaucratic title of this 1961 FAA-produced film says it all! (Except that 'Part I' was a paper report.) Witness the construction marvels of Eero Saarinen's masterpiece, which he never lived to see completed. And, never forget that the notorious Mobile Lounges used to drive passengers right up to the airplanes--an idea from Saarinen pal, Charles Eames.

Collaboratively preserved by the National Air and Space Museum and the National Archives and Records Administration in 2024 with funding from the National Film Preservation Foundation, and support from the Smithsonian's Audiovisual Media Preservation Initiative.

- 9. Title:** *Here & There In Maryland: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum*
Institution: American Archive of Public Broadcasting
Original Format: 3/4" U-Matic

In various years between 1978-1987, the Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Instructional Television was based at Maryland Public Television's Owings Mills campus and shared production facilities, staff, and a program schedule with MPT. One of the instructional programs produced during that time was *Here & There in Maryland: Field Trip*, designed to take students on virtual visits to significant places in the state. In this segment, the host presents the history of the B&O Railroad through a tour of the Railroad Museum. Tape digitized at George Blood's facility as part of the American Archive of Public Broadcasting's Mellon-funded preservation project.

10. Title: *The Weird Show*
Institution: Northeast Historic Film
Original Format: 3/4" U-Matic

From the late 1960s to early 1980s there were many local late night Horror program hosts who created personas that introduced the b-movies that played to fill air time on local stations. LA had Vampira, in New York they had Zacherly, in Baltimore they tuned in to Count Gore De Vol, and the small town of Bangor, Maine had Uncle Gory played by local legend Eddie Driscoll. Driscoll was a television staple on WLBZ channel 2 in Bangor from when they began broadcasting in 1954 until his retirement in 1987. He was known for his characters, puppets, and the game show "Dialing for Dollars" where he called random numbers in the phone book and asked whomever answered questions for cash prizes. In the 1970s and 80s he hosted "The Weird Show," a late night sci-fi and horror movie program. Driscoll was well known and influential locally. One person who grew up watching Driscoll and was heavily influenced by his program was horror writer Stephen King, and in 1983 King appeared on his program in a sketch that played during the commercial breaks for the movie "The Hunted."

The tape was digitized and cataloged with funding through an NEH grant to make accessible media from Maine's TV stations.

- 11. Title:** *Montage V: How to Play Pinball*
Institution: Arthur Friedheim Library of the Peabody Institute
Original Format: 16mm

Pinball (1965) was Jean Eichelberger Ivey's first well-known composition. This piece of musique concrète is at once the score to *Montage V: How to Play Pinball* (1965) by the experimental filmmaker Wayne Sourbeer (1927–2005) as well as “an independent concert piece,” according to the composer.

This film was digitized by George Blood LP in 2021, enabled by a CLIR Recordings at Risk grant that was awarded that same year.

- 12. Title:** *John Robbins' Book Bird lost episode recovered*
Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology
Original Format: 1/2" family copy likely originally 3/4" U-Matic for broadcast

John Robbins who passed in 2016 created and hosted hundreds of beautiful, ground breaking children's instructional television programs from the late 1960s into the 1990s, most often in literacy, literature, and reading. Few of his works remain. This recently recovered episode from his Book Bird series (three are known to exist) was recovered from Robbins' life partner as a gift to the presenter - remaining on a broken 1/2" cassette which was repaired and recovered in collaboration with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting. Watch a part of a recovered John Robbins gem believed to have been lost forever.

- 13. Title:** *suppose (Dir. Paul Preuss, 1964)*
Institution: Yale Film Archive
Original Format: 16mm

Paul Preuss made this short film as an undergraduate drama major at Yale in 1964. On the first day of an acting class with instructor Stella Adler, he met Stacy Keach, whom he then cast as Death in this adaptation of e e cummings' poem "suppose." The performance is Keach's earliest known film credit.

4K scan by Colorlab of the only existing copy of the film, a BW composite reversal positive, with audio capture, restoration, and mixing by Audio Mechanics

- 14. Title:** *Hallah (SOS) : a crisis in medical education (1974)*
Institution: Chesney Archives, Johns Hopkins University
Original Format: 16mm

A recruitment film sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine aimed at increasing enrollment of African American medical students in the 1970s. The film was conceived by the Black Medical Students Association of the Johns Hopkins University and was produced and directed by James Hinton, documentarian of the American civil rights movement and cinematographer of the landmark 1973 black horror film Ganja and Hess, which was recently added to the U.S. National Film Registry. This clip features Johns Hopkins medical student Nate Evans discussing the need for more physicians in the Black community with students at nearby Dunbar High School, with footage from Baltimore's Provident Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The 16mm print was digitized to 2K DPX.

- 15. Title:** *"Art Museum Day" 1973 at the Baltimore Museum of Art*
Institution: Smithsonian Libraries and Archives
Original Format: 1/2" EIAJ videotape

Excerpts from an April 8, 1973 videotape by Alan Kaplan, Kathy Souliere, and the Antioch Videoball group, documenting "Art Museum Day" at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA). Antioch College had a Baltimore/Washington campus from 1969-1981 where, according to Radical Software, Kaplan was a professor of communications. Antioch Baltimore would launch an M.A. program in Media Arts in the fall of 1973 and produce additional collaborative 'Antioch Videoball' tapes. This copy is from Smithsonian Institution Archives accession 14-030, records of the National Museum of American Art, Office of Public Programs, and features special appearances by BMA director Tom Freudenheim and long-serving Baltimore mayor William Donald Schaefer.

Digitized in 2025 through the Smithsonian's Audiovisual Media Preservation Initiative.

- 16. Title:** *Generation X*
Institution: Oregon Public Broadcasting
Original Format: Betacam

Weekly current affairs program Northwest Week looks at Generation X, using the 1991 Douglas Coupland novel as a guide. Young folks in Portland, Oregon discuss their future prospects or lack thereof. Includes commentary from Richard "Tres" Shannon III, then owner of the X-Ray Cafe, who later went on to found Voodoo Doughnuts.

OPB contributed this tape, along with many others from the 1980s and 1990s, to the American Archive of Public Broadcasting in 2014.



Photo Credit: Generation X, Oregon Public Broadcasting

- 17. Title:** *The Humming Bird*
Institution: Milestone Film & Video, Eye Filmmuseum, LoC
Original Format: 35mm nitrate

In 1924, Canadian-born director Sidney Olcott created an incredible set of Montmartre, Paris at the Kaufman Astoria Studios in Queens, NY for the story of a cross-dressing L'Apache thief portrayed by Gloria Swanson who helps save France when WWI threatens her country.

The tinted-and-toned 35mm nitrate was donated by the Eye Filmmuseum to the LoC back in the 1960s and has been beautifully preserved. A 4K transfer of the nitrate was done by the LoC for Milestone in 2025.

18. Title: *Tricia's Wedding Outtakes*
Institution: Prelinger Archives
Original Format: 16mm

Newly digitized outtakes from the queer cult short film TRICIA'S WEDDING (restored by Frameline and UCLA in 2021), starring the world-famous Cockettes, and featuring disco star Sylvester.

Digitized by Prelinger Archives in 2025 from camera original reversal materials donated by the film's editor David Webb Peoples



Photo Credit: Prelinger Archives

19. Title: *The Unanswered Question: A Film from the Cutting Room Floor*
Institution: University of Colorado Boulder Libraries
Original Format: 16mm

Producer, Amram Nowak Associates. Director, David Hoffman and Eden Williams. Interviewer, Jonathan Gordon. Found in the archival collection of the National Farmers Union at the University of Colorado Boulder Libraries, this tongue-in-cheek short was compiled from outtakes of candid, on-the-street interviews in New York City and surrounding areas. The footage was possibly collected in the production of a TV spot for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, circa 1967/1968. Interviewees, including men and women of various ages and races, are asked to define "Brotherhood." Most do not provide an answer.

16mm print scanned at 2K by University Libraries at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2025.

20. Title: *El Teatro Campesino "Encounters" & "Luis Valdez Interview"*
Institution: UC Santa Barbara
Original Format: 16mm

El Teatro Campesino is a Chicano theater group that was founded in 1965 by farmworker and playwright Luis Valdez. The group played a role in the United Farmworkers of America (UFW) struggle for better working conditions in the late 1960s and early 70s by producing short plays for farmworkers in California's central valley that drew attention to racism and poverty experienced while celebrating the culture and identity of Chicanos. Especially in the early years, the performances emphasized ensemble work with minimal scenery, costumes and props. El Teatro Campesino collection at UCSB Library represents the largest collection of Chicano theater which includes over 85,000 feet of film.

This submission consists of an excerpt from one performance at a 1973 UFW rally in Delano, California with César Chávez watching in the audience. The first clip is followed by a piece of an interview with Luis Valdez talking about El Teatro in the early 1970s.

In the past year, UCSB worked with a documentary film company to digitize all of the film in this collection.

21. Title: *Guess My Sign*
Institution: UCLA Film and Television Archive
Original Format: 16mm Kinescope

Broadcast at the height of the 1960s zodiac craze, GUESS MY SIGN was a local game show where a panel attempts to divine the astrological signs of celebrity guests. Harper Bazaar's horoscope columnist, Xavora Pové (née Rosemary Schultz), was commissioned by WPIX-TV, New York City, to create the show after their own horoscope segment during station breaks became popular.

Clips presented here aired on May 22nd, 1968, and feature television icon Ed Sullivan and his beloved wife of 38 years, Sylvia Sullivan, in her winning TV debut. Regular panelist, Joanne Carson (wife of Johnny Carson), and superstar comedian Joan Rivers, are also featured in this segment.

Only 28-episodes of the entertaining show were produced; the three kinescopes of the series held at UCLA were donated in 2011 and appear to be rare. The episode presented was digitized in 2025 and funded by the John H. Mitchell Television Preservation Endowment.



Photo Credit: UCLA Film and Television Archive

22. Title: *Chic-A-Go-Go presents: Ratso:
Behind the Music*
Institution: Media Burn Archive
Original Format: 3/4" U-matic

Chic-A-Go-Go is a children's dance show created by Jake Austen and Jacqueline Stewart that has aired on cable access television since 1996. This episode parodies the VH1 biographical show "Behind the Music," telling the story of the epic rise and tragic fall - and rise again - of Ratso, the puppet rat co-host of Chic-A-Go-Go. Originally broadcast on Chicago Access Network on June 27, 2000.

Chic-A-Go-Go deposited 600 tapes at Media Burn in 2023. The entire collection was digitized in 2025 by George Blood via the Mellon Foundation-funded, no-cost Digitization and Preservation Program at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting. All of the tapes are now viewable online through Media Burn and AAPB.



Photo Credit: Media Burn Archive