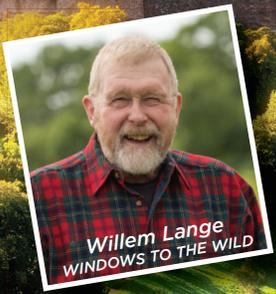


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FEB 2019

NATURE: WILD WAYS OF THE VIKINGS



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FULL CIRCLE

Dreams **do** come true. Jon Cannon recalls sitting in the studio audience cheering on his high school team. The students were in the thick of it on **GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE**. “I remember being in 7th grade and looking at Jim Jeannotte and saying, ‘That’s the guy!’ ” That was the moment... the lights, the camera and the magic of television... when Jon realized his ultimate life challenge.

This past season, when Jim Jeannotte retired, and Jon stepped behind the podium of the 37th season of **GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE**, his dream came true.

Back in 1994, Jon was a junior at Belmont High School and competed on **GSC**. “We won one game, and then we lost our second game, which gave me the thrill of victory and agony of defeat.”

When Jon searched for a college to attend, UNH was first on his list. “Believe it or not, when I came to UNH, I knew that the station was so close that I could get a work study job at NHPBS.” Jon’s academic schedule allowed him to run camera and become floor director for three seasons on **GSC**. “I’ve spent a lot of time on the **GSC** set,” says Jon.

Jon’s career path eventually took him west to California. For four years he worked on another quiz show -- **Jeopardy!** -- but his

New Hampshire roots called him back home, where he landed a job at Bedford High School as a history teacher.

The school didn’t have a **GSC** team, so Jon helped put one together, and they have been a force every season since.

“I think that **GSC** is great at taking kids who have that academic trivia nerdy sensibility and giving them an opportunity to shine.” Jon’s insatiable appetite for trivia has always been a part of who he is. “I am not afraid to say that I am the biggest nerd. I don’t know everything there is to know, but I want to know more.”

As a contestant, crew member, coach and now host, Jon knows the show from every position. “I feel like I know what the contestants are going through and what the coaches have done to prepare the students, and I have a good sense of the TV side of the show,” says Jon.

“It’s strange to think that there might be someone in the audience now who is saying, ‘That’s the guy!’ ” Who knows? Dreams really **do** come true.

The new season of **GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE** kicks off on Saturday, February 2nd at 6pm on NHPBS and online at nhpbs.org/gsc.

NHPBS PRIMETIME PICKS



Won't You Be My Neighbor? SAT February 9 | 8 PM

Take an intimate look at America's favorite neighbor: Fred Rogers. The documentary tells the story of a soft-spoken minister, puppeteer, writer and producer whose show was beamed daily into homes across America for more than 30 years.



Margaret: The Rebel Princess SUN February 10 | 10 PM

This intimate two-part series profiles Princess Margaret, whose life and loves reflected the social and sexual revolution that transformed the western world during the 20th century.



Windows to the Wild: Trailblazing Sue

WED February 13 | 7:30 PM

Sue Johnston accomplished a hiking feat no other woman has done before. Host Willem Lange discovers it comes from her love of the outdoors.



Nature: Wild Ways of the Vikings WED February 13 | 8 PM

From the killer whales of the North Sea to the volcanic mountains of Iceland, see the deep history and cultural respect the Vikings had with the land and sea.



Doc Martin Season 8 WED February 13 | 9 PM EXPLORE

The popular British drama DOC MARTIN is back for an eighth season, as Dr. Martin Ellingham and his wife Louisa are back together, along with their son, James. However, family life proves to be stressful.



Finding Your Roots: No Laughing Matter TUE February 19 | 8 PM

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. shows comedians Seth Meyers, Tig Notaro and Sarah Silverman that their family trees are filled with people whose struggles laid the groundwork for their success.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY



All month long we're celebrating the rich traditions of African Americans and celebrating their contributions to society. Mark your calendar and set your DVR for these powerful local and national programs.

FINDING YOUR ROOTS: Freedom Tales — TUE February 5 | 8 PM

WINDOWS TO THE WILD Outdoor Afro — WED February 6 | 7:30 PM

BLACK AMERICA SINCE MLK: And Still I Rise — THU February 7 | 9 PM

SAMMY DAVIS, JR: AMERICAN MASTERS — TUE February 19 | 9 PM

SHADOWS FALL NORTH — THU February 21 | 8 PM

KARAMU: 100 YEARS IN THE HOUSE — FRI February 22 | 8 PM

ROADS TO MEMPHIS — TUE February 26 | 9 PM

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MORE TO EXPLORE



Independent Lens: Black Memorabilia

MON February 4 | 10 PM



Redeeming Uncle Tom

THU February 7 | 8 PM



Queen of Swing

THU February 14 | 8 PM



Charley Pride: American Masters

FRI February 22 | 9 PM