

FEB/MAR 2026

THE BEACON

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AMERICA MADE WITH LOVE: PART 2

Streaming now on PBS12 Passport and coming to your television on PBS12 in June 2026

AMERICA MADE WITH LOVE: PART 2, the newest episode of the Emmy Award-winning *Made with Love* series, journeys from coast to coast, spotlighting the ingenuity, vision, and unparalleled talent of some of the nation's most extraordinary artisans. From a master guitar maker to a basket weaver passing on a craft rooted in history, these stories celebrate creativity rich in tradition and passion. Whether shaping handcrafted surfboards, reviving the art of neon signs, shaping the perfect cowboy hat, or crafting sails the old-fashioned way, these makers embody the very essence of American innovation and dedication. AMERICA MADE WITH LOVE: PART 2 is part of special programming available now on PBS12 Passport and coming to air on PBS12 in June 2026.

AMERICA

PART 2

Made with Love

PREMIERES FEB 27
ON PBS12 PASSPORT



Traveling across the country, from Maine to California, from Wisconsin to Texas, AMERICA MADE WITH LOVE explores the inspiring work of artisans. In Virginia, Wayne Henderson has crafted over 900 guitars, making his first instrument when he was 14 years old from pieces of a dresser drawer. Today, he counts Brad Paisley among the many musicians who play his guitars. In Kentucky, the Neeleys have been making bourbon for 11 generations, first as bootleggers and now legally in a distillery built by the family. Outside Washington, DC, the Boertleins work as stained glass artists, carrying on a craft that has flourished since the Middle Ages. Their shimmering glass creations can be seen in the Capitol Building, the White House grounds, and in museums and churches all over the city.

In Chicago, the program introduces three unique makers. Miguel Aguilar brings a magical artistry to neon, creating a striking neon eagle as he skillfully heats and bends the glass tubes. Alexandria Wills, a custom shoemaker who has produced more than 1000 pairs, shows the steps involved in fashioning a stunning pair of high heels. And Phil Kalas and Dan Cordova, owners of Ashland Leather, make handsewn wallets and other leather goods designed to last a lifetime.

In Wisconsin, Bill Gallinsky shows off his whimsical cuckoo clocks, which he has been crafting for more than 50 years. In Maine, sailmakers Robin Chace Payson and Susan Chace cut sails by hand and take pride in seeing their products in action on the water. Maine blacksmith Doug Wilson uses the searing heat of a fire to shape wrought iron and steel into a wildflower-inspired candlestick.

In Decatur, Texas, Jeff Biggarss and his son Johnny create custom-fitted cowboy hats, steaming and shaping — and even firing — the material into a traditional shape that will protect the wearer from the elements. In San Francisco, Danny Hess makes sustainable surfboards, transforming reclaimed wood into a beautiful, waxed surfboard. In Charleston, South Carolina, sweetgrass basket artist Andrea Cayetano-Jefferson taught her daughter to sew baskets, continuing a tradition passed down through generations of Gullah Geechee, whose ancestors were brought to the United States as enslaved people more than 350 years ago. A family affair, basket makers harvest sweetgrass, bullrush and pine needles to create the baskets, which take weeks to finish. The end result is a work of art sewn with care and a deep sense of devotion. “My Aunt Linda told me that sewing sweetgrass baskets is not something that you have to do,” says Andrea. “It’s something that you want to do. And if you want to do it, you’re going to do it right. You’re going to take your time and do it with love.”



Are you a *Made With Love* fan?

Flip to the back cover to see how you could experience *Made With Love: Italy* for yourself!



Get to Know Us: Rico Romero

**Award-Winning Photojournalist &
 PBS12 Creator Academy Co-Lead**

by Cameron Settles

If there is one thing Rico Romero lacks as a storyteller, it's pretentiousness. There is no ego in his work, nor in his personality. I had to ask him to tell me about the numerous Emmys sitting behind him during our conversation, and he was quick to point out that many belong to his wife, whom he met while working at Denver's FOX affiliate, KDVR.

That's what you'll notice when working with Rico—it's not about him; it's about those around him and the work. It's about the story he's trying to tell from behind the camera and in the editing room. Moreover, it's about the *why* behind those stories. That's part of the reason, after almost 12 years working in local news, he decided to make the jump over to PBS12 last year—to be able to tell more, longer-form, human stories.

Rico's passion to tell stories with heart and meaning has driven many of his decisions in life.

It's why he transferred from New Mexico State University to the University of New Mexico to major in journalism. A huge sports fan, he initially wanted to cover sports as either a writer or on-air talent.

Upon graduation, life and passion took him in a different direction, however. Quickly realizing being on-air wasn't for him and already working part-time at a local station, Rico found a home behind the camera. Learning the technical aspects of videography and broadcast journalism on-the-fly, he discovered a passion for the visual side of storytelling. So, when a full-time opportunity presented itself in Denver at KDVR, he jumped at the chance to continue to hone his craft in a bigger market.

There, he went on to win 14 Emmys, meet his wife and collaborator, Ashley Michaels, and become an avid hiker exploring the peaks and valleys of the nearby Rocky Mountains.

Rico's love of hiking, exploring, and traveling recently took him across the world to the Tour du Mont Blanc on the border of France and Switzerland. He did the 100+ mile, 11-day hike alongside his wife and friends.

In traveling, as in storytelling, there is no ego at play in Rico's exploration. He's not doing it for social media likes or bragging rights.



It's the simple love of the outdoors and the peace he finds in nature that draws him to it again and again.

In fact, upon returning from Europe, we (his coworkers at the station) basically had to force him to show us his photos from the trip, which he, of course, turned into a stellar presentation.

Rico's latest endeavor is co-helming the PBS12 Creator Academy alongside award-winning documentary filmmaker and Sundance Fellow, Alan Dominguez (*Decode Colorado: Water*).

The PBS12 Creator Academy will teach the ins-and-outs of professional, ethical content creation and journalism to the next generation of creators.

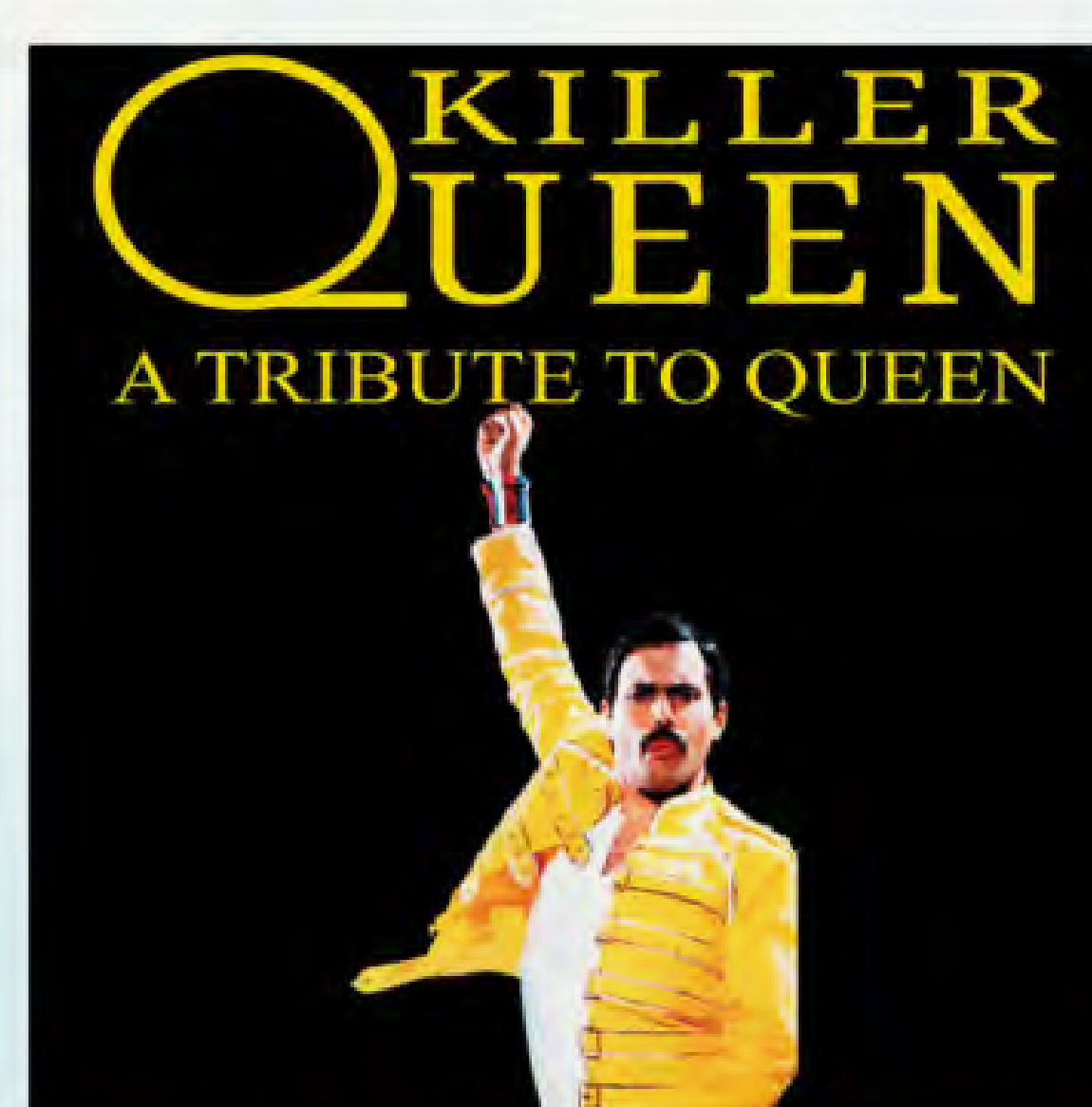
The PBS12 Creator Academy's first cohort launched in February 2026.

Red Rocks Concert Series '26

Mark your calendars and join us at the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheatre for **two nights** with **Brit Floyd** on June 4th & 5th, **Killer Queen** on July 30th, and **Get the Led Out** on Sept 17th.



Brit Floyd
 June 4th & 5th



Killer Queen
 July 30th



Get The Led Out
 September 17th

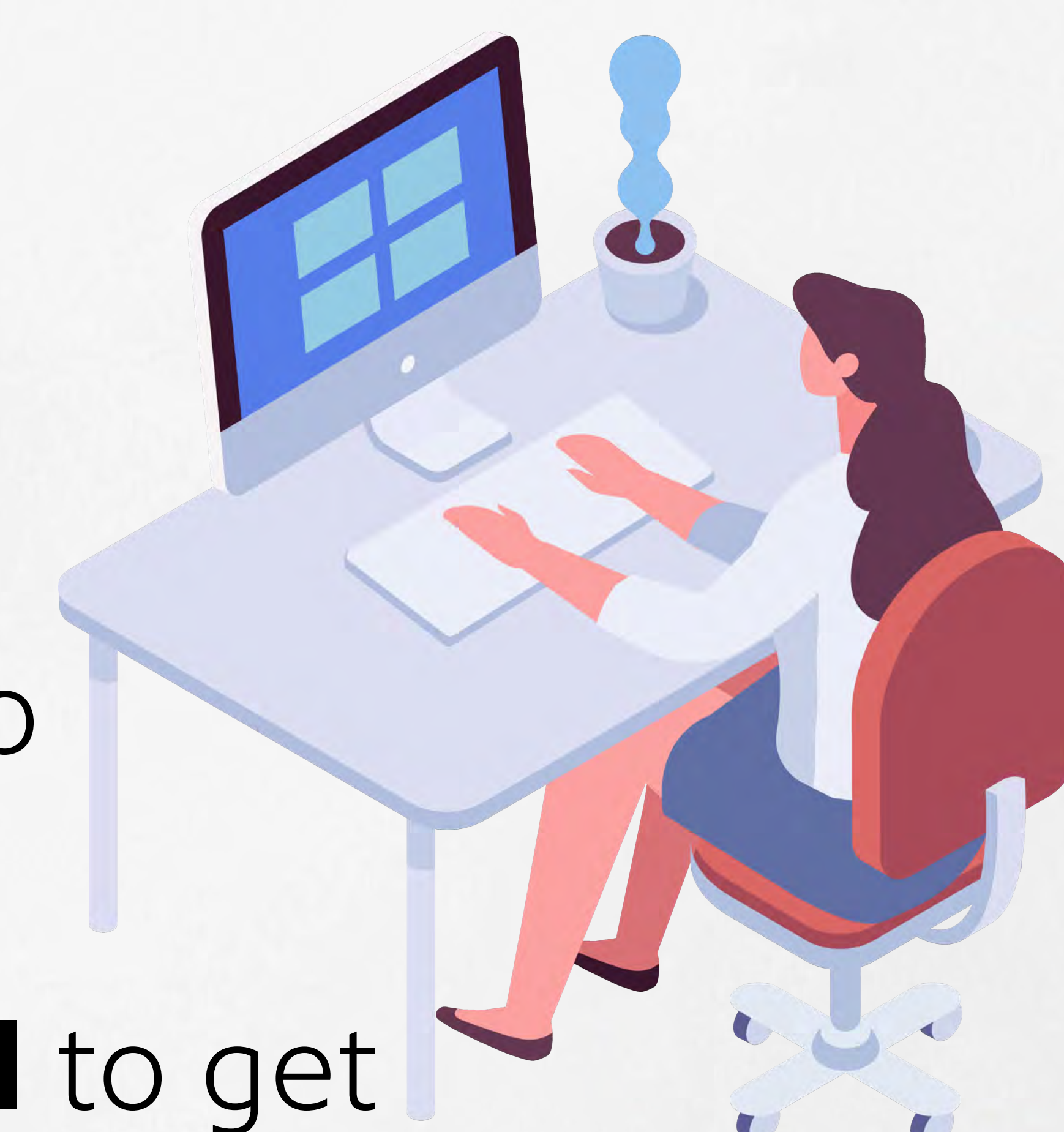
Go to pbs12.co/events for tickets!

Check Out Our New Donor Portal

Our new Donor Portal is your self-service way to manage your donations to PBS12.

In the portal, you can download your tax receipts, manage your payment method, and update your contact info without having to make a single phone call.

Go to pbs12.org/donorportal to get started today!



Highlights from Our 2025 Impact Report



Thank you for your continued support and passion for PBS12 Colorado. 2025 was a challenging year of change and growth. PBS12 lost approximately 16% of its funding due to federal cuts. Nevertheless, our team was able to expand our local programming, innovate new ways to serve our community, and begin a transformation that re-imagines what a public media operation like ours can accomplish.

This was all made possible thanks to the **support of people like you.**

Bobby Springer
President & General Manager

Bobby

In 2025, we had over...

3M households reached

8M household hours watched via traditional TV broadcast

250K views on PBS Passport & YouTube

The PBS12 community grew significantly in 2025

Scan the QR Code to join our new Facebook Group!



SCAN ME

9,250 *PBS12 Members* **10%** *Increase YoY*

3,962 *YouTube Subscribers* **8%** *Increase YoY*

76,342 *Social Media Followers* **4%** *Increase YoY*

We raised over

\$3,600,000 **5%** *Increase YoY*

from

9,494 *donors* **12%** *Increase YoY*

To view our full 2025 Impact Report, go to pbs12.co/ImpactReport

Did You Know?

PBS12 has the highest full power television transmitter in North America!

2025 in the Community

Screenings & Discussions

As part of our *Humanize* and *Decode Colorado* series, we hosted screenings and discussions with community leaders and experts on topics such as mental health, gender equality in the workplace, and the environment.



Content Collaborations

As we expanded our local programming in 2025, that led to numerous content collaborations with nonprofit organizations, area governments, local businesses, and community leaders.



InResidence

Our InResidence program takes our one-of-a-kind portable production setup on the road to capture and publish content in real-time. In 2025, we set up shop at Colorado Startup Week and for the Colorado Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



Rockin' Events

We welcomed over 25,000 concert goers to the Red Rocks Amphitheatre over four nights in Summer 2025. The Red Rocks Summer Concert Series will be returning in 2026!



Welcome to Our First Creator Academy Cohort!

Our first PBS12 Creator Academy cohort started working with us in February of this year. The inaugural class includes: Dee Driscoll, Carmen Guerrero, and Nathan Matthews from Colorado State University, as well as Seamus Birmingham, Connor Johnson, and Lainey Smith from the Community College of Aurora. During their time here, they'll learn the ins-and-outs of professional, ethical content creation and journalism from award-winning documentary filmmaker and Sundance Fellow Alan Dominguez and nationally renowned, multiple Emmy award-winning photojournalist Rico Romero.



Pictured from right to left: Connor Johnson, Dee Driscoll, Carmen Guerrero, Seamus Birmingham; Back row: Alan Dominguez, Rico Romero



Lainey Smith



Nathan Matthews

FOR THE LOVE OF CIVIL DEBATE

A PBS 12 ORIGINAL

COLORADO INSIDE OUT

KYLE DYER

STREAMING NOW ON **PBS Passport** [YouTube.com/PBS12](https://www.youtube.com/PBS12)

FOR THE LOVE OF DISCOVERY

RYAN HAARER

BAZI KANANI

STUDIO TWELVE 12

FROM FIVE POINTS MEDIA CENTER

A PBS 12 ORIGINAL

STREAMING NOW ON **PBS Passport** [YouTube.com/PBS12](https://www.youtube.com/PBS12)



Made With Love: Artisan Tour

Experience Italy like never before and meet the artisans from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series, Italy Made with Love as we take you on a tour of the senses through their craftsmanship centuries in the making. Our specially curated artisan tour gives you exclusive access to artists who will share their knowledge and passion for the region, making each day of your visit an enriching and unforgettable adventure. From truffle hunting in Umbria, and jewelry makers in Florence, to wine and olive oil tasting in Perugia, when you travel with us, you'll encounter boundless opportunities to share in local culture and traditions. Join us on this unique journey and create memories that will last a lifetime...

Go to pbs12.org/madewithlove to learn more and book today!



Main Phone: (303) 296-1212, (800) 727-8812

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Comments & Questions: [PBS12.org/contact](https://pbs12.org/contact)

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