



WGBH/PBS

Katy Kane, left, appraises celebrity chef Carla Hall's vintage purse collection in an episode of 'Antiques Roadshow Celebrity Edition,' airing Monday on PBS.

'Antiques Roadshow' flips the script with celebrity editions

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chef, cookbook author and TV host Carla Hall has always wondered about an antique wooden highchair her family has long cherished.

What is its history? How much is it worth?

She finally got answers when PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" visited her Washington, D.C., home. It turns out that the highchair is not hand carved and dates to between 1880 to 1920. It's worth only about \$100.

Even so, Hall still adores it. She and her husband are remodeling their home in a more modern style, but the highchair is staying.

"This will still be front and center somewhere in our modern house," she says after the TV visit. "I'm not selling anything."

Hall was one of several celebrity guests on four new special episodes of "Antiques Roadshow" that were filmed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The producers flipped the script. Instead of people — and their would-be treasures — coming to meet the appraisers in a big hall, the appraisers went to the people. And this time, the people were famous.

"I think it's very humanizing. They share with you this very vulnerable moment. They are just like any other 'Roadshow' guest," says "Antique Roadshow" executive producer Marsha Bemko.

The first celebrity edition aired earlier this week and

featured comedian Jay Leno, actor S. Epatha Merkerson, author Jason Reynolds, Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan and pro golfer Dottie Pepper. Celebrities have appeared on "Antique Roadshow" before, but this is the first time they've been featured for an entire episode.

Kerrigan got a pair of her Olympic medals appraised as well as several competitive costumes, including the Vera Wang wedding dress outfit she wore at the 1992 Olympics. A torch from the 1996 Summer Olympics that she bought for \$300 as part of a relay is now worth as much as \$7,000.

Reynolds wanted to know about the value of a Langston Hughes letter, an advanced reader copy of Claude Brown's "Manchild in the Promised Land" and a first edition signed copy of Toni Morrison's "Beloved." Merkerson has a collection of Black memorabilia, and Pepper has a golf cup and an heirloom table.

Leno needs a lot more help from the team. He and his wife were instantly smitten by a 16,000-square foot estate in Newport, Rhode Island, and bought it pretty much on the spot, with all the furnishings. But he has no idea what he's got, from paintings to sculptures.

"He did knock on the door and buy everything — ketchup included — and doesn't know what's in there. So it was a real chance for us to help him," said Bemko.

Future episodes — airing Monday, May 17 and May 24 — include the likes of humorist John Hodgman, actor

Ronny Chieng, cartoonist Mo Willems, journalist Soledad O'Brien, fashion designer Christian Siriano and TV personality Carson Kressley.

"This is true across the board of everybody we visited on this show and all the others: They are human beings like you and me," Bemko said. "They really are curious about what they own and they want to know, and not just because of the money. It's not all about the value."

The celebrity episodes were a clever answer to the pandemic and a chance to shake things up during the 25th anniversary of "Antique Roadshow."

Initially, with flying not an option, the celebrities chosen to be featured were within driving distance of the show's Boston headquarters at WGBH. Everyone had to drive in separate cars, stay masked until cameras were rolling and were COVID-19 tested regularly. Some celebrities felt more comfortable displaying their collectibles on their lawn. Others allowed appraisers inside.

For Hall, a fan of the show, it was a chance to get answers for the items her family has long held dear, including an antique table, old seltzer bottles and chic handbags collected by her grandmother.

Hall also learned something. Her highchair converts into a stroller, something neither she nor her mother knew until the appraiser pointed it out. "That just was so wild," she recalled. "I never knew that it did that. That was the biggest shock."

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Al-Anon (Astoria)
— For information, call 503-325-1087.

Al-Anon (Clatskanie)
— For information, call 503-728-3351.

Al-Anon (Nehalem)
— For information, call 503-368-8255.

Al-Anon (Seaside) — For information, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Al-Anon (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-842-5094 or 503-730-5863.

Al-Anon Family Groups information — Oregon Area Al-Anon website, oregonal-anon.org

Alateen (Tillamook) — For information, call 503-730-5863.

Alcoholics Anonymous — To find a meeting in Clatsop County, call 971-601-9220, in Tillamook County, call 503-739-4856, or go to aa-oregon.org

Celebrate Recovery — Faith-based 12-step recovery from hurts, habits and hang ups. For information, call 503-738-7453.

Sexual Purity Recovery Group — Part of the Pure Life Alliance (purelifefalliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voicemail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.

Narcotics Anonymous — For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to na.org

Oveareaters Anonymous (Astoria) — For information, call 425-287-0806.

Transportation district seeks input from public

The Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District has a new goal of more public engagement, input and participation at its board meetings, committee meetings and during other projects. The monthly board of commissioners meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month, starting at 9 a.m.

"We are asking the public to help us by participating in a survey that will

provide us with the specific information we need to make changes to our meeting schedules," said Jeff Hazen, the transportation district's executive director.

The survey can be found at bit.ly/2QBzPUK and will be available through May 19. Survey results will be presented to the board at the May 27 meeting.

For information, call 503-861-7333 or go to nworegontransit.org

Oregon Music Hall of Fame offers college scholarships

The Astorian

Applications for the Oregon Music Hall of Fame college scholarships are due by May 15.

Four scholarships at \$2,500 each will be given out for 2021.

Each applicant should be a student studying music and graduating this spring from an Oregon high school, and

continuing to college in the fall, with a major or minor in music.

For information, email info@omhof.org or go to omhof.org, where an online version of the application is available.

In order to qualify, all items must be mailed together to: Oregon Music Hall of Fame, PO Box 82173, Portland, OR., 97282.

HONOR ROLL

The following students have qualified for the honor roll by earning a 3.5 grade point average or higher at school.

Eastern Oregon University

La Grande

Astoria: Amanda Adams, Richard Bennett, Krista Heinzman, Trenton Shaw
Warrenton: Clark Miner

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