

HistoryFest 2025 Presenters

Richard Bell is a Professor of History at the University of Maryland, focusing on the early history and culture of the United States

- *The American Revolution: Stories You Never Learned In School*
- *Why Did They Call It “The Underground Railroad?”*

Sean Hartley is the director of the musical theater division of the Kaufman Music Center in New York City, where he curates, produces and hosts the concert series Broadway Close Up and Broadway Playhouse

- *Musicals That Changed Broadway Forever*

Louis Masur is a Professor at Rutgers University teaching a range of topics including Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, the Founding Fathers, visual culture, and the history of Rock and Roll.

- *Inside The Mind of Abraham Lincoln*
- *The Rock Experience: The Music and Stories of Classic Songs*

Will Kuhn is a Film Director and Producer who teaches the popular Movies 101 series at Montclair Films. He studied at the London Film School and his movies include *The Porter Brothers*, *The Nephew*, and *Julius*.

- *Films That Changed America*

Allen Pietrobon is a Professor of Global Affairs at Trinity Washington University, in Washington D.C.

- *Food That Changed America*
- *The History of Travel in America*

Leni Sorensen is a renowned Food Historian who has lectured at colleges and universities throughout the U.S. She currently runs Indigo House in Central Virginia where she both lectures and even teaches cooking classes!

- *The History of Ice Cream*

Tracy Waldron is an internationally certified beverage educator. As the owner and lead instructor of the Virginia Wine & Spirits Academy, she teaches certification courses for industry professionals, as well as specialty classes on sensory perception, production methods, and the global history of the alcoholic beverage trade.

- *The Wines of World Leaders*

Richard Newman is a professor of history at Rochester Institute of Technology. He often appears on PBS and NPR and is the author or editor of seven books about African American history.

- *The Black Founding Father Every American Should Know*
- *Vistas of Democracy: The National Parks in American History*

Denise Budd teaches in the Core Curriculum program at Columbia University and has also taught a wide range of Renaissance art history classes at Rutgers University. She has published several articles on Leonardo da Vinci based on her studies of the artist and his documentary evidence.

- *The Artistic Genius of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci*

Steven Edenbo bears a striking physical resemblance to Thomas Jefferson! He is a Fellow at Monticello's Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, and for two decades has appeared as Jefferson across the United States and in England.

- *Thomas Jefferson: What I think Now*