

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Beyond Your Backyard” begins shooting its first season for Southwest Virginia, to be seen on Blue Ridge PBS in spring of 2018.

NEW YORK, N.Y. – (September 27, 2017) – Erik The Travel Guy and Blue Ridge PBS are announcing a new travel show, “Beyond Your Backyard”, to debut in the Spring of 2018 on Blue Ridge PBS and other PBS stations in the Mid-Atlantic region. The 30 minute, destination-focused show will be hosted by travel personality Erik Hastings.

“We are thrilled to provide this show to Southwest Virginians,” said Sherry Spradlin, Blue Ridge PBS director of programming. “We have been looking for a travel show that speaks directly to the viewers in our area. Erik’s personality is fun, honest and infectious. His quick wit and genuine love for the art of travel is apparent in every show he hosts.”

Shooting the debut episode will take place this month in Washington, D.C. Production will continue through next year, with the show debuting on Blue Ridge PBS on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Destinations scheduled to be featured include: Washington, D.C., the Pennsylvania great outdoors region, Blacksburg and Williamsburg VA, New York, NY and Gettysburg, PA. Production may even spill into regions of Europe.

“I am so thankful to be working with Blue Ridge PBS,” said Hastings. “Their dedication to their audience is fantastic! Each episode aims to capture the soul of each destination we visit. These are places which viewers can get to easily by car, by air or by cruise. The show will feature some of the places the tourists go, but it will also travel off the beaten path.”

Each of the 13 episodes in the first season will focus on one geographic area. Highlights to look for include an educational component, a how-to activity and a culinary segment. The show will pull back the curtain with unfettered access to little known secrets of each place we visit.

“I believe travel helps make the world a better place, and it is the goal of this show to inspire viewers to travel more,” said Hastings. “The creative team and I are committed to keeping the show ‘real’ with the viewers. If they can’t do it when they get to these places, then we won’t feature it.”

Beyond Your Backyard is being produced by Erik Hastings LLC, Sophos Studios and Watson Visuals. Supplemental video content, behind the scenes footage and outtakes will all be featured on <http://www.erikthetravelguy.com>. The show is anchored at Blue Ridge PBS. It will air weekly at 7 p.m., and will be available to all PBS members nationwide via PBS Passport.

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