

# Appalshop

## 2018: A YEAR IN PRESS

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### **“The Trillbilly Workers’ Party: A new podcast drawing national attention to Central Appalachian leftist organizing efforts.” Scalawag, January 23, 2018**

*[Tom] Sexton, Tarence Ray, and Tanya Turner are the Trillbillies, broadcasting from the heart of the coalfields in Whitesburg, Kentucky. They began the podcast in the spring of 2017 as a way to debunk reemerging misconceptions about Kentucky and Appalachia as homogenous conservative hotbeds. The podcast draws national attention to political organizing in eastern Kentucky and Appalachia.*

### **“Grassroots Theatre Training in the Eastern Kentucky Coalfields.” HowlRound, February 4, 2018**

*Amy Brooks of Roadside Theater led “Dramaturgy in Appalachia,” lifting up a distinct set of dramaturgical tools that have developed over decades of community-engaged theatre and culture work in the region by Roadside Theater, Carpetbag Theater, and many others. This work is now also being carried on by Kentucky-based community story projects like Higher Ground in Harlan, Homesong in Owsley County, and Monkey Dumplings in Clay County—and other folks sharing their work at Hurricane Gap.*

### **“Passive, poor and white? What people keep getting wrong about Appalachia.” The Guardian, February 6, 2018**

*Whitesburg, Kentucky, home to media organization Appalshop and its radio affiliate WMMT, has a long history of using community media to create social*

*change by centering and elevating regional voices. One longstanding media project is the WMMT radio show Calls From Home, which broadcasts messages of news and inspiration into area prisons that receive its radio signal and provide families with a no-cost option to send a personalized message to their incarcerated loved ones. ...Appalachians inspired by and organizing through WMMT and Appalshop often do other work with prison communities, developing community theater programs about incarceration, and offering assistance and fundraising help to make in-person visits possible.*

**“Calls From Home: How one Kentucky radio station connects inmates and families.”**

**The Christian Science Monitor, February 9, 2018**

*Every week, WMMT broadcasts recorded messages from friends and family members of the more than 5,000 men incarcerated in the six federal and state prisons within range of Whitesburg, Ky.*

**Video: “As coal jobs left, this Appalachian arts and culture institution gave residents reasons to stay.”** PBS NewsHour, February 9, 2018

*[Hemphill Community Center’s Gwen Johnson’s] site faced closure when funds from coal taxes dried up, but with encouragement and support from Appalshop, including \$5,000 in seed money, Johnson was able to start a catering company to help pay the bills. ...”They’re friends who kind of stepped up to the plate and began to think outside the box, and sometimes they think bigger than some of us have ever been allowed to think.”*