



PBS
International

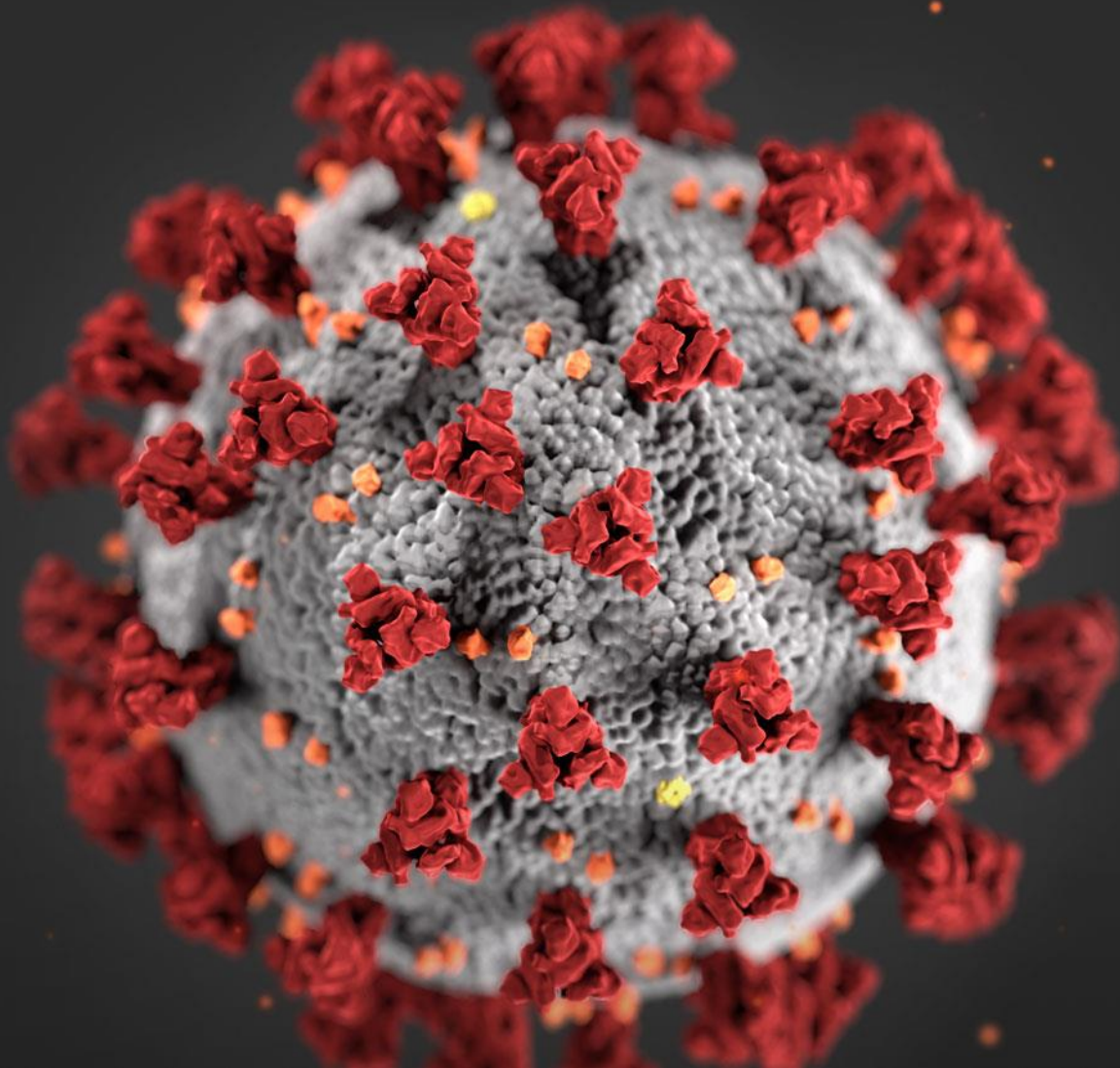
NEW RELEASES



SPRING 2020

Coronavirus Pandemic

FRONTLINE is working tirelessly to bring you the facts, perspectives and stories that explain this unprecedented time with five special programs.



With the world reeling from the coronavirus outbreak, FRONTLINE presents a special report from Seattle—the first U.S. city struck by the virus and a bellwether for what was to hit the rest of the country. Veteran science reporter and FRONTLINE correspondent Miles O’Brien tells the inside story of Seattle’s fight to identify and contain the novel coronavirus, traveling through the locked-down city—from the hospital where patient one was treated to the nursing home where the outbreak exploded.

In almost real time, doctors, patients and public health officials recount the dramatic story of how the unusually well-prepared city hoped that it had averted a crisis, then confronted the grim reality of the fast-spreading virus. The film shows how the federal government’s missteps early on impacted cities like Seattle, and highlights the contrast between the two Washingtons—between the Trump administration’s messaging in Washington, D.C., and the increasingly dire situation on the ground in Washington State. As the pandemic continues to take its toll, O’Brien has remained in Seattle to document the ongoing fight and its significance as a cautionary tale for the rest of the country.

Available late April.

1x60 **HD**

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Produced by Miles O’Brien for FRONTLINE.

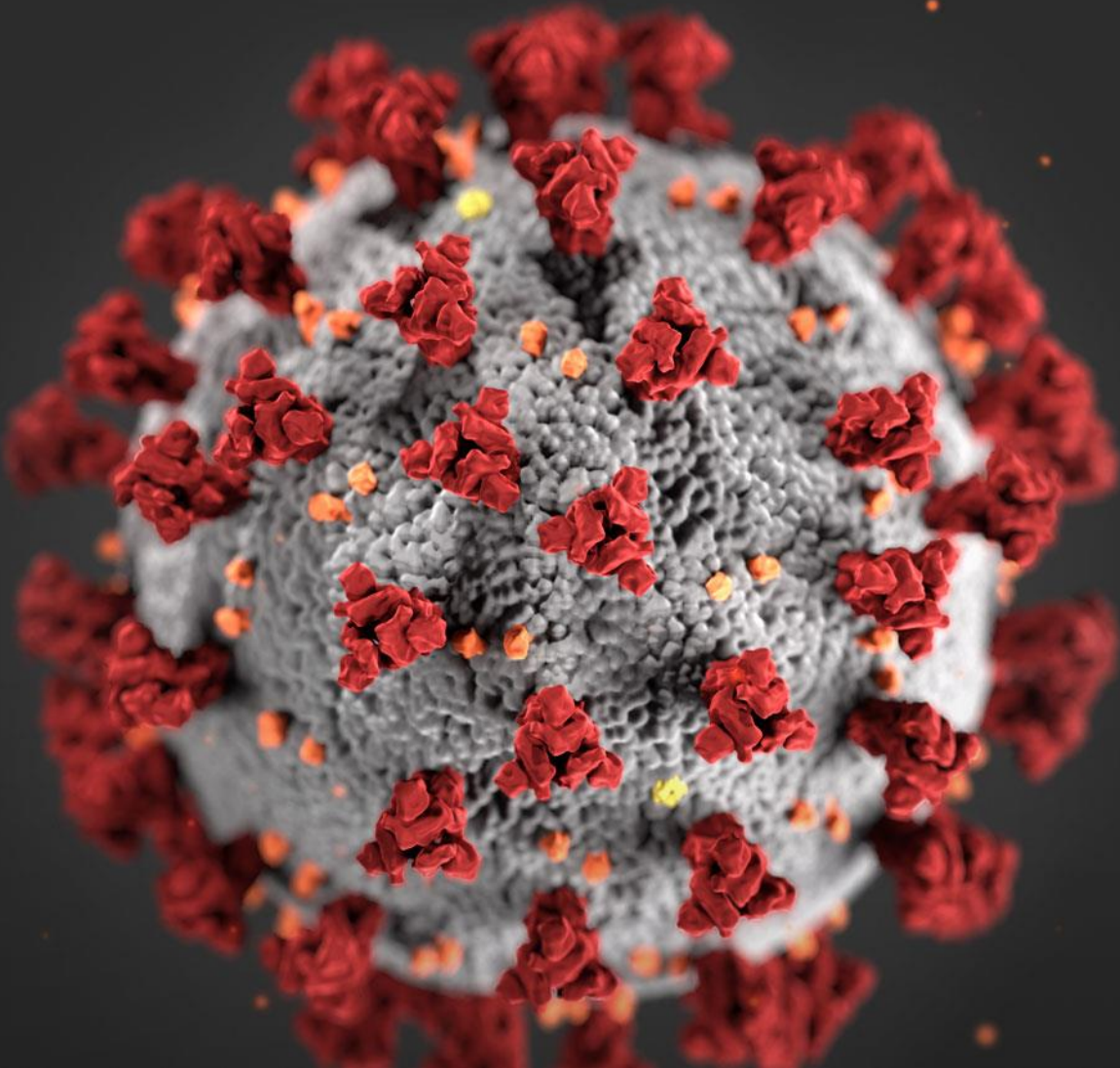
COVID-19 in Italy (w.t.)

Emmy and BAFTA-winning Italian producer Sasha Achilli arrived in Northern Italy just as the government put the country under lockdown and has been documenting the unfolding catastrophe ever since. With intimate and exclusive access to the Maggiore di Cremona Hospital, the film tells the stories of doctors battling an outbreak they describe as a “tsunami that has swept us all away.” They tell Sasha the agonizing choices they face are like those of war-time triage medics—deciding who lives, who dies, and who gets access to a limited number of intensive unit beds.

The film follows a charismatic ER doctor, Francesca Mangiatordi, through the darkest days and weeks of the pandemic, as she struggles to balance her work saving lives and her family at home who fear for her safety. Sasha will continue to film with the doctors and nurses as the hospital starts to turn the corner and cases start to drop. Their stories will chart the progress of the epidemic from beginning to end in a single hospital. From this dramatic vantage, FRONTLINE examines how and why it got so bad in Italy, why the death rate is so high and what it says for the U.S and rest of the world. Available late May.

1x30 **HD**

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Coronavirus Kids (w.t.)

FRONTLINE profiles the intimate, real-time experience of three children and their families, as the coronavirus hits regions already mired in poverty. Filmmaker Jezza Neumann (*Poor Kids*, *TB: Silent Killer*) and his team document the toll of the outbreak on those who were already living in poverty and on the fringes.

Set as the virus first starts to appear in Ohio, the film tracks the families' experiences as the weeks progress and the pressures and anxieties mount—a 13-year-old boy worries about his mother who volunteers at The Salvation Army distributing food to other low-income families; a 12-year-old girl struggles with schoolwork as her mother heads to her job at gas station so they can pay the utility bills; and an eight-year-old and her mother are moved from a homeless shelter to a hotel room—all as the outbreak escalates.

Available late May.

1x30 **HD**

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The Virus (w.t.)

On December 31, 2019, as millions of people around the world celebrated the coming of a new year, a highly infectious virus was already rapidly spreading among us. FRONTLINE Correspondent Martin Smith (*The Storm; The Quake*) travels via Skype to interview top officials, scientists and first responders in China, Iran, Italy, South Korea and the United States.

The Virus examines why officials from the President of the United States to local officials in New York were slow to respond despite repeated early warnings of the inevitability of a potent contagion capable of killing hundreds of thousands, if not millions. What went wrong?

Available in June.

1x60 **HD**

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Essential But Not Protected (w.t.)

FRONTLINE goes into the California fields to reveal the plight of undocumented farmworkers through the coronavirus pandemic—and what’s at stake for the country that relies on them. Critical to the nation’s food supply, hundreds of thousands of these workers have continued to pick the fruits and vegetables we depend on, without the ability to shelter in place or the luxury of the safety net that protects many American workers, like health insurance, paid sick leave, and unemployment benefits. Drawing on years of reporting in the immigrant community, FRONTLINE producers Daffodil Altan and Andres Cediel (*Rape in the Fields*, *Rape on the Night Shift*, *Trafficked in America*) expose the challenges these workers are facing from the virus, immigration policies, and their essential jobs in the fields.

Available in Spring/Summer TBD.

1x60 **HD**

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Decoding COVID-19

The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has upended life as we know it in a matter of mere months. But at the same time, an unprecedented global effort to understand and contain the virus—and find a treatment for the disease it causes—is underway. Join the doctors on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 as they strategize to stop the spread, and meet the researchers racing to find a treatment. Along the way, discover how this devastating disease emerged, what it does to the human body, and why it exploded into a pandemic.

1x60 **HD**

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The Choice 2020

In November 2020, American voters will go to the polls to decide whether President Donald Trump or his Democratic challenger will lead the country for the next four years. In a polarized and bitterly divided country, voter enthusiasm is already at record levels with turnout predicted to be the highest in a century. FRONTLINE's *The Choice 2020* will explore the character of the candidates by examining the formative episodes in their lives through interviews with those who know them best. An antidote to the shrill sound bites, partisan spin, and superficial coverage that have come to characterize American presidential campaigns, *The Choice* has earned a wide audience and a reputation for its clear, unbiased reporting.

1x114 **HD**

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Blood Sugar Rising

Diabetes is a hidden epidemic that affects over 100 million people in the US, claiming more lives than cancer and HIV combined and costing close to \$350 billion each year. It's now predicted that one in three children born in this century will develop the disease.

Blood Sugar Rising puts human faces to these statistics, presenting intimate stories and personal voices of Americans who are living with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and their successes and struggles showcase the dramatic impact of this major national public health crisis. This two-hour special also reveals new hopes for improving diabetes management and prevention – from the rise of new medical treatments to exciting discoveries about lifestyle and environmental factors – and asks a provocative question: Why isn't there a war on diabetes?

1x120 **HD**

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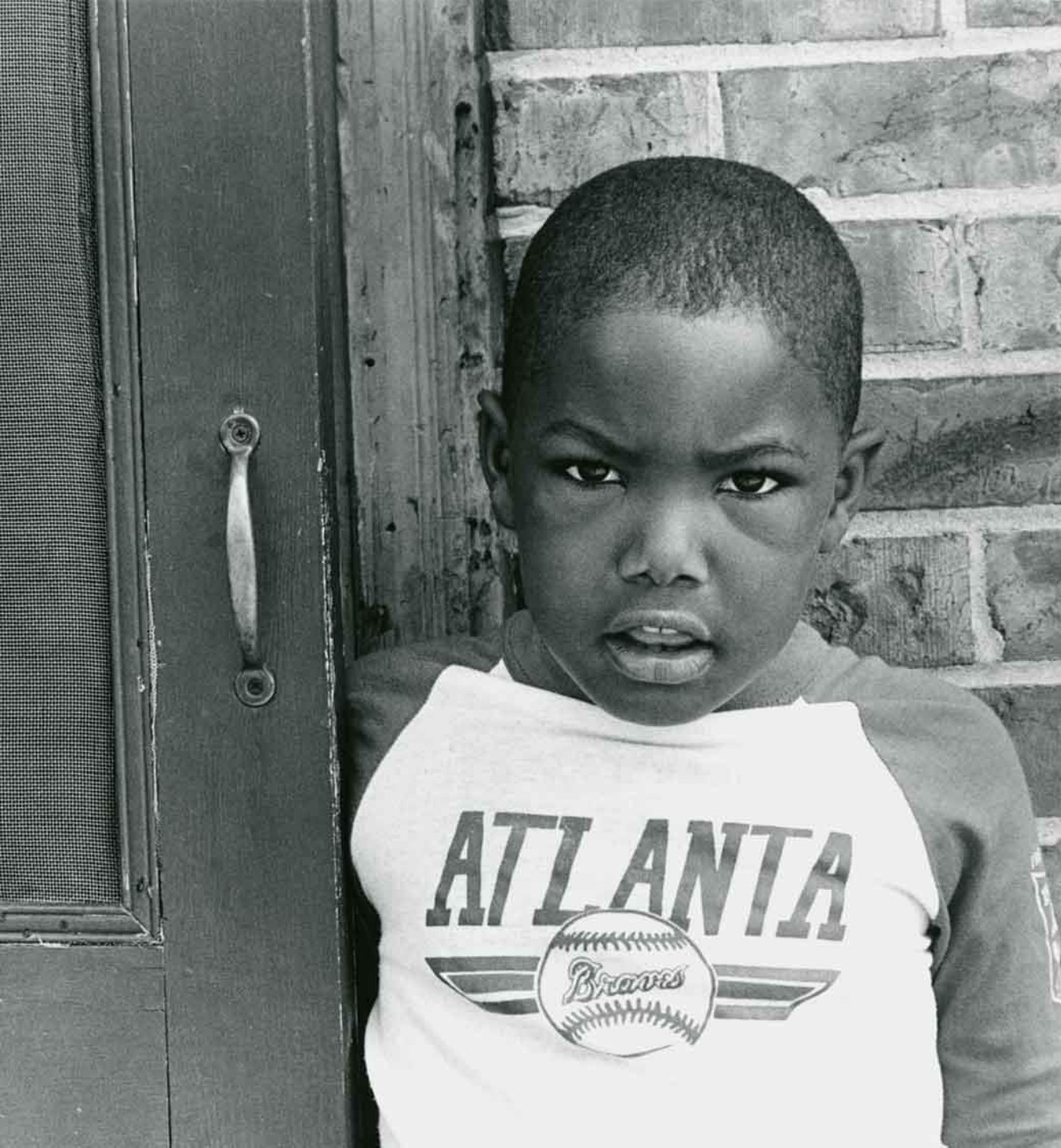
East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story

In 1970, the Atlanta Housing Authority opened East Lake Meadows, a public housing community on the edge of the city. Over the next 25 years, many thousands of low-income Atlantans, mostly African American, would call it home. Shoddy construction and a lack of funding left the project and surrounding landscape in disrepair and led to a rapid decline in the quality of life. As public housing in America became increasingly stigmatized, and a crack epidemic overwhelmed East Lake Meadows, the neighborhood became nearly uninhabitable, but residents nonetheless found ways to overcome violence and neglect.

Through the stories of the former residents, *East Lake Meadows: A Public Housing Story* gives voice to some of the most marginalized people in America and raises critical questions about how the United States created concentrated poverty and limited housing opportunity for African Americans.

2x54, 1x104 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



In This Together

PBS is planning a May 9 half-hour special that will capture our changed reality due to the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout *In This Together: A PBS American Portrait Story*, people from all across the United States will use self-shot video, photos and text to share how the COVID-19 outbreak is impacting their lives. Participants will tell these stories in their own words, in their own creative ways and from their own points of view. All types of people around the country, across age, race, gender identity, income, ability and geography, will take us into their homes and communities to reveal what's changed– and what hasn't as we navigate how these extraordinary times have affected all of us. Available in late May.

1x30 **HD**

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PBS
AMERICAN
PORTRAIT

A NATIONAL STORYTELLING PROJECT

I, Sniper

A chance meeting in the Caribbean sets in motion a murderous road trip when Lee Malvo, a Jamaican teenager seeking a father figure, meets disaffected U.S. Army veteran John Muhammad. As they travel across the U.S., carrying out a string of shootings and robberies, Muhammad trains Malvo for their final destination: Washington, D.C.

[Episode 1: The Road to Washington, D.C.](#)

[Episode 2: The Storm](#)

[Episode 3: "Call Me God"](#)

[Episode 4: "He told me he loved me"](#)

[Episode 5: "Your children are not safe"](#)

[Episode 6: Solitary](#)

6x60 **HD**

[Play Episode](#)

NRA Under Fire

Once an unrivaled political power, the NRA is facing challenges from all sides. FRONTLINE investigates how the NRA aligned with President Trump and his base, but is under attack ahead of the 2020 election.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Clip](#) | [Play Program](#)

Plastic Wars

FRONTLINE investigates what is really been happening with our ever-growing mountains of plastic waste, what industry insider knew about the environmental and public health problems of plastic, and when they knew it. This documentary examines the industry's role in shaping a system that has never worked as advertised, and the decades-long effort to keep a highly profitable secret alive: recycling hasn't kept plastic out of the environment or the oceans. It has just sold more plastic.

1x60 **HD**

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The Gene: An Intimate History

The Gene: An Intimate History is a four-hour documentary from Ken Burns and Barak Goodman, adapted from the award-winning book of the same name by Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee. The series tells the story of the rapid evolution of genetic science from Gregor Mendel's groundbreaking experiment in the 19th century to CRISPR, and the hope that newfound powers to alter DNA with pinpoint precision will transform the treatment of some of the world's most complex and challenging diseases. The series also tackles the daunting ethical challenges that these technologies pose for humankind.

4x60, 2x120 **HD**

[Play Episode](#)

George W. Bush

The latest in AMERICAN EXPERIENCE's award-winning series of presidential biographies, George W. Bush is a two-part look at the life and presidency of Bush, from his unorthodox road to the presidency through the contested election of 2000, when a Supreme Court ruling resulted in his becoming the 43rd President. The film chronicles the tumultuous events, domestically and internationally, that dominated Bush's eight years in office—including the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the subsequent war in Iraq, the search for weapons of mass destruction, Hurricane Katrina, and the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression.

4x60, 2x120 **HD**

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The Man Who Tried to Feed the World



In 1966, drought and an exploding population confronted India with the imminent threat of a severe famine—a potential disaster that many saw as a warning of global catastrophes to come, as the world’s population outstripped its ability to produce food. In search of a lasting solution, India turned to Norman Borlaug, an unassuming plant breeder from Iowa whose combination of scientific knowledge and raw determination had led him to create a high-yield, fungus-resistant, any-season, all-purpose variety of wheat that could revolutionize a country’s food production. *The Man Who Tried to Feed the World* recounts the story of the man who would not only solve India’s famine problem but would go on to lead a “Green Revolution” of worldwide agriculture programs estimated to have saved one billion lives and win the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)

Mr. Tornado

The Super Outbreak of 1974 was the most intense tornado outbreak on record, tearing a vicious path of destruction across thirteen states, generating 148 tornadoes from Alabama to Ontario, damaging thousands of homes, and killing more than 300 people. Meteorologist Tetsuya Theodore “Ted” Fujita spent ten months studying the outbreak’s aftermath in the most extensive aerial tornado study ever conducted, and through detailed mapping and leaps of scientific imagination, made a series of meteorological breakthroughs. His discovery of “microbursts,” sudden high wind patterns that could cause airplanes to drop from the sky without warning, transformed aviation safety and saved untold numbers of lives. *Mr. Tornado* is the remarkable story of the man whose groundbreaking work in research and applied science saved thousands of lives and helped prepare for and respond to dangerous weather phenomena.

1x60 **HD**

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Quakers: The Quiet Revolutionaries



Revolutionaries from the start, Quakers defied the Church of England and embraced racial and gender equality. Using verite and archival footage, interviews, voiceover historical quotations, and graphic animations, *Quakers: The Quiet Revolutionaries* reveals nearly four centuries of Quaker activism. A deft and thoughtful history, the film showcases Quakerism's founding and documents the long-term impact of this quiet and often revolutionary faith.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



The Vote

The Vote is the dramatic story of the fiery and unrelenting campaign to grant women the right to vote, a transformative cultural and political movement that resulted in the largest expansion of voting rights in U.S. history. In its final decade, from 1909 to 1920, the movement wrestled with contentious questions about the most effective methods for affecting social change, as leaders debated the use of militant, even violent tactics. The battle for the vote also upended previously accepted ideas about the role of women in American culture and society and challenged the definitions of citizenship and democracy. Exploring how and why millions of 20th-century Americans mobilized for—and against—women’s suffrage, *The Vote* brings to life the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans—and continue to dominate political discourse today.

4x60, 2x120 **HD**

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Born to Explore Season 3

In season three, host Richard Wiese travels to South Africa to visit endangered penguins, hunts fossils in New York City, explores the thriving cowboy country in Alberta, Canada, studies the Native American culture in Arizona, discovers why birds of a feather flock together, experiences the world's cultures through dance and much more.

13x30 **HD**

[Play Episode](#)

Cat Tales

They may have stolen many hearts—and the internet—but cats can be perplexing pets. As much cuddly and playful as they are aloof and uncaring, they've often raised the question: Did humans ever really domesticate felines? And what more can science tell us about a relationship that predates history?

1x54 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



Dog Tales

Dogs have long been dependable companions by our sides. But it wasn't always that way—and a look at their closest living relative, the wolf, makes it clear why. Researchers reveal how humans tamed fearsome canines over tens of thousands of years, and how modern dog intelligence and behaviors have made them indispensable companions.

1x54 **HD**

[Play Program](#)

Pioneers of Television: Betty White

Pioneers of Television presents this definitive look at Betty White's life and career. The film is packed with hilarious clips from her long career, including her roles as the bawdy Sue Ann on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, the innocent Rose on *Golden Girls*, and the worldly Elka on *Hot in Cleveland*.

Betty's 80+ years in television is officially the longest career in the history of TV. She was the first woman to produce a national TV show; the first woman to star in a sitcom; and the first woman to receive an Emmy nomination. In fact, she is the first woman to ever appear on television, given her performance on an experimental broadcast in the 1930s. Thanks to exclusive access, the film reveals Betty behind-the-scenes at work, entertaining at home, and interacting with her animal friends—one of whom is a 900 pound grizzly bear. Altogether, it's a portrait of one of the most beloved stars in the world, truly the "First Lady of Television."

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



Pioneers of Television: Carol Burnette

Pioneers of Television presents an entertaining look at the career of Carol Burnett. Packed with clips from her greatest performances—and funniest sketches. The documentary features interviews with Tim Conway, Vicki Lawrence, Carl Reiner, Betty White, Dick Van Dyke, Jim Nabors, Phyllis Diller, Pat Carroll, Tony Orlando, Cloris Leachman, Barbara Eden, Tina Fey—and Carol herself.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



Pioneers of Television: Dick Van Dyke

This *Pioneers of Television* profile of Dick Van Dyke's life and career is packed with fun clips from landmark productions like *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *Mary Poppins*, and *Diagnosis Murder*.

This film also offers a fascinating look at Dick's lesser-known projects: the variety show that beat out *Saturday Night Live* for an Emmy; his serious turn in the much-acclaimed film *The Comic*, and his recent singing career as the lead of *The Vantastix*. Peppered throughout are fresh interviews with Dick and all of his co-stars. It's the story of a career that exemplifies the best in family entertainment.

The film includes interviews with Dick Van Dyke, Carl Reiner, Mary Tyler Moore, Morey Amsterdam, Rose Marie, Tim Conway, and Tim Allen.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



Cuba's Cancer Hope

When the U.S. trade embargo left Cuba isolated from medical resources, Cuban doctors were forced to get creative. Now they've developed lung cancer vaccines that show so much promise, some Americans are defying the embargo and traveling to Cuba for treatment. In an unprecedented move, Cuban researchers are working with U.S. partners to make the medicines more widely available.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)



H₂O: The Molecule that Made Us

Earth is alive because of liquid water and the success of our human story is intimately connected to our relationship with this simple molecule. But the growth of our civilizations has created a dangerous dependence on a precious resource that may be about to run out. This three-part series explores just how critical water is to our survival and the challenges that are facing us.

Episode 1: Pulse

Episode 2: Civilizations

Episode 3: Crisis

3x60 HD

[Play Episode](#)

The Last Artifact

Just outside Paris, France, inside a high-tech vault, requiring three independently controlled keys, rests a small metallic cylinder about the diameter of a golf ball. Encased within three vacuum-sealed bell jars it may not look like much, but it is one of the most important objects on the planet. It affects nearly every aspect of our lives from the moment we are born, to the food we eat, the cars we drive, and even the medicines we take. *The Last Artifact* follows the high-stakes race to redefine the weight of the world reveals the untold story of one of the most important objects on the planet.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Clip](#) | [Play Program](#)





Mysteries of Sleep

Like virtually every other animal, humans need sleep to survive. But why? What do we gain from spending nearly a third of our lives in such a defenseless state? And what's at stake if we sleep poorly? The functions of sleep have long been something of a mystery. But now scientists are peering deep into the brain to see what happens while we snooze. One study reveals that well-timed bursts of pink noise can nudge a person's brain waves, extending periods of slow-wave, or deep, sleep. As scientists come to understand the powerful role that sleep—or lack of it—plays in everything from memory to trauma to emotion regulation, one thing is clear: This biological function is as crucial as it is complex.

1x60 **HD**

[Play Program](#)

Power Trip: The Story of Energy

The story of how societies rise can be told by tracing the story of energy. *Power Trip: The Story of Energy* explores humanity's most important resource by revealing the energy embedded in our water, food, wealth, cities, transportation and war. As our modern world faces growing demand for and worsening environmental impacts from energy, we are at a crossroads and the stakes are high. But history shows us that energy's great value is that it allows societies to reinvent themselves. Filmed in stunning locations around the world, *Power Trip* explores how energy has transformed societies of the past and offers wisdom for today's looming energy crisis. Energy advances always come with costs, some of which won't be seen until centuries later. Our current energy crisis is real, but it is solvable. We have the power.

6x60 **HD**

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The Truth About Fat

For generations, fat has been the enemy, and overweight individuals have been stigmatized and shamed. But scientists are coming to understand fat as a fascinating and dynamic system akin to an organ—one whose size has more to do with biological processes than personal choices. Through real life stories, explore how fat plays a role in hormone production and can even affect hunger levels and a woman's ability to get pregnant.

1x60 **HD**

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