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History Comes Alive

(24 x various)

JFK: The Day the Nation Cried – Through exclusive and previously unseen footage from family archives and the local TV station near the infamous "grassy knoll," plus the insightful recollections of Gerald Ford, Coretta King, Tip O'Neill, Ted Kennedy and many others, the remarkable JFK comes to life. Hosted by James Earl Jones, this compelling film explores the dynamic President's triumphs, failures and contribution to history. *"There have been countless programs made that profile the late President, but this is by far the most comprehensive and the most effective."* - Billboard Magazine (52 mins.)

The Iran Hostage Crisis: 444 Days to Freedom (What Really Happened in Iran) - On November 4, 1979 a group of radical Islamic students swarmed into the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, took its staff hostage, and demanded that the American government return the Shah of Iran. 444 grueling days later the students and their hostages finally went home. Produced by acclaimed filmmaker Les Harris, the film interweaves rare documentary footage with personal reminiscences and contemporary video, moving presidents and pundits into the wings, leaving center stage for the hostages and those who knew them well. To watch this film is to vividly relive the euphoria of release. Multiple Award Winner. *"...an unusually emotional wallop."* - Wall Street Journal (96 mins.)

Fast Women: The Ladies Of Auto Racing - This exciting, award-winning documentary explores the history and many achievements of women in auto racing - the fight for recognition in a male-dominated field, the safety risks, the enthusiastic fans, family support and encouragement, the marketing and sponsorship challenges, and the pressures of being a role model. Thrilling footage from both historic and current races, and interviews with racing's most prominent women and men reveal just how far women have come in the field. *Best Sports Documentary: New York Independent Film & Video Festival* (60 mins.)

Mary Magdalen: An Intimate Portrait - Who is Mary Magdalen? Was she the love of Jesus' life? Or simply the strongest of his followers? How did she become the bad girl of the Bible...the forbidden woman...the prostitute who was made into a saint? Hosted by Penelope Ann Miller and directed by Emmy award-winning producer Charles Stuart, this penetrating film explores the mysteries still surrounding Mary Magdalen, one of the least understood women in history. Multiple Award Winner *"An excellent expose. Highly recommended."* - Video Librarian (43 mins.)

Norman Rockwell: An American Portrait – Narrated by 3-time Emmy Award nominee Mason Adams, this classic PBS special features the art of Rockwell, commentary and remembrances from art historians, close friends and the artist himself. This entertaining celebration of Rockwell's American legacy chronicles the unique love affair between the artist and the American public, which spanned five decades, during which Rockwell produced over 300 magazine covers and many more acclaimed works. (60 mins.)

Oscar Peterson: The Life Of A Legend - In this insightful documentary, which includes interviews with Quincy Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, Norman Granz and Ella Fitzgerald, Peterson tells his life story, including everything from his musical triumphs to his clashes with racism. A candid look at a jazz legend whose life has been shaped by the ambition to honor his father's credo: "Be the best." (2 x 52 mins.)

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Picasso: The Man & His Work Part 1 (1881 – 1937) – This Cannes Film Festival selection takes a comprehensive and fascinating look at the life and art of the legendary Pablo Picasso. During the last 22 years of Picasso's life, film maker Edward Quinn had complete access to the artist. Through a combination of exclusive home movies and intimate photos, as well as over 600 of the artist's works (many never seen in public), a living, breathing scrapbook of Picasso is realized. The film follows the parallel development of the artist's life and work, giving insight into his creative processes. Among other highlights are some of the last pictures ever taken of him. Starting in 1896, when he was only 15, we trace Picasso's artistic development, exploring his work as a youth, from the Blue period to the Pink period and his first steps into Cubism in 1906. Then we discover the Chrysteline period where he went from analytical to synthetic Cubism until entering his Neoclassical period in 1918. Part 1 culminates with the painting of his masterpiece "Guernica" in 1937. *"...of exemplary honesty and objectivity and puts Picasso in true perspective..the painter completely devoted to his destiny as a painter."* – Jacqueline Picasso (45 mins.)

Picasso: The Man & His Work Part 2 (1938 – 1973) - This Cannes Film Festival selection takes a comprehensive and fascinating look at the life and art of the legendary Pablo Picasso. During the last 22 years of Picasso's life, film maker Edward Quinn had complete access to the artist. Through a combination of exclusive home movies and intimate photos, as well as over 600 of the artist's works (many never seen in public), a living, breathing scrapbook of Picasso is realized. The film follows the parallel development of the artist's life and work, giving insight into his creative processes. Among other highlights are some of the last pictures ever taken of him. Through the war years and life on the French Riviera, Picasso's work moves on to include ceramics, sculpture, pottery and graphics. The period from 1946 to 1973 is made up primarily of home movies, showing his relationships with his children and the women in his life, and emphasizing the enormous amount of work accomplished by Picasso during his last 20 years. We observe Picasso, 90 years old, working on a copper plate engraving as we follow the progress and changes made through 6 different stages. (45 mins.)

Michelangelo And The Sistine Chapel - Michelangelo's Masterpiece painted on the domed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is possibly the finest work of art of the Renaissance era. It combines religion, art, philosophy and personifies the intensity of its creator, Michelangelo Buonarroti. This film ventures into the Vatican City to enlighten and explore, in depth, the vast painted ceiling and the meaning behind Michelangelo's legendary work of art. (35 mins.)

French Impressionism At The Musee D'Orsay - Traces the history of the Museum and its celebrated masterpieces from artists such as Manet, Renoir and many others. This film explores the significant aspects of Impressionism and how the Musee D'Orsay has become the worldwide home of works from the Impressionist Movement. (40 mins.)

John Marin's New York - John Marin stood at a crossroads in American art, maturing as a painter during a period of dramatic technological, industrial and economic change. His ability to reinterpret European art within a distinctly American context made him one of America's most original Modernists. John Marin's cityscapes capture the energy, humor and excitement of New York in this video tribute to the artist and his place in the history of American art. (30 mins)

Cake Walking Babies From Home: An American Pop Culture Odyssey - Through the artifacts of lost America we explore the New York art world, the 60's, the Beats, Mickey Mouse, the origins of Off Broadway, the American diner and the collectable mass market of Americana. Robert Heide, John Gilman and Hoop; the king of art, take us into their world, on an American Pop culture odyssey. (48 mins.)

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A Magical Life: Circus Flora –For fifteen years or so, Circus Flora has been mixing old school European circus style with modern theater techniques and touring the world with their one-ring extravaganza. It's the brainchild of a man named Ivor David Balding. Come take a peek inside the tent and behind the scenes with a troupe of performers that include members of the famed Flying Wallenda Family. (74 mins.)

A Moment In Time: The United Colours Of Bronstein – Naomi Bronstein's life was changed forever in one split second: On April 4th, 1975, a picture of her anguished face, at the site of a plane crash in Saigon, made headlines around the world. Her life had intersected with history and, in a tiny moment of time, was changed forever. She had arranged to evacuate 240 war orphans on the flight – to be adopted in the West. Now, instead of realizing her dream of giving the children new lives in Canada, she was looking at their mangled bodies. The horror of the moment has reverberated through her life and driven her on. Her family of 12 includes 7 adopted war orphans, and she has devoted her life to working with sick and dying children in many parts of the world. This documentary traces her fast-paced life, and highlights an emotional reunion – 25 years on – with orphans who miraculously escaped the crash and did get to Canada. Now, as young adults they are giving back to their adoptive country. At a time in history when we look around and ask “what can we do?”, Naomi Bronstein's life holds the answers. This brave and determined lady never once questioned that, no matter the odds, one person can make a difference. And that every tiny life she saved would make a difference too. (50 mins.)

Falun Gong's Challenge To China – From the multi-award winning international veteran investigative journalist Danny Schechter comes the first complete and objective look at FALUN GONG, a non-violent, anti-materialistic spiritual movement drawing on Buddhist and Taoist traditions; its 100 million followers in over 40 countries around the world; and the tremors it's practitioners are causing in the corridors of power in the People's Republic of China today by way of their peaceful protests in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bishop Desmond Tutu in support of freedom of conscience and freedom of association. In one of the most bizarre cases of political repression in modern history, the People's Republic of China has banned a spiritual practice built around traditional exercises and meditation. On April 25, 1999 15,000 FALUN GONG practitioners quietly surrounded the government leadership compound in the heart of Beijing in silent protest against what they considered an inaccurate, slanderous attack on FALUN GONG in a state-sponsored magazine. Since then, FALUN GONG practitioners have stepped forward repeatedly to appeal to their government for the right to practice their faith. The Chinese government has responded by banning FALUN GONG, branding them an "evil cult", arresting more than 50,000 practitioners to date (including a number of foreign nationals), killing over 3,000 of them (with thousands of detainees as yet unaccounted for) while torturing thousands more (battering, rape, forced-feeding of high doses of salt water, denial of food, sleep and toilet use, exposure to extreme hot & cold weather, burning with cigarettes and heated metal, shocks with electric batons, induced abortions), and burning nearly 8.2 million books written by FALUN GONG founder Li Hongzhi, recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, who is now living in exile. (58 mins.)

How To Create A Rumba – The origins and evolution of Cuban music through conversations and performances by many prominent Cuban musicians, including Maestro Chico O'Farrill, Jose Fajardo, Juan Pablo Torres, Alfredo Valdes Jr., David Oquendo, Elena Burke, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, Paquito Hechevarria, Malena Burke, Israel Kantor, Vicente Sanchez, Aguedo Valdes-Luna, Carlos y Marta, Ulices del Toro, Mirta Gomez, Nelson “El Flaco” Padron, writer Armando Lopez and the legendary Afro Cuban percussionist Candido Camero. A lively and loving celebration of a musical odyssey which moves from the west coast of Africa via Havana to the streets of New York and Miami, the film pays homage to the music's African roots and its various styles -- bolero, mambo, cha cha, salsa, and rumba. The rhythms and musical traditions of more than thirty countries and three cultures converged to create what is known as ‘Latin Jazz.’ (74 mins.)

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Tug Of War: In Search Of The Perfect Pull – For thousands of years man has settled his differences, clan against clan, village against village, with a robust contest of strength known as tug of war. Today, tug of war is a sport partaken in by men, women and children informally around the world, and as an organized sport replete with national and international championships in 29 countries. Encouraged by “Xena: Warrior Princess,” filmmaker Fiona Cochrane set out to profile a real-life women’s tug of war team whose members are looked upon as the Xenas of their suburban neighborhoods where, after a long day of raising their families and working at a variety of jobs, release their stress and build up a sweat by joining in a good old fashioned tug of war contest. The film follows the Australian women’s tug of war team and their coach as they take on the world at the International Tug of War Championship World Games in Japan. It’s about a group of 40-something women pulling on a rough rope being screamed at by a half-blind Irish tug of war maniac. If you think professional sports coaches are tough, they have nothing on the coach of the Australian national team. Recently the International Olympic Committee board gave formal recognition to the international federation of tug of war. The sport was previously contested at six Olympics between 1900 and 1920. (26 mins.)

Urban Rescuers – Astonishingly, nearly 4 million stray or *feral* cats inhabit the streets, parks, back alleys and backyards of Los Angeles County, and they are reproducing at an alarming rate. The current solution is round-up and kill. But is there a better way? *Urban Rescuers* profiles a group of fiercely dedicated animal welfare crusaders in Los Angeles who skirt the law in order to rescue feral cats from the certain death they face upon landing in animal shelters. The methodology involves a controversial solution for feral cats known as “TNR” (trap, neuter, return), which calls for sterilizing these animals and then allowing them to live out their lives in the wild. As the TNR process is revealed, passionate and surprising arguments on both sides of the issue are heard from the heads of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the Feral Cat Alliance, the Los Angeles SPCA, and the Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation, among others. The documentary shows that TNR is legal in other communities where it works efficiently, within the system. As we investigate, Los Angeles officials are asked to adopt the policy. *Urban Rescuers* is a thought-provoking journey of ethics, featuring big personalities and stunning footage of feral cats in Southern California. (40 mins.)

Bound For Pleasure - Long before Peter Jackson launched his career with splat-horror films David Blyth had a reputation in the genre and a huge cult following. His features “Death Warmed Up” and “Angel Mine” brought him to the attention of Hollywood where he has gone on to direct “Exposure”, “Red Blooded American Girl I & II”, “Grampire” and “The Horror Show”. In addition, he has directed numerous episodes of “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” and “White Fang”. Now that New Zealand is synonymous with “The Lord Of The Rings” don’t think all Kiwi dark pleasures are confined to the subterranean lair of trolls. Director David Blyth has embarked on his own quest for the ring...the nipple ring! Blyth trekked through New Zealand’s most notorious dungeons, meeting and profiling the dominatrixes, slaves, pain sluts and fetishists that comprise the thriving BDSM (Bondage, Discipline, Sado-Masochism) culture that lurks in New Zealand’s hidden recesses (and backyard torture chambers). This alternatively humorous and scary documentary explores the motivations and pet fetishes of a variety of whip-toting, jack-booted mistresses, together with the painful peccadilloes of their subservient slaves, human ashtrays, clothespin freaks, naughty nurses and nasty nuns! It’s all on display dressed up in shiny leather and latex. Come. Enter the sensual and forbidden world of the Dominatrix in a film that takes you on a journey beyond the limits of Pain and Ecstasy into the dark fantasy world of Bondage & Discipline. The Queens of the Dungeon will fulfill all your desires. (73 mins.)

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The Uncertainty Principle – The "Art" of Science, and the struggle to create the impossible define the extreme experiments and chaotic personal life of a charismatic young physicist. The Uncertainty Principle, originally discovered in 1927 by Heisenberg whose work was the subject of the 2000 Tony award-winning play "Copenhagen", describes ambiguities inherent in measuring particles on the atomic level. The film follows physicist Keith Schwab as he embarks on an experiment hoping for results that will lead him toward the technology necessary to build a "Quantam computer", currently the focus of international scientific efforts. As the experiment unfolds, it is revealed to be less technical than artistic; intuition, perseverance, sacrifice, courage and vision are required. The very scientific principles he encounters come to define his life; the uncertainty of particles parallels the uncertainty of events. Uncertainty is not only a part of any creative pursuit, but also a fundamental aspect of the nature of our world. (53 mins.)

Living As An Artist - ... a personal approach to the lives of Brazilian popular artists by renowned Brazilian filmmaker Joao Batista de Andrade. Jose Inacio, Pirenopolis' Saint-Maker is the first of a documentary series by filmmaker Joao Batista de Andrade, entitled "The Filmmaker and his Camera". It is a personal approach to the lives of Brazilian popular artists... many of whom are very talented, but unknown to the great public. (82 mins.)

Vlado - Thirty Years Later - The journalist Vladimir Herzog, known as Vlado, in October 25, 1975 is called to present himself at a police station in Sao Paulo. The political regime, a dictatorship, had taken many as political prisoners and many were artists and journalists. Vlado with the firm believe he had nothing to hide goes to the DOI-CODI police station. Few hours after arriving at the police station the news of his death becomes public and announced as suicide. Joao Batista now attempts to register on camera the events that took place at the time. The testimonies of many such as archbishops, journalists, artists, writers and Vlado's widow Clarice Herzog provide an insight of a the dictatorship in Brazil. (82 mins.)

Force Of The Spirit - Fighting over 200 opponents is incredible. Fighting them with only one hand is impossible! A documentary about courage and triumph in the face of adversity. Jean Jacques Machado, born without a functioning left hand, overcomes all challenges to become one of the world's greatest hand-to-hand combat grapplers. This is the legendary story of a world champion. Awe-inspiring and inspirational, Machado demonstrates that it's not what's on the outside that determines a person, but rather what's on the inside. His story confirms that dreams can come true when you're willing to confront the challenges life deals you. With never before seen footage, witness evolution's most advanced warrior, his extraordinary fighting art and his influence on the lives of others who found encouragement by his example. (60 mins.)

The Tropical Timber Trade - The logging of Indonesia's rain forest is out of control. While the world's attention has been captured by Brazil's rain forest destruction, precious tropical timber is being hacked out of Sumatra, Indonesia's largest island, and habitat of the last Sumatra tiger. Deforestation destroys the rain forest and all its potential value. Rain forests provide substantial amounts of oxygen on earth; contain as-yet undiscovered species of animals, and many plants, which may hold the cure for diseases that plague mankind. But these uses for the bounty of the rain forest apparently pale in comparison to the European market's needs for these exotic trees, used to make parquet floors, terraces and plywood. (30 mins.)

Hargrove Entertainment is an international distribution and production company supplying programming to the theatrical, television, video, educational and new media markets worldwide.