

**press release**

THIS DECEMBER ON THIRTEEN, UNWRAP A MONTH-LONG LINE-UP OF BRAND NEW PROGRAMS AND ENCORES OF CLASSICS FROM HOLIDAYS PAST

Thirteen celebrates the winter holiday season throughout the month of December, beginning with *CANTORS: A FAITH IN SONG* on Thursday, December 4 at 8 p.m. This extraordinary concert features three of the world's most acclaimed cantors – Naftali Hershtick, of Jerusalem's Great Synagogue; Benzion Miller, of the Young Israel Beth-El in Borough Park, Brooklyn; and Alberto Mizrahi, of Chicago's Anshe Emet Synagogue – in a performance of Jewish and secular music recorded live at Amsterdam's revered Portuguese Synagogue. The trio is backed by a 40-piece orchestra and a 16-voice choir.

Enjoy a gourmet take on Chanukah fare in *JACQUES PÉPIN CELEBRATES! CHANUKAH*, Sunday, December 14 at 3 p.m., when the renowned chef prepares his version of potato pancakes (tempura-style) and fruit cake (rum-soaked). Then, travel back to the culture and atmosphere of life in the Eastern European shtetls via the colorful, first-hand accounts showcased in *A YIDDISH WORLD REMEMBERED* on Thursday, December 18 at 8 p.m.

To help celebrate Christmas, Thirteen presents *GREAT PERFORMANCES: Andrea Bocelli: Sacred Arias* (Monday, December 1 at 10 p.m.; Wednesday, December 24 at 8 p.m.), in which the tenor sensation makes a pilgrimage to Rome, the Eternal City, for a holiday concert featuring a selection of traditional carols and powerful arias. Also from *GREAT PERFORMANCES* comes *'The Nutcracker' From the Royal Ballet*, Wednesday, December 24 at 9 p.m. Sir Peter Wright's unique version of this perennial favorite, from the Covent Garden Opera, features Ivan Putrov, Alina Cojocaru and Sir Anthony Dowell. *THE THREE TENORS CHRISTMAS* returns to Thirteen Wednesday, December 24 at 11 p.m., starring José Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in a concert taped in 1999 at the Konzerthaus in Vienna. The Three Tenors render popular Christmas songs like "White Christmas," "Jingle Bells," "Winter Wonderland," and "Sleigh Ride," as well as beloved carols and sacred songs such as "O Holy Night," "Adestes Fideles," "Ave Maria, dolce Maria," and "Amazing Grace." The Vienna Symphony provides accompaniment. Saturday, December 20 at 3 p.m., *THE FACE: JESUS IN*



*ART* traces the use of Jesus' image in art over a 2,000 year period, from ancient Rome to modern-day America .

Friday, December 26 at 12 p.m., *HARAMBEE!* relates the story of a Brooklyn family inspired to use Kwanzaa as the kick-off to their anti-violence campaign after a stray bullet flies through their apartment window during a holiday dinner. In *BURT WOLF: TASTE OF FREEDOM*, Friday, December 26 at 1 p.m., award-winning journalist Burt Wolf explores the history, folklore and rituals of 13 major American holidays from Thanksgiving, Christmas and Chanukah to Kwanzaa, Ramadan and Independence Day.

Thirteen's December line-up comes complete with special holiday episodes of *SESAME STREET*, *BARNEY & FRIENDS*, *ARTHUR*, and *ANGELINA BALLERINA* for younger viewers the mornings of Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25.

Finally, say goodbye to 2003 on Wednesday, December 31 at 10 p.m. with *ROCK, RHYTHM & DOO WOP*, a brand new concert-style program hosted by Frankie Valli, Jerry Butler and Lloyd Price and featuring the music of more than 200 artists. Among them are Little Richard, Jay Black and the Americans, Little Anthony and the Imperials, and Lenny Welch.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Stage on Screen*, *EGG* the arts show, and *Cyberchase* – as well as the work of Bill Moyers – to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as *The Ethnic Heritage Specials*, *The New York Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, *Reel New York*, and its *MetroArts/Thirteen* cable arts programming. With educational and community outreach projects that extend the impact of its television productions, Thirteen takes television “out of the box.” And as broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen is blazing trails in the creation of Web sites, enhanced television, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, educational software, and other cutting-edge media products. More information about Thirteen can be found at: [www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org).

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