

American MASTERS

20
years

thirteen
WNET NEW YORK

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press information

THIRTEEN/WNET NEW YORK AND EMERGING PICTURES PARTNER TO SCREEN DIGITAL VERSION OF *AMERICAN MASTERS ANDY WARHOL: A DOCUMENTARY FILM* AIRING THIS FALL ON PBS

A Production of
Thirteen/WNET
New York for PBS



Local Public Broadcasters Will Host Screenings Of Ric Burns's Documentary In 20 Cities Across The U.S.

NEW YORK, N.Y.–August 22, 2006—Emerging Pictures, the New York-based digital cinema network, is partnering with Thirteen/WNET New York and other local PBS public television stations across the country to bring to the big screen *AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film*, the first production to explore the full range of the pop artist's astonishing career.

The two-part, four-hour documentary is directed by Ric Burns. The film is narrated by artist and musician Laurie Anderson and features artist Jeff Koons as the voice of Andy Warhol. *Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film* premieres on Thirteen/WNET New York's award-winning *AMERICAN MASTERS* series Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21 at 9 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film is a definitive film portrait of an artist whose signature works are among the most recognized and sought-after works of art ever created. No artist of the second half of the 20th century was more famous – or, perhaps in the end, more famously misunderstood – than Andy Warhol. At once the most accessible and enigmatic, straightforward and elusive, naïve and savagely ironic artist of his time, he was the Wizard of Icons – the supreme archaeologist of a culture of desire – and the mercurial Merlin of a mass media age.

Grasping as none before or since the function of fame in a mass society, Warhol forced us to confront and re-envision the world we live in. Along the way, he transformed himself into the unlikely poet laureate of the American century – the high priest and Pied Piper of one of the most radical

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experiments in the history of American culture and the greatest and most resoundingly influential artist of his age.

Local public television stations will host screenings of *AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film* in 20 cities across the country in conjunction with Thirteen/WNET New York and Emerging Pictures.

Susan Lacy, the creator and executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*, said: “As an ongoing series, *AMERICAN MASTERS* is very pleased to continue working in concert with Emerging Pictures and local public television stations throughout the U.S. to build bridges to local cultural institutions. The Andy Warhol film is a prime example of this cooperative spirit, the very latest in a 20-year history of the series collaborating with some of America’s finest filmmakers to produce the kind of in-depth and complex films that can be found only on public television.”

“Emerging Pictures is thrilled to be continuing its collaboration with WNET and *AMERICAN MASTERS* for the upcoming community-based screenings of Ric Burns’s Andy Warhol documentary special,” said Barry Rebo, Emerging Pictures chairman and co-founder. “The tremendous excitement generated by last year’s screenings of *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, a film by Martin Scorsese, thoroughly convinced all of us that large screen public presentations build tremendous excitement for the film, *AMERICAN MASTERS*, PBS and Emerging’s venue partners. Ric’s body of work and this particular subject have enormous appeal for cultural centers and audiences all across America, so the fit is perfect for what Emerging is building.”

Added Ric Burns, the award-winning director of *New York: A Documentary Film*: “Warhol was the most amazing archaeologist of our culture that has ever lived. In the course of the incredible, Horatio Alger arc of his life story, he challenged every conventional idea of what a work of art can be, in half a dozen different media – from painting and sculpture to film and television to music, performance art and beyond. No 20th-century artist had a greater impact on the way we see the world around us. None remains more contemporary and relevant.”

AMERICAN MASTERS Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film is a co-production of Steeplechase Films Inc., Daniel Wolf, High Line Productions, and Thirteen/WNET New York. It

is directed by Ric Burns, written by Ric Burns and James Sanders, and produced by Donald Rosenfeld, Daniel Wolf and Ric Burns. Executive producers are Peter Brant, Larry Gagosian and Diane von Furstenberg. Susan Lacy is executive producer of *AMERICAN MASTERS*. Barry Schulman is director of cultural and arts programming for Thirteen/WNET New York.

Corporate funding for the *AMERICAN MASTERS* series is provided by Visa Signature. *AMERICAN MASTERS* is also made possible by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding for *AMERICAN MASTERS* is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, The Marilyn M. Simpson Charitable Lead Trusts, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers. More information about *AMERICAN MASTERS* can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

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American Masters

AMERICAN MASTERS is produced for PBS by Thirteen/WNET New York. This acclaimed series, now celebrating its 20th season, has become a cultural legacy in its own right. The *AMERICAN MASTERS* film library is one of the most highly honored in television history with profiles of more than 140 artistic giants. In addition to seven Peabodys, an Oscar and two Grammys, *AMERICAN MASTERS* has won 16 Emmys, including Outstanding Primetime Non-Fiction Series for 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2004.

Thirteen/WNET New York

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*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *NOW With David Brancaccio*, 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 Thirteen Walking Tours*, *New York Voices*, and *Reel New York*. Thirteen extends the impact of its television productions through educational and community outreach projects – including the *Celebration of Teaching and Learning* – as well as Web sites and other digital media platforms. More information can be found at: www.thirteen.org.

Emerging Pictures

Emerging Pictures was founded in 2002 by Barry Rebo, Giovanni Cozzi and Ira Deutchman to create a new theatrical distribution network for independent, international and documentary films through the use of digital technology. Emerging has grown into a distribution, marketing and exhibition company through its network of theaters, Emerging Cinemas, which bring first-run arthouse cinema to cities and communities that would otherwise not usually have access to such films. Additionally, Emerging Cinemas continues to build on its programs that syndicate specially curated film festivals around the country. These festivals are curated by some of the most prestigious film organizations in the country, including the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, the Latinbeat Film Festival with the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the indieWire Undiscovered Gems festival.

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