



Press Contact:  
Natasha Padilla, WNET  
212.560.8824, [padilla@wnet.org](mailto:padilla@wnet.org)  
Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

Websites: [pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters) & [facebook.com/americanmasters](https://facebook.com/americanmasters)

## **THIRTEEN's *American Masters* celebrates Pearl Jam's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Cameron Crowe's intimate new film**

*Pearl Jam Twenty* premieres Friday, October 21 on PBS as part of the first PBS Arts Fall Festival

*Features never-before-seen footage, career-spanning performances and new band interviews*

Connect with other music icons at [pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters)

[\*\*American Masters\*\*](#) continues its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with ***Pearl Jam Twenty***, premiering nationally Friday, October 21 at 9 p.m. (ET/PT) on PBS ([check local listings](#)). Academy Award®-winning director and music journalist Cameron Crowe creates a definitive portrait of the seminal band carved from over 1,200 hours of rarely and never-before-seen footage, plus over 24 hours of recent band interviews and concert footage. The captivating, two-hour documentary gives viewers and fans an intimate first glimpse into Pearl Jam's journey in honor of the band's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ***American Masters Pearl Jam Twenty*** is part of the first PBS Arts Fall Festival, a multi-platform event anchored by nine films that highlight artists and performances from around the country.

Told in big themes and bold colors with blistering sound, ***Pearl Jam Twenty*** chronicles the years leading up to the band's formation, the chaos that ensued soon-after being catapulted into superstardom, their step back from the spotlight with the instinct of self-preservation, and the

creation of a trusted circle that would surround them — giving way to a work culture that would sustain them. Part concert film, part insider hang, part testimonial to the power of music and uncompromising artists, the film celebrates the freedom that allows Pearl Jam to make music without losing themselves, their fans, or the music lovers they've always been. ***Pearl Jam Twenty*** features new interviews with original band members Jeff Ament, Stone Gossard, Mike McCready, and Eddie Vedder, drummer Matt Cameron, and friend and Soundgarden singer/guitarist Chris Cornell, as well as archival performance and interview footage of Mother Love Bone, Pearl Jam, Temple of the Dog, Kurt Cobain, and Neil Young.

Complex and relevant after two decades, Pearl Jam remains a giant musical force and one of the biggest and most magnetic touring acts in the world. With over 60 million albums sold worldwide, they continue to create and perform all on their own terms. Known for their passionate expression, intense and philosophical lyrics, and amazing relationship with fans, Pearl Jam is not known for their media or personal exposure, making the revelations in ***Pearl Jam Twenty*** all the more special.

“When I set out to make this film, my mission was to assemble the best-of-the-best from Pearl Jam’s past and present and give audiences a visceral feeling of what it is to love music and to feel it deeply — to be inside the journey of a band that has carved their own path,” says Cameron Crowe. “There is only one band of their generation for which a film like this could even be made, and I’m honored to be the one given the opportunity to make it.”

Crowe was among the band’s inner circle when they formed and has maintained a close friendship with the band since his days as a reporter for *Rolling Stone* in Seattle. Almost 20 years after the band’s inception, Eddie, Jeff, Stone, and Mike gave their longtime friend the okay to raid the vault and assemble the story no one but those closest to them ever knew. Audiences will become intimate with the Seattle musicians whose sound and social consciousness were revolutionary — Pearl Jam stood up to both the prevailing social politic and the oppressive music industry.

“We are delighted to be presenting Pearl Jam’s 20<sup>th</sup> on ***American Masters***’ 25<sup>th</sup> — a truly perfect anniversary celebration. We continue the tradition of matching world-class filmmakers with subjects like this band, who revolutionized our culture with their music and their exemplary social consciousness,” says Susan Lacy, series creator and executive producer of ***American Masters***, a seven-time winner of the Emmy® Award for Outstanding Primetime Non-Fiction Series. The series is a production of [THIRTEEN](#) for [WNET New York Public Media](#). WNET is the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21, New York’s public television stations. For nearly 50 years, WNET has been producing and broadcasting national and local documentary and other programs to the New York community.

As part of their year-long “PJ20” celebration, Pearl Jam will release the ***Pearl Jam Twenty*** soundtrack and book in September. The soundtrack from Columbia Records/Sony Music is comprised of tracks selected by Cameron Crowe, making the album a true companion piece to the film. Published by Simon & Schuster in the U.S. and Atlantic Books in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, the book is an aesthetically stunning chronicle of Pearl Jam’s past two decades, compiled and written by veteran music writer Jonathan Cohen with Mark Wilkerson,

and featuring a foreword by Cameron Crowe and material from all his own band interviews. Also this September: Pearl Jam's Alpine Valley Labor Day anniversary weekend concert and 10-date Canadian tour, followed by the film's theatrical release. The DVD will be available in October after the PBS broadcast premiere.

To take *American Masters* beyond the television broadcast and further explore the themes, stories and personalities of masters past and present, the companion website ([pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters)) offers streaming video of select films, interviews, essays, photographs, outtakes, and other resources. As part of the PBS Arts Fall Festival, [PBSArts.org](http://PBSArts.org) will host an online interactive exhibit that takes viewers into the design process behind Pearl Jam's CD and poster artwork.

*Pearl Jam Twenty* is produced by Vinyl Films in association with Tremolo Productions for Monkeywrench Films and in association with THIRTEEN's *American Masters* for WNET. Cameron Crowe, Kelly Curtis, Morgan Neville, and Andy Fischer are producers and Michele Anthony is executive producer. Susan Lacy is the series creator and executive producer of *American Masters*.

*American Masters* is 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, Rolf and Elizabeth Rosenthal, Cheryl and Philip Milstein Family, Jack Rudin, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, Michael & Helen Schaffer Foundation, and public television viewers. This PBS Arts Fall Festival presentation is in collaboration with PBS member station KCTS. Funding for the launch of PBS Arts has been provided by Anne Ray Charitable Trust, public television viewers and PBS.

#### **About WNET New York Public Media**

WNET is America's flagship public media outlet, bringing quality arts, education and public affairs programming to over 5 million viewers each week. The parent company of public television stations [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of NJTV, WNET produces such acclaimed PBS series as [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Nature](#), [Need to Know](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Tavis Smiley](#) and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as [Get the Math](#), [Noah Comprehend](#) and [Cyberchase](#) and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through [SundayArts](#), [Reel 13](#), [NJ Today](#) and the new online newsmagazine *MetroFocus*.

#### **About PBS Arts Fall Festival**

As part of its commitment to increase every American's access to and participation in the arts, [PBS](#) kicks off the multi-platform PBS Arts Fall Festival October 14th. Anchored by Friday night broadcasts, the Fall Festival features artists and performances from nine communities across the country and celebrity hosts from each locale. With full-length performances; local mini-documentaries of arts scenes around the country; backstage access through interviews; artist and performer profiles; online immersive exhibits; and classroom resources, the PBS Arts Fall Festival entertains and inspires consumers by offering a front-row seat to the creativity, culture, history and scope of the arts. Funding for the launch of PBS Arts Fall Festival has been provided by Anne Ray Charitable Trust, public television viewers and PBS.