

**TRUE LIVES**A New Limited Series from the Producers of *P.O.V.***For Immediate Release**

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Of “True Lives” Series on Public Television in 2006****Eight Films, Distributed by American Public Television, Focus on “Radical Artists”  
– Available for January - December 2006 Scheduling by PBS Stations –**

Following the successful launch of its new **True Lives** programming initiative last year, American Documentary, Inc., producer of PBS’s acclaimed independent documentary series **P.O.V.**, will present a second season of the limited series to public television stations in 2006. The new season of **True Lives** will showcase eight documentary films, seven of which originally premiered on **P.O.V.**, and one (the Academy Award®-winning “Breathing Lessons”), which will have its national broadcast premiere. PBS stations have the option to schedule the films from January – December 2006. American Public Television will again distribute the **True Lives** series.

Under the banner of “Radical Artists,” the 2006 **True Lives** strand features award-winning profiles of maverick American artists including painters Jack Levine and Leon Golub, director Henry Jaglom, journalist Mark O’Brien, poet Audre Lorde and photographer/painter Estelle Peck Ishigo, as well as of Afro-Puerto Rican and Cajun musicians dedicated to preserving their unique cultures.

“**True Lives** offers another strand of exemplary documentary programming for public television stations nationally,” said Cara Mertes, the Executive Producer of **True Lives** and its sister series on PBS, **P.O.V.** “The interest the series has generated has confirmed our belief that great documentaries about important topics can have a long life -- far beyond the broadcast premiere.”

**P.O.V.** (a cinematic term for “point of view”), entering its 19<sup>th</sup> year on PBS, presents an annually curated collection of the best independently produced documentary films, illuminating contemporary issues and personal stories that are often overlooked by mainstream media. As television’s longest-running showcase for independent nonfiction film, the series remains unsurpassed in presenting culturally diverse programs and reaching underserved audiences. Hailed by critics as among the most important and relevant programming on television, **P.O.V.** films have garnered every major industry award, including 18 Emmys, ten Peabodys, eight duPont-Columbia Awards, three Academy Awards, and the Prix Italia.

**True Lives**, which premiered in 2005, revisits these classics, repackaging them in themed collections for use by public television stations, including secondary stations in major markets. Acclaimed documentaries that have not previously appeared on PBS are also included. The films are made available to public television stations for four releases in one year.

Funding for **True Lives** is provided by the Tides Foundation. Cara Mertes is executive producer of **True Lives**, which is produced by American Documentary, Inc. and is distributed to public television stations by American Public Television.

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**“TRUE LIVES” TITLES**  
(In Alphabetical Order)

**Breathing Lessons** by Jessica Yu

Jessica Yu's Academy-Award®-winning film explores the unique world of Mark O'Brien, the poet-journalist who lived for four decades paralyzed in an iron lung. Incorporating the vivid imagery of O'Brien's poetry and his candid, wry, and often profound reflections on work, sex, death and God, this provocative documentary asks: What is a life worth living? **Breathing Lessons** provides an intimate window into the reality of a life of severe disability, as well as an illuminating portrait of a remarkable artist. *Academy Award winner, Best Documentary (Short Subject). Co-produced by Pacific News Service.*

**Days of Waiting** by Steven Okazaki

Artist Estelle Peck Ishigo went with her Japanese-American husband into an internment camp during World War II, one of the few Caucasians to do so. Vividly recreated from Ishigo's own memoirs, photos and paintings, **Days of Waiting** reveals the shattering relocation experience from an outsider's perspective. *Winner of an Academy Award, Best Documentary (Short Subject), and a George Foster Peabody Award.*

**Golub: Late Works Are the Catastrophes** by Jerry Blumenthal and Gordon Quinn

Art, politics and media intersect in Leon Golub's nightmarish images of war, torture, death squads and mercenaries. With **Golub: Late Works are the Catastrophes**, Kartemquin Films completes its chronicle of the work and times of the American artist. Begun in 1985, the film follows the creation of one of his monumental canvasses and ends with Golub's death in 2004. Released in the wake of the Abu Ghraib prisoner scandals and the 24-hour news barrage that has become the norm, the film is a powerful look at how we experience images of violence in the modern world.

**Jack Levine: Feast of Pure Reason** by David Sutherland

This bold and unconventional film portrait by David Sutherland ("The Farmer's Wife") reveals one of America's leading Social Realist painters doing what he does best: skewering corrupt politicians, raging over social injustices, and satirizing the petty foibles of humankind. Jack Levine got his start during the Federal Arts Projects of the WPA, and quickly became world famous for his brilliantly painted, brutally ironic vision of America and the world. This is the story of a rare individual who has remained true to his aesthetic soul, despite the ever-changing fad and fashions of the art business. *Winner of 25 international awards including the CINE Golden Eagle Award.*

**A Litany for Survival** by Ada Gay Griffith and Michelle Parkerson

This profile of African-American poet Audre Lorde is a richly textured portrait of a gifted, strong-willed woman who embraced life's moments and focused her energies to fight for civil justice, women's equality and lesbian and gay rights. Lorde's fellow poets and activists, including Adrienne Rich, Sapphire, and Sonia Sanchez, pay tribute to Lorde's impact as a mentor and inspirational force.

**Marc and Ann** by Les Blank, Maureen Gosling, and Chris Simon

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the threat it poses to every aspect of life in the Gulf Coast, legendary filmmaker Les Blank's acclaimed 1991 film treats us to a portrait of a musical Louisiana couple, Marc and Ann Savoy, who are committed to the preservation and continuance of Cajun culture. Marc is an irreverent storyteller and accordion maker; Ann is the mother of four and author of *Cajun Music: A Reflection of a People*.

**Plena** by Pedro Rivera

This film examines the cultural and political history of *plena*, a Puerto Rican musical blend of African and Spanish idioms in which romance, personal tragedy, and daily news become the target of satirical humor. The great performers of the past are seen in rare performance footage, and contemporary attempts to preserve *plena* in New York and Puerto Rico are discussed. *Winner of Best Documentary Award, Festival CineSanJuan.*

**Who Is Henry Jaglom?** by Henry Alex Rubin and Jeremy Workman

Hailed by some as the last true maverick of American cinema, this writer-director has been dubbed everything from cinematic genius to the world's worst director. Confusing and abusing the lines between life and art, Henry Jaglom challenges the boundaries of filmmaking and viewer endurance. Henry Alex Rubin and Jeremy Workman pay an offbeat tribute to the man and his vision with a snappy spectrum of opinions from friends, family and Hollywood notables including Dennis Hopper, Candice Bergen, Peter Bogdanovich, and the late Orson Welles.

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**American Public Television** ([www.aptonline.org](http://www.aptonline.org))

For 44 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 10,000 hours of programming including *JFK: Breaking the News*, *Simply Ming*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Julia and Jacques*, *Cooking at Home*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Jungle*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen* and classic movies. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules.

**American Documentary, Inc.** ([www.americandocumentary.org](http://www.americandocumentary.org))

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a leading non-profit multimedia company dedicated to supporting and presenting contemporary documentaries that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in the mainstream media. Through initiatives like the acclaimed P.O.V. on PBS, AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, on line and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback, to educational opportunities and community participation.

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