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For immediate release

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**Maryland Public Television joins Preakness celebration**

**with documentary tracing Maryland’s 300-year history with horses**

Racing the Times *premieres May 15 on MPT-HD*

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – In celebration of Preakness weekend, Maryland Public Television (MPT) will broadcast a new documentary about one of Maryland’s greatest sporting traditions – thoroughbred racing. *Racing the Times* airs on Friday, May 15 at 9 pm.

As the latest film project from Emmy® Award-winning director W. Drew Perkins, *Racing the Times* tells the story of Maryland’s unequalled 300-year horse breeding and racing history through re-creations, interviews with racing industry leaders, and historical vignettes.

The film chronicles the centuries-old Maryland racing tradition that began with America’s first official horserace held in Annapolis in 1743. That same year, the Maryland Jockey Club became the first sporting organization in America.

Other highlights in the film include:

* The great match race of 1877 when the U.S. Congress closed its doors and members rode a train to Pimlico to watch the race
* The legendary race between Sea Biscuit and War Admiral at Pimlico in 1938
* Maryland’s great farms and legendary horses such as Glen Riddle Farm’s Man of War and Sagamore Farm’s Native Dancer
* The 1983 Preakness which saw the last Maryland-bred, Maryland-trained horse, Deputed Testamony, ridden by a Maryland jockey, race to victory.

*Racing the Times* will premiere on MPT-HD May 15 at 9 pm. Rebroadcasts will air May 16 at 1 am on MPT and May 28 at 8 pm MPT-2. Maryland Public Television is distributor of the film to the public television stations nationwide.

**About MPT**

Launched in 1969 and headquartered in Owings Mills, MD, Maryland Public Television is a nonprofit, state-licensed public television network and member of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). MPT’s six transmitters cover Maryland plus portions of contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards, MPT creates local, regional, and national television shows. Beyond broadcast, MPT’s commitment to professional educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through year-round instructional events and the super-website *Thinkport,* which garners in excess of 19 million page views annually. MPT’s community engagement connects viewers with local resources on significant health, education, and public interest topics through year-round outreach events, viewer forums, program screenings, and phone bank call-in opportunities.

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