American Masters: Decoding Watson

Thrust into the limelight for discovering the secret of life at age 25 with Francis Crick, influential Nobel Prize-winning scientist James Watson has thrived on competition and disruption. The ruthless visionary who led the Human Genome Project and turned Harvard University and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory into powerhouses of molecular biology, explores Watson’s evolution from socially awkward postdoc to notorious scientific genius. With unprecedented access to Watson, his friends, colleagues, scientists, and historians, American Masters examines the molecular biologist’s life, impact on science, and controversial views. His story ignites headlines ever since. He was a relentless and sometimes objectionable points of view. His penchant for expressing unfiltered and complex, contradictions, including his penchant for expressing unfiltered and objectionable points of view.

With unprecedented access to Watson, his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Rufus and Duncan, over the course of a year, American Masters explores Watson’s evolution from socially awkward positivist to notorious scientific genius. Also interviewed are his friends, colleagues, scientists, and historians. Controversial and unapologetic, Watson still thrives on competition and disruption. The film uncovers his signature achievements, complexes, and contradictions, including his penchant for expressing unfiltered and objectionable points of view.

Airs Wednesday, January 2, at 10 pm on WMHT-TV.

Clifford's Birthday Surprise 2019!

Join us and meet your favorite big red dog — Clifford. Be sure to bring your camera! We’ll celebrate by making fun and easy Clifford-themed crafts, and share stories about Emily Elizabeth, Cleo, and T-Bone.

This free event is open to families and all ages. Please join us on Monday, February 18, 11 am–1 pm, at Colonie Center, Colonie, NY.

Call (518) 880-3400 for more information.

Clifford: The Big Red Dog

IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY... AND YOU'RE INVITED!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

There are fierce tensions both in Europe and in the royal marriage as the much-anticipated Season 3 of Victoria premiers on Masterpiece.

As beautiful as ever, Jenna Coleman returns as the spirited Queen Victoria and Tom Hughes reprises his role as her devoted, yet obsessive, husband, Prince Albert.

It is 1848 and revolution is breaking out across Europe. In Britain, one woman stands between order and chaos: Queen Victoria. The French king has been forced off the throne and the Austrian emperor’s been deposed. The discontent in England leads to Chartism, a set of reforms considered highly radical at that time. There are fears of revolution. Victoria is urged to leave London for her own safety.

In the royal household, Victoria and Albert present a united facade, however, in reality, their relationship is at the breaking point — they are in a struggle for mastery that neither can win. As Season 3 begins, the Queen is about to give birth to her sixth child, yet her concerns are about politics, not children.

“She’s in this terrible double bind,” says Daisy Goodwin, creator, writer, and executive producer of Victoria. “She loves Albert and she loves going to bed with Albert. But every time he goes near her she gets pregnant. Obviously that suits him more than it suits her.”

Season 3 also introduces fascinating new historical characters. Princess Feodora, played by Kate Fleetwood, is Victoria’s troubled half-sister, who seeks refuge at Buckingham Palace due to the political unrest back home in Germany. Although Feodora loves Victoria, she is jealous of Victoria’s fame and power, and creates tension in the royal household when she comes to visit.

Other new characters include Laurence Fox as the pompous Lord Palmerston, who crosses swords with the queen over British foreign policy; John Sessions as reformist Prime Minister John Russell; and Lily Travers as the beguiling Duchess of Monmouth.

Brilliant acting, gorgeous costumes, and superb drama are the hallmarks of this gripping series. In fact, much of the historical authenticity is based on Queen Victoria’s diaries that she started at age 13 and kept until 10 days before her death in 1901. The complete set is more than 43,000 pages.

To discover more about Queen Victoria — her personal life and the history she created as Queen — tune in when Season 3 begins on Sunday, January 13, at 9 pm on WMHT-TV.

A New Year and A First Step

Happy New Year! Let us help you take a first step in 2019 for your future. Many people have a resolution to make a Will. Doing this is more than a matter of money and inheritance; it can guide future health decisions and provide special instructions for loved ones. Contact Sandra Beer at WMHT for a free estate-planning guide to get you started. Call (518) 880-3400 or email legacy@WMHT.org.

Clara's Birthday Surprise 2019!

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When most people hear the word horsepower, they think about monster engines in big trucks. The two-part series Equus: Story of the Horse, presented by Nature, explores an entirely different kind of horse power: the majestic horse, whose beginnings of the horse-human relationship is almost as old as civilization itself.

The roots of a fascinating lineup of celebrated guests, who are cultural trailblazers, entrepreneurs, revolutionaries, soldiers, and ordinary individuals who did remarkable things. Their family trees are filled with compelling characters — slaves, kings, artists, journalists, authors, and politicians, cover the globe — from Samoa, Nigeria, Taiwan, Iran, India, Cuba, and almost everywhere in between.

How did horses evolve? Why are there more than 400 specialized breeds today? How did they overcome resistance? What drove their need for domination? The six-episode series, Dictator’s Playbook examines the rise and fall of some of the most brutal dictators of the 20th century: Kim Il Sung, Saddam Hussein, Benito Mussolini, Francisco Franco, Manuel Noriega, and Idi Amin.

Their music would be heard — even in an era when the U.S. government banned drums and dance for Native Americans. RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World, presented by Indigenous Lens, is an electrifying look at Native American influence on blues, jazz, folk, pop, and rock music. “This has gone too long under the radar,” says blues musician Taj Mahal. As the film reveals, early pioneers of the blues such as Charley Patton (Chocorua/African American) and the first non-African-American jazz singer, Mildred Bailey (Coeur d’Alene), integrated their Native heritage into their music and influenced contemporary and future artists.

The new target, MU69, discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in June 2014, is a Kuiper Belt object (KBO). Pluto, which officially lost its planetary status shortly after New Horizons launched in 2006, is also a KBO.

As the folk rock era took hold in the 60s and 70s, Native Americans such as Peter La Farge and Buffy Sainte-Marie helped to define its evolution, and Native guitarists and drummers like Link Wray, Jimi Hendrix, Jesse Ed Davis, and Randy Castillo forever changed the trajectory of rock and roll. Told by the music legends who knew and were inspired by Native musicians, RUMBLE brings the narrative to life using innovative recreations, archival concert footage, and interviews. As Jimi Hendrix said, “Do the Indian thing, man,” and music as we knew it was changed forever! How did they rise to power? Why did they fall?

NOVA, Beyond Pluto Begin Tuesday, January 9, at 9 pm on WMHT-TV.

Four billion miles! That’s how far away the New Horizons spacecraft will be when it flies by an object known as MU69 on New Year’s Day 2019! The new target, MU69, discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in June 2014, is a Kuiper Belt object (KBO). Pluto, which officially lost its planetary status shortly after New Horizons launched in 2006, is also a KBO. Pluto is comparable to the size of North America at 1,475 miles across, while MU69 is less than 30 miles across. But MU69 isn’t just any kind of KBO. It has a special kind of orbit that possibly makes it a type of object that is primordial and left over from early solar system formation. When New Horizons gives us an extraordinary look at MU69, we may be observing the original building blocks of the solar system! Airs Wednesday, January 2, at 9 pm on WMHT-TV.

As different as these men were from each other, they all followed a series of essential steps from seizing power to eliminating enemies — an unwritten dictator’s playbook. You’ll discover the methods Kim Il Sung used to shape every aspect of North Korean citizens’ lives, down to their very perception of reality, how Saddam Hussein used violence and torture to rule Iraq for nearly a quarter of a century, and how Manuel Noriega’s connections made him the most feared man in Panama.

How did they overcome resistance? What drove their need for domination? The six-episode series, Dictator’s Playbook examines the rise and fall of some of the most brutal dictators of the 20th century: Kim Il Sung, Saddam Hussein, Benito Mussolini, Francisco Franco, Manuel Noriega, and Idi Amin.

The series is a fascinating study of the minds and actions of evil men. Airs Wednesday, January 9, at 10 pm on WMHT-TV.