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AARP Provides Major Series Funding for THIRTEEN's American Masters

NEW YORK, NY—WNET announced today that AARP has provided two years of major funding for THIRTEEN's **American Masters** series, which launched Season 31 with the exclusive U.S. broadcast premiere of **American Masters: By Sidney Lumet** this week.

"American Masters has set the gold standard for documentary film profiles," said Stephen Segaller, Vice President of Programming at WNET. "The generous support of AARP will help us to maintain the standard of excellence that THIRTEEN and **American Masters** are known for." WNET is the parent company of New York's public television stations THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV.

"Through AARP's generosity we're able to continue to celebrate the luminaries that have left an indelible impression on our cultural landscape," said Michael Kantor, Executive Producer of **American Masters**. "Their support will help us bring viewers some of our best films yet and expand our digital offerings over the next two years."

"We are delighted to support THIRTEEN's **American Masters** series," said Myrna Blyth, Senior Vice President and Editorial Director for AARP Media. "Our audience is not only one of the largest population subsets in the country, it is a group of people that loves compelling and smart films and this series speaks directly to those that appreciate good storytelling about people who have shaped our world."

AARP is the nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization aiming to change the way America defines aging and make life better for today's 50-plus population. AARP also works to promote important issues such as health care, personal fulfillment, employment and income security.

Other films premiering as part of **American Masters** Season 31 include **American Masters - Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise** (February 21), **Patsy Cline: American Masters** (March), and a "Chefs Flight" of four documentaries on culinary legends: **American Masters - James Beard: America's First Foodie** (May 19) and **American Masters -Jacques Pépin: The Art of Craft** (May 26) paired with encore presentations of **American Masters: Julia! America's Favorite Chef** and **American Masters: Alice Waters and Her Delicious Revolution**, respectively.

Launched in 1986, **American Masters** has earned 28 Emmy Awards — including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special — 12 Peabodys, an Oscar, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards and many other honors. To further explore the lives and works of masters past and present, the **American Masters** website (<http://pbs.org/americanmasters>) offers streaming video of select films, outtakes, filmmaker interviews, educational resources and *In Their Own Words: The American Masters Digital Archive*: previously unreleased interviews of luminaries discussing America's most enduring artistic and cultural giants as well as the *American Masters Podcast*. The series is a production of THIRTEEN PRODUCTIONS LLC for WNET and also seen on the WORLD channel.

Major support for **American Masters** is provided by AARP. Additional funding is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, Ellen and James S. Marcus, Lillian Goldman Programming Endowment, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Judith and Burton Resnick, Vital Projects Fund, Cheryl and Philip Milstein Family, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, Lenore Hecht Foundation, Michael & Helen Schaffer Foundation, and public television viewers.

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About WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station and parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21. WNET also operates NJTV, the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its broadcast channels, three cable services (KidsThirteen, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *PBS NewsHour Weekend*, *Charlie Rose* and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings. WNET's groundbreaking series for children and young adults include *Get the Math*, *Oh Noah!* and *Cyberchase* as well as *Mission US*, the award-winning interactive history game. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through *NYC-ARTS*, *Reel 13*, *NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams* and *MetroFocus*, the daily

multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. In addition, WNET produces online-only programming including the award-winning series about gender identity, *First Person*, and an intergenerational look at tech and pop culture, *The Chatterbox with Kevin and Grandma Lill*. In 2015, THIRTEEN launched Passport, an online streaming service which allows members to see new and archival THIRTEEN and PBS programming anytime, anywhere: www.thirteen.org/passport.

About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

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