



*American*<sup>®</sup>  
**MASTERS**



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)

***American Masters***  
***Harper Lee: Hey, Boo***

**Premieres nationally Monday, April 2 at 10 p.m. (ET) on PBS  
(check local listings)**

***Film Synopsis & Interviewees***

One of the biggest bestsellers of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) is the first and only novel by a young woman named Nelle Harper Lee, who once said that she wanted to be South Alabama's Jane Austen. Lee won the Pulitzer Prize and became a mystery when she stopped speaking to press in 1964. ***Harper Lee: Hey, Boo*** explores the history and impact of the novel and offers an unprecedented look at the life of the novelist.

More than 50 years after its publication, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than 40 languages worldwide, still sells nearly one million copies each year and is required reading in most American classrooms, making it quite possibly the most influential American novel of the 20th century. The 1962 film version, starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, won a trio of Academy Awards.

***Harper Lee: Hey, Boo*** chronicles how this beloved novel came to be written, provides the context and history of the Deep South where it is set, and documents the many ways the novel

has changed minds and shaped history. For teachers, students or fans of the classic, ***Hey, Boo*** enhances the experience of reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Containing never-before-seen photos and letters, ***Hey, Boo*** features insightful interviews with friends and an exclusive interview with Lee's sister, Alice Finch Lee (age 99 at filming), who share intimate recollections, anecdotes and biographical details for the first time, offering new insight into the life and mind of Harper Lee, including why she never published again. Oprah Winfrey; Tom Brokaw; Pulitzer Prize-winners Rick Bragg, Anna Quindlen, Richard Russo, Jon Meacham, and Diane McWhorter; and civil rights leader Andrew Young address the novel's power, influence, and popularity, and the many ways it has shaped their lives.

***Interviewees*** (in alphabetical order)

**Mary Badham** – actress, played Scout Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962)

**Boaty Boatwright** – casting director, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962)

**Rick Bragg** – author

**Tom Brokaw** – news anchor, journalist and author

**Joy Brown** – Lee's friend

**Michael Brown** – Lee's friend

**Reverend Thomas Lane Butts** – Pastor Emeritus of Lee's church

**Rosanne Cash** – musician and author

**Mark Childress** – author

**Jane Ellen Clark** – former director, The Monroe County Heritage Museum

**Allan Gurganus** – author

**David Kipen** – former director of literature, National Endowment for the Arts

**Wally Lamb** – author

**Alice Finch Lee** – Lee's sister

**James McBride** – author and musician

**Diane McWhorter** – historian

**Jon Meacham** – historian

**James Patterson** – author

**Anna Quindlen** – author

**Richard Russo** – author

**Lizzie Skurnick** – author

**Lee Smith** – author

**Adriana Trigiani** – author

**Mary Tucker** – educator and Monroeville, Alabama resident

**Scott Turow** – author

**Oprah Winfrey** – TV and film producer, founder of *O, The Oprah magazine*, radio programmer, actress, philanthropist, and chairman of Harpo Inc.

**Andrew Young** – civil rights leader

###