


AMERICAN MASTERS



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THIRTEEN's *American Masters* Presents Exclusive U.S. Broadcast Premiere of *Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life* June 14 on PBS in honor of LGBT Pride Month

*Features new interviews with the groundbreaking playwright,
F. Murray Abraham, Christine Baranski, Edie Falco, Nathan Lane,
Angela Lansbury, Audra McDonald, Rita Moreno and other luminaries, plus
the voices of Dan Bucatinsky, Bryan Cranston and Meryl Streep*

Playwright, librettist, scriptwriter and outspoken LGBTQ activist Terrence McNally has long believed in the power of the arts to transform society and make a difference. The new documentary ***American Masters – Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life*** premieres nationwide Friday, June 14 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings), pbs.org/americanmasters and the PBS Video app in honor of LGBT Pride Month, and as part of PBS' homage to the summer of '69. The film lifts the curtain on the life, career and inspirations of the complicated and brilliant Emmy- and four-time Tony Award-winning writer.

In addition to new interviews with McNally, the film features insights from his friends, his family and some of the most notable stars of stage and screen who he has worked with and mentored, among them F. Murray Abraham, Christine Baranski, Tyne Daly, Edie Falco, John Kander, Nathan Lane, Angela Lansbury, Marin Mazzie, Audra McDonald, Rita Moreno, Billy Porter, Chita Rivera, Doris Roberts, John Slattery and Patrick Wilson, plus the voices of Dan Bucatinsky, Bryan Cranston and Meryl Streep.

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From his troubled beginnings in Corpus Christi, Texas to his college years in New York City, from dating legendary playwright Edward Albee to traveling the world as the tutor to John Steinbeck's children and having his first Broadway play, *And Things That Go Bump in the Night*, flop at age 24, ***American Masters – Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life*** traces McNally's personal and professional successes, struggles and failures. Over the course of his six-decade career, he has written trailblazing plays, musicals, operas and screenplays about sexuality, homophobia, faith, the power of art, the need to connect and finding meaning in every moment of life, including *Next* (1969), *The Ritz* (1975), *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (1982), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1992), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (1994), *Master Class* (1995), *Ragtime* (1996), *Dead Man Walking* (2000), *The Full Monty* (2000) and *Mothers and Sons* (2014).

Rising above challenges, including his abusive alcoholic parents and growing up as a gay teen in a conservative Christian town, McNally overcame his own alcoholism (sparked by Angela Lansbury's intervention), the deaths of friends and lovers to AIDS and cancer, including fellow playwright Wendy Wasserstein, and his own brutal fight with lung cancer. An outspoken champion of marriage equality and LGBTQ rights, he faced violent protests over his controversial play *Corpus Christi* (1998) – a gay, modern-day retelling of the story of Jesus – and found lasting love with his now-husband, producer-lawyer Tom Kirdahy.

"The stakes are really high now, higher than ever. We need to bring barriers down, not build walls. We need to love one another more and see how connected we really are. I think that's the message of art," says McNally.

Every Act of Life had its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival and has shown at more than 50 film festivals around the world, garnering numerous Best Documentary and Audience Awards.

The film airs locally in New York as part of "THIRTEEN Celebrates the Summer of '69: 50 Years Later," a multiplatform experience celebrating the golden anniversaries of pivotal moments in U.S. history.

Launched in 1986 on PBS, ***American Masters*** has earned 28 Emmy Awards – including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special – 13 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, ***American Masters*** offers streaming video of select films, outtakes, filmmaker interviews, the *American Masters Podcast*, educational resources and more. The series is a production of [THIRTEEN](#) PRODUCTIONS LLC for [WNET](#) and also seen on the WORLD channel.

American Masters – Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life is a production of Floating World Pictures in association with Lakeview Productions and Talu Productions. Jeff Kaufman is producer, director and writer. Marcia S. Ross is producer. Jay Alix and Una Jackman, Suzi Dietz, Tom Kirdahy, Mark Lee, Ted Snowdon and Duffy Violante, and Buddy Steves and Rowena Young are executive producers. Marion Swaybill is consulting executive producer. Asher Bingham is editor with music by Laura Karpman and Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum.

Jordan Black, Autumn Eakin and Anthony Lucido are cinematographers. Michael Kantor is executive producer for ***American Masters***.

Funding for ***American Masters – Terrence McNally: Every Act of Life*** is provided in part by National Endowment for the Arts, plus The Edward F. Limato Foundation, The Noël Coward Foundation, and The Hunter Ward Foundation.

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Websites: <http://pbs.org/americanmasters>, [@PBSAmerMasters](http://facebook.com/americanmasters), <http://youtube.com/AmericanMastersPBS>, <http://instagram.com/pbsamericanmasters>, #AmericanMastersPBS

About WNET

WNET is America's flagship PBS station: parent company of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) and [WLIW21](#) and operator of [NJTV](#), the statewide public media network in New Jersey. Through its new [ALL ARTS](#) multi-platform initiative, its broadcast channels, three cable services (THIRTEEN PBSKids, Create and World) and online streaming sites, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each month. WNET produces and presents a wide range of acclaimed PBS series, including ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend***, and the nightly interview program ***Amanpour and Company***. In addition, WNET produces numerous documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multi-platform initiatives addressing poverty and climate. Through THIRTEEN Passport and WLIW Passport, station members can stream new and archival THIRTEEN, WLIW and PBS programming anytime, anywhere.

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