



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL CELEBRATES PRESIDENT'S DAY
WITH PRIMETIME LINEUP OFFERING NOT SO CONVENTIONAL
LOOKS AT OUR COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF**

New Special, "Picturing the Presidents" Premieres at 8pm ET/PT

WASHINGTON, DC – (February 3, 2010) – Smithsonian Channel is celebrating President's Day this February 15th with a series of programs that go beyond the traditional stories of the men who have led our nation. Highlighting the primetime lineup is the premiere of **Picturing the Presidents** at 8pm ET/PT, a one-hour special that looks at the photos, caricatures and portraits that have captured, satirized and humanized our past presidents.

Smithsonian Channel Presidents Day Lineup:

AMERICA'S GREATEST MONUMENTS - Monday, February 15 at 7pm ET/PT

Washington's memorials can be seen like never before – in stunning high-definition. From the Washington Memorial to the Vietnam War Memorial, viewers can learn about the often overlooked stories of how these monuments became the emotional epicenter of our nation.

PICTURING THE PRESIDENTS – Premieres Monday, February 15 at 8pm ET/PT

Viewers can go behind the scenes and into the minds of the artists that capture, commemorate and, at times, condemn our presidents. When art and politics collide, the results do not always make the president and his handlers happy, from Elaine De Kooning's abstract portraits of Kennedy to Tim Oliphant's skewering caricatures of the Bushes, there is an often stormy relationship between our presidents and the artists employed to capture their legacy. From the portrait that enraged LBJ to the bad-hair-day photograph that almost cost Lincoln the election, the pictures that elicit reactions are as divisive as the subjects themselves.

SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT: LINCOLN'S MEN - Monday, February 15 at 9pm ET/PT

John Nicolay, John Hay and William Stoddard all followed Abraham Lincoln to the White House as his personal secretaries, but became much more. These young men handled schedules, communication and supervised all White House business. From their own hand written accounts, viewers can not only learn about factual accounts of the day-to-day business of a busy White House, but also get a personal portrait of a passionate president from the men who knew him best.

PICTURING THE PRESIDENT: GEORGE WASHINGTON – Monday, February 15 at 9:30pm ET/PT

The most famous American portrait, Gilbert Stuart's painting of George Washington, is an unforgettable painting that captures the spirit of the victorious general, stalwart leader and pioneering president of the United States of America. Known as the Lansdowne, the full-length portrait of Washington came to illuminate and symbolize not only a man, but also a fledgling country and revolutionary new leadership.

WHITE HOUSE REVEALED - Monday, February 15 at 10pm ET/PT

This special features the people who help run the world's most famous home. They're anonymous to the public, but presidents know their names. They're the devoted doormen, butlers, plumbers, chefs, housekeepers, engineers, and florists who serve president after president behind the scenes. Once-in-a-lifetime occasions happen every week at the White House, and the residence staff is a constant witness to history. Through personal interviews, they reveal the behind-the-scenes action of world-changing events and share intimate moments of the presidency, from First Family birthday parties to preparations for Inauguration Day.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

Smithsonian Networks (SNI/SI Networks L.L.C.) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The network features original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com.

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