

Ken Burns “unpacks” his latest film project in special screening July 11

Photo: Still image from The Vietnam War.

HANOVER, NH, May 27, 2015— Filmmaker [Ken Burns](#) makes his traditional summer pilgrimage to the Hop to share his latest small-screen project on the big screen of Spaulding Auditorium.



On [Saturday, July 11, at 7 pm](#), Burns will be on hand to screen a rough-cut episode of [The Vietnam War](#), his latest historical project with long-time collaborator Lynn Novick. This summer marks the seventh in a row that the New Hampshire-based filmmaker (and member of the Hop Board of Overseers) has sneak-previewed a film at the Hop. This time, however, rather than show a finished work, he'll show an in-progress episode and detail the creative process behind it: the integration and balance of on-camera interviews, third-person

narration, archival footage and photographs, music, sound effects and live cinematography—a rare opportunity to experience how Burns and his team craft their extraordinary films.

The episode will be part of a ten-part, 18-hour documentary film series, slated to be aired on PBS in 2017. The series will shed new light on the military, political, cultural, social, and human dimensions of a tragedy of epic proportions that took the lives of 58,000 Americans and as many as three million Vietnamese, polarized American society as nothing has since the Civil War, fundamentally challenged Americans' faith in our leaders, our government, and called into question the belief in our own exceptionalism.

The series will be structured chronologically, built around interviews and personal stories of nearly 100 American and Vietnamese witnesses—veterans as well as civilians—who lived through the war. Their intimate, personal “bottom up” testimony will be interwoven throughout with a parallel “top down” political and military narrative that reveals American and Vietnamese decision makers' goals, decisions, strategies, public pronouncements and private concerns. With unprecedented access to both individuals and archives in Vietnam, as well as to provocative and revelatory recent scholarship and rarely seen archival material from around the globe, this film will present a groundbreaking 360-degree narrative of the war, telling the story

from all sides, as it has never before been told, and hopefully inspiring a new conversation about this divisive period in our history.

For more than three decades, Burns and his colleagues at Florentine Films, in tiny Walpole, NH—directors, writers, producers, editors, and cinematographers—have produced some of the most critically acclaimed and most watched documentaries on public television.

A December 2002 poll conducted by *Real Screen Magazine* listed Burns' *The Civil War* as second only to Robert Flaherty's *Nanook of the North* as the "most influential documentary of all time," and named Burns and Flaherty as the "most influential documentary makers" of all time. In March 2009, the *Baltimore Sun* said, "Burns is not only the greatest documentarian of the day, but also the most influential filmmaker period. That includes feature filmmakers like George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. I say that because Burns not only turned millions of persons onto history with his films, he showed us a new way of looking at our collective past and ourselves." The late historian Stephen Ambrose said of his films, "More Americans get their history from Ken Burns than any other source." Burns' films have won 13 Emmy Awards and two Oscar nominations, and in September 2008, at the News & Documentary Emmy Awards, Ken was honored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recently aired projects include *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, a three-part, six-hour film, based on the book by Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, that traces the history of cancer from ancient to modern times, aired on PBS in March and April 2015; *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, a seven-part, 14-hour film that tells the stories of one of the most prominent and influential families in American history, aired on PBS in September 2014; and *The Address*, aired on PBS in 2014, a 90-minute film that tells the story of the tiny Greenwood School in Putney, Vermont, where each year the students—boys who are all challenged by learning differences—are encouraged to memorize and then publicly recite the Gettysburg Address.

In addition to *The Vietnam War*, projects currently in production include films on Jackie Robinson, the history of country music, Ernest Hemingway and the history of stand-up comedy.

[Download Word.doc press release and high-resolution photos](#)

CALENDAR LISTING:

Vietnam: A Work in Progress

Filmmaker Ken Burns screens a rough-cut episode from his upcoming 10-part series on the Vietnam War, slated to be aired by PBS in 2017. Burns will discuss in detail the creative decisions, including choices of on-camera interviews, third-person narration, archival footage and photographs, music, sound effects and live cinematography.

Saturday, July 11, 7 pm

Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover NH

\$15, Dartmouth students \$5

Information: hop.dartmouth.edu or 603.646.2422

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Founded in 1962, the Hopkins Center for the Arts is a multi-disciplinary academic, visual and performing arts center dedicated to uncovering insights, igniting passions, and nurturing talents to help Dartmouth and the surrounding Upper Valley community engage imaginatively and contribute creatively to our world. Each year the Hop presents more than 300 live events and films by visiting artists as well as Dartmouth students

and the Dartmouth community, and reaches more than 22,000 Upper Valley residents and students with outreach and arts education programs. After a celebratory 50th-anniversary season in 2012-13, the Hop enters its second half-century with renewed passion for mentoring young artists, supporting the development of new work, and providing a laboratory for participation and experimentation in the arts.