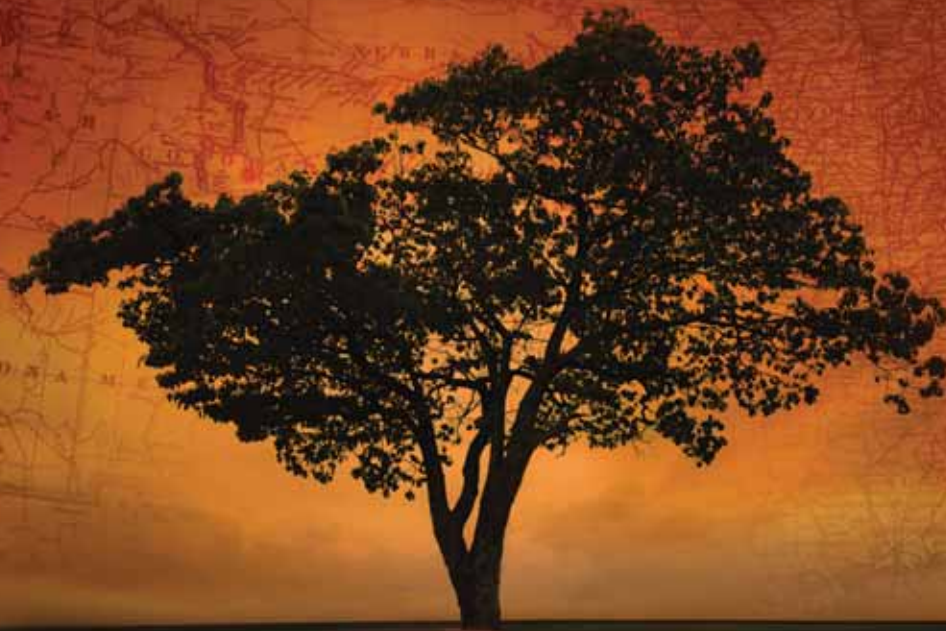


FACES OF AMERICA

with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

4 X 54 HD



PBS.

INTERNATIONAL

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Turning to the latest tools of genealogy and genetics, Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. unravels the American tapestry by exploring the family histories of 12 renowned Americans. He follows the threads of his guests' lives back to their earliest origins around the globe. His guests include professor and poet **Elizabeth Alexander**, who composed and read the poem at President Barack Obama's inauguration, chef **Mario Batali**, comedian **Stephen Colbert**, novelist **Louise Erdrich**, journalist **Malcolm Gladwell**, actress **Eva Longoria**, musician **Yo-Yo Ma**, director **Mike Nichols**, Her Majesty **Queen Noor**, television host/heart surgeon **Dr. Mehmet Oz**, actress **Meryl Streep**, and figure skater **Kristi Yamaguchi**.

Episode One—Our American Stories explores the dynamic and shifting relationship America had with her new immigrants in the 20th century. At its best, America was a place of refuge and salvation, as for film director Mike Nichols whose entire family escaped Nazi Germany. At its worst, it was a country that would imprison two generations of Japanese Americans, like the ancestors of Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi.

Episode Two—Becoming American explores the many journeys to becoming American that defined the "Century of Immigration" (1820s – 1924) and transformed the United States from a sleepy agrarian country into a booming industrial power. Stephen Colbert's Irish great-great-grandfather escaped poverty and religious oppression in Limerick and never looked back, whereas her Majesty Queen Noor's Syrian great-grandfather quickly found his footing in New York's first Arab American community.

Episode Three—Making America tells the story of the peopling of the New World, of how land came to define the settling and identity of America, and of how the guests' ancestors were part of this history. We discover descriptions of Meryl Streep's eighth great-grandfather who fought in Metacom's War; a treaty that Louise Erdrich's Native American ancestor was forced to sign; and Yo-Yo Ma's family genealogy in China, which gives insights into his identity he has longed to know his whole life.

Episode Four—Know Thyself takes up the search for the guests' ancestries where the historical record leaves off. Combining the documented stories of some of the guests' last known ancestors with DNA evidence, the series travels backward through time to reveal both distant relatives and surprising shared ancestral connections. Meryl Streep and Mike Nichols discover that they are distant cousins, as are Yo-Yo Ma and Eva Longoria.

1002073

CREDITS

Producers/Directors: John Maggio, Leslie Asako Gladsjo, Sue Williams, Stephen Ives & Amanda Pollak

Senior Producers: Barak Goodman & Sue Williams

Executive Producers: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., William R. Grant, Peter W. Kunhardt & Dyllan McGee

Writer: Henry Louis Gates Jr.

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