


finding your roots

with
HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

10 X 52 



PBS
INTERNATIONAL

finding your roots

with
HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

10 X 52 HD

CONTACT

Tom Koch, Vice President
PBS International
10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA

TEL: +1-617-208-0735
FAX: +1-617-208-0783

jt Koch@pbs.org
pbsinternational.org

The basic drive to discover who we are and where we come from is at the core of the new 10-part series, *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* Continuing on the quest begun in his previous projects, *African American Lives*, *African American Lives 2*, and *Faces of America*, Gates finds new ways to “get into the DNA of American culture.” In each hour-long episode, he takes viewers along for the journey with one celebrity group bound together by an intimate, sometimes hidden link, treks through layers of ancestral history, uncovers secrets and surprises of their family trees and shares life-altering discoveries.

“*Finding Your Roots* will be a moving, uplifting, entertaining and enlightening experience for viewers,” says Gates. “Genealogy is more popular than ever, but it’s far more than a solitary pastime. It’s a fascinating endeavor that can drastically alter both history and the way we think of ourselves.”

Guest groupings include award-winning husband-and-wife actors **Kevin Bacon** and **Kyra Sedgwick**, who both descend from prominent American families that have been in this country since its inception; New Orleans jazz masters and close friends **Harry Connick Jr.** and **Branford Marsalis**, whose European immigrant ancestors made very different choices in the slave-era South; spiritual leaders **Angela Buchdahl**, **Yasir Qadhi** and **Rick Warren**, whose ancestors’ paths to America were shaped by religious convictions; and education superstar **Geoffrey Canada** and media legend **Barbara Walters**, who both rediscover family histories long obscured by forgotten name changes.

In other episodes, public servants **Condoleezza Rice** and Congressman **John Lewis**, featured in different hours, trace their contemporary-day strength to enslaved ancestors; actor **Robert Downey, Jr.** marvels at the vastness of his family tree dating back to the 13th century; and **Michelle Rodriguez** discovers family secrets and heroes that her parents left behind when they came to the United States as immigrants. Gates travels with his guests throughout the series, sharing the details of ancestral stories and helping process what they’ve learned. He accompanies musician **John Legend** to a rock concert, goes backstage on Broadway with **Samuel L. Jackson**, joins Newark, New Jersey, Mayor **Cory Booker** as he reveals the root-seeking results to his parents, and trails CNN chief medical correspondent **Dr. Sanjay Gupta** and **Geoffrey Canada** to memorable family reunions.

The 25 guests featured in the series are **Kevin Bacon**, **Cory Booker**, **Angela Buchdahl**, **Geoffrey Canada**, **Linda Chavez**, **Margaret Cho**, **Harry Connick Jr.**, **Margarett Cooper**, **Robert Downey, Jr.**, **Adrian Grenier**, **Sanjay Gupta**, **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, **Samuel L. Jackson**, **John Legend**, **John Lewis**, **Branford Marsalis**, **Yasir Qadhi**, **Condoleezza Rice**, **Michelle Rodriguez**, **Kyra Sedgwick**, **Ruth Simmons**, **Martha Stewart**, **Wanda Sykes**, **Barbara Walters** and **Rick Warren**.

120191

CREDITS

Executive Producers: Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Stephen Segaller, Peter Kunhardt, and Dyllan McGee

Senior Producer: Rachel Dretzin

Senior Story Editor: Leslie Asako Gladsjo

Photo Credit: Courtesy of PBS Distribution



PBS®

INTERNATIONAL