AN EPIC JOURNEY THROUGH 500 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

THE AFRICAN AMERICANS

MANY RIVERS TO CROSS

with HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

Six-part series premiering October 22, 8 pm on PBS (check local listings)
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**Episode One:** The Black Atlantic (1500 - 1800)

Tuesday, October 22, 8-9 p.m.

The Black Atlantic explores the truly global experiences that created the African-American people. Beginning in a full century before the documented "20 million" slaves who arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, the episode portrays the earliest Africans, both slave and free, who arrived on these shores. But the transcultural slave trade would soon become a vast engine connecting three continents. The stories of individuals caught up in its web, like a 10-year old girl named Rosalio who was transported from Sierra Leone to South Carolina in 1706, are the first story in the history of the African American experience. It was the great explosion of freedom movements, and The Black Atlantic examines what that era of Revolutions — American, French and Haitian — would mean for African Americans and for slavery in America.

**Episode Two:** The Age of Slavery (1800 - 1860)

Tuesday, October 29, 8-9 p.m.

It is the Slavery Illustrates how black lives changed dramatically in the aftermath of the American Revolution. For free black people it would mean gains and losses, as freedom was granted but the transatlantic slave trade would soon become a vast engine connecting three continents. The lives and experiences of individuals caught up in its web, like a 10-year old girl named Rosalio who was transported from Sierra Leone to South Carolina in 1706, are the first story in the history of the African American experience. It was the great explosion of freedom movements, and The Black Atlantic examines what that era of Revolutions — American, French and Haitian — would mean for African Americans and for slavery in America.

**Episode Three:** Into the Fire (1861 - 1896)

Tuesday, November 5, 8-9 p.m.

In 1849, fearing further federal law would be torn apart by states and counties, and that it only stay viable at the seat of Jim Crow. The Harriet Tubman, the apostle of non-violence, would be assassinated, unleashing a new call for "Black Power" across the country.

**Episode Four:** Making a Way Out of No Way (1897 - 1940)

Tuesday, November 12, 8-9 p.m.

Making a Way Out of No Way portraits the Jim Crow era, when African Americans struggled to build up their own worlds in the domestic service and agricultural sectors. The new flood of freedom movements and the second wave of civil rights ensured the beginning of a new movement of public protests and political organizing. The new flood of freedom movements and the second wave of civil rights ensured the beginning of a new movement of public protests and political organizing.

**Episode Five:** Rise! (1940 - 1968)

Tuesday, November 19, 8-9 p.m.

The case for new long road to civil rights, when the deep connections in American society finally become untenable. Begin with the March on Washington, the Great Migration, and the creation of the NAACP. But the experience would set the stage for the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

**Episode Six:** It’s Nation Time (1968 – 2013)

Tuesday, November 26, 8-9 p.m.

In 1968, African Americans set up to build a new base on the foundation of the civil rights movement’s victories, but a political landscape, the end of the Cold War and the rise of a new black middle class have meant that the new movement of the 1960s has been replaced by a new. The Black Arts Movement, which aimed to displace the nation, was one of the first African Americans to graduate from Harvard University. His many accolades include: election into the National Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1978, the National Medal of Science in 1996, and the Templeton Prize in 2002. After Gates purchased the manuscript at auction and arranged for its publication. Its purpose was to have been closely based on her own life as a "house slave" whose role was to help her sharecroppers. She would increasingly be able to sing black spirituals.

**Episode Seven:** Underground Railroad Conductor

Tuesday, December 3, 8-9 p.m.

"How It Feels to Be Colored Me" (1928) — Zora Neale Hurston, 1891-1960

[“Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men’s minds.” — Thurgood Marshall, 1908-1993 (Uneasy Opinions, Stanley F. Georgia (1969)"

"Hope is the bedrock of this nation. The belief that our destiny will not be written by us, by all those men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be.” — Barack Obama, 1961- (JawarCallback Victory Speech (2008)"

"If you are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed." — Frederick Douglass, 1818-1895 (Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (1881)"

"This is the world in no such force as the force of a person determined to live. That human soul cannot be permanently chained." — Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) (Advice at the New York City Reform School (March 3, 1910)"

"I have reasoned this out in my mind; there was of two things I had a right to: liberty, or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take away my life." — Harriet Tubman, 1821-1913 (Harriet, The Moses of Her People (1981)"

Acknowledgments:

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