



**AMERICAN
MASTERS**



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***American Masters* Launches New Short Film Series *American Masters Shorts* with the Acquisition of Five New Films**

*Series expands its commitment to showcasing cultural trailblazers
through short-form storytelling*

American Masters announced today ***American Masters Shorts***, a new digital-first documentary short series about artists who defy the odds to create remarkable work. The multi-award-winning PBS program has acquired five new documentary shorts to kick off the series including: ***Searching for Augusta Savage***, ***Becoming Yamazushi***, ***Weaving Nature***, ***Dear Corky*** and ***Love, Jamie***.

American Masters Shorts launches with the world premiere of ***Searching for Augusta Savage***, a documentary on the Harlem Renaissance sculptor on February 15, in honor of Black History Month. New episodes of ***American Masters Shorts*** will be released monthly through June 2024 on [PBS.org](https://pbs.org), the [PBS App](#) and the [American Masters YouTube channel](#).

“With this new digital series, we are excited to offer a platform for exceptional documentary shorts that illuminate the lives of artists and cultural trailblazers,” says ***American Masters*** Executive Producer, Michael Kantor. “Our Series Producer for ***American Masters Shorts***, Joe Skinner, conceived of the series, inspired by the reception of many of these films at top film festivals.”

The initial ***American Masters Shorts*** films will be:

Searching for Augusta Savage

Premieres February 15 in honor of Black History Month

Directors: Charlotte Mangin and Sandra Rattley
Runtime: 21 minutes

Augusta Savage (1892 – 1962) was the first person in the U.S. to open a gallery dedicated to African American art. A Harlem Renaissance sculptor and art educator, she was also one of the first Black women art activists of her time and fought for the inclusion of Black artists in the mainstream art canon. Art historian Jeffreen M. Hayes, Ph.D. explores Savage's life and legacy, and why her artwork has been largely erased.

Becoming Yamazushi

Premieres in March 2024

Director: G Yamazawa

In his directorial debut, Japanese American rapper G Yamazawa discovers how art can champion cultural liberation, as he examines the revolutionary legacy of the small Japanese restaurant opened by his parents in Durham, North Carolina.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia; New Orleans Film Festival; CAAMFest; LA Asian Pacific Film Festival; Santa Barbara International Film Festival; RiverRun International Film Festival

Weaving Nature

Premieres April 2024 in Honor of Earth Month

Director: Jeff Bieber

Join Maryland-based metalsmith and artist David Paul Bacharach as he creates a major “Land Art” installation to raise awareness of the global climate crisis — and shows us how we can save the planet right in our own backyard.

Dear Corky

Premieres May 2024 in Honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Director: Curtis Chin

For over 50 years, New York native Corky Lee photographed his hometown’s Chinatown and Asian American communities around the country. Lee captured activists, celebrities and everyday heroes with equal passion, taking over 100,000 photos. While documenting the latest rise of anti-Asian hate crimes, Corky contracted COVID-19 and died. Through his own words and pictures, this short film reveals the man behind the camera.

Asian American International Film Festival; LA Asian Pacific Film Festival; San Diego Asian Film Festival; Hawaii International Film Festival

Love, Jamie

Premieres June 2024 in honor of LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

Director: Karla Murthy

Jamie Diaz is a 66-year-old trans woman and artist who has spent nearly 30 years in a men's prison in Texas. Using the limited paint supplies available to her and brushes she fashions from her own hair, Jamie creates bold and graphic paintings awash in color and symbolism. See how her enduring friendship with Gabriel Joffe, a volunteer who happened upon one of her works, has helped Jamie's art reach far beyond the prison walls.

OUTFEST LA, Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival; DOC NYC; Bend Film Festival; St. Louis International Film Festival, Fringe! Queer Film & Arts Fest

Funding for **American Masters Shorts** is provided by the Rosalind P. Walter Foundation, the Anderson Family Charitable Fund, the Marc Haas Foundation, The Charina Endowment Fund in memory of Robert B. Menschel, the Ambrose Monell Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, and the Philip & Janice Levin Foundation.

For **American Masters**, Michael Kantor is Executive Producer, and Julie Sacks is Series Producer. Joe Skinner is Series Producer for **American Masters Shorts**.

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About The WNET Group

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entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature, Great Performances, American Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

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