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*American Masters* Presents the U.S. Broadcast Premiere of *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On* November 22 on PBS in Honor of Native American Heritage Month

Features never-before-seen archival material, new performance footage and interviews with Sainte-Marie, Joni Mitchell, Sonia Manzano, John Kay, Robbie Robertson, Jackson Browne and others

Over a career spanning six decades, Cree musician, artist and activist Buffy Sainte-Marie has used her platform to campaign for Indigenous and women’s rights and inspired multiple generations of musicians, artists and activists. Following a world premiere at The Toronto International Film Festival in 2022, ***American Masters – Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*** premieres nationwide Tuesday, November 22 at 9 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters) and the [PBS Video App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/) in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

Directed by Madison Thomas, ***Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*** chronicles Sainte-Marie’s rise in New York’s Greenwich Village folk music scene through her groundbreaking career, featuring interviews with **Joni Mitchell** (singer, songwriter, artist), **Sonia Manzano** (Maria on *Sesame Street*), **John Kay** (lead singer-songwriter of Steppenwolf, solo artist), **Robbie Robertson** (musician), **Jackson Browne** (musician), **George Stroumboulopoulos** (music journalist), **Andrea Warner** (author) and more.

Sainte-Marie’s career took flight when she received a rave review in *The New York Times* and caught the eye of Vanguard Records, who released her debut album, *It’s My Way*. Consistently recognized for being ahead of her time, Sainte-Marie’s music revealed her most sincere opinions differentiating her from the other female pop musicians of the 1960s. Early in her career she spoke out against the Vietnam War with her song “Universal Soldier,” against readily available opioids with “Cod’ine” and shared her views on romance with “Until It’s Time for You to Go,” which has been covered by artists such as Elvis, Barbra Streisand, Cher and Neil Diamond.

Sainte-Marie changed perceptions of Indigenous people in music, film and television. When approached to play a lead role in a 1968 episode of *The Virginian*, she famously demanded that all Indigenous roles be played by Indigenous peoples. Additionally, across her five-year stint on *Sesame Street*, she was the first woman to nurse on television, and she helped create segments based on her experiences as an Indigenous woman in North America.

After winning the Academy Award for writing “Up Where We Belong” from *An Officer and a Gentleman* with her then husband, Jack Nitzsche, Saint-Marie stepped out of the spotlight. She returned to music after a fourteen-year hiatus with her critically acclaimed album *Coincidence and Likely Stories*. In 2015, she beat out Drake for the Polaris Music Prize for her album *Power in the Blood*. At the age of 81, Sainte-Marie actively tours and continues to be an activist for Indigenous rights, including championing efforts to end the oppression of and violence against Indigenous women.

Now in its 36th season on PBS, ***American Masters*** illuminates the lives and creative journeys of our nation’s most enduring artistic giants—those who have left an indelible impression on our cultural landscape—through compelling, unvarnished stories. Setting the standard for documentary film profiles, the series has earned widespread critical acclaim: 28 Emmy Awards—including 10 for Outstanding Non-Fiction Series and five for Outstanding Non-Fiction Special—two News & Documentary Emmys, 14 Peabodys, three Grammys, two Producers Guild Awards, an Oscar, and many other honors. To further explore the lives and works of more than 250 masters past and present, the [***American Masters*** website](http://pbs.org/americanmasters) offers full episodes, film outtakes, filmmaker interviews, the podcast “American Masters: Creative Spark,” educational resources, digital original series and more. The series is a production of The WNET Group.

***American Masters*** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/) and the [PBS Video App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can view many series, documentaries and specials via [PBS Passport](https://www.pbs.org/passport/videos/). For more information about PBS Passport, visit the [PBS Passport FAQ](https://help.pbs.org/support/solutions/5000121793) website.

***American Masters*** and **Vision Maker Media** partnered to bring ***Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*** to public television.

An Ontario-Manitoba co-production, ***American Masters – Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*** is a production of Eagle Vision, White Pine and Paquin Entertainment Pictures in association with American Masters Pictures and Vision Maker Media. Directed by Madison Thomas. Written by Madison Thomas and Andrea Warner. Lisa Meeches, Kyle Irving, Rebecca Gibson, Peter Raymont, Steve Ord, Andrew Munger, Gilles Paquin, Ray Halbritter, Randy Lennox, Michael Kantor and Francene J. Blythe-Lewis are executive producers. Lisa Meeches and Stephen Paniccia are producers. Michael Kantor is executive producer for ***American Masters***. Funding for the film has been secured through CMF POV Fund, Rogers’ Documentary Fund, Ontario Creates and Telefilm’s Theatrical Documentary Fund.

Original series production funding for ***American Masters*** is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, AARP, Cheryl and Philip Milstein Family, Judith and Burton Resnick, Seton Melvin Charitable Trust, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, Vital Projects Fund, The Ambrose Monell Foundation, Lillian Goldman Programming Endowment, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, Ellen and James S. Marcus, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, The Rosalind P. Walter Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Thea Petschek Iervolino Foundation and public television viewers.

**Websites**: [http://pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters,), [http://facebook.com/americanmasters](http://www.facebook.com/americanmasters), [@PBSAmerMasters](http://twitter.com/pbsamermasters), <http://youtube.com/AmericanMastersPBS>, <http://instagram.com/pbsamericanmasters> #AmericanMastersPBS

**About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](http://wnet.org/) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York’s [THIRTEEN](http://thirteen.org/)–America’s flagship PBS station–[WLIW21](http://wliw.org/), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](https://www.mynjpbs.org/), New Jersey’s statewide public television network; Long Island’s only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](http://allarts.org/), the arts and culture media provider; and newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/). Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, 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***, ***PBS NewsHour Weekend*** 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.

**About Vison Maker Media**

[**Vision Maker Media (VMM)**](https://www.visionmakermedia.org/#_blank) is the premier source of public media by and about Native Americans since 1976. Our mission is empowering and engaging Native people to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate. We work with VMM funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all public media. VMM supports training to increase the number of Native Americans and Alaska Natives producing public broadcasting programs. A key strategy for this work is in partnerships with Tribal nations and Native organizations and communities.   
  
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