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Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

*American Masters* Presents Broadcast Premiere of *The Adventures of Saul Bellow* December 12 on PBS

**Availability:**

***American Masters: The Adventures of Saul Bellow*** premieres nationwide Monday, December 12 at 8 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/).

**Synopsis:**

Explore the Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner’s impact on American literature in the first-ever major documentary on the writer. ***American Masters: The Adventures of Saul Bellow*** illuminates how Bellow transformed modern literature and navigated through the issues of his time, including race, gender and the Jewish immigrant experience, through rare archival footage and interviews with Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie and many others. The film traces Bellow's rise to eminence and examines his many identities: reluctant public intellectual, “serial husband,” father, Chicagoan and Jewish American. It also sheds light on his willingness to confront social issues, his criticisms of American society and materialism and his provocative political view.

**Interviewees:**

Martin Amis, novelist

James Atlas, biographer

Adam Bellow, son of Alexandra Tschacbasov and Saul Bellow

Alexandra Bellow, professor of mathematics and ex-wife of Saul Bellow.

Daniel Bellow, son of Susan Glassman and Saul Bellow

Gregory Bellow, son of Anita Goshkin and Saul Bellow

Joel Bellow, nephew of Saul Bellow

Stanley Crouch, culture critic and novelist

Janis Freedman-Bellow, literary scholar and widow of Saul Bellow

Charles Johnson, novelist

Vivian Gornick, author and literary critic

Philip Grew, activist and former student of University of Chicago

Zachary Leader, professor of literature and biographer

Katie Roiphe, author and professor or journalism

Philip Roth, novelist

Salman Rushdie, novelist

Margaret Staats Simmons, journalist

Leon Wieseltier, literary critic

Hana Wirth-Nesher, professor of literature

Ruth Wisse, professor of literature

**Runtime:** 90 minutes

**Short TV listing:**

Explore Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow's impact on American literature.

**Long TV listing:**

Explore Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow's impact on American literature and how he navigated through issues of his time, including race, gender and the Jewish immigrant experience. Featuring interviews with Philip Roth, Salman Rushdie and others.

**Series Overview:**

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.

**Production credits:**

A production of Ingenue Productions in association with American Masters Pictures. Directed by Asaf Galay. Naama Pyritz and Rachel Engleberg are Producers. Aviva Kempner, Anthony McCarten and Kathryn Dietz are Executive Producers. Michael Kantor is executive producer for ***American Masters***.

**Underwriters:**

Major funding for ***American Masters: The Adventures of Saul Bellow*** is provided by National Endowment for the Humanities, Gesher Multicultural Film Fund and The Better Angels Society including The Fullerton Family Charitable Fund.

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

**Websites**: <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>, <https://www.tiktok.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.

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