**Press Contacts:**

Chelsey Saatkamp, The WNET Group, 513.266.1748, [saatkampc@wnet.org](mailto:saatkampc@wnet.org)

Lindsey Horvitz, The WNET Group, 212.560.6609, [horvitzl@wnet.org](mailto:horvitzl@wnet.org)

Mary Lugo, CaraMar Inc., 770.851.8190, [lugo@negia.net](mailto:lugo@negia.net)

Cara White, CaraMar Inc., 842-881-1480, [cara.white@mac.com](mailto:cara.white@mac.com)

**Press materials:** [pbs.org/pressroom](https://pressroom.pbs.org/) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](http://thirteen.org/pressroom)

***VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos*,**

**with John Leguizamo, Premieres Friday, September 27, 2024 on PBS**

***New three-part series follows award-winning actor and producer John Leguizamo on his continued quest to uncover the fascinating history and often overlooked contributions of Latino people. Directed by Ben DeJesus.***

(Pasadena, CA/July 16, 2024) In 2018, acclaimed Broadway and film actor John Leguizamo embarked on an exploration of Latino history with his Tony-nominated play, *Latin History for Morons*. Inspired by his quest to uncover Latino and Latina heroes and their contributions, the new three-part series*,* ***VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos*,** brings Leguizamo's passion from the stage to the screen. In this series, Leguizamo takes viewers on a captivating journey, delving into both well-known and lesser-known stories of Latino history and contributions, spanning thousands of years from the Ancient Empires to the early 1970s. Through this exploration, he aims to shine a light on the rich and often overlooked history of Latinos while showcasing how Latino history *is* American history. Co-created by Leguizamo and award-winning filmmaker Ben DeJesus (“American Masters: Raul Julia”), ***VOCES* *American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos*** premieres Fridays, September 27 and October 4 and 11, 2024, 9:00-10:00 pm ET on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org/) and the [PBS App.](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

**Episode 1: “Echoes of Empires”** *– Friday, September 17*

Join host John Leguizamo as he examines the accomplishments and rise of the Great Empires and civilizations in Mexico, South America and the Caribbean, from the Taino to the Olmec, Inca, Maya, Aztec, and more. Despite the fact that they were ultimately decimated by the conquistadors, these societies had an enduring influence on culture, agriculture, and the sciences. Instead of focusing on the “discovery” of a new world, the episode tells the story of the fall of the great civilizations that were already here before Columbus landed, while also challenging the cultural narrative around our understanding of these great empires and what truly led to their destruction.

**Episode 2:** “**Threads in the American Tapestry”** *– Friday, October 4*

Explore how Latino DNA was woven into the identity of the United States before its inception and has been pivotal all along the way. John Leguizamo reflects on Pre-Colonial North America, the American Revolutionary War, the Mexican American War, the Civil War, and Westward Expansion as we learn how Latino participation has influenced the course of the nation’s history. Despite facing severe discrimination and violence, Latinos were present and contributed in pivotal ways to the fabric of this nation. This episode highlights key figures and events in the colonization throughout the United States, the Caribbean and Central America, illustrating how Latinos helped build the United States we know today.

**Episode 3:** **“Solidarity in A New Era”** *– Friday, October 11*

John Leguizamo reflects on the rise of the new empire, the United States, and the challenges faced by Latinos in preserving their cultural identity. Throughout the 20th century, Latinos were often relegated to the fringes of mainstream society. Nonetheless, they made profound contributions to the fabric of the U.S. and beyond. Young Latino activists were among the first to fight for civil liberties and equal education, while on the battlefield, Latino patriots overcame discrimination to become heroes. Reflecting on his journey, John learns that Latinos are not just an asterisk in history, but that Latino history is the history of the United States.

***VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos***will stream simultaneously with broadcast and be available on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://k8kgmkdab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BTdcUUPiBNiTdKKyEzFS4ss3UV-4YiRJpcdMeLV4zDWhyacDkUvQKx9DV5eycOGNzv4OAjP4H8X7hvJrRs1-iUUntHsDWd-oKg36gFTCzl8AkPVG-cC7ip2T9i7Dm9eqPfwODDKLvBg=&c=7sOnWQG9pd3EQEJvJqxUUGKVCRadqZ--B3Mt0pMb8243Injkyswpqg==&ch=DLVWhwLLdpG3rKJPlgn5nDXnDZkPVDcaaudWGwmfUNt_JyKIEsyo6Q==) and the PBS app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

***VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos*** is a production of NGL Studios, The WNET Group, Latino Public Broadcasting and ITVS. For The WNET Group: Lesley Norman is Executive Producer and Stephen Segaller is Executive-in-Charge. For NGL: John Leguizamo, Ben DeJesus, Nicole Pritchett, Jill Krikorian and David Chitel are Executive Producers. For Latino Public Broadcasting: Sandie Viquez Pedlow is Executive Producer. For ITVS: Sally Jo Fifer is Executive Producer. Donald Thoms also serves as Executive Producer. Funding for ***American Historia*** is provided by PBS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Anderson Family Charitable Fund, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, The WNET Group’s Chasing the Dream initiative, The Ford Foundation/JustFilms, and Seton J. Melvin.

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**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 PBS KIDS, 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; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News;](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/) and FAST channel PBS Nature. 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,*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs like ***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 more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including 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 VOCES**

Produced by Latino Public Broadcasting, the acclaimed PBS documentary series [VOCES](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YQwpwdfHvNnWBrGuk_nmDVTovx8FJIUoXQUNO_iuFByj6JQ3lkM0HMfnjn3B8Y3l8TxIFJlvcQaQ57cdcoAfSH3oXAH83QB-NTEFCW5Bqe8&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==) features the best of Latino arts, culture and history and shines a light on current issues that impact Latino Americans. Devoted to exploring the rich diversity of the Latino experience, VOCES presents new and established filmmakers and brings their powerful and illuminating stories to a national audience — on TV, online and on the PBS app. VOCES is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. Luis Ortiz is series producer; Sandie Viquez Pedlow is executive producer. Follow us on [Facebook](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YyLgSNDHJsCiAX6NFY0KlPXGiBHj2PntyFKxegRsOtUPWGNptWEgmLsV6LbjmQpY7cZsQJwFMYlmlrOaXeBcYPHT4va6wE96qIducYnFwXo&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==)and [Twitter](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YyLgSNDHJsCc88JqDH0jwzGJ6fD1n4_nVHh8noMPKeSwsoKqhFTs9g7z5x4gMpPW5N-58uUmv34FBNrCmxmW4If0Q-9y3g7XQ==&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==).

**About Latino Public Broadcasting**

[Latino Public Broadcasting](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TtcSXKqUHzgscH7N9h7uu-uVS993O9KNr0s3Fj1Li557sAihKiGL0YyLgSNDHJsChMtHzMK-QMv5A2bHzSYIj7obXoqv74mcWuQ4SJaLk-KPaehOxpK5NTHgbZmPyZrO00puoPc6v8U=&c=fEz-iviZg0wNhGikxeljd-XZaHm-4xQKDay2jdsmSjcxi2_CdUq9xA==&ch=Cmgi0rWcnVjPqSeLKnuQcfjViX2LVYfq5yISBDxf-wYi4MLTjLOruw==) (LPB) is the leader in the development, production, acquisition and distribution of film and digital cultural media that is representative of Latino people or addresses issues of particular interest to Latino Americans. These programs are produced for dissemination to public broadcasting stations and other public media entities. Providing a voice for the diverse Latino community throughout the United States, Latino Public Broadcasting is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. LPB also produces the acclaimed PBS documentary series VOCES, exploring the rich diversity of the Latino experience. VOCES presents new and established filmmakers and brings their powerful and illuminating stories to a national audience — on TV, online and on the PBS app.

Between 2009 and 2023, LPB programs won over 135 awards, including three prestigious George Foster Peabody Awards as well as Emmys, Imagen Awards and the Sundance Film Festival Award for Best Director, Documentary. LPB has been the recipient of the Norman Lear Legacy Award and the NCLR Alma Award for Special Achievement – Year in Documentaries. Sandie Viquez Pedlow is executive director of LPB; Edward James Olmos is co-founder and chairman.

**About PBS**

[PBS](http://www.pbs.org/), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](http://pbslearningmedia.org/) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](http://pbskids.org/) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org/)and the [PBS KIDS Video app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-video.html), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](https://pbskids.org/apps/pbs-kids-games.html), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://pbs.org/), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/pbs/?hl=en), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](http://www.pbs.org/anywhere/home/). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pressroom.pbs.org/) or by following [PBS Communications on X.](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR)