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*American Masters* Presents Broadcast Premiere of *Groucho & Cavett* December 27 on PBS

**Availability:**

***American Masters: Groucho & Cavett*** premieres nationwide Tuesday, December 27 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:**

***American Masters:*** ***Groucho & Cavett*** explores the enduring friendship between Emmy Award-winning television personality Dick Cavett and iconic comedian Groucho Marx. Cavett, a writer for Jack Parr on *The Tonight Show*, met Marx at the funeral of playwright George S. Kaufman in 1961. When Cavett made the transition from writer to comedian in 1965, he was encouraged and mentored by Marx. In 1968, Cavett became the host of his own talk show and Marx became a frequent guest capturing what Cavett calls, “the last of Groucho’s greatness.” ***American Masters: Groucho & Cavett*** chronicles the pair’s relationship through new interviews with Cavett, footage from Marx’s visits to *The Dick Cavett Show* and other rare recordings.

**Interviewee:**

**Dick Cavett**, writer, comedian and award-winning television host

**Archival footage and interviews from *The Dick Cavett Show*:**

**Groucho Marx**, comedian, actor and writer

**Jack Paar**, comedian and television host

**George Burns**, comedian and friend of the Marx Brothers

**E.Y. Harburg**, composer

**Woody Allen**, comedian, filmmaker and friend of Groucho Marx

**Erin Fleming**, Groucho Marx’s companion and manager

**Dan Rowan**, comedian and actor

**Phyllis Newman**, actress and singer

**Shelley Winters**, actress

**Truman Capote**, author

**Runtime:** 84 minutes

**About Dick Cavett:**

Dick Cavett, a three-time Emmy Award-winning television host and author, started his writing career with *The Tonight Show* in 1961. Cavett’s writing for the show impressed hosts Jack Paar and Johnny Carson, in addition to interim host Groucho Marx. Cavett began writing material for himself and became a stand-up comedian in 1965. He landed his own morning talk show – *The Dick Cavett Show* – in 1968, which moved to late night in 1969. As a late-night program, his show was recognized as a smarter, more controversial alternative to *The Tonight Show*. After his show was cancelled by ABC in 1974, Cavett hosted an interview series for PBS from 1977 to 1982. On his later programs on CBS, USA and CNBC, Cavett continued to engage his guests in various topics ranging from the political to the personal until 1996. He has also had an active career as an actor, appearing on Broadway in shows such as *Into the Woods* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Cavett's film appearances include *Beetlejuice*, *Annie Hall* and *Forrest Gump*. On television Cavett has appeared on *The Simpsons*, *Cheers*, *The Odd Couple*, *Saturday Night Live* and numerous other shows.

**About Groucho Marx:**

Groucho Marx, a writer, comedian and film actor best known as the wisecracking leader of the Marx Brothers, made 13 iconic films with his brothers between 1929 and 1950. Groucho first went on stage in 1905 as a singer and eventually the Four Marx Brothers – Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Gummo – became the biggest act in vaudeville. With Zeppo replacing Gummo they moved to Broadway for three hit shows before beginning their movie career. Their success in Hollywood continued after Zeppo's departure made them a trio. Groucho made a handful of solo films and also performed without his brothers on radio and television, most notably on the hit game show *You Bet Your Life*. Groucho was also an accomplished writer and wrote several books. He cut back his performance schedule in the 1960s but returned to the stage for a tour of his one man show *An Evening with Groucho* in 1972. The tour included Groucho's famous performance at Carnegie Hall. In 1974 he received a special Academy Award for his film work with the Marx Brothers. He passed away on August 19, 1977 at the age of 86.

**Short TV listing:**

Discover the enduring friendship between legendary comedians Dick Cavett and Groucho Marx.

**Long TV listing:**

Discover the enduring friendship between television personality Dick Cavett and his mentor iconic comedian Groucho Marx. Their relationship is chronicled through interviews with Cavett, archival footage and interviews with George Burns 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 Cavalier Films in association with Daphne Productions, Inc. and American Masters Pictures. Written, produced and directed by Robert S. Bader. Allan Falk is Co-Producer. Frank Ferrante is Associate Producer. Michael Kantor is executive producer for ***American Masters***.

**Underwriters:**

Original episode funding provided by The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust in memory of Allan H. Goldman and the Leslie and Roslyn Goldstein Foundation.

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**Websites**: [http://pbs.org/americanmasters](http://pbs.org/americanmasters%2C), [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](https://www.tiktok.com/%40pbsamericanmasters) #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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