**Frederick Wiseman’s 45th Film, CITY HALL,**

**A Fascinating, Urgent Portrait of Democracy in Action,**

**Premieres Tuesday, December 22 on PBS**

ARLINGTON, VA (December 7, 2020) — PBS will present the broadcast premiere of Frederick Wiseman’s [CITY HALL](https://pressroom.pbs.org/Programs/c/CITY-HALL) on Tuesday, December 22, 8:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)). The film will also stream simultaneously on [PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video App.](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

The 45th film from Wiseman, “[City Hall](https://www.indiewire.com/t/city-hall/)” immerses audiences in the municipality of his hometown of Boston to illustrate a government taking care of its diverse citizens. Through his filmmaking, audiences come to realize how city government touches upon almost every aspect of their lives, acknowledging how necessary services like sanitation, veterans affairs, elder support, parks, licensing bureaus, recordkeeping, as well as a myriad of other activities that support the citizenry, are often taken for granted.

“I made CITY HALL to illustrate why government is necessary for people to successfully live together,” said Fred Wiseman. “CITY HALL shows a city government offering a wide variety of important and necessary services to a major American city whose population exemplifies the history of diversity of America. The Boston city government is designed and strives to offer these services in a manner consistent with the Constitution and democratic norms.”

In CITY HALL, through a series of his trademark masterfully edited vignettes, Wiseman explores the inner-workings of the government of Boston. Headed by Mayor Martin Walsh, a diverse, passionate network of public servants works to keep Boston running while grappling with pressing issues like racial justice, affordable housing, climate action, and homelessness.

CITY HALL has been screened at film festivals across the world, including the Venice Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, the New York Film Festival, IDFA, and others. CITY HALL was also selected as a [Critic’s Pick](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/movies/city-hall-review.html) by the New York Times.

CITY HALL is produced by Puritan Films, LLC in association with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Independent Television Service (ITVS) and GBH, and made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Executive Producer for ITVS is Sally Jo Fifer.

Funding for this film is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Public Broadcasting Service, JustFilms/Ford Foundation, Independent Television Service, Sundance Film Institute, Pershing Square Foundation, LEF, and the Richard and Peggy Greenfield Foundation. For more information on Frederick Wiseman and his films, visit Zipporah Films at [www.zipporah.com](http://www.zipporah.com).

**About Frederick Wiseman**

Fred Wiseman is a film and theater director of 45 films, primarily focusing on American institutions. In 2019, he was the honoree of the Library Lions Award from the New York Public Library and received the Pennebaker Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Critics’ Choice Documentary Awards. In 2018, he was the Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University. In 2016, he received an Honorary Award for lifetime achievement from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Board of Directors. He is a MacArthur Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has won numerous awards, including four Emmys. In recent years, he directed *The Belle of Amherst,* Beckett’s *Happy Days* in Paris and Vasily Grossman’s *The Last Letter* at the Comédie-Française in Paris and Theatre for a New Audience in New York. A ballet inspired by his first film, TITICUT FOLLIES (1967), premiered at the New York University Skirball Theater in 2017.

**About PBS**

[PBS](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3D880ed9a39a-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=QNdzRTLS-wIOjuRyOii-jCxHLgqIgmn7HW8yxp3AzZ4&e=), 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 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; 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 for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS’s premier children’s media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV— including a 24/7 channel, online at [pbskids.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3D8704bb1cf2-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=cqBP0s7eXr0CLaadrr3wRwbo3o8Y03iROsgrwKi2dPU&e=), via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3D1da363ed23-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=44tV3FDz3Kh394OnAibq2UoAZuL3dLHbMmcAPhxqklo&e=), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3Dbe43ede843-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=RPwlgjSRHNRs8JBw7d6kOJ3Q22Nt5iK6Df47fzaujJc&e=), [Facebook](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3D7f290c5b96-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=BrrM7TZVsrtjv0xRuMC9QkldN1KHPl2zMPs6iUH_7UY&e=) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3De8998f364e-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=Q6797ed88xCEF2o7lKuCNTBo9qUN-CTejYkmqibch1A&e=). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3D5b7473cb3b-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=MTue_8mscDarXbKPv_9sOI3g1ntSMmCE1GqAgG5yaIg&e=) or by following [PBS Pressroom on Twitter](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__pbskids.us8.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3De788bfd38eb46ba512b198ebf-26id-3Dcd08505e8d-26e-3Da1d877fd2f&d=DwMFaQ&c=QX2OfGk7aRC3kh1nmtbeQQ&r=t-3d-yedQwMAeBeITmIPZA&m=Btn-boHXAw_aF5fxF348JQeGP5zcQGR5MHKTl7UX9aM&s=5L0X1Iwu6v2_2clNF56mPouY0_j4_1K9-pxs9U7LkTE&e=).

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