**Explore the Lives of Pope Francis, Chuck Berry and**

**Princess Diana with**

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS on PBS**

**New Biographical Profiles of Some of the World’s Most Fascinating People Premiere Tuesdays, July 20 and 27 and Sunday, August 8**

ARLINGTON, VA (June 28, 2021) – This summer, PBS presents three new **IN THEIR OWN WORDS** primetime specials that explore the lives and impact of some of the most intriguing figures in recent history. Combining exclusive interviews with archival footage and each subject’s own words to help tell the story, **IN THEIR OWN WORDS** sheds light on these compelling personalities and examines their continuing influence. The first special, premiering Tuesday, July 20, looks at Pope Francis, the Argentinian cardinal who made history by being the first pope from the Americas. “Chuck Berry,” on Tuesday, July 27, explores the life and legacy of the rock and roll pioneer. Finally, “Diana, Princess of Wales,” premiering Sunday, August 8, tells the story of the beloved woman who defied expectations and used the power of her celebrity to change lives. All episodes are scheduled from 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)) on PBS, [PBS.org](http://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video app.](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/)

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Three additional specials will premiere in the fall, profiling Jimmy Carter, Elon Musk and Angela Merkel.

Below is more information on the summer specials:

**“Pope Francis” – Tuesday, July 20**

On March 13, 2013, at the age of 76, the Argentinian cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was named the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. He made history by being the first pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit priest to be named to the office and the first to take the name Francis. Diving into Pope Francis’s personal story, this episode reveals the experiences and influences that led him from Buenos Aires to the Vatican and the highest office of the Catholic church—and made him one of the most popular and progressive popes of recent times. Featuring interviews with Austen Ivereigh,author of *The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope,* NBC’s Anne Thompson, Vatican officials and more.

**“Chuck Berry” – Tuesday, July 27**

Chuck’s Berry’s incredible life story spans more than seven decades, beginning in the clubs and bars of a deeply segregated St. Louis. In 1955, his “Maybellene” rose to #1 on the R&B chart. It then miraculously crossed over, reaching #5 on the top 100 Pop chart, ultimately birthing a renaissance in popular music we now call rock and roll. To his family, Berry was a sensitive poet and devoted family man. To others, he was a demanding and difficult artist, a “diabolical genius” driven by a voracious appetite for money and a deep desire for respect and control. Abstaining from drugs and alcohol, he had a weakness for women. This episodetakes a riveting ride on the Chuck Berry train, exploring the life, the legend, the music and the man. Featured are interviews with his widow, son and grandson, along with colleagues and musicians who idolize him, including Keith Richards, Robert Cray, Slash, Darius Rucker and more.

**“Diana, Princess of Wales” – Sunday, August 8**

This unique exploration of Diana’s life looks back through a contemporary lens that credits her choices, her suffering and her triumphs as the ultimate disrupter for a generation of women across the globe. Through interviews with many who knew her personally, a picture of Diana emerges that reveals what drove her to challenge the restrictions of her personal life—marriage to a man who loved another woman and a royal family that attempted to mold her in its image. When her marriage dissolved, Diana could have stepped off the world stage and created a quiet, private life. Instead, driven by a need to help others, she chose to use her celebrity to change lives. The story of a woman who defied expectations and evolved into one of the most impactful icons of our time, the program features interviews with John Travolta, biographer Andrew Morton, several close friends and more.

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS** will stream simultaneously with broadcast and be available on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](http://PBS.org) and the PBS Video app, available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Samsung Smart TV and Chromecast.

A co-venture of Dalaklis Media and Prospero Media, **IN THEIR OWN WORDS**is produced by Lower Canada Productions Inc., in association with PBS, *documentary* Channel, Rive Gauche Television and with the participation of Rogers Cable Network Fund. Executive Producers are Chuck Dalaklis, Martin Katz and Karen Wookey. Bill Margol is executive in charge for PBS. Rive Gauche Television is the international distributor of the series.

**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 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’ 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’ 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](http://pbskids.org/), via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org/), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](https://twitter.com/pbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pbs) 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 Twitter](https://twitter.com/PBS_PR).

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