Press Contact:

Chelsey Saatkamp, The WNET Group, 212.560.4905, [saatkampc@wnet.org](mailto:saatkampc@wnet.org)

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

*Secrets of the Dead* Returns with Six New Episodes, Wednesdays, October 20 – November 24 on PBS

Explore mysteries surrounding Ferdinand Magellan, prehistoric women, the origins of Stonehenge, a 1980s art heist and more

Uncover the truth behind the first circumnavigation of the earth, the untold stories of prehistoric women, the origins of the stones of Stonehenge, the mystery of the fatal Hindenburg airship crash, an historic expedition led by a samurai and Franciscan monk and more. ***Secrets of the Dead*** dives into new discoveries around these topics and more in Season 19, premiering Wednesdays at 10 p.m. beginning October 20 on PBS ([check local listings](http://www.pbs.org/tv_schedules/)), [pbs.org/secrets](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/) and the [PBS Video app](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/).

The new season premieres with ***Secrets of the Dead: Magellan’s Crossing***, which tells the story of Ferdinand Magellan’s expedition around the world in search of a Western route to Asia in order to control its lucrative spice trade. Other episodes answer many questions surrounding some of the biggest world mysteries and reveal surprising information about our history.

New ***Secrets of the Dead*** episodes include:

***Secrets of the Dead: Magellan’s Crossing***

*Season 19 Premieres Wednesday, October 20 at 10 p.m. on PBS*

Five hundred years ago, Portuguese captain Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set sail to gain control of the global spice trade. What resulted was the first circumnavigation of the earth, laying the groundwork for colonization and globalization still felt today. This new episode demonstrates humans’ quest to understand the true dimensions of the planet while sailing to the Spice Islands of Indonesia.

***Secrets of the Dead: Lady Sapiens***

*Premieres Wednesday, October 27 at 10 p.m. on PBS*

New scientific investigations from across the globe help piece together the untold story of prehistoric women in this new documentary. The latest research separates fact from fiction and sheds new light on our ancient foremothers. For more than a century and a half, experts uncovered and analyzed ancient human remains to understand the story of the earliest *Homo sapiens* species but focused primarily on the male half of the species. Through advanced science, such as microtomography – using X-rays to recreate virtual 3D models – as well as comparing the body of a modern-day female javelin-thrower to an ancient female spear-thrower, ***Secrets of the Dead***’s revelationsdefy previous understanding of the power dynamics of ancient society.

***Secrets of the Dead: The First Circle of Stonehenge***

*Premieres Wednesday, November 3 at 10 p.m. on PBS*

A decade-long archaeological quest reveals that the oldest stones of Stonehenge originally belonged to a much earlier sacred site: a stone circle built on a rugged, remote hillside in West Wales. Using the latest tools of geotechnology, a dedicated team of archaeologists led by Professor Mike Parker Pearson (University College London) painstakingly searched for the evidence that would fill in a 400-year gap in our knowledge of the site’s bluestones. ***Secrets of the Dead*** reveals the original stones of Europe’s most iconic Neolithic monument had a previous life before they were moved almost 155 miles from Wales to Salisbury Plain.

***Secrets of the Dead: Hindenburg’s Fatal Flaws***

*Premieres Wednesday, November 10 at 10 p.m. on PBS*

In 1937, the Hindenburg airship exploded into flames upon landing and 36 people were killed in the horrifying crash, shocking the world and sealing the fate of airship travel forever. For decades, the exact cause of the Hindenburg’s crash has remained a mystery. Now, recently discovered letters, maintenance reports and company memos reveal the unfortunate errors that led to the disaster. More than 80 years later, experts suspect that, had critical construction flaws been fixed at the time, the airship might not have exploded.

***Secrets of the Dead: A Samurai in the Vatican***

*Premieres Wednesday, November 17 at 10 p.m. on PBS*

In 1613, feudal lord Date Masamune sent a Japanese diplomatic mission to Europe to negotiate with the Pope and the King of Spain in hopes opening a new trade route. Led by samurai Hasekura Tsunenaga and Franciscan monk Luis Sotelo, the expedition spent seven years traveling one-third of the globe. Discover the fate and legacy of these men caught up in the first stages of globalization and facing religious and political tensions.

***Secrets of the Dead: The Caravaggio Heist***

*Premieres Wednesday, November 24 at 10 p.m. on PBS*In 1984, a Maltese national treasure went missing from the cathedral of St. John in Valletta - a masterpiece by the legendary Italian master Caravaggio. Two years of investigations across Europe led to nothing, but a strong-willed priest never gave up. Father Marius Zerafa, director of museums in Malta, managed to establish a channel of communication with the thieves and set off on a quest to recover the priceless painting. Despite not having the money to pay their ransom, he risked everything, putting his life on the line for the sake of a masterpiece.

As one of PBS’s ongoing limited primetime series, ***Secrets of the Dead*** is a perennial favorite, routinely ranking among one of most-watched series on public television. Now in its 19th season, ***Secrets of the Dead*** uses the latest scientific discoveries to challenge prevailing ideas and share fresh perspectives on historical events. The serieshas received 10 CINE Golden Eagle Awards and six Emmy nominations, among numerous other awards.

***Secrets of the Dead*** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/)and [the PBS Video App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-video-app/), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. PBS station members can view many series, documentaries and specials [via PBS Passport](https://www.pbs.org/passport/videos/). For more information about PBS Passport, visit [the PBS Passport FAQ website](https://help.pbs.org/support/solutions/5000121793).

***Secrets of the Dead***is a production of The WNET Group. Stephanie Carter is executive producer. Stephen Segaller is executive in charge.

Funding for ***Secrets of the Dead*** is provided by public television viewers.

**Websites:** <http://pbs.org/secrets>, <http://facebook.com/SecretsoftheDead>, [@secretspbs](http://twitter.com/secretspbs), <https://youtube.com/secretsofthedead>, #SecretsDeadPBS

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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 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.