



Evolution of America: 1619 to Today

About the Documentary

“Evolution of America: 1619 to Today” is a one-hour documentary created for a national audience that explores four historical events of this seemingly obscure but decisive year, and the effect that year had on the growth and development of the U.S., which still resonates today. Supported by approximately 16 minutes of narration, the majority of the show features interviews with Virginia and national leaders discussing how the 1619 events are reflected in contemporary American society. Produced in partnership with Cinebar Productions, Inc., Maryland Public Television serves as the presenting PBS station for national marketing and distribution.

The History of 1619

The year 1619 was a pivotal year in the establishment of the first permanent English Colony in North America through four historical events. It was the year of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the recruitment of English Women in significant numbers, and the first official English Thanksgiving in North America.

Compelling Content

Appealing visuals, carefully staged historical interpretation of events, creative animation, original music, and strong, professional narration add depth and dimension to content provided by insightful interviews with subject matter experts. Supported by approximately 16 minutes of narration to introduce the historical events, the show features interviews with Virginia and national leaders discussing how those four events of are reflected in contemporary American society.

Gripping Interviews

The interviews captivate the viewer with interpretations of how the events of 1619 are still influencing us today. Interviewees cover a wide range of individuals including Virginia Senator and former Governor Tim Kaine; Anne Richardson, Chief of the Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia; Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO of New America and former Director of Policy Planning for the U. S. State Department; Dr. Rex M. Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Dr. Linda Heywood, Professor of African American Studies and History at Boston University.

Taken together, these elements produce a vibrant, stimulating production that makes a clear, coherent connection between 1619 and 2019. In a sense, it takes viewers on a trip through American history, providing them a unique perspective on how this nation and its people came to be what it, and they, are in the 21st century.

