LAI Leading Authorities International

Ken Burns

Emmy-Winning Documentarian Behind The Civil War, Baseball & Jazz on PBS

On-Stage Conversation/Audience Q&A. Ken's preference. This is a less formal, Inside-the-Actors-Studio type of event. Ken responds to questions from a moderator on all his films (or film-specific) and issues in history and contemporary American culture. Audience Q&A to conclude if requested.

Old Ghosts and Ancient Tones (Country Music). This powerful, moving speech digs deep into the history and meaning of country music: its greatest stars and the words and music that touch on universal human experiences. (Clip(s) optional.)

A History of the World (The Vietnam War). Burns tries to make sense of the most important and most consequential event in American History since World War II. Here competing viewpoints and perspectives are balanced to give us a chance to finally come to terms with this important conflict. (Clip(s) optional.)

The Rising Road (The Roosevelts: An Intimate History). A detailed and intimate look at three hugely influential, but deeply flawed and wounded people, who are Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt—their lives, but also their times. (Clip(s) optional.)

A Treasure House of Nature's Superlatives (The National Parks: America's Best Idea). Burns discusses the great gift of our national parks. Here both "the immensity and the intimacy of time" merge, as we appreciate what the parks have added to our collective and individual spirit. (Begins with 13-minute clip – intro to the film.)

Sharing the American Experience (The Civil War, Baseball, Jazz). Ken Burns reminds the audience of the timeless lessons of history, and the enduring greatness and importance of the United States in the course of human events. Incorporating *The Civil War*, *Baseball* and *Jazz,* Burns engages and celebrates what we share in common. (No clip.)

No Ordinary Lives (The War). Drawing on some of Lincoln's most stirring words as inspiration, this speech engages the paradox of war by following the powerful themes in two of Ken Burns's best known works–"The Civil War", his epic retelling of the most important event in American history, and "The War", his intensely moving story of WWII told through the experiences of so-called ordinary people from four geographically distributed American towns. (Begins with Norah Jones 5-minute "American Anthem" montage clip from the film.)

Mystic Chords of Memory (The Civil War). The Civil War continues to be the most important event in American history. In this eloquent address, Burns paints both an intimate and bird's-eye view of

the searing events of the years 1861 through 1865 and the war's profound relevance to us today. (Clip optional: 12-minute intro to the film.)

American Lives (Selected biographical films). This speech combines the biographies of some of Ken's most fascinating subjects. He shares how biography works, and gives insight into the storytelling process. Various combinations of historical figures available: Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Frank Lloyd Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Mark Twain, the Roosevelts (Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor), and Jackie Robinson. (No clip.)