

The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release
September 1994

BASEBALL

October 1 - 4, 7 - 10, 1994

The Museum of Modern Art presents the theatrical premiere of Ken Burns' eighteen-and-one-half hour epic *Baseball* (1994) from October 1 to 4, and 7 to 10, 1994. Tracing the game's history from its humble pre-Civil War origins through its present-day status as a billion-dollar commercial industry, the documentary illuminates baseball's importance as a maker of myths and a shaper of American identity. Four years in the making, the documentary is divided into nine episodes called "innings," which are screened at the Museum twice over a period of ten days.

Baseball weaves photographs and film footage, poems, anecdotes, radio broadcasts, and songs with profiles of some of baseball's foremost players, including Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Jackie Robinson, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Hank Aaron. Also featured are observations from some of the game's most respected pundits, including Roger Angell, Bob Costas, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and George Will. Narrated by John Chancellor, the film is animated by numerous celebrity voices, including Gregory Peck, Ossie Davis, Julie Harris, Garrison Keillor, and Anthony Hopkins.

Highlights of the series include a profile of the Negro Leagues, which thrived in the shadow of the Major Leagues during the Great Depression, and

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what Burns describes as "baseball's finest moment": the thrilling 1947 debut of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play modern major league baseball.

For his previous work, *The Civil War* (1990), Ken Burns received two Emmys, two Grammys, a Peabody Award, and a DuPont/Columbia Award. Currently, he is serving as executive producer on a series on the history of the American west and directing a series of filmed biographies on noteworthy Americans. The first in this series will focus on Thomas Jefferson.

BASEBALL was organized by Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator, and Joshua Siegel, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video. The series is premiering on PBS and will continue through September 28, 1994.

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For further information or film stills, contact Christine Dietlin, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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Exhibition Schedule

Saturday, October 1

- 12:30 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. First Inning: 1840s-1900. USA. Ken Burns. "Our Game" looks at the origins of baseball and the game's little-known nineteenth-century history. 112 min.
- 3:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Second Inning: 1900-1910. USA. Ken Burns. "Something Like a War" introduces some of the sport's most celebrated and complicated personalities, including Christy Matthewson, Honus Wagner, and Ty Cobb. 103 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Third Inning: 1910-1920. USA. Ken Burns. "The Faith of 50 Million People" examines the century's second decade, which was dominated by the 1919 Black Sox Scandal. 117 min.

Sunday, October 2

- 12:30 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Fourth Inning: 1920-1930. USA. Ken Burns. "A National Heirloom" was sportswriter Jimmy Cannon's phrase for Babe Ruth, who captivated the nation throughout the 1920s and rescued the game from the Black Sox scandal that had threatened to destroy it. 113 min.
- 2:45 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Fifth Inning: 1930-1940. USA. Ken Burns. "Shadow Ball" presents the story of the Negro Leagues, which thrived in the shadow of the Major Leagues during the Great Depression. 122 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Sixth Inning: 1940-1950. USA. Ken Burns. "The National Pastime" includes Joe DiMaggio's celebrated hitting streak, the .406 batting performance of Ted Williams, and the 1947 major league debut of Jackie Robinson. 148 min.

Monday, October 3

- 3:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Seventh Inning: 1950-1960. USA. Ken Burns. "The Capital of Baseball" takes viewers through the 1950s, when New York City had three successful baseball teams and dominated the game. 133 min.

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- 6:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Eighth Inning: 1960-1970. USA. Ken Burns. "A Whole New Ballgame" takes place against the backdrop of the turbulent 1960s, when the game's relevance was questioned, and examines the dramatic careers of Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson, and Carl Yastremski. 114 min.

Tuesday, October 4

- 3:00 p.m. *Baseball*. 1994. Ninth Inning: 1970-The Present. USA. Ken Burns. "Home" looks at the game today. Highlights include Game Six of the 1975 World Series, Hank Aaron's 715th home run, the rise and fall of Pete Rose, and the ongoing battles between labor and management. In a final chapter called "Extra Innings," the game's enduring appeal is considered. 145 min.

Friday, October 7

- 6:00 p.m. *Baseball*. First Inning: 1840s-1900.
See Saturday, October 1, at 12:30.
- 8:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Second Inning: 1900-1910.
See Saturday, October 1, at 3:00.

Saturday, October 8

- 2:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Third Inning: 1910-1920.
See Saturday, October 1, at 5:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Fourth Inning: 1920-1930.
See Sunday, October 2, at 12:30.

Sunday, October 9

- 2:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Fifth Inning: 1930-1940.
See Sunday, October 2, at 2:45.
- 5:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Sixth Inning: 1940-1950.
See Sunday, October 2, at 5:00.

Monday, October 10

- 12:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Seventh Inning: 1950-1960.
See Monday, October 3, at 3:00.
- 2:30 p.m. *Baseball*. Eighth Inning: 1960-1970.
See Monday, October 3, at 6:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Baseball*. Ninth Inning: 1970-The Present.
See Tuesday, October 4, at 3:00.