

The War of 1812



Coming to PBS stations nationwide / Fall 2011

A Production of WNED-TV, Buffalo-Toronto, and Florentine Films/Hott Productions in association with WETA, Washington, D.C.

“We can learn from the War of 1812 because some of its lessons are timeless. Probably the single greatest one is not to assume that because we have good intentions our intervention in other people’s lives and countries are going to be taken at our face value.”

— A. J. Langguth, American Author

“It may have been a tragic war but it did give both sides a sense of nationhood. And in the long run that was a good thing.”

— Victor Suthren, Canadian Historian

For two-and-a-half-years, the War of 1812 raged, pitting the Americans against the British; future Canadians against Americans; whites against Native Americans. The outcome – essentially a stalemate – would define the map of North America and tip the balance of world power.

In the process, Washington, D.C.; Buffalo, New York; Toronto’s forerunner, York; and numerous Native villages would be burned to the ground. The Battle of Baltimore would inspire “The Star Spangled Banner.” And Andrew Jackson would lead an overwhelming victory at New Orleans – weeks after the treaty ending the war had been signed.

Nearly two centuries after it was fought, the first comprehensive film history of the war to air on public television will explore this significant event from divergent points of view. In **THE WAR OF 1812**, leading historians, battle re-enactors and period buildings and artifacts help bring this defining conflict to life. Beyond the battlefields, the film recounts the dramatic, human stories of the war, including those of ordinary citizens and eminent historical characters (such as the doomed warrior Tecumseh and the flashy yet courageous First Lady Dolley Madison).

This two-hour HD documentary for PBS also investigates the nature of history, and the nature of human memory, exploring the lessons of national character imbedded in this historic conflict.

About the Producers



WNED-TV

WNED Buffalo Toronto is a leading producer of documentary programming for national PBS broadcast. A cultural and community asset for its bi-national audience, WNED has drawn attention to cultural treasures in the Buffalo-Niagara region, New York state and Southern Ontario with local and national television productions such as *Niagara Falls; Frank Lloyd Wright's Buffalo; Toronto's Houses of Worship; Fort Niagara: Struggle for a Continent; Wineries of Western New York, the Finger Lakes and the Niagara Peninsula; The Adirondacks* and others. These documentaries have been seen by millions of people across the continent, stimulating cultural tourism to the region's historic, artistic and architectural treasures. Also in development for PBS is *Elbert Hubbard: An American Original* (a key figure in the Arts & Crafts Movement), and programs on the Underground Railroad, Chautauqua Institution and the Great Lakes.

FLORENTINE FILMS
HOTT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Florentine Films/Hott Productions

Formed by Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey in 1981, Florentine Films/Hott Productions has created many films, including *Divided Highways: The Interstates and the Transformation of American Life, The People's Plague: Tuberculosis in America*, and the series *The Wilderness Idea*. The films *Through Deaf Eyes* and *American Masters: John James Audubon: Drawn from Nature* appeared recently on PBS. Their work has received more than 100 national and international awards and has been screened at dozens of major film festivals.



WETA-TV Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1961, WETA is the leading public broadcasting station in our nation's capital and the third-largest producing station of national public television series and specials. WETA is dedicated to producing and broadcasting television and radio programs of quality and integrity that recognize and challenge the intelligence of viewers and listeners, as well as providing program-related educational materials and outreach activities for both local and national communities. WETA's landmark programs for public television include *The Civil War, Frederick Douglas: When the Lion Wrote History, Divided Highways: The Interstates and the Transformation of American Life, Through Deaf Eyes, The War*, and many others.

For more information on the **War of 1812:**

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