

off the fence.

Smithsonian Spotlight (Series 2)

12 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Mariachi

Delve deeply into the rich cultural history and sounds of mariachi music as we explore the colourful history and sounds of an art form with a rich cultural background beneath its glitzy surface.

2. Vice Presidents

Nearly a third of our forty-four presidents were vice presidents first. Learn more about this maligned yet misunderstood position from curators of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, who offer stories and insights into the office of the vice president.

3. Black Holes

For the past thirty years, they have remained an enigma, but that's all about to change! Join Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory scientists as they explore black holes, which are believed to warp time and space, and behold the new generation of telescopes being used to find them.

4. Wild Horses

Discover the amazing story of the Przewalski's Horse, declared extinct thirty years ago. Now the only true wild horse left in the world, witness the exhaustive and heroic effort to preserve this rare species by the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

5. Hillotypes

Unravel the mystery surrounding the development of the first colour photographs. Join us as we explore Reverend Levi Hill and the Hillotype photographs he left behind.

6. Click!

Learn about the Smithsonian Photography Initiative's program Click!, which examines the many ways photography allows us to see, experience, and interact with the world as well as deepen our understanding of how photographs profoundly affect virtually every aspect of our lives.

7. Elisofon

Discover the works of Eliot Elisofon, a pioneer of twentieth century photography. As a photojournalist for LIFE Magazine, Elisofon found himself in Africa as a war correspondent. Yet, it was the ordinary moments of African life that gained him attention and stood in stark contrast to the racial stereotypes prevalent during his lifetime.

8. Ocean Hall

Discover the Tlingits of Alaska, an indigenous people who have always been closely tied to the ocean. Join Dr Stephen Loring, an archaeologist and anthropologist with the Arctic Studies Center of the Museum of Natural History, as he explains the powerful ties between the Tlingit people and the ocean.

9. Political Memorabilia

For curators at the National Museum of American History, the conventions of 2008 and all the conventions that went before are brought to life through the memorabilia and artefacts they've gathered for the museum's permanent collection. Come see what it's like to decide what becomes political Americana.

10. Scurlock Studio

Addison Scurlock's photographs in the early 1900s portrayed African Americans in a way not often seen. With the help of his two sons, George and Robert, the Scurlock Studio has mastered his photographs of weddings, graduations, and families. These remarkable photographs stand as a visual record of not only Washington DC, but of African American culture.

11. Invasive Species

You don't have to look very far past your front door to find one. Whether it's a plant or an animal, invasive species are flourishing in their new environments. Enter the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. For forty years, the Center has been the tip of the spear for cutting-edge research and education about species that destroy the habitats they infest.

12. Lincoln's Men

There have been nearly 15,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln, and still more are rolling through the printing presses. He is perhaps the most covered and yet most enigmatic figure in American history. Gain all new insights from the three men who had unprecedented access to our nation's sixteenth President: his personal secretaries.

