

2019 Primetime Emmy® Awards Ballot

Outstanding Documentary Or Nonfiction Special

American Dream/American Knightmare

December 21, 2018

Documentary that delves into the life and exploits of the iconic Death Row Records co-founder Suge Knight, and the era in gangsta rap he presided over. Through a series of face-to-face interviewers with director Antoine Fuqua, Knight reveals exactly how it all happened and why it all fell apart.

Avenging Evil

September 18, 2018

In the dying days of WW2 a secret organization of Holocaust survivors plan a terrible revenge. Just as the Nazis had killed 6 million Jews, they will kill 6 million Germans. The last surviving Avengers tell their astonishing story.

Betty White: First Lady Of Television

August 21, 2018

Betty White is celebrating 80 years in television, officially the longest career. She was the first woman to produce a TV show, the first to hire a woman director and the first to receive an Emmy nomination. She was the first woman on television with an experimental broadcast in 1939.

The Boy Band Con: The Lou Pearlman Story

April 03, 2019

Chronicling the life and crimes of notorious boy band impresario-turned-Ponzi scheme perpetrator, The Boy Band Con: The Lou Pearlman Story delves into Pearlman's NY upbringing, his creation of groundbreaking musical acts *NSYNC and Backstreet Boys, and his eventual undoing after masterminding one of the largest con jobs in U.S. history.

Chris Farley - Anything for a Laugh (Biography)

May 27, 2019

Chris Farley connected viscerally with audiences, creating hilarious characters that have stood the test of time. Behind the over-the-top stage presence were insecurities deeply tied to his addictive personality. The documentary examines Farley's tragically short life, both the amped-up force of nature on screen and shy figure people knew behind-the-scenes.

The Circus (American Experience)

October 08, 2018 - October 09, 2018

The Circus explores the colorful history of this popular, influential and distinctly American form of entertainment, from the first one-ring show at the end of the 18th century to 1956, when the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey big top was pulled down for the last time.

Detrás de María, Historia de una Cobertura

September 17, 2018

On September 20, 2017, the Noticentro news team was ready to rescue the story that would change Puerto Rico's history forever. Detrás de María, historia de una cobertura is the account of journalists, reporters and production team that made possible the monumental coverage before, during and after Hurricane María.

Dirty John, The Dirty Truth

January 14, 2019

Explores the past of con man "Dirty" John Meehan and his trail of manipulation that led to a dangerous end with Debra Newell and her family. Features exclusive interviews with former girlfriends and law enforcement who speak out for the first time.

The Disappearance Of Susan Cox Powell

May 04, 2019 - May 05, 2019

Presents the tragic case of Susan Cox Powell, a missing mom that dominated headlines nearly a decade ago. The story of Susan's devastating final years is revealed – unveiling new developments, neverbefore-seen videos and rare interviews with family members.

The Eugenics Crusade (American Experience)

October 16, 2018

The Eugenics Crusade explores the unknown campaign to breed a "better" American race. Tracing the rise of the movement that turned the fledgling science of heredity into a powerful instrument of social control, the film is a portrait of an America at once strange and eerily familiar.

Fyre Fraud

January 14, 2019

Featuring an exclusive interview with Billy McFarland, the convicted con-man behind the festival; Fyre Fraud presents a cast of whistleblowers, victims, and insiders going beyond the spectacle to uncover the power of FOMO and an ecosystem of enablers, driven by profit and a lack of accountability in the digital age.

FYRE: The Greatest Party That Never Happened

January 18, 2019

A look at the infamous unraveling of the Fyre music festival. Created by Billy McFarland and rapper Ja Rule, Fyre was promoted as a luxury music festival in the Bahamas featuring bikini-clad supermodels, A-List performances and posh amenities. Guests arrived to discover the reality was far from the promises.

Game Of Thrones: The Last Watch

May 26, 2019

A funny and heartbreaking portrait made during the final season of Game of Thrones. Set in the fantasy world of Westeros and the very real studios, fields and carparks of Northern Ireland. Telling the bittersweet pleasure of what it means to create a world, then having to say goodbye.

Gretchen Carlson: Breaking The Silence

January 14, 2019

Gretchen Carlson travels the country uncovering untold stories of sexual harassment and abuse as told by the 'every woman,' from her exclusive look into the alleged abuse within a fast food giant to the work environment at a county fire department.

Harold Prince: The Director's Life (Great Performance)

November 23, 2018

Winner of 21 Tony Awards, the career of legendary producer-director Harold Prince spans seven decades from Broadway's "Golden Age" to today's contemporary blockbusters. This retrospective celebration features interviews with Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Mandy Patinkin, John Kander, Susan Stroman, and Angela Lansbury.

Horror Noire: A History Of Black Horror

February 07, 2019

From The Birth of a Nation to Get Out, Horror Noire traces a secret history of African Americans in Hollywood through horror movies that caricatured, exploited, and finally embraced Black culture, from voices who survived its past and are shaping its future, including Jordan Peel, Rachel True and Keith David.

I Am Richard Pryor

March 15, 2019

Famous for taking on topics like race, addiction and sexuality, groundbreaking comedian Richard Pryor walked the thin line between comedy and tragedy, both on stage and off.

The Inventor: Out For Blood In Silicon Valley

March 18, 2019

This documentary traces the rise and decline of Elizabeth Holmes and Theranos. With a new invention promising to revolutionize blood testing, Holmes became the world's youngest self-made billionaire. Within a few months, her \$9-billion company became worthless. The Inventor tells a tale that was too good to be true.

Jane Fonda In Five Acts

September 24, 2018

Girl next door, sex icon, activist, fitness tycoon, Oscar®-winning actress Jane Fonda has lived a life marked by controversy, tragedy and transformation—and she's done it all in the public eye.

The Jesus Road: Showdown At Rainy Mountain

November 18, 2018

Dr. Gene Bailey narrates this through Big Tree's eyes -- the shockingly changing world and when he and his tribe saw the raw, life-changing powers of good vs. evil.

The King (Independent Lens)

January 28, 2019

This cross-country road trip in Elvis Presley's 1963 Rolls Royce traces the musician's rise and fall from the Deep South to New York while examining America in parallel, from the country's auspicious founding to its struggles with excess power and the acute challenges of today.

Leaving Neverland

March 03, 2019 - March 04, 2019

Leaving Neverland spotlights the experiences of two young boys, James Safechuck and Wade Robson, who were befriended by Michael Jackson. Interviews with Safechuck and Robson, now in their 30s, and their families, present a picture of sustained abuse and explores the complicated feelings leading them to confront their experiences.

Living In The Future's Past

May 03, 2019

Jeff Bridges shares the screen with scientists, profound thinkers, and a dazzling array of Earth's living creatures to reveal eye-opening concepts about ourselves and our past, providing fresh insights into our subconscious motivations and their unintended consequences.

Love, Gilda

January 01, 2019

In her own words, comedienne Gilda Radner looks back on her life and career. Weaving audiotapes, interviews, home movies and diaries read by comediennes inspired by Gilda. Love, Gilda is a window into the honest and whimsical world of a beloved performer whose greatest role was sharing her story.

Minding The Gap

August 17, 2018

Compiling over 12 years of footage shot in his hometown of Rockford, IL, in Minding The Gap, Bing Liu searches for correlations between his skateboarder friends' turbulent upbringings and the complexities of modern-day masculinity. Liu weaves a story of generational forgiveness while exploring the precarious gap between childhood and adulthood.

9/11 (Days That Shaped America)

September 10, 2018

9/11 sheds new light on the deadliest domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history through haunting first-person accounts. Engaging diverse intercut perspectives, the film uniquely captures the minute-by-minute terror of a day America and the world will never forget.

Operation Thai Cave Discovery

July 13, 2018

The documentary reveals the drama behind one of the most difficult rescue attempts. With exclusive access to those closest to the extraordinary events, Operation Thai Cave Rescue focuses on the unique scientific and technological innovations used in the rescue and the triumph of the human spirit.

Presidents At War

February 17, 2019 - February 18, 2019

The specials tell the story of World War II through the remarkable experiences of eight men who served in active duty and would go on to be Presidents – Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Quincy

September 21, 2018

This documentary profiles music and culture icon Quincy Jones, offering unprecedented access to his private life and stories from his unparalleled career.

Raising Kratos

May 10, 2019

Raising Kratos, the God of War documentary offers a rare insight into the creation of a modern-day classic. It was made with years' worth of behind-the-scenes footage as well as a look back at God of War's roots.

The Rape Of Recy Taylor

July 02, 2018

Mrs. Recy Taylor was brutally raped by six white teenagers in 1944, Alabama. She spoke up, demanding justice, despite grave danger. Her extraordinary courage was amplified by Rosa Parks and legions of women around the country, sparking the early civil rights movement.

Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind

July 16, 2018

A funny, enlightening and moving portrait of one of the world's most beloved and inventive comedians. Told largely through Williams' own words, the film celebrates what he brought to comedy and to the culture at large, from the wild days of late-1970s LA to his death in 2014.

Say Her Name: The Life And Death Of Sandra Bland

December 03, 2018

In 2015, Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old black woman, was arrested for traffic violation in a small Texas town. Three days later, she was found hung in her jail cell. Featuring Bland's passionate vlogs, this documentary follows her family and legal team, presenting a compelling look at her life and death.

The Steve Irwin Story

October 28, 2018

Known as The Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin's impact has far exceeded his hit series. Chronicling his childhood to his time as a global icon, those who knew him best reflect on the remarkable life of the man, father, husband and wildlife conservationist.

Waterschool

July 25, 2018

Six girls and young women, living in underserved communities along the major rivers of the world, share how the Waterschool environmental education program has empowered and transformed their lives, their families and their communities.

End of Category

Outstanding Documentary Or Nonfiction Series

America To Me

America To Me spends an academic year at Chicagoland's elite Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRF), following the lives of a dozen diverse students, their families and key teachers as they speak to the personal pressures and challenges of race, education, and growing up in America today.

American Masters

Bringing unique insight and originality to illuminate the lives and creative journeys of our nation's most enduring artistic giants, these individually crafted programs reflect the particular style and attention each subject deserve, capture the mosaic of our creative heritage and broaden appreciation for our nation's traditions and character.

Black Love

Black Love is a docu-series created by married filmmakers to highlight love stories from the Black community and answer the question, "What does it take to make a marriage work?" Celebrities and everyday people share their jaw-dropping, sometimes cringe-worthy, other times utterly magical, always-true love stories.

Caminantes

Caminantes from Venezuela leave and cross Colombia on foot, fleeing the crisis. Jóse R Guzmán shows the stark truth of thousands of Venezuelans from within. Between shelters, walks, long daily walks, low temperatures with very few provisions, a vivid and humorous experience develops, as no one has done it before.

The Case Against Adnan Syed

Despite being granted a new trial, Adnan Syed and his attorneys contend with the State's repeated appeals. While a primary race for Baltimore City State's Attorney has the potential to affect the case, private investigators re-analyze forensic evidence. On March 8, 2019, the Court of Appeals issues a new ruling.

Chef's Table

Chef's Table features the world's most renowned international chefs, and offers viewers the opportunity to go inside the lives and kitchens of these culinary talents.

Children Of The Snow

Children Of The Snow explores the unsolved kidnapping, captivity, and murder of four young people in the suburbs of Detroit 40 years ago. Dubbed the Oakland County Child Killer, it sparked the biggest manhunt in US history, ushering in a wave of fear we came to know as 'stranger danger'.

The Clinton Affair

Chronicling the intertwined series of events leading up to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, The Clinton Affair examines the biggest political scandal of a generation, its lasting impact on our country and the role of media, feminism and politics in this story of sex, power, lies and ideological warfare.

Conversations With A Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes

Present-day interviews, archival footage and audio recordings made on death row form a searing portrait of notorious serial killer Ted Bundy.

Criminal Confessions

In one of the largest and longest manhunts in the U.S., authorities finally identify the prolific Green River Killer. But now it's a cat and mouse game, as they try to get inside his mind, so he'll lead them to the remains of other missing women.

Dogs

From war-torn Syria to a restaurant in Italy, this series explores the unshakeable devotion between dogs and their owners, no matter the circumstances.

Eli Roth's History Of Horror (AMC Visionaries)

Eli Roth's History Of Horror brings together masters of horror– storytellers and stars who define the genre– to explore its biggest themes, inspirations and struggles behind its past and present. It examines how horror has evolved and its impact on society and why we continue to be addicted to fear.

Extinct Or Alive

Evidence suggests that species thought to be extinct are still very much alive, and wildlife biologist Forrest Galante ventures from the Florida Everglades to remote jungles in a search for the truth. Galante explores actual stories behind these creatures' purported demise and, using evidence like eyewitness accounts and last known photos, tries to prove their existence so he can protect them and help them thrive again.

First Team: Juventus

Follow renowned soccer club Juventus on and off the pitch as they attempt to win a seventh straight Italian title and achieve Champions League glory.

Formula 1: Drive To Survive

Drivers, managers and team owners live life in the fast lane -- both on and off the track -- during one cutthroat season of Formula 1 racing.

Hostile Planet

Hostile Planet is a wildlife series that explores Earth's most hostile environments. Narrator Bear Grylls explores the extremes of deep, high, cold, hot, wet and dry and reveals the truly extraordinary ways in which animals have adapted to survive in the face of great adversity.

Houdini's Last Secrets

Modern magicians marvel at the death defying acts of magic legend, Harry Houdini. Houdini's acts remain the ultimate standard for illusions of magic and sorcery. This series follows Houdini's emerging successors as they investigate and uncover the life and tricks of the world's greatest magician.

The Innocent Man

This documentary adaptation of John Grisham's only nonfiction book raises troubling questions about two murder cases in Ada, Oklahoma, in the 1980s with conclusions that remain controversial to this day.

Jesus: His Life

The eight-part event explores the story of Jesus Christ through a unique lens: the people in his life who were closest to him. Each chapter is told from the perspective of biblical figures: Joseph, John the Baptist, Mary Mother of Jesus, Caiaphas, Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, Mary Magdalene and Peter.

Kids Behind Bars: Life Or Parole

This docuseries tells the stories of eight previously convicted child offenders sentenced to mandatory life terms without parole who are now seeking resentencing, after a recent United States Supreme Court ruling. Some may be resentenced to life, others could be released or given a new sentence making them parole eligible.

The Last Defense

The seven-episode docu-series explores and exposes flaws in the American justice system through emotional, in-depth examinations of the death-row cases of Darlie Routier and Julius Jones. The series will seek to trace the path that led them both to their places on death row while examining their personal stories.

Lorena

This docuseries investigates the events of 1993, where Lorena Bobbitt sliced off her husband's penis after years of abuse. John and Lorena Bobbitt's stories exploded into a 24-hour news cycle. She became a national joke, her suffering ignored by the male-dominated press.

Making A Murderer Part 2

Filmmakers return to the Midwest where they have exclusive access to Steven Avery and his codefendant/nephew Brendan Dassey, their families and the legal teams fighting for justice on their behalf. Making a Murderer Part 2 provides an in-depth look at the high-stakes post-conviction process, exploring the emotional toll on all

Murder For Hire

The series gives an exclusive look into the dark world of contract killings, showcasing murder for hire cases caught on tape. Each standalone episode will feature a different case of undercover agents as they attempt to catch the perpetrator and ultimately prevent a murder.

Murder Mountain

A six part docu-series that traces the disappearance of Garret Rodriguez from Humbolt County's Marijuana fields. As cannabis legalization looms over the region, outlaws sworn to secrecy are forced to tell of Garret's fate. The story told is one of murder and modern day vigilante justice.

Our Planet

Narrated by Sir David Attenborough, experience our planet's natural beauty and examine how climate change impacts all living creatures in this documentary. The four-year project was filmed in 50 countries, with over 600 members of crew capturing more than 3500 filming days.

Punk

PUNK is a four-part docuseries that features original interviews with America's punk pioneers and the U.K.'s most notorious bands, alongside a blend of rare and unseen photos, archival film and video and a soundtrack of punk hits and misses.

The Staircase

Accident or murder? After the mysterious death of his wife, author Michael Peterson watches his life go under the microscope.

30 for 30

A collection of sports' most important, symbolic and salient stories. Individually, each of the films is meant to tell a compelling story that stands on its own and brings the filmmaker's vision to life. Collectively, these creatively different films weave-together a diverse tapestry of what sports has meant to culture.

Tricky Dick

Featuring never-before-seen footage, Tricky Dick explores Richard Nixon's life and times -- tracking his rise, fall, incredible comeback and political destruction.

The Trump Dynasty (Biography)

The documentary draws from first-hand accounts and never-before-seen archival footage that examines the life and heritage of Donald Trump. The documentary spans three generations of the Trump family and offers an in-depth exploration of the influences that shaped Trump's personality and ambition.

The 2000s

The 2000s explores the decade that gave us Facebook, the iPhone and other cultural and political milestones.

Unspeakable Crime: The Killing Of Jessica Chambers

The seven-part series explores the murder of 19-year-old Jessica Chambers and takes an inside look into the trial of Quinton Tellis, a local black man accused of the crime. With tensions high, a small Mississippi town seeks the truth while facing a growing racial divide over guilt or innocence.

Unsung

Unsung shines a spotlight on talented and influential recording artists who have impacted both the music and culture of their time, and of our own.

Unsung Hollywood

Unsung Hollywood uses archival clips, contemporary performances, and behind-the-scenes footage to give viewers a backstage pass to the life and career of Black icons from film and television.

Wu-Tang Clan: Of Mics And Men

This docuseries looks back on the group's career, combining interviews with never-before-seen archival footage. Their ingenuity brought them together to overcome poverty, violence and oppression, but it was music and their shared lyrical genius that allowed them to form the most recognized musical movement in the world.

End of Category