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• In late October and early November, enjoy three new programs in the *Secrets of* series that feature the Tower of London, Selfridges and Scotland Yard, plus an encore presentation of *Secrets of Althorp — The Spencers*

• The three-part program *Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle* examines the art form of the comic book superhero and its complex relationship with American culture

• Check out this month’s complete history programming on Western Reserve PBS and Fusion

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The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross

**Tuesdays at 8 PM beginning Oct. 22**

Repeats Wednesdays at 3 AM beginning Oct. 23

Noted Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. recounts the full trajectory of African-American history in this groundbreaking new six-part series. Written and presented by Professor Gates, the series explores the evolution of the African-American people, as well as the multiplicity of cultural institutions, political strategies and religious and social perspectives they developed — forging their own history, culture and society against unimaginable odds. Commencing with the origins of slavery in Africa, the series moves through five centuries of remarkable historic events right up to the present — when America is led by a black president, yet remains a nation deeply divided by race.

Professor Gates travels throughout the United States, taking viewers on an engaging journey through history. He visits key historical sites, partakes in lively debates with some of America’s top historians and interviews living eyewitnesses — including school integration pioneers Ruby Bridges and Charlayne Hunter-Gault, former Black Panther Kathleen Neal Cleaver, former Secretary of State Colin Powell and many more.

The series will take viewers across 500 years and two continents to shed new light on the experience of being an African American. By highlighting the tragedies, triumphs and contradictions of the black experience, it will reveal to viewers that the African-American community, which abolitionist Martin R. Delany famously described as “a nation within a nation,” has never been a uniform entity, and that its members have been actively debating their differences from their first days in this country.

Throughout the course of the series, viewers will see that the road to freedom for black people in America was not linear, but more like the course of a river, full of loops and eddies, slowing, and occasionally reversing the current of progress.
**Secrets of the Tower of London**

**Sunday, Oct. 27, at 8 PM**
*Repeats Monday, Oct. 28, at 1 AM and Thursday, Oct. 31, at 3 AM*

PBS unmarkets the real-life drama and intrigue hidden within the walls of notable British landmarks in *Secrets of London*, the first of three new one-hour specials.

*Secrets of Selfridges* will air on Nov. 3 and *Secrets of Scotland Yard*, on Nov. 17.

The Sunday night specials air from 8-9 PM, leading into the much-anticipated *Masterpiece Classic*, “The Paradise,” which begins its seven-week run on Sunday, October 6.

In *Secrets of the Tower of London*, PBS goes behind the tower’s ancient walls, exposing its stories, unlocking doors to rooms never before seen on television, talking to the people who do stealth jobs in the edifice and revealing little-known facts about this English icon.

Standing guard over the city of London for nearly 1,000 years, the formidable Tower of London has been a royal castle, a prison, a place of execution and torture, an armory and the Royal Mint.

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**Comming in November**

**Secrets of Selfridges**

**Sunday, Nov. 3, at 8 PM**
*Repeats Monday, Nov. 4, at 1 AM*

Two words are synonymous with Selfridges: luxury and London. However, Selfridges was the brainchild of an American — Harry Gordon Selfridge — whose life was depicted in the *Masterpiece* series “Mr. Selfridge.”

The real, flamboyant Mr. Selfridge brought about a complete revolution in the way Londoners shopped, introducing a new American retail model that made shopping less a practical pursuit and more a luxurious adventure. Keen to put the shopper’s experience above anything else, Selfridge coined the expression “The customer is always right,” which has become the mantra of shops all over the world. The program reveals the grandiose store’s hidden stories and delves deep into the mind of its ambitious creator.

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**Encore Presentation**

**Secrets of Althorp — The Spencers**

**Sunday, Nov. 10, at 8 PM**
*Repeats Monday, Nov. 11, at 1 AM*

Althorp, childhood home and final resting place of Princess Diana, is currently the home of Diana’s brother, Charles, the 9th Earl Spencer. Nineteen generations of Spencers have presided over this grand estate for more than 500 years.

Althorp House has hosted some of the kingdom’s most distinguished guests, and its rooms have witnessed scenes of great celebration, the first earl’s secret wedding to his sweetheart and most recently, the marriage of the current earl, who takes viewers on a personal tour around the noble manor that’s first of all his family home.

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**Secrets of Scotland Yard**

**Sunday, Nov. 17, at 8 PM**
*Repeats Monday, Nov. 18, at 1 AM*

From Dickens to Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie to James Bond — no police institution in the world has caught the public imagination in the same way as Scotland Yard.

The name has become synonymous with London’s police force, but actually comes from the location of the original police headquarters building. Its officers and “bobbies” are often seen as protectors of the Royal Family and British officials, but Scotland Yard is most often associated with police detectives.

Some contemporary sleuths reveal the secrets of what it takes to become a modern-day Sherlock Holmes and the program uncovers some grim and grisly details of detectives who have gone before.
Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle

Tuesday, Oct. 15, beginning at 8 PM

Join host and narrator Liev Schreiber to explore the dawn of the comic book genre and trace the evolution of the characters and their ongoing cultural impact worldwide. Chart the progression from the first comic books born during the Great Depression and the television debut of “Superman” in the 1950s to today’s insatiable enthusiasm for superheroes embraced in all media and by all demographics. The three-hour programming block features interviews with Stan Lee, Adam West, Lynda Carter, Michael Chabon and Todd McFarlane.

A new book based on the program, “Superheroes!: Capes, Cowl, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture,” penned by series co-writer Laurence Maslon and filmmaker Michael Kantor, is now available from Crown Archetype, a division of Random House. This companion volume tells the story of the superhero in American pop culture, with interviews, character biographies and more than 500 illustrations both essential and rare.

Part One at 8 PM: “Truth, Justice, and the American Way” (1938-1958)

During the Depression, the popularity of dozens of superhero characters opens the door for a new generation of artists and writers. World War II creates a patriotic fervor for star-spangled adventurers to represent the American spirit at war and on the home front, but in the 1950s, superheroes are caught in the fire of government scrutiny and regulation.

Part Two at 9 PM: “Great Power, Great Responsibility” (1959-1977)

In the 1960s, a new breed of superhero emerges in the pages of Marvel Comics, inspired by the age of atomic energy and space travel and, in turn, inspiring the pop culture and pop artists of the time.

Part Three at 10 PM: “A Hero Can Be Anyone” (1978-Present)

Modern enthusiasm for superheroes has been embraced in all forms of media and by all demographics, beginning with the historic “Superman” movie featuring Christopher Reeve as the Man of Steel. In the burgeoning new millennium, superheroes have taken over popular culture with feature films, television shows and video games complementing a new generation of Web-based comics.
Tracks Ahead
Sundays at 3 AM

Genealogy Roadshow
Mondays at 9 PM (ends 10/14)
Tuesdays at 3 AM (ends 10/15)

Britain’s Royal Weddings
Saturdays, Oct. 12-19, at 6 PM
Thursdays, Oct. 17-24, at 3 AM

Edward & George: Two Brothers, One Throne
Monday, Oct. 14, at 3 AM

Churchill
Tuesdays, Oct. 15-29, at 4 AM

Superheroes: A Never-Ending Battle
Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 8 PM

POV, 56 Up
Saturday, Oct. 19, at 11 PM

African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross
Tuesdays at 8 PM (begins 10/22)
Wednesdays at 3 AM (begins 10/23)

Big Band Vocalists
Saturday, Oct. 26, at 6 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 8 PM

Elvis, Aloha From Hawaii
Saturday, Oct. 26, at 8 PM

Motown: Big Hits and More
Saturday, Oct. 26, at 9:30 PM

Great Performances, Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy
Sunday, Oct. 27, at 6 PM
Monday, Oct. 28, at 9 PM

Secrets of the Tower of London
Sunday, Oct. 27, at 8 PM
Monday, Oct. 28, at 1 AM
Thursday, Oct. 31, at 3 AM

Muddy Waters & The Rolling Stones Live
Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 9 PM

History Detectives
Thursdays at 7 PM (ends 10/17)

Reagan’s Presidency
Saturdays, Oct. 5-12, at 4 PM

American Masters, Marilyn Monroe: Still Life
Saturday, Oct. 5, at 8 PM

American Masters, Woody Allen
Saturday, Oct. 5, at 9 PM
Saturday, Oct. 12, at 9:30 PM

Out of Many, One
Sunday, Oct. 6, at noon

American Experience, Soundtrack for a Revolution
Saturday, Oct. 12, at 8 PM
Sunday, Oct. 13, at noon

POV, 56 Up
Monday, Oct. 14, at 10 PM

Nancy Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime
Saturday, Oct. 19, at 4 PM

American Masters, Joffrey: Mavericks of American Dance
Saturday, Oct. 19, at 8:30 PM

POV, 56 Up airs Saturday, Oct. 19, at 11 PM. It’s the eighth film in a series that’s followed the same group since age seven.