

01/2008 PR - PBS "Eyes II Episodes"

[Link to full press release](#)

Nearly two decades after its 1990 premiere, the groundbreaking second season of Eyes on the Prize returns to PBS as a special presentation of American Experience in February 2008. In honor of Black History Month, eight, one-hour episodes will air on four consecutive Sundays—February 3, 10, 17, and 24 on PBS. Two episodes will air each afternoon. Produced by Blackside, Eyes on the Prize II documents the journey of black Americans seeking justice, power, and identity, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s and shows the profound effect this movement had on all Americans.

Episode 1: The Time Has Come 1964-1966

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 3, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: After a decade-long cry for justice, a new sound is heard in the civil rights movement: the insistent call for power. Malcolm X takes an eloquent nationalism to urban streets as a younger generation of black leaders listens. In the South, Stokely Carmichael and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) move from "Freedom Now!" to "Black Power!" as the fabric of the traditional movement changes.

Episode 2: Two Societies 1965-1968

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 3, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) come north to help Chicago's civil rights leaders in their nonviolent struggle against segregated housing. Their efforts pit them against Chicago's powerful mayor, Richard Daley. When a series of marches through all-white neighborhoods draws violence, King and Daley negotiate with mixed results. In Detroit, a police raid in a black neighborhood sparks an urban uprising that lasts five days, leaving 43 people dead. The Kerner Commission finds that America is becoming "two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal." President Lyndon Johnson, who appointed the commission, ignores the report.

Episode 3: Power! 1966-1968

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 10, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: The call for Black Power takes various forms across communities in black America. In Cleveland, Carl Stokes wins election as the first black mayor of an American city.

The Black Panther Party, armed with law books, breakfast programs, and guns, is born in Oakland. Substandard teaching practices prompt parents to gain educational control of a Brooklyn school district but then lead them to a showdown with New York City's teachers' union.

Episode 4: The Promised Land 1967-1968

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 10, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: Martin Luther King, Jr. stakes out new ground for himself and the rapidly fragmenting civil rights movement. One year before his death, he publicly opposes the war in Vietnam. His Southern Christian Leadership Conference embarks on an ambitious Poor People's Campaign.

In the midst of political organizing, King detours to support striking sanitation workers in Memphis, where he is assassinated. King's death and the failure of his final campaign mark the end of a major stream of the movement.

Episode 5 : Ain't Gonna Shuffle No More 1964-1972

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 17, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: A call to pride and a renewed push for unity galvanize black America. World heavyweight champion Cassius Clay challenges America to accept him as Muhammad Ali, a minister of Islam who refuses to fight in Vietnam. Students at Howard University in Washington, D.C., fight to bring the growing black consciousness movement and their African heritage inside the walls of this prominent black institution. Black elected officials and community activists organize the National Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana, in an attempt to create a unified black response to growing repression of the movement.

Episode 6: A Nation of Law? 1968-1971

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 17, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: Black activism is increasingly met with a sometimes violent and unethical response from local and federal law enforcement agencies. In Chicago, two Black Panther Party leaders are killed in a pre-dawn raid by police acting on information supplied by an FBI informant. In the wake of President Nixon's call to "law and order," stepped-up arrests push the already poor conditions at New York's Attica State Prison to the limit. A five-day inmate takeover calling the public's attention to the conditions leaves 43 men dead: four killed by inmates, 39 by police.

Episode 7: The Keys to the Kingdom 1974-1980

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 24, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: In the 1970s, antidiscrimination legal rights gained in past decades by the civil rights movement are put to the

test. In Boston, some whites violently resist a federal court school desegregation order. Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson, proves that affirmative action can work, but the Bakke Supreme Court case challenges that policy.

Episode 8: Back to the Movement 1979-mid 1980s

Broadcast date: Sunday, February 24, 2008 on PBS (check local listings)

Synopsis: Power and powerlessness. Miami's black community-pummeled by urban renewal, a lack of jobs and police harassment-explodes in rioting. But in Chicago, an unprecedented grassroots movement triumphs. Frustrated by decades of unfulfilled promises made by the city's Democratic political machine, reformers install Harold Washington as Chicago's first black mayor. The series ends with a look back at the people who made this movement a force for change in America.