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Ken Burns' "The War" preview screening at UMM

Summary: Pioneer Public Television and UMM will host a preview screening of the highly anticipated PBS series from filmmaker Ken Burns, "The War," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13. The one-hour screening in Edson Auditorium will include selected highlights from the series. The event is free and open to the public.

(September 5, 2007)-Pioneer Public Television and the University of Minnesota, Morris will host a preview screening of the highly anticipated PBS series from filmmaker Ken Burns, "The War," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, on the UMM campus. The one-hour screening in Edson Auditorium will include selected highlights from the series. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are pleased to offer this public screening to the people of western Minnesota," said Pioneer Public Television General Manager Les Heen. "This is an outstanding production and we know that it has already generated a lot of excitement. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the University of Minnesota, Morris on this event."

"The War" is a seven-part series from filmmaker Ken Burns, whose previous credits include "The Civil War" and "Baseball." In "The War," Burns tells the stories of World War II through the words of Americans in four communities: Mobile, Alabama Sacramento, California Waterbury, Connecticut and Luverne, Minnesota. The seven-part, 14-hour series begins on Pioneer Public Television on Sunday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m.

In addition to "The War," the Morris event will also include brief segments of local interviews with World War II veterans and non-veterans about the experiences of area citizens during the war. The interviews are part of a joint production of UMM and Pioneer Public Television. Following the interviews, a panel discussion including Stephen Gross, UMM assistant professor of history, and Pioneer General Manager Les Heen will discuss the importance of gathering oral history from veterans. An introduction and welcome will be provided by UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson.

Prior to the screening, the public is invited to have coffee in Oyate Hall, across the hallway from Edson Auditorium, and browse through the videos, DVDs, CDs and all types of books that are part of the Briggs Library Associates annual Book Sale. Book Sale hours on September 13 have been extended to 7 p.m.

"UMM appreciates another opportunity to partner with Pioneer Public Television on a program that has local interest," said Roger Boleman, director of media services at UMM. UMM's Office of Media Services has worked with PPTV on several past and ongoing projects, including the documentaries "Minnesota: Rivers and Fields" and "Echoes of Cry of the Marsh" as well as annual programming such as "Academic Challenge" and "Prairie Yard and Garden."

For more information about the event or the series, go to [The War](#) or call Pioneer Public Television at 1-800-726-3178.

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