

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **BATTLE OF WILLS**
[TV-PG] [TBA] [CC]

LENGTH: 1x52

NOLA CODE: BAWL

CATEGORY: Documentary

OFFERED: Fall 2009, page S16

EXPECTED RELEASE: April 1, 2010

CONTRACT TERMS: Four releases to be completed by January 31, 2012. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Filmoption International Inc.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: There is no doubt that William Shakespeare was one of the greatest playwrights of any age. But what did he really look like? Could a painting now in Canadian hands actually be the true countenance of the quintessential English bard? **BATTLE OF WILLS** is the intriguing story of a painting that is confounding the art world. Lloyd Sullivan believes he owns the only portrait of Shakespeare done from life, and that it was created in 1603 by an ancestor of his named Sanders who was part of Shakespeare's troupe. Thirteen scientific tests have proven that the Sanders portrait is an authentic 17th century work. But is it Shakespeare? Sullivan is risking his lifetime's savings to prove that it is.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on APTonline.org.

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BROADCAST HISTORY: U.S. television premiere

RELATED MERCHANDISE: Viewers: DVD is available via filmoption.com.

Pledge: No specific arrangements have been made for pledge merchandise. If you're interested in pledging this program, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

VIEWER INQUIRIES: info@APTonline.org

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PRESS RELEASE

Discover the Centuries-Old Mystery of Shakespeare's Image in **BATTLE OF WILLS**

"The detective work is fascinating to witness. So too are the attitudes, both snooty and awestruck, from celebrated art dealers and collectors."
-- Catherine Dawson March, "The Globe and Mail"

There is little doubt that William Shakespeare is one of the greatest figures in the world's history. The bard created many of the English language's defining plays – from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* to *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest* – and his influence is still being felt today. However, even after the centuries of cultural study into Shakespeare's life, there is still one burning question about the legend – what, exactly did he look like?

The new American Public Television-distributed special **BATTLE OF WILLS**, airing on public television stations nationwide beginning April 1, 2010, presents an intriguing mystery: could a painting held by a Canadian citizen be, in fact, the definitive portrait of William Shakespeare? The special goes deep into the mystery of the painting, chronicling a tale of intrigue worthy of the bard himself – one with unexpected plot twists and a surprising conclusion.

Lloyd Sullivan believes he owns the only portrait of Shakespeare done from life. He

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claims that the painting was created in 1603, by an ancestor who was part of Shakespeare's troupe. Sullivan has taken the painting through 13 different scientific tests, all proving that it is an authentic 17th-century work, and is risking his life savings on the idea that the painting is actually of the legendary writer.

However, the authenticity of Sullivan's painting is disputed by Britain's art establishment, skeptical as to how a portrait of a man who "embodies the greatness of Englishness" could have ended up in the hands of a Canadian. **BATTLE OF WILLS** follows the painting from the high-tech labs of North America to the art galleries of London's Bond Street and the wind-swept castles of the English Midlands on a search for the truth.

A fascinating and globe-spanning documentary, **A BATTLE OF WILLS** is an unforgettable search for the true image of an icon.

BATTLE OF WILLS was acquired from Filmoption International Inc. by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) has been a leading distributor of high-quality, top-rated programming to America's public television stations since 1961. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies, including *Spain...on the road Again*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Worldfocus*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Lidia's Italy*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Doc Martin*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, *Liza's at the Palace....* and *John Denver: The Wildlife Concert*. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched Create™ – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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