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THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM PRESENTS

THE EYES OF THE WORLD: FROM D-DAY TO VE DAY,

LIVE AT NEW ORLEANS' ORPHEUM THEATER

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, AT 7:30 PM

ONE-NIGHT-ONLY PERFORMANCE HONORS

THE ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND CELEBRATES

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

FOLLOWING SOLD-OUT PERFORMANCES AT CARNEGIE HALL,
KENNEDY CENTER AND BOSTON'S SYMPHONY HALL,
HISTORIAN JOHN MONSKY TAKES THE STAGE WITH
TOP BROADWAY VOCALISTS, THE LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA,
HISTORIC FLAGS AND RARELY SEEN ARCHIVAL FILM AND FOOTAGE

New Orleans, LA (Wednesday, **May XX, 2025**) – On Friday, June 6 — the exact date of the D-Day landings 81 years ago — the acclaimed multimedia production ***The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day*** takes the stage at New Orleans' **Orpheum Theater** for a special one-night-only performance in recognition of The National WWII Museum's 25th anniversary.

The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day recreates the harrowing final 11 months of World War II in Europe — from the beaches of Normandy and the liberation of Paris to the fall of Berlin — through a musically driven performance with the **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra** conducted by **Ian Weinberger**, music director of *Hamilton* on Broadway. Accompanied by narration from historian **John Monsky**, the production is performed live with Broadway stars from *Choir Boy*, *Mean Girls*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Company*, and features archival footage and photography from the National Archives.

This innovative and immersive event brings World War II to life through the lens of warriors and journalists, both famous and forgotten, who experienced the drama, heartbreak, and triumph of the war. Rarely seen material culture — including battlefield flags carried ashore onto the beaches of Normandy, paving the way to victory — further illuminates stories often lost to history.

Using the words and images of Ernest Hemingway, *LIFE* magazine daredevil war photographer Robert Capa, *Vogue* model-turned-photojournalist Lee Miller, and a young soldier named Jerry who landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944, Monsky leads audiences through the events that brought these figures face to face with the action. Their paths intersect as they report on the war, trying to stay alive in their search for the truth. And maybe, even save the world.

Along the way, they cross paths with Hemingway's estranged wife, war correspondent journalist Martha Gellhorn; General Dwight D. Eisenhower; Pablo Picasso; Marlene Dietrich; the heroic 761st Tank Battalion ("The Black Panthers"); and the 688th ("Six Triple

Eight”) Central Postal Directory Battalion, among others.

The program also highlights New Orleans’ vital role in World War II — a city that faced danger firsthand as waves of German U-boats prowled the Gulf South region, bringing the global conflict to America’s shores. In response, New Orleanians showed bravery and resilience, transforming the city into a key shipbuilding powerhouse, producing over 20,000 amphibious landing craft used in every major Allied invasion.

Monsky said, “New Orleans is where the U.S. built the boats that helped win the war, and it’s home to the institution that preserves the war’s legacy — The National WWII Museum. There is no better place to remember D-Day and honor the bravery of those boys who stormed the beaches of Normandy and fought for freedom 81 years ago. Bringing *The Eyes of the World* to this city, as the Museum celebrates 25 years, is both an honor and a homecoming.”

Joining Monsky on stage are Broadway stars **Shereen Ahmed** (*My Fair Lady*), **John Clay III** (*Choir Boy*), **Kate Rockwell** (*Mean Girls*), and **Nicholas Rodriguez** (*Company*). **Ian Weinberger**, music director of *Hamilton* on Broadway, is music supervisor, arranger and conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. The score features period music from Edith Piaf, Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland and more.

The program, which has sold out premier venues including Boston’s Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Miami’s New World Center, comes to New Orleans’ Orpheum Theater thanks to The National WWII Museum and is presented by Priddy Family Foundation.

“We are thrilled to partner with John Monsky and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra to bring *The Eyes of the World* to New Orleans,” said Stephen J. Watson, President & CEO of The National WWII Museum. “The Museum remains committed to sharing the stories of the WWII generation on our campus, online, and in communities across the country through educational programs and partnerships like this so that the war’s history continues to educate and inspire for generations to come.”

The National WWII Museum opened as The National D-Day Museum on June 6, 2000 — the 56th anniversary of the Normandy landings — as a single exhibition hall dedicated to telling the stories of the everyday Americans who participated in the greatest amphibious invasion in history. In 2004, Congress designated the institution as America’s national museum for World War II, and the institution officially adopted a new name and mission. Now, 25 transformational years later, The National WWII Museum explores and honors the entire American experience in World War II — why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today — on its seven-acre, seven-pavilion campus with immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of powerful artifacts and first-person oral histories.

In recognition of its 25th anniversary and to highlight the continued importance of its mission, the Museum is hosting a slate of celebratory events on its campus and in the City of New Orleans through June 7. The celebration will reflect on the Museum’s achievements, share how the institution plans to expand its educational efforts, and recognize the WWII generation as it welcomes veterans, Home Front workers and Holocaust survivors to the museum that was built in their honor and continues sharing their stories.

ABOUT JOHN MONSKY

John Monsky is the creator, writer, and narrator of the American History Unbound series. His reverence for historical ephemera is at the core of his productions, with his meticulous research of flags and other tangible objects driving his narratives that explore landmark events in our history.

His lectures for the Carnegie Hall Presents series include *The Vietnam War: At Home and Abroad*, *We Chose to Go to the Moon*, *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day*, and *The Great War & The Great Gatsby*. In 2019, Monsky was honored by The New York Historical, where he has developed and workshopped many of his lectures and currently serves on the board of trustees. He has appeared on CNN, CBS, and NBC, and also

serves on the board of directors of Rockefeller University and Yale University Art Gallery.

His flag collection, which he began in his boyhood, is nationally recognized and has been reported on in *The New Yorker*, *Art & Antiques Magazine*, and other publications. His historical research on George Washington has appeared in the *Winterthur Portfolio*.

Monsky graduated from Yale College as a history major, where he was awarded the White Prize in History and the DeForest Oratory Prize.

After attending Harvard Law School and working as a law clerk, he served as an attorney for the U.S. Senate Congressional Committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair. Monsky, an historian and lawyer, is a senior partner at Oak Hill Capital, an investment firm. He lives in New York City with his wife, Jennifer Weis. They have four children — Harrison, Annabel, Gillian, and Caitlin — and a dog named Flyer.

This summer, Monsky co-curated *Independency: The American Flag at 250 Years*, an exhibition at New York's Southampton Arts Center featuring his collection of historic American flags and textiles, presented alongside abstract works by abstract painter Sean Scully. The exhibition will be on view from May 17 through July 19, 2025.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day is produced by American History Unbound Inc. John Monsky is writer, creator, narrator, and executive producer. Trey Ellett is director. Ian Weinberger is music supervisor, conductor, and arranger. Emily Maltby is choreographer. Kelsey Burns is associate choreographer. Meredith Wagner is executive producer. Bethany Weinstein Stewert is production manager. Gene Graham, Josh King, Rick Miramontez, and Will Osborne are producers. Eric Duran is media producer. Reece dos Santos is producer. Josephine Hurshell-Hobson is assistant producer.

ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY UNBOUND INC.

The American History Unbound series combines live music, performed by leading orchestras and celebrated Broadway actors, lecture, photographs and film from the National Archives, historic American flags, and material culture to explore watershed moments in American history.

These symphonic and visual journeys through history are commissioned by the Carnegie Hall Presents series. Created and narrated by historian John Monsky, programs to date have explored the Vietnam War, the race to the moon, World War I and World War II.

These works have been presented at Carnegie Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center Opera House, Miami's New World Center, The New York Historical, Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, New York, Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, Florida, Yale University, New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and the New York Stock Exchange.

In December 2024, *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day* was performed in the East Room of The White House for veterans. A performance with the legendary Boston Pops is currently streaming on PBS.org. American History Unbound Inc. is a 501(c)(3).

www.americanhistoryunbound.com

ABOUT THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience *in the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America's National WWII Museum, the institution celebrates the American spirit, teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifices of the men and women who fought on the battlefield and served on the Home Front. For more information on Tripadvisor's #1 New Orleans attraction, call 877-813-3329 or 504-528-1944 or visit nationalww2museum.org.

A B O U T THE LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC

The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is dedicated to maintaining live orchestral music and a full-scale symphonic orchestra as an integral part of the cultural and educational life of the New Orleans area, the entire state of Louisiana, and the Gulf South region. Formed in 1991, the LPO is the oldest full-time musician-governed and collaboratively operated orchestra in the United States.

The LPO offers a full 36-week season with more than 120 performances, including classics, light classics, pops, education, family, park, and community engagement concerts in New Orleans and across multi-parish areas. In addition, the LPO collaborates with and provides orchestra support for other cultural and performing arts organizations, including the New Orleans Opera Association, New Orleans Vocal Arts Chorale, New Orleans Ballet Association, Delta Festival Ballet, Musical Arts Society of New Orleans, and the Historic New Orleans Collection.

T I C K E T I N F O R M A T I O N

Tickets, priced at \$38–\$91, are on sale at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and can be charged to major credit cards. The performance is open to all ages.

Doors Open: 6:30 PM
Show Starts: 7:30 PM

Location: The Orpheum Theater, 129 Roosevelt Way, New Orleans, LA 70112

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