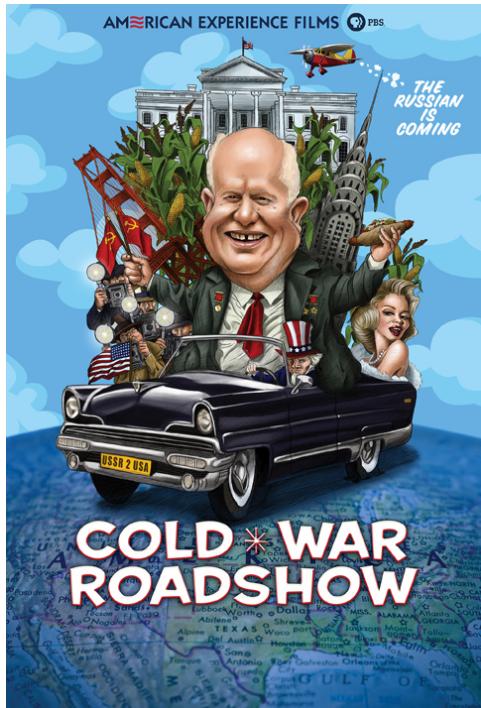


25 YEARS

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE Presents *Cold War Roadshow*

Premieres Tuesday, November 18, 2014
9:00-10:00 p.m. ET on PBS

“The whole era of the 1950s was like a strange combination of *I Love Lucy* and thermonuclear war.” — Peter Carlson



Cold War Roadshow tells the story of one of the most bizarre episodes in the annals of modern history — the unprecedented barnstorming across America in the fall of 1959 by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, the world leader of communism and America's arch nemesis. At the very height of the Cold War, with American schoolchildren practicing duck-and-cover drills, the man who Americans feared could incinerate them in a rain of hydrogen bombs arrived in Washington, D.C. at the invitation of President Eisenhower. For both men, the visit was an opportunity to halt the escalating threats of the Cold War and chart a new course toward peaceful coexistence. For the American press, it was the media blockbuster story of the year. Produced by Robert Stone and Luc Martin-Gousset, **Cold War Roadshow** premieres on AMERICAN EXPERIENCE on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](#)).

In 1959, most Americans thought of Khrushchev as the personification of evil; the dictator who said “we shall bury you” appeared to be a threat to the very values and ideals that defined the American way of life. When the Soviet premier arrived, his presence on U.S. soil was as disconcerting as it was captivating. What were Americans to make of this boisterous, rotund and strangely likable Russian dictator and his uncanny ability to upstage even the savviest politician with both charm and charisma?

The more-than-willing star of America's first reality television show, Khrushchev was surrounded by both U.S. and Soviet security teams and a cadre of over 300 journalists and television cameramen as he made his way from coast to coast. Each night, Americans turned on their TV sets to watch to the nightly special reports and, along with the anchormen, tried to make sense of this unexpected character who held their futures in the palm of his hand. And the more Americans saw of the man, the more they liked him.

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Upon his arrival in Washington, D.C., thousands of spectators lined the streets. While the premier smiled and waved, most of the onlookers stood by in awkward silence, unsure whether it was appropriate to wave back at a Communist dictator. In New York, the icy reception was more vocal, with anti-Soviet Union protestors shouting and waving signs for the television cameras that followed Khrushchev's every move.

Incredible as it may seem in the stage-managed political world of today, the further Khrushchev ventured from Washington, the more his itinerary was left in the hands of local officials. In Los Angeles, authorities were determined to isolate the Soviet leader from the people, rerouting his motorcade away from the crowds. Although feted at a luncheon filled with glamorous celebrities including Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor, he was stunned when Mayor Norris Poulson cancelled his eagerly anticipated visit to Disneyland because his safety could not be guaranteed. Already angry, the Soviet premier was further insulted when the mayor, at a meeting with business leaders, publicly denounced communism and said that Americans would fight to the death to defend their way of life.

Heading east from California, Khrushchev's next stop was to see his old friend Roswell Garst, an Iowa farmer who had travelled to the Soviet Union to give lectures on corn. Surrounded by hordes of reporters who were trampling his fields, the irate farmer growled at photographers and shooed them back with a corn stalk. But Midwesterners welcomed the dictator with smiles and hospitality, and Khrushchev basked in the glow of ordinary people, patting babies on their heads, posing for cameras, and eating his first hot dog.

No one knows what might have happened if the good will generated by Khrushchev's American trip would have continued to thaw icy relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. But that was not to be. One month before President Eisenhower's scheduled reciprocal visit to Moscow, a U.S. spy plane was detected over Soviet airspace. It was shot down and Eisenhower was no longer welcome.

Told through the eyes of historian William Taubman and journalist Peter Carlson, and through the personal recollections of President Eisenhower's granddaughter, Susan Eisenhower (who met Khrushchev on the trip) and Nikita Khrushchev's son, Sergei Khrushchev (who accompanied his father every step of the way), *Cold War Roadshow* takes a deeply personal look at the often overlooked human dimensions of the Cold War.

“Besides being an entertaining look back at one of the most colorful chapters in American diplomatic history, *Cold War Roadshow* reminds us of the oft-forgotten way that human interaction shapes history,” says AMERICAN EXPERIENCE Executive Producer Mark Samels. “We’ll never know if Khrushchev’s warm encounters with Americans gave him pause during the tense standoff of the Cuban Missile Crisis three years later.”

“One has to believe that one of the things that deterred him was the knowledge of the country which could suffer the impact of his missiles if he ever pressed the button,” concludes historian William Taubman. “The palpable reality of the Americans whose hands he had shaken and whose beer bellies he poked had to have increased his sense that however tense the situation was, there were lines that must not be crossed. It took 30 more years to end the Cold War and for the Soviet system to disappear. But this was the start of it.”

* * *

About the Participants, in Alphabetical Order

Peter Carlson is a journalist and author of *K Blows Top: A Cold War Comic Interlude, Starring Nikita Khrushchev, America's Most Unlikely Tourist*.

Susan Eisenhower is President of the Eisenhower Group, Inc., which provides strategic counsel on political, business and public affairs projects. She has consulted for Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies doing business in the emerging markets of the former Soviet Union and for a number of major institutions and companies engaged in the energy field. Eisenhower also serves as Chairman of the Eisenhower Institute's Leadership and Public Policy Programs, where she was the Institute's founding director and the first president and became known for her work in the former Soviet Union and in the energy field.

Sergei Khrushchev is the son of Nikita Khrushchev and author of *Khrushchev on Khrushchev – An Inside Account of the Man and His Era*. He is a former Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University.

William Taubman is a Professor of Political Science at Amherst College and the author of *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era*; co-editor (with Sergei Khrushchev and Abbott Gleason) of *Nikita Khrushchev*; editor and translator of *Khrushchev on Khrushchev*, by Sergei N. Khrushchev, and author of *Moscow Spring*, with Jane Taubman.

About the Filmmakers

Directed and Edited By	Robert Stone
Produced By	Tim B. Toidze
Telescript By	Luc Martin-Gousset
Associate Producer	Robert Stone
Original Music	Robert Stone
	Tim B. Toidze
	Gary Lionelli

Robert Stone (Director/Editor/Producer) is a multi-award-winning, Oscar-nominated and Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker. Born in England in 1958, he grew up in both Europe and America. After graduating with a degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he moved to New York City in 1983 determined to pursue a career in filmmaking. He gained considerable recognition for his first film, *Radio Bikini* (1987), which premiered at Sundance, was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary and was the first of his seven films to premiere on AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. His best-known work includes *Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst* (2004), which premiered at Sundance and went on to become one of the most highly acclaimed theatrical documentaries of the year. That was followed by the documentary feature *Oswald's Ghost* (2007), for which Stone earned a second Emmy nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Non-Fiction Filmmaking. *Earth Days* premiered as the Closing Night Film at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and was released theatrically to wide critical acclaim. His most recent (and most controversial) film, *Pandora's Promise*, premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and won the prestigious Green Award at the Sheffield Documentary Film Festival and was broadcast on CNN in 2013. In addition to *Radio Bikini*, *Guerrilla*, *Oswald's Ghost* and *Earth Days*, Stone also produced *The Satellite Sky* and *Civilian Conservation Corps* for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. He continues to create personally crafted high-end documentary films from his home in upstate New York, where he lives with his wife and their two sons.

Tim B. Toidze (Director/Editor/Associate Producer) was born and raised in Moscow. Back in 1992, at the tender age of 13, he started his career at Contact-Film Studio as an assistant editor. In 1994, he moved to London with his family, where he studied Media at Greenhill College and worked as a researcher on several Channel 4 documentaries. In 1996, Tim moved to Canada, where he continued his education at the Film & Video Department of York University. After establishing himself as an editor, researcher and production manager on numerous History Television productions, Toidze began producing in 2003 and a year later began directing. He has directed 15 documentary films and been a producer on more than 20 documentaries, docudramas and dramas.

Luc Martin-Gousset (Producer) is the CEO of the Paris-based international production company Point du Jour. He has produced a number of documentaries for Arte, NHK, the BBC, TV Denmark, the CBC, RAI Cinema and other international distributors. His recent producing credits include *The Tokyo Trial*, an upcoming project on which he is once again working with Tim Toidze, and *Monsoon*, which recently premiered at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival. Other projects include two films directed by Shohei Shibata, *Dash: Essence of Japan* and *Shoyu and the Secrets of Japanese Cuisine*, about the twin pillars of Japanese cooking, *Europe for Sale* (2014), *To Die for Warsaw* (2013), *Why Are Women Shorter Than Men* (2013), and *Afghanistan, The Price of Revenge* (2013). He graduated from the Institute Politique de Paris and has a Masters in Econometrics from the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Mark Samels (Executive Producer) was named executive producer of AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, PBS' flagship history series, in 2003. Under Samels' leadership, the series has been honored with nearly every industry award, including the Peabody, Primetime Emmys, the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, Writers Guild Awards, Oscar nominations, and Sundance Film Festival Audience and Grand Jury Awards. Samels also serves on the Board of Governors at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Prior to joining WGBH, Samels worked as an independent documentary filmmaker, an executive producer for several U.S. public television stations, and as a producer for the first co-production between Japanese and American television. A native of Wisconsin, he is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

About AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Television's most-watched history series, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013. The series has been hailed as "peerless" (*The Wall Street Journal*), "the most consistently enriching program on television" (*Chicago Tribune*), and "a beacon of intelligence and purpose" (*Houston Chronicle*). On air and online, the series brings to life the incredible characters and epic stories that have shaped America's past and present. Acclaimed by viewers and critics alike, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE documentaries have been honored with every major broadcast award, including 30 Emmy Awards, four duPont-Columbia Awards, and 16 George Foster Peabody Awards, one most recently for the series represented by *Freedom Riders*, *Triangle Fire* and *Stonewall Uprising*.

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