

THE HUMAN SPARK

with ALAN ALDA



Wednesdays,
January 6, 13, 20 at 8pm

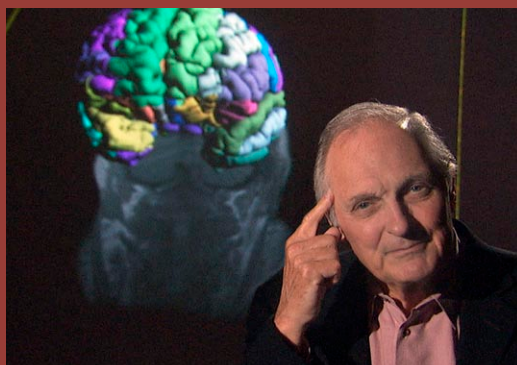
(check local listings)



January 6 at 8pm
Becoming Us



January 13 at 8pm
So Human, So Chimp



January 20 at 8pm
Brain Matters

Alan Alda hosts *The Human Spark*, a new PBS series that explores what makes humans unique.

Three and a half billion years of evolution has produced uncountable billions of living species. But only one can write a sentence. Only one species can think in symbols; recombine those symbols into infinite meanings; invent a technology to disseminate the message; worry how others might react to it; ponder on the past; speculate on the future; imagine the unknown. Only one species goes to school, donates to charity, wonders why the sky is blue, builds cities, composes music, wages war, wears jewelry... makes television programs. These uniquely human abilities constitute the Human Spark.

Visit pbs.org/humanspark for streaming episodes, web-exclusive videos, production blogs, spark-related news, and the "Share Your Spark" feature, which lets users share their thoughts on what being human means to them.

January 6 at 8pm **Becoming Us**

Series host and narrator, Alan Alda, confronts the puzzle of why our ancestors in Africa got the Spark and evolved into us, while the first humans to leave Africa for Europe—the Neanderthals—never did. Why did we flourish, while they changed very little for thousands of generations before eventually dying out?

January 13 at 8pm **So Human, So Chimp**

Alan Alda joins researchers studying human children and chimpanzees to discover why we share some skills with our closest living relatives, but have far surpassed them in our most uniquely human capabilities. Though we both descend from a common ancestor and are genetically so similar, why are we worlds apart in our behaviors and abilities?

January 20 at 8pm **Brain Matters**

Peer into Alan Alda's head to find out which parts of our brain are responsible for our most human characteristics. Where do tool use and language reside? And how do our brains allow us to understand symbolism, figure out what others are thinking, and even travel in time? Are insight and imagination what really make humans unique?



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