“To Tell a True Story”

Mark Samels is executive producer of “American Experience,” PBS’s flagship history series. Produced by WGBH Boston, “American Experience” is television’s most-watched and longest-running history series. Under Samels’ leadership, the series has been honored with nearly every industry award, including the Peabody, Primetime Emmy, the duPont-Columbia Journalism Award, Writers Guild Awards, and Sundance Film Festival Audience and Grand Jury Awards. In 2015, the series received its ninth Academy Award nomination for the critically acclaimed “Last Days in Vietnam.”

Samels has overseen the production of more than 115 films for “American Experience,” focusing on stories from America’s past that are highly resonant in the world today. He has expanded both the breadth of subjects and the filmmaking style embraced by the series, allowing for more contemporary topics and more witness-driven storytelling. In addition to his public television work, Samels is a founding member of the International Documentary Association and has served on the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Nonfiction Peer Group. A native of Wisconsin, he is a graduate of University of Wisconsin. In addition, Samels holds honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Emerson College and Elizabethtown College.

Admission is free, but a ticket is required. Please contact the Ticket Office at 717-691-6036.

For more information, please contact:
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The Center for Public Humanities
Messiah College
One College Avenue Suite 3017
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Check out virtual exhibits throughout the week:
messiah.edu/cphsymposium

Pre-Symposium Event: “Still Singing the Blues”
Friday, February 12
7–9 p.m.
High Foundation Recital Hall

An evening of blues, poetry and images that call us to remember the past and reimagine the future. Sponsored by the Black Student Union and Center for Public Humanities.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

4:45–5:30 p.m. “Image of the Humanities/Humanities of the Image”
Peter Powers, dean, School of the Humanities
Boyer 131

7 p.m. “Images of Abandoned America: The Age of Consequences”
Matthew Christopher, photographer and author, guest lecture sponsored by Digital Humanities
Boyer Hall, Parmer Cinema

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

David Schenk, philosophy
Boyer 131

4:30–5 p.m. “Images that Disturb: Should Advertising Shock?”
David Hagenbuch, marketing
Boyer 131

5:15–6 p.m. “Art, Engineering and the Dance: Technical and Artistic Images in the Development of a Sculptural Form”
Timothy VanDyke, engineering
Ted Prescott, art
Boyer 131

7–8 p.m. “Images and Visions in the Music of Claude Debussy” (lecture/recital)
Richard Roberson, dean, School of the Arts
High Foundation Recital Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Catheryn Hayes, Karin Holvick and Elena Patton
Crystal Downing, advisor, English
Boyer Hall 131

10:20–11:20 a.m. “Images of a Fallen Empire” (faculty/student panel)
Meggan Arnold, Brian Peters and Amelia Lindquist
Gladys Robalino, advisor, Spanish
Boyer Hall 131

1:50–2:50 p.m. “Digital Stories: Contrasts in California” (faculty/staff/student panel)
Shelly Skinner, Christian ministries
Cynthia Tomes, IT
Tim Knapp, IT
Southern California cross-cultural students
Boyer 131

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

3:45–4:45 p.m. “Lights, Camera, Amish! The Amish in Documentary Film”
David Weaver-Zercher, religious studies
Boyer Hall 131

7 p.m. Keynote Address: “To Tell a True Story”
Mark Samels, executive producer, “The American Experience”
Parmer Hall

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:30–9 p.m. “Image: My Dance, Your Dance, Our Dance”
GiVim, Messiah College Dance Ensemble
Poorman Black Box Theatre, Climenhaga Building

9 p.m. Closing Reception
Upper Lobby, Climenhaga Building