



CONTACT: Brian Rossiter
Senior publicist
(215) 351-2066
brossiter@whyy.org

**KEN BURNS TO ATTEND WHYY SCREENING
OF *THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA***

Filmmaker Will Attend Reception Open to WHYY Members Before Screening

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 20, 2009 — Filmmaker Ken Burns will join an audience of Delaware Valley residents expected to number in the thousands at a free preview screening of his new series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, on Independence Mall, located in the Independence National Historical Park. Dayton Duncan, writer and co-producer of the series, will join Burns.

The event will also feature a screening of films about local national parks produced by students from WHYY's Learning Lab.

The National Parks: America's Best Idea series, sponsored nationally by Bank of America, will be broadcast on WHYY-TV at 8 p.m. from Sunday, Sept. 27, to Friday, Oct. 2. Attendees to the preview screening on Independence Mall will view a 50-minute video of highlights from the series.

Before the screening on Independence Mall, Burns will join WHYY members, staff and guests at an exclusive catered meet-and-greet reception at WHYY's Technology Center, 150 N. Sixth St., from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. All reception attendees will receive a reserved seat for the preview event on the Mall. The reception and screening on Independence Mall are sponsored locally by PECO.

For details on the reception and screening, visit www.whyy.org/memberexperience.

Filmed over the course of more than six years and set against the most breathtaking backdrops imaginable — from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska — *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* is a story of people. The film focuses on people who were willing to devote themselves to saving a precious portion of the land they loved. In doing so, they reminded fellow citizens of the full meaning of democracy. For more information about the series, visit www.pbs.org/nationalparks.

About PECO:

"Founded in 1881, PECO is one of the Greater Philadelphia region's most active corporate citizens, providing leadership, volunteer and financial support to numerous education, environmental, arts and culture and economic development programs and organizations."

#

WHYY, Inc.
Independence Mall West
150 North Sixth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.351.1200

625 Orange Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
302.888.1200

<http://whyy.org>