

Colonial Williamsburg

Colonial Williamsburg to host Ken Burns previewing upcoming film, *The American Revolution*

The public is invited to attend free outdoor screening, March 25, 8 p.m.



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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (March 4, 2025) - Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns is giving the Historic Triangle a [sneak peek](#) at his newest documentary, [The American Revolution](#) (airing on PBS on November 16). This free public preview event takes place March 25 at 8 p.m. in front of the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. Burns will kick off the event, hosted by [The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#) and the [Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission](#) (VA250), with live remarks about the project before previewing excerpts from the film on an outdoor screen.

"It's a thrill to share the film with Virginians, especially in Colonial Williamsburg, which appears many times in our film," said Ken Burns. "As the capital city of Virginia, Williamsburg played a critical role on the road to revolution and around 250 years later, it was an essential resource and filming location for us to capture the look and feel of colonial life."

Joining Burns at the event will be co-directors and producers Sarah Botstein and David Schmidt. Schmidt, who grew up in the Williamsburg area and worked at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as a volunteer youth interpreter and member of the iconic Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums, will also speak at the event.

"Colonial Williamsburg is very special to me, and I'm grateful for this full-circle moment to bring our film back home, to this extraordinary place that inspired my love for history," said

David Schmidt. “CW also means a lot to our film. As filmmakers, we’ve been fortunate to find natural partners in The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, which shares a mission with us to bring our shared history to as many people as possible.”

Filming for *The American Revolution*, which has been in production for eight years, took place in over 100 locations across the nation, but nowhere did the filmmakers shoot more footage than in Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area. Eagle-eyed viewers will recognize Colonial Williamsburg landmarks including Raleigh Tavern, the grounds of the Governor’s Palace, the Capitol, the blacksmith shop and nearly 20 additional Colonial Williamsburg locations.

While admission to the screening is free, [advance registration](#) is encouraged to receive event updates, including inclement weather notices, via text message and email. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets. For more information on inclement weather and parking options, visit va250.org/documentary-faq/.

Previews of *The American Revolution* in Richmond and in Williamsburg will kick off a series of screenings and associated events being held across the country leading up to the premiere of the six-part, 12-hour documentary series on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 8-10 p.m. ET on PBS. The preview event in Williamsburg is the first public screening offered free of charge to the public.

The public screening is part of the third annual [A Common Cause to All](#) convening, the largest gathering of nationwide organizers of the 250th anniversary of American Independence hosted by [The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#) and the [VA250 Commission](#). Since its inception in 2023, *A Common Cause to All* has served as a unifying force, bringing together historians, heads of museums and other historical and cultural institutions, and members of national, state, and local 250th planning organizations in the spirit of collaboration. As the keystone event of the 2025 convening, the preview of *The American Revolution* offers a rare chance for conference-goers and community members to engage with history in the very place where pivotal revolutionary ideas were born.

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About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

About the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission

From its founding ideas to its leading figures, more of what made America happen, happened in Virginia. As America prepares to mark 250 years of Independence, the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) invites you to come reconnect with your country, in the place that made it possible. Join us at VA250.org

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