



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to air Great Performances program in honor of Beverly Sills

KENT, Ohio — July 3, 2007 — On Monday, July 2, legendary opera singer and arts advocate Beverly Sills passed away. She was 78. To honor Sills' contributions to the American arts, PBS 45 & 49 will air **Great Performances, Beverly Sills: Made in America** on Sunday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Born Belle Miriam Silverman in Brooklyn, N.Y., Beverly Sills performed with nearly every major international opera company and brought generations of new audiences to opera. After her retirement from the stage, she served as the head of the New York City Opera, the chairwoman of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and later the Chairwoman of the Metropolitan Opera. As recently as this season, Sills provided commentary and interviews for PBS' **Great Performances at the Met** broadcasts.

Beverly Sills: Made in America tells the story of the homegrown opera superstar through interviews, talk-show appearances and stunning performance footage. It also celebrates the lighter side of her career, showcasing performances with Carol Burnett, Dean Martin and even the Muppets. "I think you should try everything," she states near the end of the telecast. "When I look back on my life I would rather say, 'I shouldn't have done that' rather than 'I should have done that.' If I have any regrets, it's that I rather tried to do too much, than I didn't try to do enough."

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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