



**PBS  
45 & 49**

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# press release

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High-resolution images available at [www.storytellersmediagroup.com/galleries/DorisWebGallery/index.htm](http://www.storytellersmediagroup.com/galleries/DorisWebGallery/index.htm)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Doris O'Donnell, Veteran Cleveland Journalist, Featured in New Eight-Part Series on PBS 45 & 49**

*First Episode, **The Day Marilyn Died**,  
to Premiere on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 10 p.m.*

KENT, Ohio — Dec. 17, 2007 — PBS 45 & 49 presents **The Day Marilyn Died**, the premiere episode of a new eight-part media series, **Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland**, produced by Storytellers Media Group, of Lakewood. It will air exclusively on PBS 45 & 49 on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 10 p.m., and will repeat on Saturday, Dec. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 30 at 12:30 a.m.

The production focuses solely on events leading up to the story that Cleveland physician Sam Sheppard told investigators about the early morning hours of Independence Day 1954, when his wife was found murdered in their Bay Village home. Advances in blood spatter evidence and close reexamination of what was found the day of Marilyn Sheppard's murder — and what was not found — strongly suggest what police, prosecutors, newspapers and the public suspected from the beginning: they got the right man.

The program includes interviews with O'Donnell and with writers Dick Feagler and Brent Larkin, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason and Bay Village retired policeman Fred Drenkhan, the first officer to arrive at the murder scene.

The **Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland** series is based largely on O'Donnell's memoir, *Front Page Girl* (The Kent State University Press, 2006). "Few print reporters have known Cleveland as well or for as long as Doris O'Donnell Beaufait," said Mark Wade Stone, producer/director of the series. "She beat the pavement and reported the daylights out of a city on the make and on the move."

The series features the journalist's firsthand recollections of incidents including the Glenville and Hough riots, Cleveland's "golden age of print" and O'Donnell's swing with the Cleveland Indians in 1957. The next three programs will air monthly beginning in March on PBS 45 & 49 and also will be available for download on Storytellers' Web site, [www.storytellersmediagroup.com](http://www.storytellersmediagroup.com), following their premieres. The last four episodes will air in the fall of 2008.

When O'Donnell began writing for the Cleveland papers in 1937, female reporters were rare and always wore white gloves. In a career that spanned half a century, O'Donnell jockeyed with male reporters for scoops on the police beat and maneuvered her way through riot-torn streets. She breached the Iron Curtain in the early days of the Cold War and prowled the streets of Los Angeles on the trail of the gun used to kill Robert Kennedy.

O'Donnell worked for the Cleveland News, The Cleveland Plain Dealer and a number of smaller papers in between, and at one time handled public relations for Mayor Ralph J. Perk as well as for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

She was niece to the county sheriff, daughter of a Democratic Party ward leader, friend to the county coroner, and the wife of another of Cleveland's prominent journalists, Howard Beaufait.

Others interviewed for the series include photographer Tony Tomsic, writer Russ Schneider, Indians veteran Bob DiBiasio and city council legend George Forbes. Author James Jessen Badal hosts each episode.

Major funding support for the series is provided by the Allegheny Foundation.

#### **About Storytellers Media Group, Ltd.**

Storytellers Media Group, Ltd. is a multimedia company based in Lakewood, Ohio. Producers Mark Stone and Gary Manke, along with director of photography David Brodowski, have produced educational and entertainment media in the northeast Ohio market since 2002. In September 2005, Storytellers received a regional Emmy Award for the musical score of the 2004 true-crime documentary **Dusk and Shadow – The Mystery of Beverly Potts**, about the unsolved disappearance of an 11-year-old Cleveland girl from a neighborhood park in August 1951. Other productions by the company include **The Fourteenth Victim – Eliot Ness and the Torso Murders** and the newly released series **Doris O'Donnell's Cleveland**.

#### **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](http://www.pbs4549.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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