

FACT SHEET

TITLE: **THE LAST EMPEROR**
[TV-PG] [Stereo] [CC]

LENGTH: 1/150

NOLA CODE: LAEM

CATEGORY: Feature Film

OFFERED: January 2008

EXPECTED RELEASE: April 1, 2008

CONTRACT TERMS: Four runs to be completed by November 30, 2008.
A run is defined as 2 airings in 24 hours.

PROGRAM SUPPLIER: Image Entertainment

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: **THE LAST EMPEROR** is an Academy Award-winning biography about Pu Yi, the last emperor of China. Written by Mark Peploe and co-written and directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, **THE LAST EMPEROR** received nine Oscars and was voted Best Picture in 1987. The film opens in 1950 with Pu Yi's re-entry into the just-proclaimed People's Republic of China. He is a prisoner and war criminal, captured when the Soviet Union entered the Pacific War in 1945. Pu Yi attempts suicide which only renders him unconscious, and in a flashback, he relives his first entry into the Forbidden City. Pu Yi's remarkable story is told through a series of chronological flashbacks beginning with his early life and upbringing in the Forbidden City, his brother's childish challenge to his status of Emperor and his arranged marriage. In the flash-forward to his prison life, Pu Yi is interrogated and shown newsreels of Japanese war crimes in Manchuria and the defeat of Japan, and he realizes his need to assume responsibility for his complicity in Japanese atrocities. The film stars John Lone as Pu Yi and also features Joan Chen, Peter O'Toole and Ric Young.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: Use above description for guide listings. A press release will be posted to PBS Connect and APTonline.org. Color photography will be available via email and will also be posted on APTonline.org.

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BROADCAST HISTORY: Cable

RELATED MERCHANDISE: DVD is available from Image Entertainment.

Pledge: The DVD is available for station pledge at special station pricing. Stations interested in pledging THE LAST EMPEROR should contact Forest Incentives directly.

VIEWER INQUIRIES: www.image-entertainment.com

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PRESS RELEASE

The Tumultuous Story of China's Last Dynasty Explored in Bertolucci's Masterpiece THE LAST EMPEROR

*"...a magnificent journey into another time and place ... nothing can top the spectacle of life in the
Forbidden City, or the twists of fate that fill Pu Yi's life."*

- Leonard Maltin

THE LAST EMPEROR is an epic, award-winning drama that takes the viewer on a breathtaking journey through the turbulent history of China in the 20th century. This critically acclaimed feature film, distributed by American Public Television, will air on public television stations nationwide beginning April 1, 2008.

THE LAST EMPEROR is the remarkable story of Pu Yi (John Lone), the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty, whose life paralleled China's transformation from an empire into a Communist republic. The film, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci (*Last Tango in Paris*), won nine Oscars at the 1987 Academy Awards including Best Picture and Director.

The film begins in 1950 when an adult Pu Yi returns to China as a prisoner after decades of exile. Having been captured by the Soviet Union during World War II, he is placed in the hands of the newly formed People's Republic of China, which accuses him of being a war criminal. The film explores Pu Yi's life through a series of flashbacks, beginning with his coronation at the age of 3 in 1908 and his sheltered childhood in the Forbidden City.

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Put in the charge of a Scottish tutor, Reginald Johnston (Peter O'Toole), the child emperor begins to grow and learn about the outside world. As he grows older, he begins to reform the Forbidden City, until he is unexpectedly exiled to Japan by the army of General Chiang Kai-shek. Pu Yi attempts to rebuild his empire in Manchuria, desperately trying to hold on to the last remnants of China's royal rule as the Soviet armies invade.

Featuring Academy Award-winning cinematography, set design, art direction and original music, **THE LAST EMPEROR** is an unforgettable, timeless film classic.

THE LAST EMPEROR, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci and produced by Jeremy Thomas, was acquired from Image Entertainment by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

About American Public Television

With more than 10,000 hours of programming in its library, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations for 47 years, distributing more than 300 new program titles per year. APT milestones include distribution of the first HD series on public television and the 2006 launch of Create™ – the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. Known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming, APT has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *Carreras Domingo Pavarotti in Concert*, *Winged Migration*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Great Museums*, *Jacques Pépin: Fast Food My Way*, *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Broadway: The Golden Age*, *Lidia's Family Table*, *California Dreamin' – The Songs of The Mamas & the Papas*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *The Big Comfy Couch*, *Monarchy With David Starkey*, and other prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.