

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** **THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY**  
[TV-PG] [CC] [Stereo]

**LENGTH:** 4/52

**NOLA CODE:** WIRD

**CATEGORY:** Biography

**OFFERED:** Summer 2007, page S13

**EXPECTED RELEASE:** February 1, 2008

**CONTRACT TERMS:** Eight releases to be completed by January 31, 2010. A release is defined as unlimited use within seven days.

**PROGRAM SUPPLIER:** History Television International, Ltd.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY explores the turbulent reign of England's Windsor family, the most prestigious monarchy in the world. This in-depth series illuminates the storied history of the Windsors, who have held the English throne for nearly a century. The family has persevered through two World Wars, the scandalous affair between Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles, and the tragic death of Princess Diana to lead England into the new millennium. The first three parts of the series chronicle the tumultuous lives of the ruling family from 1917 to the present, and the fourth part, entitled "The 1947 Royal Wedding," is a newly produced special on the nuptials of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in 1947. The fourth part, featuring rare color footage from their wedding day, can be programmed with the series or as a stand-alone special.

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**PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:** A press kit, including a fact sheet, episode listings and press release will be posted to PBS Connect and to [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). Color and B&W photography is available via email and will also be posted to [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). All press kits will be posted to [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org) and PBS Connect approximately three weeks from date of Contract Confirmation notice. If you need materials sooner or have questions, please contact Mike Nadeau at ext. 150.

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**BROADCAST HISTORY:** U.S. TV Premiere

**RELATED MERCHANDISE:** There is no DVD available.

Pledge: If you are interested in pledging this program and need assistance with premiums, please contact Kerry Taylor at 617-338-4455, ext. 121.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Go Inside the Tumultuous History of England's Ruling Family in  
THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY**

Struggling and succeeding through warfare, prosperity, death, spectacle, adultery, divorce and scandal, the Windsor dynasty has controlled the throne of England for nearly a century, becoming the public face of the world's most famous monarchy.

**THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY**, distributed by American Public Television, explores the tragedies and triumphs of this great family, chronicling the ups and downs of the kings, queens, princes and princesses who have guided England through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Using rare and exclusive footage of the family, **THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY**, airing on public television stations nationwide beginning February 1, 2008 spins a rich tale of intriguing and scandalous personalities. The entire history of the Windsors is detailed, beginning with King George V's dramatic decision to change the ruling family's name in tribute to the famous royal home of Windsor Castle. There were moments of triumph; under King George V and his son, George VI, the Windsors led England through the First and Second World Wars. Queen Elizabeth became one of the country's longest-reigning monarchs,

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traveling the world to adoring crowds and celebrating the “Golden Jubilee” of her 50th year in power in 2002.

The family was touched with moments of immense scandal and unbelievable tragedy. Prince Edward famously abdicated the throne for the love of an American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. Prince Charles and Diana divorced and faced a media firestorm after reports of their various affairs, and the country was left heartbroken after Diana’s 1997 death in a car accident. Diana’s son, Prince Harry, faced heavy criticism for wearing a Nazi uniform to a costume party.

Featuring a rollicking, century-spanning soundtrack, **THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY** is a fascinating look at the world’s last true monarchy.

**THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY** was acquired from History Television International, Ltd. by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations nationwide.

**About American Public Television**

For 46 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation’s public television stations. APT distributes more than 300 new program titles per year and has 10,000 hours of programming in its library. It is responsible for many public television milestones including the first HD series and the 2006 launch of the Create channel featuring the best of public television’s lifestyle programming. APT is known for its leadership in identifying innovative, worthwhile and viewer-friendly programming. It has established a tradition of providing public television stations with program choices that strengthen and customize their schedules, such as *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 and classic movies. Press should contact Mike Nadeau at 617-338-4455 ext. 150 or email [Mike\\_Nadeau@APTonline.org](mailto:Mike_Nadeau@APTonline.org). For more information about APT’s programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

## EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS

### THE WINDSORS: A ROYAL DYNASTY

#### Episode 1: The First Windsors, 1911 - 1936

King George V was a shy man who became monarch by accident. He lacked charisma, but with his generous heart and loyal wife, Queen Mary, he eventually won over his people. Prince Edward, his son and heir, was handsome, charming, and a natural communicator who loved modernity (he was everything his father wasn't). Prince Albert (Bertie), George and Mary's second son, was even more shy and modest than his father. He reluctantly became king when Edward neglected his royal duty for the love of a woman, Wallis Simpson. The abdication would nearly bring the House of Windsor to its knees.

#### Episode 2: The King Who Saved the Crown, 1936 - 1952 [Note: Title revised 1/2/08]

Edward's abdication was the worst possible news for his younger brother, Bertie, Duke of York. Happily married with two young daughters, he longed for a quiet country life. Now, duty compelled him to be King. On May 12, 1937, he was crowned George VI (taking his father's name for continuity). The remarkable strength of his vivacious wife, Elizabeth (The future Queen Mum), helped him find a new confidence and poise. World War II and the blitz that threatened to destroy London revealed him as a modest but unwavering hero. Also in this episode, we meet the two young princesses. The 10-year-old Elizabeth, on her father's coronation, becomes the new heir to the throne. She marries Prince Philip in 1947 and has two children, Charles and Anne. On June 2, 1953 she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II. The House of Windsor was in safe hands (and still is!)

#### Episode 3: The Second Elizabethan Age [Note: Title updated 1/15/08]

The episode begins with Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne in 1952. Her glamorous sister, Margaret, finally decides to settle down and pins her heart on the divorcee Peter Townsend. The public loved this fairytale story of a beautiful princess being in love with the dashing war hero. The Queen and the constitution did not. Margaret was given an ultimatum; Townsend or her titles and privileges – she chose the latter. In 1981 The Queen's son and heir, Prince Charles, after a succession of missed chances, finally married the right girl (or so we thought at the time), a certain Lady Diana Spencer. As the 80's progress the Windsor Dynasty reaches crisis point. Princess Anne is the first to break her marriage vows when she divorces fellow equestrian, Mark Phillips. Other royals follow. Prince Charles' cover is blown (it's confirmed that he's had a mistress for most of his marriage to Diana). The crowning humiliation came in the early 90s when Diana master-minded a terrible frank biography of her miserable years as Charles' wife. Windsor Castle went up in flames. 1992 would be The Queen's 'Annus Horribilis'. The worst was still to come. Diana's death would leave two young princes, William and Harry, without a mother and a family and country in a state of shock.

The new century would see the incredible recovery of public goodwill, from The Queen's Golden Jubilee to her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, to the happy marriage of Charles and Camilla and to the emergence of the new generation Princes William and Harry.

**Episode 4: The 1947 Royal Wedding: The People's Wedding [Note: Title updated 1/2/08]**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1947, Princess Elizabeth, the heir to the throne, married Prince Philip, the handsome sailor she'd loved since their first meeting eight years before (when he'd been a dashing cadet and she a shy 13 year old). Their wedding in a bleak English autumn lit up the grey skies of a London still scarred by the blitz, rationing and fuel shortages and transformed the national mood of weary disappointment. The wedding, when it finally came, was more than just a spectacular royal event. It brought back memories of pomp and splendor unseen in Britain since the coronation of Elizabeth's father, George VI, 10 years earlier. The day a future queen married her prince became an emotional milestone for the nation, marking the end of 'austerity Britain' and the beginning of a better world. The story follows the lives of Elizabeth and Philip, from their first public appearance as a couple in October 1946 (at the wedding of Lady Patricia Mountbatten), through to their own wedding in late November of 1947. This special features exclusive interviews and rare archival footage.