

D-DAY 360 Takes Advantage of Cutting-edge Technology to Re-create Historic Invasion

Premieres Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET on PBS



*Reconstruction of scene showing two Germans firing an MG 42 machine gun at the troops on the beaches.
Credit: Jonathan Howells/Windfall Films*

ARLINGTON, VA; PBS, in conjunction with Windfall Films, announced today the broadcast of **D-Day 360** as part of a special month of programming on PBS honoring the 70th anniversary of the historic event. The program, airing Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET, with an encore Monday, June 2, 2014, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET, re-creates the landscape and uses fresh new data-driven and statistical tools to tell the story of one of the greatest invasions in history.

After two years on the drawing board, D-Day was the most meticulously planned operation in military history—a logistical effort on a scale never seen before or since. On June 6, 1944, 3,000 planes dropped 23,000 airborne troops behind German lines, and 7,000 ships delivered around 20,000 military vehicles and 130,000 allied soldiers, who stormed five heavily defended French beaches in an all-or-nothing assault on Nazi occupied Europe. Once on the shore, the troops had to negotiate two million mines buried in the sand, 46,000 fearsome beach obstacles and hundreds of miles of barbed wire, while dodging the shells and bullets fired by 40,000 German defenders.

Focusing on the most important strip of Omaha beach that day—the exit at Vierville-sur-Mer—**D-DAY 360** strips D-Day back to its raw data to reveal how the odds of victory, in the greatest gamble of World War II, swung on what happened over a five-hour period on a five mile stretch of French coastline.

Data gathered through forensic laser scanning, 3D computer modeling and eye-witness accounts bring the battlefield to life as never before. The film takes advantage of light detection and ranging technology, or LiDAR, to re-create the landscape and allow viewers to switch effortlessly between the macro and the micro—pulling back for the big picture and zooming in to a close-up of a single soldier on the battlefield. It's a new approach and perspective that tells the story with details never before available.

"We're thrilled that PBS' concept for this film has been brought to life so convincingly by Windfall Films," said Bill Gardner, Vice President of Programming and Development, PBS. "The combination of amazing graphics and innovative statistics in D-DAY 360 shines a new light on this historic battle. Additionally, PBS will air a special line-up of WWII and other military related programs that analyze the impact of war throughout the month of May."

"D-Day was a logistical effort on a scale never seen before or since and its ambition and scope are reflected in the cutting-edge use of technology pioneered in this film," says Ian Duncan, film director and Creative Director of Windfall Films. "Conveying the sheer scale of the D-Day operation is at the heart of our radical approach to the graphics."

Produced by Glenn Swift and directed by Ian Duncan for Windfall Films, **D-DAY 360** is part of a series of new and encore programs airing on PBS this spring that will focus on unique aspects of World War II.

Also airing as part of this PBS special lineup is NAZI MEGA WEAPONS, a three-part series that uncovers the engineering secrets of iconic megastructures, on Wednesdays, April 30-May 14, from 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET. Then, NOVA premieres "Escape From Nazi Alcatraz," May 14, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET and rebroadcasts "Bombing Hitler's Dams" on May 21, 9:00-11:00 p.m. ET. On May 20, at 9:00 p.m. ET, PBS will premiere ESCAPE FROM A NAZI CAMP, which explores the most successful prison revolt of the war. To conclude, NOVA will premiere "D-Day's Sunken Secrets" on May 28, 9:00-11:00pm ET. On May 25, PBS will air NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT, which includes a D-Day tribute, at 8:00-9:30 pm ET, with an immediate encore from 9:30-11:00 pm ET.

D-DAY 360 will be available for pre-order on shop.pbs.org starting Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

About Windfall Films

Over 25 years, Windfall Films has established an international reputation as a producer of innovative television programs. Windfall has applied its distinctive style and meticulous standards to a range of genres, including science, social and history documentaries, fact-based dramas and original format shows. Formed in 1988 by three ex-BBC producers, David Dugan, Ian Duncan and Oliver Morse, Windfall Films continues to set the standard for serious programming in the UK. www.windfallfilms.com

About PBS

[PBS](#), with its over 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches nearly 109 million people through television and over 28 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS' broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. PBS' premier children's TV programming and its website, [pbskids.org](#), are parents' and teachers' most trusted partners in inspiring and nurturing curiosity and love of learning in children. More information about PBS is available at [www.pbs.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the Internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS PressRoom on Twitter](#).