

Classic Film from The Beatles on NET Television

Released in 1967, The Beatles film “Magical Mystery Tour” was arguably ahead of its time, with a mostly improvised and loosely plotted script based around a surreal dreamlike coach trip to an unknown destination. On Friday, Dec. 14, on NET1 and NET-HD, “Great Performances” presents a documentary look at the making of the film, followed by a fully restored broadcast of the original Beatles film.

Airing at 9:30 p.m. CT, “Magical Mystery Tour Revisited” chronicles the behind-the-scenes story of the making of the film and provides context for “the summer of love” era that set the scene for its production. This greatest Beatles story never told is packed with unseen footage and features contributions from Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Martin Scorsese, Peter Fonda and Terry Gilliam, among others.

Produced at the peak of Beatlemania in 1967, “Magical Mystery Tour” is the least known of the various films starring the Beatles. It was never theatrically released or nationally broadcast on U.S. television, receiving only sporadic TV syndication in the 1980s.

Following at 10:30 p.m. CT is “The Beatles’ Magical Mystery Tour,” fully restored and presented properly for the first time, the film emerges from the shadows and onto the screen.

The film is a showcase for six classic tracks including “I Am the Walrus,” “The Fool on the Hill” and “Your Mother Should Know” and features John, Paul, George and Ringo as themselves. On the coach trip, they’re joined for a series of episodic misadventures by a cast of eccentric characters, including Auntie Jessie, tour director Jolly Jimmy Johnson, tour hostess Miss Wendy Winters and conductor Buster Bloodvessel.

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RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Larry L. Kubert, 402-472-9333, ext. 389, or e-mail at lkubert@netNebraska.org