

Produced by Walter Bernard and Neil Leifer
Directed by Neil Leifer



PORTRAITS OF A LADY

Executive Producer David Hume Kennerly

Portraits of A Lady records the October 10, 2006 painting session with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the next day as painting continued from photographs taken by David Hume Kennerly. This film reveals the charm and wit of Justice O'Connor, as she tells stories and interacts with the artists. It listens in on the instructions and comments by the groups maestros, David Levine and Aaron Shikler. And it shows the progress of the paintings from first brush stroke to finish as 25 artists attempt a daunting task: a one-day 'premier coup', a 'first impression' that will allow them to complete a portrait.

Marc Pachter leads a tour of the National Portrait Gallery's outstanding American portraits, and we visit the Supreme Court to view the masterful portraits of past justices. The film ends with the National Portrait Gallery's March 27, 2007 opening night reception for the 25 portraits of Justice O'Connor who will be the guest of honor that night.

The National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery tells the stories of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture.

Through the visual arts, performing arts and new media, the gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists who speak American history.

The National Portrait Gallery was established by an act of Congress in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968. The museum's collection of nearly 20,000 works ranges from paintings and sculpture to photographs and drawings. The National Portrait Gallery is housed in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F streets Northwest, Washington, D.C.

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