



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library
Poughkeepsie Public Library District
Home of FDR National Historic Site
present**

**The Making of
America's First River: Bill Moyers on the Hudson
Film Excerpts and Discussion
with the film's director Tom Spain**

**Sunday, April 5, 2009
2:00 p.m.**

HYDE PARK, NY -- On Sunday April 5, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and the Home of FDR National Historic Site will present a special program with Tom Spain, director of *America's First River: Bill Moyers on the Hudson*. Mr. Spain will show excerpts of the film and talk about his work on the project. This is a free public event. Seating is first-come, first served.

A waterway of ethereal beauty and vast commercial utility, the Hudson River has been both a precious medium for communing with nature and a convenient sewer for industrial waste. Over the course of this captivating two-part series, *America's First River: Bill Moyers on the Hudson*, Moyers explores the dramatic history, complex ecology, profound natural beauty, and far-reaching legacy of the Hudson, a powerful symbol of the nation's conflict between its deep love of nature and its relentless desire for development. Archival film, photos, paintings, engravings, journal entries, book excerpts, and breathtaking location footage illustrate the many faces of the Hudson while

historians, environmentalists, and others explain how colliding agendas have combined to shape the story of America's first river.

Tom Spain is admired locally for his 2003 film production titled, *Rendezvous with History* -- an introductory film about Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt that plays in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home.

Spain is from Morristown, New Jersey. He studied English Literature at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He first worked with Bill Moyers on *The Fire Next Door*, the emmy-winning CBS Reports film made in 1977. He went on to direct *Anyplace But Here* for CBS Reports, and the film won three Emmys: for writing, directing and cinematography. For NBC, Spain produced, wrote and directed a series of films with Tom Brokaw including *To Be a Doctor*, *The Changing West* and *To Be an American*, which won a Peabody Award for NBC. He and his wife, Linda, produced a 90-minute special for PBS's *The American Experience* titled, *If You Knew Sousa*. The Spains went on to produce the widely-acclaimed 3-hour PBS special, *America In the Forties*, the feature documentary, *Saturdays at Reubens* and the two-hour PBS premier special, *America's First River: Bill Moyers on the Hudson*.

Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about this event. This program is one of many Hudson River Valley Quadricentennial events celebrating the 400th anniversary of the pioneering voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamboat journey up the Hudson River.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

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