

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

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WASHINGTON, D. C. October 8, 1969. The opening program of Civilisation, Kenneth Clark's B. B. C. television view of the major cultural accomplishments of the Western world, will have its American premiere in the auditorium of the National Gallery of Art, it was announced today by J. Carter Brown, Director.

Following the premiere, for an invited audience on Monday evening, October 27, the complete thirteen-program series will be shown to the public in two-hour segments at the National Gallery at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday from November 2 through December 14.

The series is described by its author-narrator as not simply another history of art, but "the moments when the poor human race took two struggling steps up."

His "autobiography," as Lord Clark refers to it, took him and his cameras from the Hebrides to the Mediterranean, from Ravenna in Europe to Monticello in Virginia, covering 80,000 miles in eleven countries. Using works of art, music, and architecture to illuminate the narrative, he has charted a course through the ideas and events that have led Western civilization from the collapse of Rome to the present century.

No other television program of its kind has evoked the acclaim accorded to Civilisation. After its premiere in Britain last year, the London Times reported: "In a brilliant way, Sir Kenneth Clark

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and the B. B. C. have, between them disproved the cheerless thoughts which Sir Kenneth expressed only two and a half years ago. He then thought that television's characteristic tone... was apt to exclude solemn topics...to cut off its audience from some of the greatest achievements of the human spirit. How pleasant for him to prove himself wrong."

In the opening statement Lord Clark observes: "If I had to say which was telling the truth about society, a speech by a Minister of Housing or the actual buildings put up in his time, I should believe the buildings."

According to the B. B. C., there are no plans at present to show Civilisation on American television.

There will be no reserved seats for the National Gallery public showings, which are scheduled as follows:

November 2: The Skin of our Teeth

November 9: The Great Thaw & Romance and Reality

November 16: Man-the measure of all things & The Hero as Artist

November 23: Protest and Communication & Grandeur and Obedience

November 30: The Light of Experience & The Pursuit of Happiness

December 7: The Smile of Reason & The Worship of Nature

December 14: The Fallacies of Hope & Heroic Materialism

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