



Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel
A GPB Original Premiering Thursday, June 30, 2011 at 8 PM

Margaret Mitchell was no ordinary writer. The one book she published in her lifetime – *Gone With the Wind* – sold millions of copies at the height of the Great Depression in America and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1937. Currently, with over 30 million copies sold, it is one of the world's best-selling novels. Equally impressive, the film adaptation of *Gone With the Wind* broke all box office records when it premiered in 1939, and received 10 Academy Awards.

But who was the creator behind two of the world's greatest lovers – Scarlett and Rhett – and the tumultuous romance that left book readers and film viewers wondering about their final fate together in one of storytelling's most talked about cliffhangers? She was certainly no ordinary woman either.

Tune in **Thursday, June 30 at 8 PM** for the premiere of **Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel**, a GPB Original film capturing the extraordinary life of author Margaret Mitchell on the 75th anniversary of the publication of her landmark book, *Gone With the Wind*.

Born in Atlanta in 1900, Margaret Mitchell was a force to be reckoned with until a tragic accident led to her untimely death in 1949 – a debutante who challenged society with a brazen dance; a reporter who roamed town when tradition called for women to stay at home; and a philanthropist who risked her life in the name of generosity.

"Margaret Mitchell was always a writer and always a rebel," says Pamela Roberts, executive producer, director and writer for **Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel**. "She was captivating and complex. She took chances every day of her life, and she changed the world with her one book, *Gone With the Wind*. Only Margaret Mitchell could have created Scarlett O'Hara."

As a debutante from Atlanta's upper crust, Mitchell challenged the stifling social restrictions placed on women at the time. She was one of Georgia's first female newspaper reporters and used the money she made from *Gone With the Wind* to fund many causes, including the education of the South's first African-American medical doctors.

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Mitchell had a charismatic personality and a great sense of humor, but she also dealt with depression and illness. Setbacks in her early life included the loss of her mother and her fiancé as a teenager. A failed first marriage followed, but in spite of all that, she found her soulmate in her second husband, John Marsh, and with his support she wrote *Gone With the Wind*.

Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel engages leading historians, biographers and people with personal connections to Mitchell to reveal a complex and mysterious woman who experienced profound identity shifts in her life and who struggled with the two great issues of her day – the changing role of women and the liberation of African-Americans.

Featured interviews with leading writers include Pat Conroy, Pearl Cleage, and the late Reynolds Price. Featured biographers and historians include Molly Haskell (*Frankly My Dear: Gone With the Wind Revisited*); John Wiley (*Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind*); and Emory University film historian Matthew Bernstein (*Selznick's March: Gone With the Wind Comes to White Atlanta*) among others.

Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel also includes interviews with people who had a personal connection to her, including friends Sara Mitchell Parsons, Mary Clarke and Hal Clarke Sr., a law partner of Mitchell's brother Stephens who ran the Mitchell Estate for many years, and Paul Anderson Sr., a law partner of Stephens Mitchell and Hal Clarke who also ran the Mitchell Estate.

Executive producer Pamela Roberts shot extensive reenactment pieces for the film based on Mitchell's personal letters. The reenactments trace Mitchell throughout her life, starting as a young child at age three, and show how *Gone With the Wind* was influenced by Mitchell's upbringing.

Finally, **Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel** examines Mitchell and *Gone With the Wind's* cultural impact. For some the work was a racial lightning rod, while for others it proved a model for survival.

Tune in for Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel, premiering Thursday, June 30 at 8 PM on GPB.

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Featured Interviews

Biographers/Historians

Darden Asbury Pyron – *Southern Daughter/The Life of Margaret Mitchell and the Making of Gone With the Wind*

Marianne Walker – *Margaret Mitchell and John Marsh: The Love Story Behind Gone With the Wind*

Molly Haskell – *Frankly My Dear: Gone With the Wind Revisited*
(film historian)

John Wiley – *Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind*, also edits the quarterly *Scarlett Letter*

Ira Joe Johnson - *Benjamin E. Mays and Margaret Mitchell: A Unique Legacy in Medicine*

Robert Franklin – President of Morehouse College relating the Mays/Mitchell story

Debra Freer – edited a novella by Mitchell: *Lost Laysen/Margaret Mitchell*

Matthew Bernstein – Emory University film historian: *Selznick's March: Gone With the Wind Comes to White Atlanta*

Kathleen Clark - UGA historian writing a book on Margaret Mitchell

Clifford Kuhn – Georgia State University historian relating the history of Atlanta

Ann Boutwell – Docent at the Margaret Mitchell House Museum and local historian

(More...)

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Writers/Novelists/Literary Experts

Pat Conroy – Novelist/wrote introduction to latest edition of *Gone With the Wind*, his 2010 *My Reading Life* devotes a chapter to *Gone With the Wind*

Pearl Cleage – Novelist/poet/playwright

Reynolds Price – Duke University creative writing teacher/novelist and member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters

Elizabeth West – Georgia State University English professor specializing in African-American literature and studies

People who knew Margaret Mitchell or have a personal connection

Sara Mitchell Parsons - Friend of Mitchell in Atlanta (not related to MM)

Bill Troost - descendant of John Marsh, in 2008 received the honor on Mitchell's behalf for her role in rebuilding Vimoutiers, a town devastated by friendly fire during World War Two

Carolyn Miller – daughter of Mitchell's lifelong arch rival Anne Hart Equen

Dorothy Tullos – descendant of inn owners at St. Simon's Island where Mitchell went to escape fame and her dangerous husband Red Upshaw

Hal Clarke Sr. – law partner of Mitchell's brother Stephens – ran the Mitchell Estate for many years

Mary Clarke – friend of Margaret Mitchell, wife of Hal Clarke Sr.

Paul Anderson Sr – law partner of Stephens Mitchell and Hal Clarke who also ran the Mitchell Estate which is today executed by his son Paul Anderson Jr.

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Reenactments

1. Little's MM's dress catches on fire – MM age 3
Marietta, historic home of Larry Zenoni
MM played by 3 year-old Lucy Zornes
2. Running in field with boys clothes on– MM becomes “Jimmy” at 3
Oakton, oldest home in Marietta, home of Michelle and Will Goodman
MM played by 3 year-old Lucy Zornes
3. Front porch scene with Confederate vet – MM at 3-4
Oakton, oldest home in Marietta, home of Michelle and Will Goodman
MM played by 3 year-old Lucy Zornes, veteran played by Harper Harris
4. Ride to Jonesboro with Maybelle – MM at 6
Steadfast Farms, Hoschton, GA, owned by Ada and Jack Spruill
MM played by 6 year-old Abby Zornes, Maybelle played by Jennifer Lindskoog
5. Writing in garden (several scenes) – MM at 6-9
Oakton, oldest home in Marietta, home of Michelle and Will Goodman
MM played by Abby Zornes
6. Suffragist meeting with Maybelle/MM at 9 on staircase
Historic Trammell House, Marietta, home of Doug Frey and Rachel Bowen
MM played by Abby Zornes
7. MM dances as flapper with partner – MM at 18
Rhodes Hall, Atlanta, Home of the Georgia Trust
MM played by Nadia Mara of the Atlanta Ballet
MM's partner played by Jesse Tyler of the Atlanta Ballet
8. MM lies depressed in her bedroom – MM at 19
Victorian home in Candler Park, home of Jennifer Greene
MM played by Katie Leslie, AJC reporter
9. MM's mother Maybelle in church, praying, kneels at altar
Northside Drive Baptist Church

Maybelle played by Karen Nuckols

(More...)

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10. MM has derringer on bedside table (after leaving Red Upshaw)
Victorian home in Candler Park, home of Jennifer Greene
MM played by Katie Leslie

11. MM on crutches w/ hurt leg – MM at 23
Victorian home in Candler Park, home of Jennifer Greene
MM played by Katie Leslie

12. John Marsh (JM), MM's husband, carries library books home to MM
Candler Park historic neighborhood
John Marsh played by Jesse Tyler

13. MM writes GWTW at the Dump – MM in her mid-20s
Victorian home in Candler Park, home of Jennifer Greene
MM played by Katie Leslie

14. JM helps edit GWTW at the Dump – MM in background
Victorian home in Candler Park, home of Jennifer Greene
MM played by Katie Leslie, JM played by Jesse Tyler

15. MM frantically gathers GWTW manuscript to give to publisher – MM in her 30s
Historic Palmer House, midtown Atlanta, home of Brittain and Elise Evans
MM played by Rachel Bowen

16. MM writes letters after publication of GWTW + Bessie Jordan answers the phone
Historic Palmer House, midtown Atlanta, home of Brittain and Elise Evans
MM played by Rachel Bowen, Bessie Jordan played by Cassandra Ryan

17. Church scene/Pulitzer Prize night, May 1937
Northside Drive Baptist Church
MM played by Rachel Bowen, JM played by Wayne Petty, Bessie Jordan played by
Cassandra Ryan, Harold Latham played by Gerald Duckworth

18. 3 women barge in on MM putting cold cream on her face
Historic Palmer House, midtown Atlanta, home of Brittain and Elise Evans
MM played by Rachel Bowen, 3 women played by Brenda Constan, Judy Cutchins and
Cathy Smith

(More...)

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19. MM leaves the apartment with suitcase packed trying to escape publicity
Historic Palmer House, midtown Atlanta, home of Brittain and Elise Evans
MM played by Rachel Bowen

20. MM gives check to Morehouse student
Whitlock Inn, Marietta, B&B owned by Nancy and Sandy Edwards
MM played by Rachel Bowen, Morehouse student played by Atavius Nelson

21. International editions/JM heart attack
Whitlock Inn, Marietta, B&B owned by Nancy and Sandy Edwards
John Marsh played by Wayne Petty

22. Movie watching scene
Whitlock Inn, Marietta, B&B owned by Nancy and Sandy Edwards
MM played by Rachel Bowen, JM played by Wayne Petty

23. GWTW manuscript is burned by JM after MM's death
Stately Oaks Historic Site, Jonesboro,
John Marsh played by Wayne Petty

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Bio For Pamela Roberts - Executive Producer, Director and Writer

Pamela Roberts is an award-winning documentary filmmaker at GPB. She received an Emmy in 2010 for her look at child abuse in "The Road Beyond Abuse," narrated by Jane Fonda. She examined inner city education in "Defying the Odds," which aired on PBS and was awarded the CINE Golden Eagle as well as "Best of Television" by the Society of Professional Journalists. Roberts also won an Emmy Award for her historical documentary set in 19th century Savannah: "Andrew Low: A Savannah Story".

But Roberts' first love is the arts, and from 2008 to 2009 she won three Emmys for her portrayal of Georgia artists within the series "State of the Arts" which she produced, wrote and directed for GPB. Upon learning of *Gone With the Wind's* 75th anniversary in 2011, Roberts decided to focus on its famous author, Margaret Mitchell: "When I discovered the incredible story of Margaret Mitchell, I knew she deserved much more than a segment within an arts show. She was captivating and complex. She took chances every day of her life, and she changed the world with her one book, *Gone With the Wind*."

Before coming to GPB Roberts produced programs for Turner Broadcasting in the "Portrait of America" series. As an independent producer she produced and directed two documentaries which aired on PBS: "Seeds of Survival," and "The Land of Cool Sun." She has also written and directed dramatizations for shows that aired nationally on NBC, including "Angels: The Mysterious Messengers" and "Ancient Prophecies".

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for Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel and Gone With the Wind 75th Anniversary
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Margaret Mitchell's Atlanta: An Audio Driving Tour