

KETC/Channel 9 Documentary Examines the Gateway Arch
Monumental Reflections Explores the Relationship Between St. Louis and Its Famous Monument

April 26, 2006—After more than 40 years as the centerpiece of St. Louis, the Gateway Arch has become more than an icon of the city. KETC/Channel 9 explores what the Arch means and how the meaning has evolved over time in the half-hour documentary *Monumental Reflections*, which premieres Monday, June 5 at 8:00 p.m. (Repeats Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, June 15 at 10:30 p.m.)

Framing the city with its simplicity, the Gateway Arch long ago became the symbol of the city. KETC producer Patrick Murphy takes a thoughtful approach in this documentary as he re-examines how the Arch has influenced our identity. He comments, “There have been a number of programs done about the Arch, but what I haven’t seen done is to ask the question: What does this monument mean? What was it supposed to mean and how has the meaning changed?”

Monumental Reflections shows the Arch from various perspectives, both visually and socially. Viewers will see the Arch from Cahokia at sunrise, and as it reflects in the glass buildings downtown. Murphy traveled to Michigan to gain insight on Arch designer Eero Saarinen, and to Oklahoma to talk with the chief of the Osage Indians about the Arch as a gateway West. Other people interviewed include a civil rights activist, construction workers who helped build the Arch, artists, architects and historians. Each interviewee shares a unique perspective of this seemingly simple structure.

“There really is a variety of different ways that we can interpret this world-class monument that’s sitting right in our front yard,” says Murphy. “The simplicity of the design allows people who experience it today, and a thousand years from now, to assign their own meaning to it.”

For viewers who don’t want to wait for the broadcast premiere of *Monumental Reflections*, there will be a public preview screening of the documentary at the Missouri Historical Society, Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park, on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion.