Presented by Morley Safer, 

**Treasures of New York: Park Avenue Armory**, premieres October 27, 2011 on WLIW21 and THIRTEEN

*Featuring Rebecca Robertson, Philip Glass, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, and Samuel White, the film celebrates the history and the rebirth of one of New York’s cultural gems.*

The Park Avenue Armory has reinvented itself into a visionary multimedia arts institution renowned worldwide. From the sublime installation of Ryoji Ikeda to the epic productions of the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Armory transcends both artists’ and audiences’ experiences and expectations. For the first time on film, WNET takes public television viewers inside this American landmark to discover its storied past and revolutionary future.

**Treasures of New York: Park Avenue Armory** premieres Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. (ET) on WLIW21 and at 8:30 p.m. (ET) on THIRTEEN, and Sunday, October 30 at 8 p.m. (ET) on NJTV (check local listings). THIRTEEN will continue its Thursday night of arts programming with a new *SundayArts* primetime special.

The series companion web site, [thirteen.org/treasures](http://thirteen.org/treasures), will be launched in conjunction with the broadcast. Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist Morley Safer (*60 Minutes*) serves as presenter. Featured interviewees include Rebecca Robertson, President and CEO of the Park Avenue Armory; Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, Pritzker Prize-winning design architects, Samuel White, architect and great grandson of Stanford White, one of the original designers; and Philip Glass, whose music will be celebrated at the Armory’s Tune-In Festival 2012.

This is the second installment of WNET’s *Treasures of New York* series about the City’s premier cultural establishments. After broadcast, the half-hour film will be available to national audiences for a limited time at [watch.thirteen.org](http://watch.thirteen.org).

**Treasures of New York: Park Avenue Armory** is a presentation of WLIW21 in association with WNET, the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21, New York’s public television stations and operator of NJTV. For nearly 50
years, WNET has been producing and broadcasting national and local documentaries and other programs for the New York community.

“Anyone who has visited the Park Avenue Armory knows how grand and spectacular the space is. But not many know its history and renewed vision,” says John Servidio, General Manager of WLIW21. “Treasures of New York once again profiles a hidden jewel in our great city and shares the secrets behind its magic.”

The Park Avenue Armory was built by the New York State’s prestigious Seventh Regiment of the National Guard. Members included New York’s most prominent Gilded Age families including the Roosevelts and Vanderbilts, among others. The Armory is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar makeover.

Treasures examines the painstaking restoration of two of the 18 period rooms as well as a look at the celebrated 19th-century rooms designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Stanford White.

The documentary showcases the Armory’s recent exhibitions including the critically acclaimed the transfinite by Ryoji Ikeda, the outsized reimagining of Leonardo’s Last Supper by Peter Greenaway, and rehearsals of one of the artist-in-residence, Shen Wei Dance Arts. The program goes behind the scenes at the performances of the Royal Shakespeare Company and treats viewers to time-lapse footage of the building and deconstructing of a full-scale Shakespearean theater inside the 50,000 square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall.

Major support for Treasures of New York: Park Avenue Armory is provided by The Thompson Family Foundation, Cheryl and Philip Milstein Family, and the Metropolitan Media Fund. The film is a WLIW21 production in association with WNET. Executive Producers are Diane Masciale and Marc Rosenwasser. Presenter is Morley Safer. Executive-in-Charge of Production is John Servidio.

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About WNET New York Public Media

WNET is America’s flagship public media outlet, bringing quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than five million viewers each week. The parent company of public television stations THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET produces such acclaimed PBS series as Great Performances, American Masters, Nature, Need to Know, Charlie Rose, Tavis Smiley and a range of documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as Get the Math, Noah Comprende and Cyberchase and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state’s unique culture and diverse communities through SundayArts, Reel 13, NJ Today and the new online newsmagazine MetroFocus.

About Park Avenue Armory

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory fills a critical void in the cultural ecology of New York by enabling artists to create, and the public to experience, unconventional work that could not otherwise be mounted in traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall – reminiscent of 19th-century European train stations – and array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory invites artists to draw upon its grand scale and distinctive character to both inspire and inform their work. For more information, visit armoryonpark.org.