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TV reviews

AMERICAN MASTERS: COMING TO LIGHT: EDWARD CURTIS AND THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

(PBS) 10 tonight

Photographer Edward Curtis' lifelong mission to capture and preserve the North American Indian culture is nothing if not fascinating. His tireless efforts and determination will leave one with a knowledge and appreciation for the American Indian that might not have otherwise existed.

This episode of "American Masters" chronicles Curtis' quest to photograph and film every North American Indian tribe. For-saking his wife, kids, career and livelihood, Curtis set out to see how Indians lived and survived. This documentary, with its legions of rich photographs, film footage, journal entries and the like, offers a comprehensive look at what Curtis found.

Producer-writer-director Anne Makepeace and executive producer Susan Lacy do a phenomenal job of providing an inside glimpse into the mind of Curtis and the Indians he studied, lived with and loved. Noted historians, biographers and scholars, providing exclusive commentary, also help make this docu an extraordinary piece of work. Bill Pullman provides the voice of Curtis, and Sheila Tousey makes a fine narrator.

Deborah Holmes