

November 19, 2020

“The Last Artifact” Airs Monday, Nov. 23 on MontanaPBS

A new MontanaPBS science documentary, *The Last Artifact*, follows the worldwide race to redefine the kilogram, and premieres in primetime on Monday, November 23 at 8pm.

Since the French Revolution, the way we weigh the world has been based on a small metallic cylinder about the diameter of a golf ball, located just outside of Paris inside a high-tech vault. Encased within three vacuum-sealed bell jars, it may not look like much, but it is one of the most important objects on the planet. Mass has historically been tied to this single metal artifact, but what happens when the weight of the world is redefined? This film tells the story of how the kilogram came to be, how it came to pass, and what the future holds.

“*The Last Artifact* film was made possible with a grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and in partnership with Montana State University and MontanaPBS,” said Aaron Pruitt, Executive Producer and Director and General Manager at MontanaPBS. “It has been fascinating to watch this incredible achievement in science along with our film progress and ultimately be distributed to viewers around the world.”

The Last Artifact is co-produced and directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmakers, and MSU film graduates, Jaime Jacobsen and Ed Watkins. The production team included many MSU film graduates; Rick Smith, Director of Photography; Parker Brown, Sound; and Stephanie Watkins, Editor, and Scott Sterling, Colorist.

The production team has already received five awards in 2020 for *The Last Artifact*, it has been included in over a dozen combined film festivals and conference screenings. The film is distributed by American Public Television (APT), the largest syndicator of programming for public television stations in the U.S. Additionally, PBS International is making the film available to cable and public television in international markets over the next five years.

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