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**The WGBH Lab, *Nova* and PBS Engage present “Life Stories” Open Call  
Media makers invited to submit completed video shorts inspired by *Nova*’s line-up  
of evolution themed programming**

[www.wgbh.org/lab](http://www.wgbh.org/lab)

In collaboration with *Nova* and PBS Engage, the WGBH Lab continues its seventh year with a new Open Call: “Life Stories.” Inspired by *Nova*’s spotlight programming on Darwin and evolution, this Open Call is a marriage of science and creativity. The Lab challenges the general public, independent media makers, and emerging talent to consider their own compelling perspectives or “life stories” to craft unique videos, and share their vision with the world.

When Charles Darwin looked at life, he saw that all living things are related – from the tiniest ant to the largest whale. In his view, everything alive today descended ultimately from one common ancestor, like relatives on a family tree. Is this beautiful or disturbing? Is life a battle for survival or a harmonious web? A fleeting chance to realize dreams? The Lab invites participants in this Open Lab to consider these questions, and more, as they bring their stories to life.

Entries should be in completed form and be no longer than three minutes in length. The Lab will post submissions and invite the public to vote for favorites. Final shorts will be featured online and may be broadcast on WGBH and other PBS stations nationwide. Details and entry information can be found at [wgbh.org/lab](http://wgbh.org/lab).

The *Nova* season kicks off in October with the first of three films, each approaching evolution in a different way and providing compelling background for the Open Call. “Darwin’s Darkest Hour,” presented by *Nova* and *National Geographic Television*, illustrates the extraordinary human drama that led to the birth of the most influential scientific theory of all time. Starring Henry Ian Cusick (*Lost*), who portrays Charles Darwin, the film brings to life the scientist’s greatest personal crisis: the decision over whether to “go public” with his theory of evolution. The program premieres on Tuesday, October 6 at 8pm on WGBH 2/HD.

*Nova* continues its celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Darwin’s birth and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his famous book, *The Origin of Species*, with the films “Becoming Human: Unearthing Our Earliest Ancestors” and “What Darwin Never Knew.” “Becoming Human” is a three-part series, premiering on-air and online Tuesday, November 3, 10, 17 at 8pm on WGBH 2/HD; “What Darwin Never Knew” premieres on Tuesday, December 29 at 8pm on WGBH 2/HD. For more information on the programs, please visit [www.pbs.org/nova](http://www.pbs.org/nova)



The WGBH Lab Sandbox, an open content library, allows media makers to use video clips to mash-up or remix to create a documentary or other creative piece. For the “Life Stories” Open Call, the Sandbox has available high-quality video clips related to the evolution theme, including 30 new assets from “Becoming Human.” Clips are shared under a creative commons license and are accessed at [lab.wgbh.org/sandbox](http://lab.wgbh.org/sandbox).

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### **About Nova**

Now in its 36th season, *Nova* is the most-watched primetime science series on American television, reaching an average of five million viewers weekly. The series remains committed to producing in-depth science programming in the form of hour-long (and occasionally longer) documentaries, from the latest breakthroughs in technology to the deepest mysteries of the natural world. It is produced for PBS by the WGBH Science Unit at WGBH Boston. The Director of the WGBH Science Unit and Senior Executive Producer of *Nova* is Paula S. Apsell.

Funding for *Nova* is provided by ExxonMobil, Pacific Life, David H. Koch, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and public television viewers.

Additional support for *Darwin's Darkest Hour* comes from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation has also contributed.

### **About PBS Engage**

PBS Engage is a project for experimentation and innovation with social media to help PBS, its member stations and producers use new technologies to better serve the public. The Engage project has been generously funded by the Knight Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

### **About WGBH**

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Arthur*, *Curious George* and more than a dozen other award-winning primetime, lifestyle and children's series. Boston's last remaining independent TV station, WGBH produces local TV productions (among them, *Greater Boston*, *Basic Black* and *María Hinojosa: One-on-One*) that focus on the region's diverse community, while WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston's NPR Arts & Culture station, offering a rich menu of classical, jazz, blues, news programming and more. WGBH is the leading producer of online content for [pbs.org](http://pbs.org)—one of the most-visited dot-org sites on the Internet—a major producer for public radio and a pioneer in developing educational multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for people with disabilities. For its efforts, WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. Visit WGBH on the Web at [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

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