Ken Burns Presents CANCER - The Emperor of All Maladies
77096 DVD
360 min SA 2015 Mcintyre Films
The story of the war on cancer spans centuries and continents. It is a scientific story, but also a deeply human one: of doctors, researchers, and especially patients who, through courage, suffering, and occasional hubris, pushed the boundaries of knowledge. These people helped define cancer as the scourge of the modern age, and then mobilized the federal government and private industry to wage an all-out campaign against it—a campaign we are still fighting. Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Siddhartha Mukherjee, tells the complete story of cancer, from its first description in an ancient Egyptian scroll to the gleaming laboratories of modern research institutions. At six hours, the film interweaves a sweeping historical narrative; with intimate stories about contemporary patients; and an investigation into the latest scientific breakthroughs that may have brought us, at long last, to the brink of lasting cures. 3 DVDs
No Other Versions Available

Understanding the Book of Life
75036 DVD
30 min IS 2008 Medicinema Ltd.
Reading the Book of Life was just the first step. The ultimate goal is to understand how it works. We are guided towards this new genetic horizon by Francis Collins and Craig Venter, the leaders of the two competing teams that first sequenced the human genome. The initial task is to separate out the genes from the other 98% or so of the genome that doesn’t code for proteins, no easy feat since the genes themselves are split into even smaller bits (exons), which are also surrounded by DNA noise. Three different gene finding techniques are explained. One method uses an RNA message to tag the gene that produced it. The next task is to work out the function of the proteins produced by these genes. Since many different proteins can be derived from the same gene, this a daunting long term project. Protein function is studied using experimental techniques such as site-directed mutagenesis, which is explained by its inventor, Canadian Nobel laureate Michael Smith. The holy grail of genomics is to program computers to predict the function of a protein from the sequence of its gene—still a distant goal. Another challenge will be to work out which genes act together in networks to produce a complex trait. A key tool in uncovering these networks is the gene chip, which is explained in a visual, easy to understand way.
No Other Versions Available

W5: The Ebola Plague
77014 DVD
20 min I 2014 Mcintyre Films
It can seem as odd as it is frightening, how a virus that can be killed with a bit of bleach can be such an implacable and deadly enemy once it gets inside a human body. There, it invades cells, making replicas of itself that invade other cells, eventually destroying organs and blood vessels. Death is not inevitable. But it is likely. With the Ebola virus spreading across the globe, Tom Kennedy investigates how prepared Canada is to deal with the deadly pathogen. West Africa is currently losing the battle against Ebola, so countries like Canada are getting ready to react to an outbreak of their own.
No Other Versions Available