



America ReFramed Acquires Four New Films Highlighting Activists and Artists Around the U.S.

Award-winning Series Continues Landmark Tenth Season With the Powerful Washington, DC Story

La Manpleza: An Uprising Remembered

October 6, 2022 on WORLD Channel

BOSTON, MA – August 30, 2022 – [America ReFramed](#), the Peabody award-winning documentary series co-produced by [WORLD Channel](#) and [American Documentary](#), announced the acquisition of ***La Manpleza: An Uprising Remembered, Kid Candidate, From Here, and Big Chief, Black Hawk*** that will premiere as part of its 2022-2023 lineup. Now in its tenth season, the series continues to strengthen its year-round slate with these four new titles that offer local perspectives on climate

change, immigration, and local elections, including stories from New York City, New Orleans, Washington, DC, and Amarillo, TX.

“Civic engagement lies at the heart of democracy, and America ReFramed is dedicated to elevating the stories of diverse activists creating change around the world,” said Chris Hastings, executive producer for WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. “Together in partnership with American Documentary, we look forward to introducing viewers to documentaries from talented independent filmmakers who are shining a spotlight on brave individuals and communities that have pushed boundaries for the right to celebrate their culture.”

“As we celebrate the tenth year of America ReFramed, with WORLD Channel, we are proud to offer films by both seasoned and first-time filmmakers that capture the rich tapestry of America today. Confronting issues such as voting rights, racism, equity, immigration and inclusion prompt the dialogue and discussion our country needs to have,” said Erika Dilday, executive director at American Documentary.

The fall opens with ***La Manplesa: An Uprising Remembered***, directed by Ellie Walton and produced by Quique Avilés, Cindy Centeno, Max Avilés, Sonya Robbins Hoffman, Sabiyha Prince. Premiering Thursday, October 6, the film offers an unflinching look of the 1991 Washington, DC protest against the police shooting of the young Salvadorian man Daniel Gómez. The season also features Jasmine Stodel’s ***Kid Candidate***, which tracks Hayden Pedigo, a 24-year old experimental musician in Amarillo, TX unorthodox run for city council. The film premieres in time for a pivotal midterm election, in a time when young Americans increasingly feel cut off from politics and traditional institutions.

In addition, America ReFramed acquired two debut feature films from exciting new directors, with premiere dates to be announced. ***From Here***, directed by Christina Antonakos-Wallace, is the inspiring story of four young artists from immigrant families who are redefining the meaning of “belonging” in an era of rising nationalism and globalism. ***Big Chief, Black Hawk***, directed by Jonathan Isaac Jackson, is a unique look at the life of the youngest Mardi Gras Indian Big Chief and his “tribe” as they navigate the social and environmental issues facing “the culture.”

Alongside fall premieres, America ReFramed will roll out timely encore presentations that resonate with key issues and diverse communities. Several films focus on democracy and voting rights, including ***Fannie Lou Hamer’s America***, about the fearless Mississippi sharecropper-turned-human-rights-activist; ***First Vote***, a verité look at Asian American voters in battleground states; and ***Hamtramck, USA***, an exploration into life and democracy in America’s first Muslim majority city. The series will also bring back several titles in time for Native American Heritage Month: ***The Blessing***,

chronicling the struggle between tradition and modernity through the lens of one small family in the Navajo Nation; ***Blood Memory***, offering new revelations about the history of America's Indian Adoption Era and ***Sisters Rising***, featuring six Native American women reclaiming their personal and tribal sovereignty in the face of violence.

America Reframed is available on WORLD Channel's YouTube Channel and on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video app](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

America ReFramed New Acquisitions

La Manplesa: An Uprising Remembered (Premieres October 6, 2022)

Director: Ellie Walton

Producers: Quique Avilés, Cindy Centeno, Sonya Robbins Hoffman, Max Avilés, Sabiyha Prince

On May 5th, 1991, people took to the streets of Washington D.C.'s Mount Pleasant neighborhood to protest the police shooting of Daniel Gomez, a young man from El Salvador. Through testimony, song, poetry, and street theater, ***La Manplesa: An Uprising Remembered*** weaves together the collective memory of one of D.C.'s first *barrios* and dives into the roots of the '91 rebellion. As people across the world take to the streets to demand an end to police brutality, the film honors the largely untold stories that have come before us and explores how artists prompt us to remember what we still have to fight for.

Kid Candidate (Coming Soon)

Director/Producer: Jasmine Stodel

Producers: William Dorrien-Smith, Chevis LaBelle

In 2018, 24-year old Hayden Pedigo released a Harmony Korine inspired spoof video declaring his candidacy for Amarillo, TX city council. After the video goes viral in the local community, Pedigo is inspired to actually run for council in the small Texas town. With a goal of upending the status quo and ousting the county's corrupt incumbent politicians, the young experimental musician and filmmaker makes a name for himself – not just for his bizarre campaign, but for reaching out to the local communities that have suffered the most in Amarillo. While still keeping a humorous and light-hearted tone, ***Kid Candidate*** goes beyond Pedigo's political run and looks at issues of race, income inequality and gentrification in small-town America.

From Here (Coming Soon)

Director/Producer: Christina Antonakos-Wallace

Producers: Canan Turan

Set in Berlin and New York, *From Here* interweaves the stories of Tania, Miman, Sonny and Akim – artists and activists raised in the Global North to parents from the Global South. The film accompanies them as they move from their 20's into their 30's, facing major turning points: fighting for citizenship, creating a family, surviving violence, and finding creative expression. Beautifully shot over the course of ten years, the film captures their struggle to define belonging for themselves in societies increasingly hostile to their existence.

Big Chief, Black Hawk

Director: Jonathan Isaac Jackson

Producer: Paul V. Fishback

A short and intimate look into the life of the youngest Mardi Gras Indian Big Chief and his "tribe" as they navigate the social and environmental issues facing "the culture." This film is a story about why tradition and culture are so important to the African American community in New Orleans today. Through interviews and storytelling, *Big Chief, Black Hawk* delves into the past to introduce the future, displaying how the past has been passed onto the present.

Fall Encore Schedule

- [First Vote](#)
- [Deej](#)
- [Fannie Lou Hamer's America](#)
- [Bring It Home](#)
- [The Blessing](#)
- [Blood Memory](#)
- [Hamtramck, USA](#)
- [Sisters Rising](#)

For full line-up, visit americareframed.com

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About America ReFramed

America ReFramed is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc. The series curates a diverse selection of independent documentaries that brings to national audiences compelling stories which illuminate the changing

contours of our ever-evolving country. Viewers will be immersed in stories that span the spectrum of American life, from the streets of towns big and small to its exurbs and country roads. The documentary series presents an array of personal voices and experiences through which we learn from our past, understand our present and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future.

America ReFramed is the recipient of a Peabody Award and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for broadcast journalism. The series has earned several Christopher, GRACIE, Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as multiple nominations for Emmy, Independent Documentary Association and Imagen Awards.

About American Documentary, Inc.

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Major funding for POV is provided by PBS, the Open Society Foundations, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, Reva & David Logan Foundation, Park Foundation, and Perspective Fund. Additional funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Sage Foundation, Chris and Nancy Plaut, Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas H. Lee and public television viewers. POV is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KQED San Francisco, WGBH Boston and THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG.

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 195 member stations in markets representing 75.1% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts and

Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.

BACKGROUND NOTES

A tentpole program of public television's WORLD Channel, *America ReFramed* brings to life compelling stories, personal voices and experiences that illuminate the contours of our ever-changing country. Since 2012, the anthology series has premiered 170 films from more than 370 filmmakers, including works from established artists like **Shola Lynch**, **Deann Borshay Liem** and **Marshall Curry** and featured broadcast debuts of **Nicholas Bruckman**, **Ursula Liang** and **PJ Raval**. More than half of these documentaries were helmed by female filmmakers and a third are credited to BIPOC filmmakers. The series has centered the stories of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, veterans, seniors, immigrants and people from a myriad of backgrounds.

Over the past decade, *America ReFramed* has received widespread acclaim which includes recent duPont-Columbia, International Documentary Association and News & Documentary Emmy Awards nominations. An essential platform for diverse artists and audiences, the series is the recipient of the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award, and has been honored by the Gracies, Imagen Awards, Kaleidoscope Awards, Asian American Journalist Association, Native American Journalists Association, The Association of LGBTQ Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists. For more information and films, visit www.WORLDchannel.org.

First Vote (Encore Presentation)

Director/Producer: Yi Chen

A character-driven verité documentary with unparalleled access to a diverse cross section of politically engaged Chinese Americans: a gun-toting Tea Party-favorite candidate courting GOP votes in the South; a podcaster in Ohio who became a citizen in order to vote for Trump; a long-haired journalist confronting Chinese Americans for Trump after moving to a battleground state; and a University of North Carolina professor teaching about race and racism in the US. A verité look at Chinese American electoral organizing in North Carolina and Ohio, the film weaves their stories from the presidential election of 2016 to the 2018 midterms, and explores the intersections between immigration, voting rights and racial justice.

Deej (Encore Presentation, Season 10)

Director/Producer: Robert Rooy

Producer: David James Savarese

Co-Producer: Anne de Mare

The story of DJ Savarese ("Deej"), a gifted, young writer and advocate for nonspeaking

autistics. Once a “profoundly disabled” foster kid on a fast track to nowhere, DeeJ is now a first-year college student who insists on standing up for his peers: people who are dismissed as incompetent because they are neurologically diverse. He argues forcefully they are too often “housed in classrooms of easy lessons.” **DeeJ** tells a coming-of-age story that showcases a young man’s resolve and creativity in forging strong bonds with his parents, his devoted extended family, and a community of close friends. Profound and unflinching, the film reveals what it takes to make the goals of “inclusion” and “disability rights” a reality. Will DeeJ be able to find freedom in his own life and for others like him?

[Bring It Home](#) (Encore Presentation)

Director/Producer: Carl Kriss

Producers: Margie Glick

Bring It Home tells the story of five families at a crossroads after the closing of the GM Lordstown auto plant. GM's decision forced thousands to decide between transferring out-of-state or staying put. If they stay, they risk loss of employment and benefits. As families wrestle these tough choices, they are left wondering why a company recording billions in profits is shuttering factories.

[Fannie Lou Hamer's America](#) (Encore Presentation)

Director/Producer: Joy Davenport

Producers: Monica Land, Selena Lauterer

Fannie Lou Hamer's America explores and celebrates the life of a civil rights activist and the injustices in America that made her work essential. Public speeches, personal interviews, and powerful songs of the fearless Mississippi sharecropper-turned-human-rights-activist paint a moving portrait of one of the Civil Rights Movement’s greatest leaders.

[Blood Memory](#) (Encore Presentation)

Director/Producer: Drew Nicholas

Producers: Megan Whitmer, Elizabeth Day (Ojibwe)

Battles over blood quantum and ‘best interests’ resurface the untold history of America’s Indian Adoption Era - a time when nearly one-third of children were removed from tribal communities nationwide. As political scrutiny over Indian child welfare intensifies, an adoption survivor helps others find their way home through song and ceremony.

[Hamtramck, USA](#) (Encore Presentation)

Directors/Producers: Razi Jafri, Justin Feltman

Once known as a Polish Catholic town, Hamtramck, MI is now home to America’s first Muslim-majority city. As election season approaches, candidates set out to win hearts,

minds and votes in this rapidly changing city. Going behind the scenes of small-town politics, *HAMTRAMCK, USA* explores the beauty and challenges that come with multiculturalism.

The Blessing (Encore Presentation)

Directors/Producers: Hunter Robert Baker, Jordan Fein

Deep in the Navajo Nation, one family struggles to honor their ancestry while embracing the future. Lawrence, a single father, is employed by Peabody Energy, a company tearing apart his sacred homeland for coal. As he contends with the contradictions between his work and his heritage, his secretive teenage daughter, Caitlin, finds herself going against tradition to discover her own identity.

Sisters Rising (Encore Presentation)

Directors/Producers: Willow O’Feral, Brad Heck

Co-Producer: Jaida Grey Eagle

Follows six Native American women who refuse to let patterns of violence continue in the shadows: a tribal cop in the midst of the North Dakota oil boom, an attorney fighting to overturn restrictions on tribal sovereignty, an Indigenous women’s self-defense instructor, grassroots advocates working to influence legislative change, and the author of the first anti-sex trafficking code to be introduced to a reservation’s tribal court. Their stories shine an unflinching light on righting injustice on both an individual and systemic level.

From Here (Premiere)

Director/Producer: Christina Antonakos-Wallace

Producers: Canan Turan

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