



GENTLEMEN OF VISION (GOV)

A film by Jim Kirchherr and Frank Popper

**National TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

MEDIA RELATIONS

Neyda Martinez
917 656 7846
neyda@amdac.org

AMERICA REFRAMED
20 Jay Street
Suite 940
Brooklyn, NY 11201

P: 212-989-8121
F: 212-989-8230
americareframed.com

January 5, 2018 – (New York, NY) – **Gentlemen of Vision (GOV)**, a film that reveals a vulnerability and honesty in the stories of Black male youth, rarely exhibited in popular mainstream culture, will have its broadcast premiere on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)). The film by Jim Kirchherr and Frank Popper was produced as part of American Graduate, public media's initiative to improve outcomes for all young people. American Graduate is supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

WORLD Channel will present the film in its entirety, an extended version of the film's festival cut, as part of the new season of [AMERICA REFRAMED](#), public media's award winning documentary series. Streaming will begin on February 7, 2018 on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](#), [worldchannel.org](#) and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

Set in the heart of St. Louis, **Gentlemen of Vision (GOV)** follows a year in the life of coach, counselor and founder, Marlon Wharton, and his 2015-2016 class of young Black students as he strives to rewrite their future prospects. While endeavoring for excellence in school and in step, the team is persistently challenged by the violence and poverty of the streets that surround them.

The documentary introduces viewers to students such as Mar'Kel 'CA\$H-U' White who struggles between attending practice and resisting the pull of local street gangs. When he becomes entangled with the law, a GOV coach, who is also a police officer, intervenes on his behalf. Saved by this once-in-a-lifetime chance encounter by a man who not only knows him but loves him,



the team roots for CA\$H-U but they can't help but wonder which influence is greater in his life -- the streets or the GOV brotherhood?

Darian 'Prodigy' Brooks faces difficult family circumstances due to his mother's alcoholism and his own precarious health condition. He admires Mr. Wharton for his authenticity and unwavering leadership. And, Cameron 'Tin Man' Johnson follows in Mr. Wharton's footsteps; he is one of GOV's main leaders, serving as a peer role-model with his good behavior while motivating his teammates.

The precise and rhythmic movement in step, rooted in African American history, requires significant discipline, passion and practice. Coach Wharton challenges them to make step a priority while, at the same time, expecting excellence from his students in conduct and academics, too.

On and off the stage, the film depicts a brotherhood of young men as they support each other and chase their ultimate dreams: to maintain their position as national step champions and to be accepted into college -- an opportunity that could change the course of their lives.

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Media Contact

For interviews and special requests, journalists and reviewers may contact Neyda Martinez at **917-656-7846** or via email at neyda@amdoc.org.

Film Credits

A film by Jim Kirchherr and Frank Popper

GENTLEMAN OF VISION (GOV) was produced by the Nine Network of Public Media, the PBS affiliate serving the St. Louis region. The Nine Network's Jim Kirchherr, Senior Director of Content and Frank Popper, independent producer, served as producer/directors.



Executive Producer, Amy Shaw is Senior Vice President of Engagement and Content, The Nine Network.

About AMERICA REFRAMED

AMERICA REFRAMED is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc.

AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling from emerging and veteran filmmakers alike. Viewers will be immersed in personal stories from the streets of towns big and small to the exurbs and country roads that span the spectrum of American life. The documentaries invite audiences to reflect on topics as varied as culture, healthcare, politics, gun violence, religion and more.

An award-winning documentary series, AMERICA REFRAMED is the recipient of 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 nominations for an EMMY, Independent Documentary Association, and Imagen Award.

AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Christopher Hastings, Chris White
Series Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio

AMERICA REFRAMED can be accessed online via
<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>
and,
<https://www.facebook.com/WorldChannel>
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed>

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AMERICA REFRAMED Co-Producers

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia arts organization 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. AmDoc is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For more information, visit: www.amdoc.org

The WORLD Channel delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming, including original content by and about diverse communities, to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at worldchannel.org. WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ last year (55% adults 18-49) and over-indexes in key diversity demographics. Online, the WORLD Channel expands on broadcast topics and fuels dialogue across social media, providing opportunities for broad and diverse audience interaction.

WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with PBS and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and The Kendeda Fund. Additional support for America ReFramed is provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit www.worldchannel.org

