



## FOR AHKEEM

A film by Jeremy S. Levine and Landon Van Soest

**National TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

“A special achievement...As close as documentaries come to putting us inside the mind of someone who society easily overlooks.”

– Nick Allen, RogerEbert.com

### MEDIA RELATIONS

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January 5, 2018 – (New York, NY) – Beginning one year before the fatal police shooting of a Black teenager in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, “For Ahkeem” is the coming-of-age story of Daje Shelton, a Black 17-year-old girl in North St. Louis. She fights for her future and navigates the marginalized neighborhoods, biased criminal justice policies and economic devastation that have set up many Black youth like her to fail.

The award-winning feature documentary by Jeremy S. Levine and Landon Van Soest will have its national television broadcast premiere on [AMERICA REFRAMED](#) on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)). The documentary series is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America. Streaming will begin on February 14, 2018 on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](http://PBS.org), [worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org) and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

After she is expelled from her public high school, a juvenile-court judge sends Daje to the court-supervised Innovative Concept Academy, an alternative high school that offers her one last chance to earn a diploma. The judge explains, “Either you make it with me or you don’t make it at all.”

Over two years we watch as Daje struggles to maintain focus in school, attends the funerals of friends killed around her, falls in love with a classmate named Antonio, and copes with a loving-but-tumultuous relationship with



her mother.

As Antonio is drawn into the criminal justice system and events in Ferguson, just four miles from her home, seize the national spotlight, Daje becomes pregnant, gives birth to Ahkeem, and must contend with the reality of raising a young Black boy in a harsh environment.

Through Daje's intimate story, "For Ahkeem" illuminates challenges that many Black teenagers face in America today and witnesses the strength, resilience, and determination it takes to survive.

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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](mailto:neyda@amdoc.org).

**Film Credits**

A film by Jeremy S. Levine and Landon Van Soest

**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, Chris 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>

@worldchannel  
@americareframed

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.worldchannel.org)

**AMERICA  
REFRAMED**

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**WORLD** Brave.  
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