



AGENTS OF CHANGE

A film by Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg

**National TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

"A gripping case study of...two of the most effective student protests in American history." – Kristina Rizga, *Mother Jones Magazine*

MEDIA RELATIONS

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January 5, 2018 – (New York, NY) – **AGENTS OF CHANGE** looks at a moment in U.S. contemporary history when our nation was caught at the intersection of the Civil Rights, Black Power, and Anti-Vietnam War Movements and the pivotal role of Black student activists at that time who fought to reform American universities.

AGENTS OF CHANGE, the feature documentary by Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg will air on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)) as part of the new season of [AMERICA REFRAMED](#), public media's award winning documentary series. Streaming will begin on February 21, 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.

The film examines the racial conditions on college campuses across the U.S., focusing on two seminal protests: San Francisco State in 1968 and Cornell University in 1969. These protests paved the way for student equity and inclusion, and led to establishing the first Black and Ethnic Studies departments. Today, nearly half a century later, many of the same demands are surfacing in campus protests across the country, revealing how much work remains to be done.

The film captures how students at San Francisco State initiated the longest student strike in U.S. history. The collaborative support of other groups such as members of the faculty, the community-at-large, and the increasingly influential Black Panther Party helped to affect the students' successful outcome.



In addition to curricular changes, the students, who yearned to learn about themselves and their history, demanded increased minority student recruitment and retention, as well as the hiring of minority faculty. Demonstrating student activists faced brutal police assaults and massive arrests unleashed by then-Governor Ronald Reagan. Struggling, not only for themselves but for those generations of students to come, Black, Latino and Asian student groups worked together to form the Third World Liberation Front. Emerging victoriously, their efforts birthed the first College of Ethnic Studies in the nation and ignited similar actions across the country.

At Cornell, a commitment to increasing minority student enrollments escalated tension on the campus. Choosing not to assimilate, Black and Puerto Rican students enacted a series of demonstrations to establish a Black Studies program, to hire minority Professors, and for other improvements that would make their educational experience more relevant to serving the communities from which they came. After seizing the Student Union building on the eve of Parents Weekend, they were attacked by angry Fraternity members, and their unexpected response resulted in a tension filled standoff that would make history.

Linking the past to the present and the present to the past, **AGENTS OF CHANGE** unfolds with compelling contemporary interviews, including the reflections of renowned actor, Danny Glover, who was then a student leader at San Francisco State and part of the movement, and rich archival footage featuring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, James Brown, Julian Bond, Stokely Carmichael and more.

The award-winning documentary features a dynamic original score composed by Patrice Rushen with additional period music by James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Marvin Gaye and others.

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Media Contacts

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 Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg



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>

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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

