



BEYOND THE WALL

A film by Jenny Phillips and Bestor Cram

**National TV Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

“... Vividly depicts the often insurmountable struggle to re-establish oneself in the community, family unit and workforce while navigating daunting internal and external barriers.”— Ellie Newman, *That Got Me Thinking*

MEDIA RELATIONS

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March 15, 2018 – (New York, NY) – **BEYOND THE WALL** goes beyond headlines to display the struggles that many face when released from prison. Through personal stories of re-entry—including relapse, recovery and redemption, **BEYOND THE WALL** puts a human face on the social, economic and emotional barriers encountered by returning citizens, their families and their communities.

BEYOND THE WALL, the feature documentary by Jenny Phillips and Bestor Cram, will make its U.S. broadcast premiere on Tuesday, April 10, 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 April 11, 2018 on worldchannel.org and all station-branded PBS platforms including PBS.org, and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

BEYOND THE WALL captures how terrifying life can be outside prison walls. The film follows seven formerly incarcerated men as they attempt to rebuild their lives on the streets of Lowell and Lawrence in Massachusetts. Their stories revolve around one central figure, a former prisoner named Louie Diaz.



Louie tirelessly and relentlessly ministers to their needs, counseling them and at times rescuing them from dire situations. He knows drugs and crime from both criminal and treatment perspectives; the signs and symptoms of relapse, and when and how to intervene. “No reentry program is going to go under the bridges and into the tent cities of the homeless looking for the guys who come out of jail and fall between the cracks. But if you are not willing to go to their places, they will end up back in jail.”

Too often, prisoners return to their communities without the guidance and support needed for a successful transition back to society – a setup for failure and eventual re-incarceration. “This is a vulnerable and often neglected group of individuals with complex needs and considerations, with many facing poverty, homelessness, and mental health issues,” explains the film’s co-director Jenny Phillips. “Even the briefest incarceration separates individuals from their daily lives and resources, often resulting in lost jobs, housing, transportation, and support systems....Over 2.3 million people are incarcerated in U.S. prisons each year, and we have a 68 percent recidivism rate among those who re-enter their communities, so just consider the magnitude of this problem.”

For Louie, giving back and helping others keeps him grounded, helps him maintain his sobriety and preserves his freedom. But, for the others, with little to no support from the criminal justice system, how will they find hope?

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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 Jenny Phillips and Bestor Cram
Edited and written by Andrew Kakura



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, health care, 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. The channel features original content by and about diverse communities to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at worldchannel.org. WORLD reached 33.3 million unique viewers 18+ last year (52% 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 has won numerous national honors including an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, Tellys, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie, an Asian American Journalists Award and many others. WORLD Channel also won the Radio Television Digital News Association’s 2017 Kaleidoscope Award for its critically-acclaimed series, AMERICA REFRAMED and has received four National News & Documentary Emmy Nominations.

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, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation and The Keneda Fund. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit www.worldchannel.org

