



**Season 4 of AMERICA REFRAMED continues with ADAMA
by Director David Felix Sutcliffe, (Co-Director, (T)ERROR)**

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 on WORLD at 8 p.m.

[America Reframed](#)

www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed

Twitter: [@americareframed](#) [#americareframed](#)

“By inviting Adama to speak for herself, David Felix Sutcliffe’s documentary grants her the sort of voice the US government denies her.”

– Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters

January 11, 2016 – (New York, NY) – David Felix Sutcliffe’s debut feature documentary **ADAMA** airs on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)), as part of the fourth season of **AMERICA REFRAMED**, public media’s newest documentary series hosted by Natasha Del Toro. The film is part of a trio of films this February on AMERICA REFRAMED that explore the post 9/11 experiences of Muslims in America. **ADAMA** will be available for free streaming on worldchannel.org starting February 24, 2016.

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

In Sutcliffe’s first film (he is co-director of the acclaimed documentary *(T)ERROR*), he uses intimate vérité footage to report on a teenage Muslim girl suspected of being a “potential” suicide bomber, and her desperate efforts to keep her family from unraveling. **ADAMA** provides a timely perspective on the experiences of American Muslims at a time when their religion is being equated, by some, with violence and terror.

In March 2005, an FBI document leaked to the press mysteriously identified Adama Bah, a 16-year-old teenager from Harlem, New York, as an “imminent threat to the security of the United States.” The accusations arose in the wake of 9/11, when a series of U.S. counter-terrorism measures, including immigration programs targeting predominantly Muslim countries, resulted in the interrogation of more than 83,000 individuals. While only a few had any links to terrorist groups, nearly 13,000 Muslim immigrants were put in deportation proceedings, with devastating effects on their families.



Adama and her family emigrated to America from Guinea in the 1990s. Though she did not attend mosque regularly as a child, Adama attended an Islamic boarding school as a teen where she gained a deeper understanding of her faith. Despite her mother's concerns the hijab could "scare people," Adama believed it allowed her to be valued strictly for the content of her character.

Her faith would be tested early one morning in 2005 when nearly a dozen armed government agents raided the family's Manhattan apartment. During the investigation, Adama's father's undocumented status was discovered and he too was arrested. Her last memory of her father was in handcuffs, before she was taken to a maximum-security detention center in Pennsylvania. Would the Bah family ever be reunited?

The documentary illuminates the emotional, legal, and psychological effects of profiling as a public policy. Adama's case incited protest and attracted media scrutiny, including coverage in the *The New York Times*, but her struggles continued long after her release. She remained heavily monitored and was traumatized after being forced to endure humiliating strip searches which came in conflict with her religious views on modesty, and bodily exposure.

Adama's arrest also revealed her own undocumented status, and she was threatened with deportation to Guinea—a country she left at the age of 2 and where 96% of women are subjected to female circumcision. Unwilling to be separated from her family, Adama feared for her mother, who speaks little or no English, has no family in the States and is the primary caregiver to Adama's younger and toddler-age siblings.

ADAMA serves as a cautionary tale, as well as a testament of a young woman's resilience and her lessons from the Q'uran, which teaches patience, and that one must be "strong to face the trials and difficulties of life." The film demonstrates not only the extraordinary obstacles Adama faces as a Muslim, and as an immigrant, but also the incredible strength she possessed in her quest to support her family and restore hope to her own future.

Film Credits

Director: David Felix Sutcliffe
Producer: Su Kim

About AMERICA REFRAMED



AMERICA REFRAMED is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc. and is hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro.

Season four of AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling from emerging to 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. Several episodes feature a roundtable discussion moderated by host Natasha Del Toro with special guest commentators and filmmakers.

In 2015, AMERICA REFRAMED won a GRACIE Outstanding Series award, and was nominated for an EMMY award as well as an Independent Documentary Association award for best curated series. In its first season, AMERICA REFRAMED received five 2013 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, and one Imagen Awards nomination.

AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Chris Hastings, Chris White
Series Producer: Carmen Vicencio
Host: Natasha Del Toro

Web and Social Media

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

@worldchannelPTV
@americareframed
@ndeltoro

AMERICA REFRAMED Co-Producers

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.

The WORLD Channel delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming to US 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 (*Source: Nielsen Local Buyer Reach Scorecard 01/14-12/14).

WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with the American Public Television and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Ford Foundation. Additional funding for AMERICA REFRAMED is provided by the MacArthur Foundation.

Media Contact

Journalists and reviewers may contact Neyda Martinez at **917 656 7846** or via email at neyda@amdoc.org for interviews and special requests.

###