



OXYANA
Airs on AMERICA REFRAMED
A film by Sean Dunne

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel

“...Director Sean Dunne explores the role of the prescription drug problem....The result is a haunting glimpse at the American dream, collapsed.”

– Gregory E. Miller, *New York Post*

May 31, 2017 – (New York, NY) – Sean Dunne’s documentary, **OXYANA**, will air on U.S. television on **Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)), as part of the new season of public media’s **AMERICA REFRAMED**. The documentary series is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America. The broadcast will be followed by free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at www.worldchannel.org/americanreframed starting on July 12th.

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Tucked in the Appalachian mountains of southern West Virginia, Oceana is a small town that fell victim to the over prescription and abuse of the highly addictive painkiller Oxycontin and other synthetic pills. The addiction is so widespread and harrowing that the once thriving, coal-mining community’s own residents have nicknamed the town Oxyana.

At first, the painkillers provided relief to physically worn down coal miners. But, the decline of the coal industry has rendered hardworking and formerly prosperous families bereft, drained, and literally with nothing to do. Already hampered with reduced employment due to decades of mechanization, the majority of people in Oceana live below the poverty line due to a declining coal industry in the face of lower-cost natural gas, renewable energy, and regulations designed to protect public health.

Unvarnished truths are conveyed through the film’s subjects who are either addicted to Oxy or have a loved one addicted to the prescription drug. Sharing needles to inject drugs has given rise to Hepatitis C in Oceana at alarming rates, and overdoses and drug related deaths leave a wake of broken hearts. Addiction to Oxy has generated more crime and prostitution, further eroding what was once a close-knit community. For some Oceanans, participation in the drug’s underground economy is the only viable option to survive and support their addiction.

A community portrait emerges from an array of voices, often in the most intimate of settings. We hear from a drug dealer whose drug-induced father murdered his family. We meet a mother, concerned for her son, who encourages him to enter rehab in the hopes that he may eventually assume his roles as husband and soon-to-be-father.



A woeful and collective fatalism has overtaken Oceana's Appalachian residents and Dunne's documentary is a frontline account of a community in the grips of an epidemic. Through the voices of the addicts, dealers, the afflicted and affected, **OXYANA** reveals a present-day nightmare unfolding before the nation's eyes.

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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.

Film Credits

Director: Sean Dunne
Producer: Nadine Brown, Cass Greener

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 a Christopher, a GRACIE, and several 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

