



America ReFramed announces Black History Month documentary programming on WORLD Channel

National TV and Streaming Premieres:

Struggle and Hope by Kari Barber, February 19

Late Blossom Blues by Wolfgang Pfoser-Almer and Stefan Wolner, February 26

Encore Broadcasts:

70 Acres in Chicago, BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez and Milwaukee 53206

February 5, 9, and 12, respectively

New York, N.Y. – January 15, 2019 – America ReFramed’s Black History Month documentaries debunk a monolithic view of the black experience. In *Struggle and Hope*, community leaders galvanize resources to preserve their legacy, while the voice of an elder bluesman is celebrated in *Late Blossom Blues*.

MEDIA RELATIONS

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Struggle and Hope by Kari Barber and *Late Blossom Blues* by Wolfgang Pfoser-Almer and Stefan Wolner will premiere on U.S. television and online on Tuesday, February 19 and 26, respectively, at 8 p.m. (7 p.m. CT / 9 p.m. PT) on WORLD Channel as part of the new season of America ReFramed. The films will stream on worldchannel.org, amdoc.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.

Struggle and Hope by Kari Barber Premiere: February 19, 2016

Following the Civil War, all-black towns emerged in what is now modern-day Oklahoma. By 1905, black families seeking to make a new start, enjoy fellowship and escape widespread racism acquired one and a half million acres of land in the state.

Initially founded in an effort to convince the United States to create an all-black state, most of these towns have since been swallowed up by nearby



counties and cities. A few cling heroically to life. Residents now fight to ensure that their towns retain independence and character. The film provides contemporary commentary as the historical story unfolds while following local community members and historians: Boley Municipal Judge Henrietta Hicks; Oklahoma Historical Society board member and Clearview resident Shirley Nero; historian Bruce Fisher; musician and Taft native Dr. Harold Aldridge. The documentary's soundtrack links the past to the present as the citizens search for a way forward.

Late Blossom Blues by Wolfgang Pfoser-Almer and Stefan Wolner
Premiere: February 26, 2019

Leo "Bud" Welch's recording and touring career begins at the age of 81. Born in Mississippi, Leo worked the cotton fields and lumber mills from dawn until dusk. When he picked up a guitar for the first time at the age of 12, *his* blues were born out of those cotton fields. While Leo's lifelong dream was to be a musician, he turned down the chance to work with the legendary B.B. King, choosing to stay close to his family, his church and the town he loves.

With the support of his dedicated manager, Gulf War veteran Vencie Varnad, Leo's blues career rises. Determined to celebrate and highlight his talent, Vencie books Leo at festivals and clubs across the South and takes him on his first-ever flight—all the way from Mississippi to admiring fans in Austria. With just a handful of great bluesmen left in the U.S., *Late Blossom Blues* offers a rare glimpse into the daily life of one of America's living musical treasures.

Black History Month Encores:

[70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green](#) - February 5

70 Acres in Chicago illuminates the layers of socioeconomic forces and questions behind urban redevelopment and gentrification taking place in the U.S.

[BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez](#) - February 9

For 81-year-old **Sonia Sanchez**, the personal is political. *BaddDDD Sonia Sanchez* is a portrait of the artist, revealing Sanchez's uncompromising life.



Milwaukee 53206 - February 12

Milwaukee 53206 presents the stories of those living in the ZIP code that incarcerates the highest percentage of black men in the country.

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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.

About America ReFramed

America ReFramed is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc.

America ReFramed curates a diverse selection of independent documentaries that brings to national audiences compelling stories which illuminate the changing contours of our ever-evolving country. Viewers will be immersed in stories that span the spectrum of American life, from the streets of towns big and small to its exurbs and country roads. The documentary series presents an array of personal voices and experiences through which we learn from our past, understand our present and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future. An award-winning documentary series, America ReFramed is the recipient of a Peabody Award and 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 multiple nominations for an EMMY, Independent Documentary Association, and Imagen Award.

America ReFramed Series Credits

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Chris Hastings, Chris White
Supervising Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio

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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

WORLD Channel tells stories that humanize complex issues. WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries, and fact-based informational programming that helps us understand conflicts, movements and cultures that may be distinct from our own. WORLD's original content offers a national platform to makers examining issues too often ignored by mainstream media. These emerging and master filmmakers spotlight a diversity of voices, telling stories not heard elsewhere. WORLD has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award and numerous national honors—including an RTNDA Kaleidoscope Award, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie, and an Asian American Journalists Award. Carried by 156 partner stations in markets representing almost 66.83 percent of US TV households, WORLD can also be experienced via WORLDChannel.org and social media platforms.

