



For Immediate Release
Contact: Mary Cardona-Foster
mary_cardona-foster@wgbh.org
617-300-3732

WORLD Channel Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

40+ Powerful Films about Struggle and Triumph

April 25, 2019 – Sharing the stories of struggles and triumphs of Asian Pacific Americans throughout the year, WORLD Channel focuses on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to feature 40+ documentaries.

Stories that WORLD will feature include the 12,000 Japanese Americans who dared to resist the U.S government’s program of mass incarceration during World War II; the community of Fukushima that was forced to rebuild in the aftermath of the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster; and one man’s fight for his right to be different, break the rules and make a difference while debunking the “model” Asian American stereotype.

“With this month-long celebration, WORLD spotlights films by and about the APA community, detailing their challenges and resiliency while honoring the ways Asian Pacific Americans enrich our culture,” said WGBH and WORLD Channel General Manager Liz Cheng. “By supporting diversity in films and among our filmmakers, WORLD has become a destination for those seeking stories about under-represented populations.

Highlights of the month include:

- Produced and directed by Janet Gardner and co-produced by Sopheap Theam, [Lost Child: Sayon’s Journey](#) profiles a man as he confronts his past as a Khmer Rouge child soldier during Cambodia’s darkest hour. Sayon Soeun, abducted at the age of six and exploited by the Khmer Rouge, had his family life and education stolen from him. His recovery, redemption and eventual adoption by a loving American family are detailed as well as his journey to heal himself by forgiving the family who let him slip away and confronting his complicity as a Khmer Rouge child soldier. *Lost Child: Sayon’s Journey* will air Tuesday, May 21, at 7:00pm ET on WORLD Channel.
- Produced and directed by Konrad Aderer and co-produced by Michelle Chen, [Resistance at Tule Lake](#) tells the long-suppressed story of incarcerated Japanese Americans who defied the government by refusing to swear unconditional loyalty to the U.S. As an act of protest and family pride, they were branded as disloyal by the government and packed

into the newly designated Tule Lake Segregation Center. *Resistance at Tule Lake* will air Friday, May 24, at 8:00pm ET on WORLD Channel.

- Presented by DocWorld, [Surviving the Tsunami: My Atomic Aunt](#) brings a personal perspective to the national crisis of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown. Director Kyoko Miyake revisits Fukushima to find out the fate of her mother's hometown and the people who made their livelihood from the nuclear plant. *Surviving the Tsunami: My Atomic Aunt* will air Sunday, May 26, at 10:00pm ET on WORLD Channel.
- Produced and directed by Dianne Fukami and co-produced by Debra Nakatomi and Lawrence R. Hott, [Norman Mineta and his Legacy: An American Story](#) is a film about injustice, redemption, and a burning desire for all people to be treated equally. A son of immigrants and forced into a U.S. World War II concentration camp as a child, Norman Mineta became the first Asian American mayor of a major city (San Jose, California); leading to a distinguished 20-year career in Congress; the first Asian American Cabinet member, serving two U.S. Presidents, a Democrat and Republican. *Norman Mineta and his Legacy: An American Story* will air Tuesday, May 21, at 7:00pm ET on WORLD Channel.

WORLD Channel will be using the hashtag #MyAPALife for online engagement throughout the month of May. WORLD Channel encourages the online community and the community of their Heritage month partners at Center for Asian Media and Pacific Islanders in Communication to share their comments or enthusiasm about the month using that hashtag. There will also be a social activity toolkit available at WORLDChannel.org Monday, April 29th.

In all, WORLD Channel will feature 40+ film documentaries about Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May. For a complete list of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month-themed films broadcasting on WORLD Channel, click [here](#).

Follow WORLD Channel on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates on all series/films coming up. For a complete list of original WORLD Channel programming, visit www.WORLDchannel.org/.

About WORLD Channel

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 67% of US TV Households, WORLD can also be experienced via WORLDChannel.org and social media platforms. Major Funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and WORLD Channel public media stations.