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Pride Month Celebrated with New Films on WORLD Channel

Additional programming will be dedicated to the month-long effort to showcase stories of the LGBTQ+ community

Boston, MA (May 24, 2021) – WORLD Channel, public media's best sources for diverse news and documentary programming, will honor <u>LGBTQ+ Pride Month</u> this June with the premiere of *America ReFramed: Jack & Yaya*, as well as additional <u>Pride-themed programming</u>.

Since 1970, the LGBTQ+ community has used June as a month to remember and reflect on the long journey to arrive at this moment in time. While the U.S. government has officially designated June LGBT Pride Month, many struggles within the community persist and go unnoticed. WORLD Channel seeks to shed light on these challenges by sharing stories from diverse voices of LGBTQ+ individuals.

"WORLD Channel is committed to elevating the voices of marginalized groups and peoples. During Pride month, it's essential that we highlight the unique stories and struggles of the LGBTQ+ community," said Chris Hastings, Executive Producer of WORLD Channel at GBH in Boston. "Despite growing acceptance and understanding, homophobia and transphobia still exist at an alarming rate across the globe. By sharing these stories, WORLD Channel hopes to educate people on the issues and further the growth of understanding for individuals who identify as LGBTQ+."

In addition to <u>month-long thematic programming</u>, viewers can watch the exclusive premiere of *America ReFramed's Jack & Yaya* on WORLD Channel:

- America ReFramed: Jack & Yaya

Jack and Yaya met at ages three and two through their shared backyard fence. They spent their childhood together, building forts and burning trash cans in their small hometown in South Jersey. From a young age, Yaya and Jack saw each other as they were, a girl and a boy, even though most of the world didn't see them that way. As they grew older, they supported each other as they both came out as transgender.

Jack & Yaya premieres on Tuesday, June 22nd at 8:00 p.m. ET on WORLD Channel

America ReFramed: Jack & Yaya will be available for streaming on worldchannel.org on June 22. <u>Additional films</u> highlighting coming out stories, the history of the Stonewall riots, and many other Pride topics will stream throughout the month, including:

- America ReFramed: Little Miss Westie

A loving and insightful portrait of two transgender siblings and their parents. As the children begin living in their authentic genders, the family navigates puberty, school, and the Lil' Miss Westie Pageant. **Little Miss Westie** can be viewed online & on the PBS app from 6/15 through 7/15

- AfroPop: Mama Gloria

Gloria Allen, a trailblazing Black transgender activist who started a school for homeless trans youth, is aging with joy and grace. This is the story of a mother's love – a love that director Luchina Fisher has for her transgender daughter, Gia. **Mama Gloria** can be streamed online, on YouTube & the PBS app.

- America ReFramed: Vision Portraits

Director Rodney Evans ponders how the deterioration of his vision will impact his life and work as a filmmaker. He embarks on a quest to learn how other artists have continued to create and how their journeys might serve as inspiration for his own. **Vision Portraits** can be viewed online & on the PBS app until June 30

Check local listings for films and airdates. Join @worldchannel as we share #PrideStories on our social conversations.

For more information about these films or any other, please visit <u>www.WORLDchannel.org/</u> or follow WORLD Channel on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

About WORLD Channel

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries, and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multicast 24/7 channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements, and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 176 member stations in markets representing over 70% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts and Artworks. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.