



**DOG DAYS premieres on AMERICA REFRAMED**  
A film by Laura Waters Hinson and Kasey Kirby

**US Television Premiere Tuesday, March 29, 2016 on WORLD at 8 p.m.**

[AMERICA REFRAMED](#)

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“The tensions between restaurants and food truckers take center stage, as an East African immigrant, Siyone, and a neophyte cook named Coite try to diversify the foods offered by D.C. hot dog vendors.” – Jill Krasny, *Inc.com*

March 8, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Laura Waters Hinson and Kasey Kirby’s documentary **DOG DAYS** will have its U.S. television premiere, **Tuesday, March 29, 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 will be available for free streaming on [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org) starting March 30, 2016.

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Hot dogs and apple pie are not merely symbols of the American Dream. In **DOG DAYS**, they are the things those dreams are made of—literally.

In Washington D.C., where policies guide and at times collide with free-market practices, **DOG DAYS** goes deep into the world of immigrant street vendors where the ubiquitous American hot dog still reigns supreme.

The story unfolds through Coite and Siyone and the working relationship that emerges between them. Coite is an unemployed industrial engineer and Siyone is a single mother of four. Originally from Eritrea, Siyone came to this country by way of Sudan, initially with refugee status.

In spite of the worst economy since the Great Depression, almost anyone is free to start a business, especially if startup costs—including permits and licenses—are not prohibitive. In this climate, Coite takes a bold leap of faith. Newly married but recently fired from his job, he risks what’s left of his capital to embark on a new food business, one in which he never truly considered before and admittedly knows very little about.



Coite dreams of supplying hot dog vendors with tasty, healthier and more diverse food options. But first, he needs the local D.C. government to end its 1998 moratorium on new licenses. There were once about 1,000 vendors, but at the time of the film there are only 300 left. Coite is also intent on competing with the owner of the warehouse depot and wholesale purveyor, whose virtual monopoly on street food has a stranglehold over the struggling street vendors.

Siyone and the other street vendors dream about freedom—freedom that only hard work can buy, like the opportunity to provide for their families, buy a house and send their kids to college.

While Coite bets on himself and the street vendors, trendy and gourmet food-trucks have popped up all over the city. Their presence is so pervasive that not only are the street vendors distressed, but even upscale restaurateurs are challenged by their presence and ability to siphon-off customers and profits.

**DOG DAYS** introduces us to vendors—from Afghanistan, West Africa, Nigeria and beyond—who have held on to their carts for 18-25 years. Like Siyone, they take pride in their work and responsibilities but their autonomy comes at a price with workdays often exceeding 12 hours. Despite the hurdles, competition and many a low-earning day, their perseverance secures their family's well-being and future promise.

Is their faith in the American dream dead or alive? In the land of endless opportunities, can Coite and Siyone succeed?

#### **Film Credits**

A film by Laura Waters Hinson (Image Bearer Pictures) and Kasey Kirby (Atlas District Productions).

DOG DAYS was produced in partnership with The Moving Picture Institute.

#### **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 4 of 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. 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 L. 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>

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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](http://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](http://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, the Ford Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Kendeda Fund. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

**Media Contact**

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