



**THE HAND THAT FEEDS to premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED**  
**A film by Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 8 p.m.**  
**on Public Television's WORLD Channel**

AMERICA REFRAMED  
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"A crowd pleaser...a captivating David & Goliath story."  
—Anthony Kaufman, Indiewire

"One could not view this film without arriving to a deeper understanding of labor organizing, immigrant workers and the lessons of a sustained movement for social justice."  
— Deborah Weissman, Professor of Law, University of North Carolina

May 17, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick's critically acclaimed documentary **THE HAND THAT FEEDS** will premiere **Tuesday, June 21, 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 broadcast will be followed by 30 days of free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at [www.worldchannel.org/americareframed](http://www.worldchannel.org/americareframed) starting on June 22nd. "

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Filmed at the onset of America's new service economy wage wars, **THE HAND THAT FEEDS** tells the story of the power struggle that turned a single city block into a battlefield. At a popular bakery café in Manhattan's Upper East Side, patrons get bagels and coffee served with a smile 24 hours a day. Behind the scenes, some of the undocumented immigrant workers earn far below the minimum wage.

"In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, immigrants were at the forefront of the labor movement that helped build our middle class. Today, when the fastest growing job sectors are



retail and food preparation, the struggles of low-income workers and their families matter more than ever,” explain filmmakers Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick.

**THE HAND THAT FEEDS** offers a candid and urgent behind the scenes look at the plight of undocumented immigrant workers who face sub-legal wages, dangerous machinery and abusive managers. These workers run the risk of being fired for merely requesting a legitimate and much needed sick day. Mahoma López, a mild-mannered sandwich-maker, has never been interested in politics. But, in January 2012 he convinces a small group of his coworkers to fight back. The film documents Mahoma’s transformation and the group’s steps towards advocating for their rights with the support of the Laundry Workers Center and young Occupy Wall Street (OWS) activists.

Risking deportation and the loss of their livelihood, the workers take the unusual step of forming an independent union and launching themselves on a path that will test the limits of their resolve: battles with lawyers, OWS protesters take over the restaurant, and a picket line divides the neighborhood. If the workers can win a contract, it will set a historic precedent for low-wage workers across the country. But whatever happens, Mahoma and his coworkers will never be exploited again. The unlikely journey solidifies their courage and commitment to the cause and each other.

**THE HAND THAT FEEDS** won eight awards on the festival circuit, including audience awards at top U.S. documentary and Latino film festivals— Full Frame, DOC NYC and the Chicago Latino Film Festival, among others.

**Film credits:**

Directors: Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick

**Web and Social Media**

AMERICA REFRAMED can be accessed online via <http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/> and,



<https://www.facebook.com/WorldChannel>  
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### **Media Contact**

Journalists and reviewers may contact Neyda Martinez at **917 656 7846** or via email at [neyda@amdac.org](mailto:neyda@amdac.org) for interviews and special requests.

### **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

### **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)

