



IN THE GAME to Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
A film by Maria Finitzo

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 8 p.m.
on Public Television's WORLD Channel

AMERICA REFRAMED

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“[IN THE GAME] inspires warm admiration for the subjects while stirring up rousing anger at our city’s social inequality...” —Ben Sachs, Chicago Reader

June 29, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Maria Finitzo’s acclaimed documentary **IN THE GAME** will premiere **Tuesday, September 27, 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 streaming for audiences across the U.S. at www.worldchannel.org/amicareframed starting on **September 28th**.

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IN THE GAME, produced by Kartemquin Films (*The Interrupters*, *Hoop Dreams*, *The Trials of Muhammad Ali*, *5 Girls*), follows a girls’ soccer team in an inner-city high school to reveal the obstacles confronted by low-income Latinas as they seek an education amid issues of class and gender on Chicago’s southwest side.

Historically a German, Irish, Polish and Lithuanian working class neighborhood, Brighton Park on Chicago’s southwest side is today primarily a mix of natural, legal and undocumented Mexican residents. It’s also home to Kelly High School, one of the two largest in the city, serving mostly minority students, predominantly Hispanics. In the throes of a severe budget crisis, Kelly High School is bracing for more cuts while struggling to provide basic educational services for its students. The girls’ soccer team aims for goals on the proverbial uneven playing field.



Stan, the soccer coach, a son of Polish immigrants, lost his chance at professional sports due to an injury, although he was able to finish college. He has been the soccer coach at Kelly for nearly three decades, and would love to see the girls win a city-wide championship for the school. He imparts a host of core values to his students, including commitment, determination, teamwork and more, with the ultimate goal of teaching the girls how to win at life.

For generations, a pathway to success in America has been through education. However, for some success continues to be extremely challenging and elusive. While the achievement gap along racial lines has narrowed, according to recent reports, the economic gap and class divide has widened substantially over several decades.

The film is a portrait of a working class community, one of many displaced by the demise of manufacturing jobs and the rise of real-estate values in major cities like Chicago. It authentically portrays a group of Latinas who defy ghetto-glam, overtly-sexualized and mean-girl stereotypes. These Latinas are modest in many ways and bound by their first-generation traditional values. They are trailblazers, committed to a team sport. Their exceptional experience can influence the outcome of their lives, yet their culture and gender often lead to adversity as they care for siblings or take jobs that derail their college aspirations.

Largely because of their socio-economic status, these bright young women face uncertain futures. Yet, they remain hopeful and have won some hard-earned life lessons, in no small part thanks to the camaraderie of their teammates and the dedicated mentoring of their coach. So far, the team follows their coach, Stan's, sage advice: "In life you deal with what's dealt your way. When you get knocked down, just get up right away. Never give up."

Film credits:

Director: Maria Finitzo

Media Contact



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

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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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

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. 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

