



ON A KNIFE EDGE

A film by Jeremy Williams and Eli Cane

**TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

“An intimate insight into overwhelming injustice: Though the adversity American Indians face can often be overwhelming to witness, the bravery of George and his peers is enough to inspire hope that the long fight will be passed into good hands.”

- Chloe Walker, *Filminquiry.com*

September 6, 2017 – (New York, NY) –**ON A KNIFE EDGE** tells the story of George Dull Knife, a Lakota teenager growing up on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Reservation. The film traces George’s path to activism, inspired by his family’s long history of fighting for justice for Native Americans. His focus: shutting down the liquor stores in Whiteclay, a tiny town nearby that exists only to sell beer – almost 5 million cans a year – to the reservation’s vulnerable population. In this coming-of-age story, George and the Dull Knife family are connected to historic and contemporary social justice and civil rights struggles in the Native American community through AIM, the grassroots American Indian Movement.

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ON A KNIFE EDGE by Jeremy Williams and Eli Cane will have its national television broadcast premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)). The film is part of WORLD Channel’s November programming in celebration of Native American Heritage Month. America ReFramed is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America. Free online streaming of the documentary starts November 8th on www.americareframed.org

The story unfolds amid rising racial tension, violence and community protests. George is reared by his father who hopes he will assume a leadership role in the campaign for social justice and Native American rights. With an ancestral legacy he can trace back more than a hundred years, George wrestles to make sense of the old Lakota ways in today’s world where the odds are stacked against him.

George and his community of peers on the reservation face daunting obstacles: a high school dropout rate of 70 percent; an average family income of \$2600 per year (well below the minimum wage); and rising hate crimes, gun and police violence,



suicide, and alcohol and drug abuse.

George's growing political awareness leads him on a collision course with the police and the reservation's tribal council. Among his immediate concerns are the Native American young girls and children who are assaulted as a result of alcohol abuse. In response to the protests at Whiteclay, the tribal council proposes a referendum that would legalize alcohol on the reservation. Despite the activism of George and his youth peers, voters approve the sale of alcohol on the reservation. Facing this setback, he begins feeling powerless and questions the wisdom of peaceful methods and the relevance of AIM.

However, as he matures, George discovers that the responsibilities of manhood are more complex than simply confronting authority. "People say the Indian War ended in 1890; for the Lakota the war is still going," says George as he strives to balance duty to his people with that of his immediate family.

Told largely through George's eyes, the film offers a glimpse into the youngest generation of the AIM, as well as George's own evolving notions of Native identity and manhood. His story is interwoven with animated sequences that depict five generations of family history, narrated by his father, Guy and based on paintings he has created to explore the continuum of their fight through the generations.

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Media Contacts

For interviews and special requests, journalists and reviewers may contact Neyda Martinez at **917-656-7846** or via email at neyda@amdoc.org.

Film Credits

Director: Jeremy Williams

Producer: Eli Cane

On a Knife Edge is a co-production of Normal Life Pictures, Inc. and the Independent Television Service (ITVS) in association with Vision Maker Media, with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

About AMERICA REFRAMED

AMERICA REFRAMED is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc.



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.

An award-winning documentary series, AMERICA REFRAMED is the recipient of a Christopher, a GRACIE, and several Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as nominations for an EMMY, Independent Documentary Association, and Imagen Award.

AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Chris Hastings, Chris White
Series Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio

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

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 and The Kendeda Fund. Additional support for America ReFramed is provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit www.worldchannel.org

