



**Season 3 of AMERICA REFRAMED with host Natasha Del Toro
launches with PURGATORIO by Rodrigo Reyes**

January 6, 2015, on WORLD at 8 p.m.

<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>

www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed

Twitter: @americareframed #americareframed

*A searing, horrifying, at times starkly beautiful documentary (...)
A strikingly assured work.* – Andrew Barker, *Variety*

AMERICA
REFRAMED
20 Jay Street
Suite 940
Brooklyn, NY 11201

P: 212-989-8121
F: 212-989-8230
americareframed.com

MEDIA RELATIONS
Neyda Martinez
917 656 7846
neyda.martinez@gmail.com

December 15, 2014 (New York, NY) – Rodrigo Reyes' documentary **PURGATORIO** will have its national broadcast television premiere on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 8 p.m. on WORLD kicking-off the third season of the **AMERICA REFRAMED** series. (Check local listings.) Audiences across the nation can also view the film FREE from January 7th to January 16th at <http://worldchannel.org/>. Hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro, accompanying the broadcast premiere of **PURGATORIO** will be a roundtable discussion with filmmaker, Rodrigo Reyes.

Leaving politics aside, Reyes looks anew at the brutal beauty of the U.S./Mexico border and the people caught in its spell. The evocative Dantesque essay film reimagines the border as a mythical place exploring the vulnerability of the human soul, the violence man creates and the destruction left in its wake.

The film opens with Reyes' own words: "Close your eyes. Try to imagine what the world was like, many, many years ago. Try to imagine when borders did not exist." His invitation is for us to think about a world where time, wonder and mystery converge seamlessly. He continues, "And then *we* arrived." Later, as the camera sweeps across an endless expanse of desert, Reyes adds, "We tore it apart into a thousand pieces. And in the madness that followed, we discovered violence, hate, and finally, separation."

Over the course of the film we meet several Americans. One who collects evidence of detritus which he believes are markers for other immigrants to follow; another, who compassionately provides clean drinking water and a coroner whose assignment is to try and identify nameless cadavers, sacks of human bones parched from having dried in the sun.

In Mexico, we hear accounts from grief-stricken mothers and families about children that were, in their eyes, senselessly killed. And we see young carefree innocents in school as well as playing about.

We meet two Mexican men, one a husband and father in his mid 20's, the other, a grandfather in his mid 40's. Both look weathered, crushed in front of the foreboding fence that divides the two nations. The younger man explains that his homeland is beautiful, lush, and has pretty animals; suggesting that on the surface, nothing is wrong. He asserts however, that people are dying of hunger and there is too much



poverty. He criticizes the media saying they generally focus on the natural beauty of Mexico but never on its people and their reality.

In the auteur tradition of *caméra-stylo*, PURGATORIO captures a stunning mosaic of compelling characters, empty edifices and stark landscapes along the border to deliver a haunting meditation and visceral experience. Exposing both the flaws of human nature and the incongruities of the modern world, the filmmaker reflects on questions that are impossible to answer. Reyes' epic film transforms a treacherous reality into a fable of humanity.

Following the television broadcast premiere, host Natasha Del Toro will facilitate a conversation with filmmaker, Rodrigo Reyes.

Short Synopsis

Leaving politics aside, Reyes' PURGATORIO looks anew at the U.S./Mexico border and the people caught in its spell. The evocative Dantesque essay film reimagines the border as a mythical place exploring the vulnerability of the human soul, the violence man creates and the destruction left in its wake.

About the Director

Rodrigo Reyes was born in Mexico City in 1983. He attended college in UC San Diego, as well as in Madrid and Mexico City, earning a degree in International Studies. Instead of following this career path, Reyes channeled his multicultural background into becoming a filmmaker. In 2009 he directed the documentary short *The 12th of December*, which followed pilgrims to the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe. In 2010 he directed the film *99 Years After the Mexican Revolution*, and in 2011 he directed the experimental film *Memories of the Future*.

His films have screened throughout Mexico in several documentary film festivals, including DOCSDF, and FICUNAM. In 2010 he was selected to participate in the Berlinale Guadalajara Talent Campus. He was named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* 25 New Faces of Independent Cinema in 2013.

Film Credits

PURGATORIO, produced by RR Cinema and La Maroma Producciones, is distributed by Matson Films. 80 min / English and Spanish. **Director / Producer:** Rodrigo Reyes; **Co-Producer:** Inti Cordera; **Executive Producer:** Hugo Perez; **Director of Photography:** Justin Chin; **Sound Designer:** José Inerzia; **Supervising Editor:** Manuel Tsingarlis; **Assistant Editor:** Adam Ducharme; **Music:** Rodrigo Cordera; **Sound Mixer:** Saúl Almaraz; **Producer of Marketing:** Patricia Benabe; **Associate Producer:** Scarlett Trillia; **Post Supervisor:** Quim Martí; **Music Supervisor:** Martha Fritz; **Color and Credits:** Israel Santamaría; **Post Assistant:** Vanessa Orozco; **Key Art:** Jordan Rishell; **Legal Advice:** Antonio Rebollar. PURGATORIO was developed in co-production with FOPROCINE / IMCINE and with the support of the 2012 IFP Documentary Lab and the National Association of Latino Independent Producer's Media Market.



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.

Through the lens of independent documentaries, AMERICA REFRAMED brings to national audiences compelling stories that illuminate the changing contours of an ever-evolving America. The 26-week, social-issue documentary series presents an array of personal voices and experiences through which we learn from our past, understand our present and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future.

Season three of AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling from emerging to veteran filmmakers alike. Viewers will be immersed in personal stories from the streets of towns big and small to the ex-burbs 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. Hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro, several episodes will feature a roundtable discussion with special guest commentators and filmmakers.

AMERICA REFRAMED in its first season won five 2013 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, and recently was nominated for its second national Imagen Award, which honors films featuring Latinos and their culture in television and film.

Series Credits

Executive Producers: Chris Hastings, Simon Kilmurry
Series Producer: Carmen 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>

@worldchannelPTV
@americareframed
@ndeltoro

AMERICA REFRAMED Co-Producers

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company 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.

The WORLD Channel delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming to US audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at worldchannel.org. WORLD reached 35 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. (*Source: Nielsen Local Buyer Reach Scorecard 01/13-12/13*)

WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with the American Public Television and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Ford Foundation. Additional funding for AMERICA REFRAMED is provided by the MacArthur Foundation.

Media Contact

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

###