



**Season 3 of AMERICA REFRAMED with  
Host Natasha Del Toro continues with AMERICAN HEART  
by Chris Newberry**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2015, on WORLD at 8 p.m.  
<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>  
[www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed](http://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed)  
Twitter: @americareframed #americareframed**

**In Minnesota, devoted doctors in a primary care clinic meet the health care needs of refugees and immigrants wrestling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as chronic and compounded prognoses. In addition to medication, they treat their patients with spoonfuls of hope, cultural competency and compassion.**

*After seeing this film, I have committed to making curiosity and compassion bigger in my life.* -Sandra Kramer, Minnesota Health Strategies and Communications Network

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December 15, 2014 (New York, NY) – Chris Newberry’s documentary **AMERICAN HEART** has its national broadcast premiere on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 8 p.m. on WORLD as part of the third season of the **AMERICA REFRAMED** series. (Check local listings.) Audiences across the nation can also view the film FREE from January 21st to February 19th on <http://worldchannel.org/>. After the broadcast, host Natasha Del Toro will facilitate a conversation with Dr. David Gunther, Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights.

Seven years in the making, this award-winning documentary takes viewers on an intimate journey into the lives of three refugees who now call America home. **AMERICAN HEART**, the feature documentary debut from Chris Newberry, centers on a remarkable health clinic tucked away in St. Paul, Minnesota, which serves as a crossroads for these chronically ill refugees and their devoted doctors. Leading the culturally sensitive medical professionals is Patricia Walker, MD, and Medical Director, Center for International Health, who explains, “I look like a Minnesota Swede, but I was actually born in Taiwan . . . then moved to Bangkok. I used to joke and say a Thai phrase which means *well I have the face of a foreigner but the heart of a Thai person.*”

A report generated by the Minnesota Foundation entitled, *Immigration in Minnesota Discovering Common Ground* states: During the 1990s alone, Minnesota’s foreign-born population more than doubled, from 110,000 to 240,000. Minnesota is attractive to immigrants for the same reasons it is attractive to the rest of us: a strong economy, good quality of life, educational opportunities, and a thriving civic and cultural life. Minnesota also has a history of active volunteerism regarding immigration and refugee resettlement, led primarily by faith-based organizations.



In the opening scenes we hear a beeping monitor and see the jagged lines across a heart monitor, and a smiley-face get-well balloon. The patient is Alex Gliptis, an Ethiopian refugee suffering from PTSD, diabetes and HIV, who has a burning desire to go back to Africa. Alex tells us that sometimes it's kind of a dream that he is really in the United States. He struggles with his health but also a survivor's guilt of having lived through a civil war where he lost family members.

Throughout the course of the film, we also meet Thor Lem, a former political prisoner from Cambodia who survived the killing fields, but is dying from liver cancer. Patrick Junior, a member of an oppressed ethnic minority in Burma is the writer of over 200 songs, many of them religious and uplifting. He loves to sleep with his guitar. The health care challenges they face are daunting, made more complicated by the trauma they carry from the past. Despite failing health and life-threatening health emergencies our protagonists lead remarkable lives; their outlook and trajectories surprising even to their doctors.

AMERICAN HEART airs January 20th at 8pm on WORLD (check local listings) and will stream for free online at [worldchannel.org/americareframed](http://worldchannel.org/americareframed).

Following the television broadcast premiere, host Natasha Del Toro will facilitate a conversation with Dr. David Gunther, Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights.

### **Short Synopsis**

Seven years in the making, this award-winning documentary takes viewers on an intimate journey into the lives of three refugees who now call America home. All of them confront life-threatening health emergencies throughout the course of the film, and their trajectories prove surprising even to their doctors.

### **Film Credits**

**Director/Producer:** Chris Newberry  
**Editor and Music/Composer:** Bill Kersey  
**Executive Producer:** Melody Gilbert

### **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>

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### **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](http://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**

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