



**Season 3 of AMERICA REFRAMED with Host Natasha Del Toro  
continues with BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON:  
An Elegy for South Louisiana by Don Howard and Jim Shelton**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2015, on Public Television's  
WORLD Channel at 8 p.m.**

<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>  
[www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed](http://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed)  
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*"By the River of Babylon: An Elegy for South Louisiana weaves a story of man-made environmental loss into the very beautiful and sad music of the region, and raises some disturbing questions of cultural survival."*—Moody College of Communication,  
The University of Texas at Austin, Radio-Television-Film Colloquium

MEDIA RELATIONS  
Neyda Martinez  
917 656 7846  
[neyda.martinez@gmail.com](mailto:neyda.martinez@gmail.com)

AMERICA  
REFRAMED  
20 Jay Street  
Suite 940  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

P: 212-989-8121  
F: 212-989-8230  
[americareframed.com](http://americareframed.com)

April 20, 2015 -- (New York, NY) – Don Howard and Jim Shelton's documentary **BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON: An Elegy for South Louisiana** will have its national television broadcast premiere on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel as part of the third season of the **AMERICA REFRAMED** series. ([Check local listings.](#)) Audiences across the nation can also view the film FREE starting June 17, 2015 on <http://worldchannel.org/>.

BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON takes us into the unique culture and environment of South Louisiana below the Mississippi River: a habitat that gave rise to Cajun and Creole music, food, and culture, and one that is disappearing at an alarming rate.

With compelling footage and expert commentary from Bob Marshall, a New Orleans Pulitzer prize-winning journalist, among others, the film weaves this sad story into a fabric of famed but decaying dance halls and the musical habitat they represented.

Riveting archival performances by Zydeco heavyweights Clifton Chenier and Beau Jocke, and Cajun and Swamp Pop artists like Nathan Abshire and Tommy McLain, are juxtaposed by thorough and thoughtful explanations of the man-made triggers that may eventually drown the entire area: the seventy-year effort to levee and control the entire river by the corps of engineers, and the rapacious dredging of the swamps for commercial transportation and oil and gas exploration and pipelines. Louisiana, a major source of energy for the nation, is being destroyed bit by bit, and the region's eco-system and marshland subside further and further each and every year.

In addition to a deep and personal connection to the region, the filmmakers credit Mike Tidwell's book, *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast* as a major source of inspiration for making this filmic journey.



The author writes:

*What's being lost is an American treasure, a place as big as the Everglades and just as beautiful, where sky and marsh and wildlife converge, where millions of migratory birds thrive on wetlands that once served as a muse to John Audubon. This world, containing a staggering 25 percent of America's total coastal wetlands, may be totally gone in the next few decades, taking with it a huge part of America's economy and a shield against hurricanes for two million citizens.*

"Like the famed music of the region, BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON is both a love letter and a lament over the destruction of the region and by association, the decline of its culture and way of life," says Simon Kilmurry, Executive Director, American Documentary, Inc.

"WORLD Channel and WGBH are thrilled to collaborate with American Documentary on the third season of AMERICA REFRAMED presenting television premieres and encores of important films such as BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON. As co-producers, we share a passion for storytellers committed to helping us gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of America today," says Chris Hastings, Co- Executive Producer, America ReFramed.

### **Film Credits**

A documentary film by Don Howard and Jim Shelton.

Writer, Editor, Director:	Don Howard
Producers:	Megan Field, Jim Shelton
Cinematography:	David Layton
Additional Cinematography:	Lee Daniel, Dacoda Bartels
Sound Recording, Design, and Mixing:	Justin Hennard

### **Performers:**

Phil Allemond and Kevin Courville  
Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys  
Corey Ledet and Cedric Watson  
Glenn Monte  
The Don Rich Band

### **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 has won five 2013 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, three Telly Awards, a Gracie Award and recently was nominated for its second national Imagen Award, which honors films featuring Latinos and their culture in television and film.

#### **AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits**

Executive Producers: Chris Hastings, Simon Kilmurry  
Series Producer: Carmen L. 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**

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

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