

Season 4 of AMERICA REFRAMED with Host Natasha Del Toro debuts with premiere of OLD SOUTH by Director/Producer Danielle Beverly (*Learning to Swallow*) and

by Director/Producer Danielle Beverly (*Learning to Swallow*) and from Executive Producer, Marco Williams

(Co-Director, *Two Towns of Jasper*)

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 on WORLD at 8 p.m.

America ReFramed

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"... [I]ssues of race and class...sadly, have become even more relevant due to the Charleston, SC, shootings and renewed debate over the Confederate flag." – Blake Aued, FLAGPOLE

January 6, 2016 -- (New York, NY) – Danielle Beverly's documentary **OLD SOUTH** has its national broadcast television premiere on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 8 p.m. on the WORLD Channel as part of the fourth season of **AMERICA REFRAMED**, public media's newest documentary series. The film will be simulcast online with a live chat featuring filmmakers and subject Hope Iglehart. OLD SOUTH will be available for free streaming on www.worldchannel.org starting February 3, 2016.

In the aftermath of Ferguson, Baltimore, and Charleston, local and national conversations about race are taking place. But, is it ever easy to speak openly and honestly? How is change made real? How does a community build trust? In a classic tale of two cities, OLD SOUTH delivers a quiet yet emotionally charged portrait of two communities living on one block. Steeped in history – one black, one white – each strives to keep their respective legacies relevant in a changing American South.

Justine Nagan, Executive Director/Executive Producer of American Documentary, explains, "OLD SOUTH sheds light on the dynamics of race relations at the community level and offers an example on how to work together as part of the same team. Ultimately, it is a story of hope, reconciliation and healing amidst great odds."

Chris Hastings, Executive Producer of WORLD Channel, adds, "OLD SOUTH exemplifies the powerful stories that AMERICA REFRAMED offers audiences; and is a relevant companion to WORLD's February presentation of *Eyes on the Prize*."

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The film, by Danielle Beverly, takes place in one of the oldest, predominantly black neighborhoods in Georgia. A group of young men, representative of Southern traditions and members of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity (KA), are known to fly a Confederate flag and hold an annual antebellum parade. The fraternity was founded in 1865, and its lineage is anchored in the Confederate values and ideals of Robert E. Lee. The film introduces a young member of the Fraternity who struggles to convey his historical take on the Civil War, the institution of slavery, and the symbolism behind the Confederate Flag.

Forced to move and with a desire to live in close proximity to their university, the fraternity chooses a large antebellum Confederate style mansion in the historically black neighborhood and demolishes two previously black-owned century-old properties. While intergenerational congregants of the community's Hill First Baptist Church wrestle with a painful historical memory, they hope for a different day. KA fraternity members are surprised that the black community would take issue with them moving into the neighborhood, and describe their upbringing, good manners and commitment to community service.

Against this backdrop, a young fifth generation funeral director, Hope Iglehart is fighting to preserve what's left of her African-American neighborhood and her mother's home. In an effort to save it from further encroachment, Hope organizes community members to obtain official historical designation for her neighborhood, and community gardener Karen Witten plants seeds and cultivates a safe space for community interaction.

By the close of the film, we see KA members working in the garden alongside African American community elders, and tutoring black children in math and English in the Baptist church. As Iglehart explains in the film, "...[A]nywhere you live, you have to become a stakeholder; if not, then you are not part of the community."

Film Credits

Producer, Director: Danielle Beverly Executive Producer: Marco Williams

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 four 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 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 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

Simulcast online live chats are facilitated by the digital platform <u>OVEE</u>. The Online Video Engagement Experience (OVEE) allows moderated interactive online screenings of video content streamed through PBS.org

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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 programing to US 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 (*Source: Nielsen Local Buyer Reach Scorecard 01/14-12/14).

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@amdoc.org for interviews and special requests.

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