



**THE LAST SEASON to premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED**  
**A film by Sara Dosa**

**Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 8 p.m.**  
**on Public Television's WORLD Channel**

[AMERICA REFRAMED](#)

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“...Immigrant labor and economics...originally brought Director Sara Dosa to the subject, but she found a more poignant theme...on family that makes this movie more rewarding.”

– John Angelico, SFGate

April 29, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Sara Dosa’s acclaimed documentary **THE LAST SEASON** will premiere **Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)), as part of the fourth season of **AMERICA REFRAMED**, public media’s newest documentary series hosted by Natasha Del Toro. The broadcast will be followed by 90 days of free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at [www.worldchannel.org/americareframed](http://www.worldchannel.org/americareframed) starting on June 1st.

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In the forests of Oregon's Cascade Mountains, bustling camps of migrant workers hunt the elusive matsutake mushroom. Here, Kouy Loch, a 46-year-old former platoon leader of Cambodia’s Khmer Freedom Fighters crosses paths with Roger Higgins, an ailing 75-year-old sniper formerly with the U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam. The unlikely pair find more than just mushrooms in the woods; they create a familial bond and a means to slowly heal the wounds of war. Told over the course of one matsutake mushroom season, **THE LAST SEASON** illuminates the delicate balance of nature to render a moving portrait of love and the cycle of life.

Each September, the rural town of Chemult, Oregon, with a population of only 135 persons, is flooded with hundreds of seasonal mushroom hunters. Many are immigrants from Laos, Cambodia and Thailand who entered the U.S. as refugees in the 1980s. They come to harvest the rare matsutake mushroom, which is prized in Japanese cuisine. Subject to extreme market fluctuations, the mushrooms can yield a mean of \$40 per pound, though the delicacy can fetch up to \$600 per pound and sometimes even more.



Kouy Loch, whose primary residence is in Stockton, California, carries with him a picture of his daughter, Janette. He is saving part of his earnings for her eighth birthday celebration. When Kouy was a child, the Khmer Rouge killed his father. As a young man, Kouy became a platoon leader for the freedom fighters. He lived in the jungle and slept with an AK47 wrapped in his arms. Under the Khmer Rouge and its slave labor, Kouy learned to forage for anything he could find, including mushrooms, insects and worms. This experience, he says, taught him how to earn a living as a mushroom hunter in the U.S.

In the mountains, Roger, the former sniper, lives in a humble wood-paneled home with his wife Theresa. A chain smoker, Roger's labored breathing is alleviated by a portable oxygen source. On a good day, Roger can bathe and dress himself. He also suffers from PTSD and vivid nightmares. Sometimes, Theresa wakes up hearing him speak in foreign languages that she does not recognize.

Having seen each other for years, it was not until a sixth mushroom season that Roger and Kouy talked about their respective war experiences, flashbacks and nightmares. Beyond friendship, a father-son bond blossomed when Kouy kneeled before Theresa and Roger asking permission to take them as his parents and requesting they accept him as their son. In turn, Roger and Theresa hope Kouy will meet a nice woman, use their lumber to build a home, and live near them in the woods year-round.

The fleeting matsutake mushroom season generally lasts two months. With the first signs of an early winter before them, the workers break down their encampment and Kouy makes preparations to leave Oregon. As the family exchange bittersweet hugs and goodbyes, Theresa and Kouy brace themselves fearing the proximity of Roger's last season.

#### **Film Credits**

Director: Sara Dosa  
Producer: Josh Penn  
Editors: Eric Casper, Stuart Sloan

#### **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 4 of 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. 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 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>  
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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](http://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](http://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, the Ford Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Kendeda Fund. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

**Media Contact**

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