



**KIVALINA to Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED**  
**A film by Gina Abatemarco**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

*The quiet, vérité style documentary captures family activities and community rituals like the preparation of caribou meat, a teen dance night in the community center, church services, and public meetings with representatives of the American government and military.*

—Courtney Sheehan, The Independent

June 29, 2016 – (New York, NY) – Gina Abatemarco’s acclaimed debut documentary **KIVALINA** will premiere Tuesday, November 1, 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 streaming for audiences across the U.S. at [www.worldchannel.org/americanreframed](http://www.worldchannel.org/americanreframed) starting on November 2nd.

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**KIVALINA** is a quiet but stirring portrait of an ancient Arctic culture and its modern descendants: the Inupiaq Eskimo people of Kivalina, Alaska. Today they must navigate an uncertain future 80 miles above the Arctic Circle on a fragile barrier island disappearing due to climate change.

Filmed over five years and with unprecedented access, this observational portrait immerses viewers into the rarely-seen, daily lives of an Arctic tribe who try to continue to honor their way of life despite a deteriorating landscape and a government that is failing them.

As the Arctic warms, the tiny island of Kivalina, built on merely a sliver of sand and permafrost grows dangerously smaller, and its foundation is disintegrating at an alarming rate. With increasingly less fall sea ice to protect the shore, the island is vulnerable to worsening storms and is admittedly unequipped for an evacuation. Fearing that a powerful wave could wash them away, the villagers of Kivalina are desperate to relocate before it is too late.

Presently, 400 American citizens live on a disappearing island. While the Federal and State governments grapple with the question of what to do about Kivalina, the village moves on with their daily lives. According to the people of Kivalina, their village was once a seasonal hunting camp for their ancestors and never intended as a permanent residence; during the early 1900's The Bureau of Indian Affairs forced



the Inupiaq people to settle in Kivalina when the Bureau constructed schools throughout the region and decreed by law that nomadic hunting and fishing tribes settle in one place to educate their children.

The people of Kivalina say they have asked the Alaska State and Federal governments for relocation support since “as far back as they can remember”. The film documents the government's decision to build a multi-million dollar rock sea wall along the island's failing coastline—instead of showing concern for their long-term safety—cementing the community on the island for the next decade or longer, though experts agree the island is in “imminent danger” of a flood.

#### **Film Credits**

Director & Producer:	Gina Abatemarco
Cinematographer:	Zoe White
Editor:	Nafav Harel

#### **Media Contact**

Journalists and reviewers may contact Neyda Martínez at **917 656 7846** or via email at [neyda@amdac.org](mailto:neyda@amdac.org) for interviews and special requests.

#### **About AMERICA REFRAMED**

AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films, highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling portrayed from the lens of emerging and veteran filmmakers. Viewers are immersed in personal stories from towns big and small, to the exurbs and through country roads, spanning the spectrum of American life. The documentaries invite audiences to reflect on varied topics including 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



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-Producer**

**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)

