



RADICAL GRACE
To Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
A film by Rebecca Parrish

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel

“The film, at turns entertaining, educational and inspiring, illustrates profoundly how social justice and spirituality are inseparably linked.”
Nancy Fornasiero, THE HUFFINGTON POST

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February 8, 2017 – (New York, NY) – Rebecca Parrish’s documentary, **RADICAL GRACE**, will have its U.S. television premiere **Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel (check local listings), as part of the new season of public media’s **AMERICA REFRAMED**. The documentary series is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America. The broadcast will be followed by free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at www.worldchannel.org/americareframed starting on March 15th.

In 2012, The Vatican censured American nuns, putting them under the supervision of conservative bishops. **RADICAL GRACE** follows three U.S. nuns, sisters Simone Campbell, Chris Schenk, and Jean Hughes, who refused to back down and continued to challenge the patriarchal system. The nuns’ advocacy puts their lives at stake, at a tense time in the Church as a new Pope is being selected. However, they’re willing to lose it all and risk their place within the Catholic Church for their devotion to social justice and to meet their higher calling—to apply their faith to action.

Defying notions of how the Catholic Church fits into American social movements, the nuns of **RADICAL GRACE** provide a view into the proud and tenacious tradition of activism springing from the American convent and spilling into society. They have a common bond, informed by their faith and interpretation of Jesus’ teachings.

Fearlessly, the three sisters challenge what they regard as the Catholic Church’s long-held patriarchal and conservative norms with their dedication to social justice. The conflict comes to a head when the Vatican admonishes against “radical feminism” within the ranks of American nuns, and threatens some, including Sister Simone, with excommunication.

Sister Jean, a longstanding presence on Chicago’s West Side, counsels former prisoners who are trying to reenter the community. As the director of the



progressive lobby NETWORK, Sister Simone, an attorney, devises a “Nuns on the Bus Tour” to highlight economic inequality and defend the Affordable Care Act. Sister Chris focuses on in-house reform, advocating for gender equality within the Catholic Church.

“The sisters’ surprising activism provides a model for action to Americans of faith, who too often feel silenced by the dictates of conservative religious leaders. Moreover, it shows the power of inner nourishment — whether through religious practice or deep personal reflection — to make all of us better change-makers in the world,” explains Rebecca Parrish, director of RADICAL GRACE.

The film captures the nuns’ unwavering resilience as they ponder, under duress, what it means for them to be both devoted to, and in conflict, with a historically male-driven and hierarchical institution. The drama unfolds against the backdrop of evolving Church rhetoric. Their engagement with, and connection to, the plight of everyday people garners the attention of Pope Francis, and their collective achievements demonstrate how the Catholic Church is changing from within, while propelling reform well beyond the convent walls.

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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.

Film Credits

Director: Rebecca Parrish

Producer: Nicole Bernardi-Reis

Producer & Executive Producer: Danny Alpert

Executive Producer: Susan Sarandon

An Interchange Productions / Kindling Group co-production

About AMERICA REFRAMED

AMERICA REFRAMED is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc.

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.

An award-winning documentary series, AMERICA REFRAMED is the recipient of a Christopher, a GRACIE, and several Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as nominations for an EMMY, Independent Documentary Association, and Imagen Award.

AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits

Executive Producers: Justine Nagan, Chris Hastings, Chris White
Series Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio

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 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

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. 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 and The Kendeda Fund. Additional support for America ReFramed is provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Wyncote Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit www.worldchannel.org

