



BREATHIN': The Eddy Zheng Story
To Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
A film by Ben Wang

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel

“... this film ... reveals what’s wrong with the system, what’s right about the human heart, what’s enduring about the spirit, what’s unjust and cruel...”
– Jimmy Santiago Baca, writer and poet

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April 26, 2017 – (New York, NY) – Ben Wang’s documentary, **BREATHIN': The Eddy Zheng Story**, will have its U.S. television premiere **Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel (check local listings), as part of the new season of public media’s **AMERICA REFRAMED**. For this APA Heritage Month, WORLD Channel explores the identity evolution of immigrants, refugees, and first and second generation Asian Pacific American children who don't have just one identity, but two. 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 May 24th.

In today’s current climate of mixed attitudes towards immigrants and people convicted of crimes, **BREATHIN'** reveals the complexities of one individual’s experiences with immigration, incarceration, deportation, and personal transformation.

Eddy Zheng came to America with his family when he was 12 years old. At the age of 16, he committed a horrible crime: home invasion and kidnapping. He was sent to San Quentin Maximum Security Prison, the youngest prisoner in the jail. Eddy’s parents, new immigrants from China, were not fully aware of how to navigate the criminal justice system, but believed Eddy should follow the rules and pay for the crime committed. Because of this, and their feelings of shame and guilt, his parents did not tell the truth about Eddy’s whereabouts to other family members, making Eddy’s time in jail ever more lonely and emotionally grueling.

In this story of transformation and hope for redemption, Zheng who served nearly 20 years in prison, teaches himself to read and counsels at-risk youth. He leads a



campaign advocating for access to ethnic study materials in the library prison college program, for which he is sent to solitary confinement for 11 months.

Eddy's youngest victim, however, is still traumatized by the crime he committed as a teen. On behalf of her family, she writes a letter advocating for Eddy's deportation. As soon as he is finally paroled from prison, he is picked up by Homeland Security for immigration detention and deportation.

However, his supporters say Eddy has served his sentence and is reformed. "If he's not the epitome of rehabilitation," says one friend, "who is?" Over the course of the film, Eddy finds love, reconnects with his family and is intentional in seeking forgiveness from his victims. But, will society, his family and his victims give him a second chance?

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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/Producer/Writer: Ben Wang

BREATHIN': THE EDDY ZHENG STORY won the Audience Award for Documentary Feature at CAAMFest, Jury Award for Best Documentary and Audience Award for Best Documentary at Austin Asian American Film Festival, and the JASON D. MAK Social Justice Award at the DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon.

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 a recipient of the Christopher, GRACIE, 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>

@worldchannelPTV
@americareframed

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

