



Tribeca Hit Documentary VEGAS BABY to Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED

**A Film by Amanda Micheli and Executive Producer Morgan Spurlock
Takes an In Depth Look Into In Vitro Fertilization and Will Premiere on
Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

“Through a humane, emotional examination of the contest...director Amanda Micheli’s documentary highlights the complexity and despair of America’s fertility industry.”
– Joe McGovern, *Entertainment Weekly*

May 30, 2017 – (New York, NY) – Amanda Micheli’s Tribeca Film Festival hit documentary, **VEGAS BABY**, will have its U.S. television premiere **Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 8 p.m.** on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)), as part of the new season of public media’s **AMERICA REFRAMED**. This moving film exposes the emotional and financial costs of the gamble of infertility treatment.

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Directed by Oscar® nominated filmmaker Amanda Micheli and executive produced by Oscar® nominated Morgan Spurlock, VEGAS BABY pulls back the curtain on the world of reproductive medicine through a provocative, “truth is stranger than fiction” premise. The film follows aspiring parents from all walks of life who place themselves in the hands of a Las Vegas doctor and his annual contest, which offers the prize of a free round of IVF – with no guarantee of success. Contestants post video entries online telling their stories, counting on the votes of strangers to help them realize their dream of becoming parents.

While exposing private pain online to win a contest is a brutal proposition, IVF is rarely covered by insurance, so many infertile couples consider this a gamble worth taking. VEGAS BABY navigates the complexities of America's burgeoning fertility industry and paints an intimate portrait of the diverse individuals – from a devoutly Catholic Latino couple in Texas to a lesbian Lady Gaga Impersonator in New York – determined to have a baby against all odds.

One in eight American couples have difficulty getting pregnant or carrying a baby to term, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But for



fear of judgment or heartache or both, would-be parents tend to keep their infertility stories secret. VEGAS BABY breaks the silence around this often misunderstood medical and social issue, and through her intimate lens, Micheli explores universal themes of desire and loss.

Micheli describes her own personal infertility experience which inspired her to make the film, during which her husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer: “It felt like the doctor took over our bedroom and our savings account all at once, and it put an incredible strain on our marriage. Thankfully, my husband’s cancer was treatable, and is in remission. I wish I could say the same about our infertility.”

She adds, “While I can’t control any of this, I can use my skills as a filmmaker to give a voice to the millions of Americans — straight, gay, coupled, or going it alone — who struggle with infertility in isolation. By humanizing their stories, my goal is to start a conversation about the flipside of reproductive choice: the choice to have a child.”

The documentary series, AMERICA REFRAMED, is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America. The television broadcast of VEGAS BABY will be followed by free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at www.worldchannel.org/americanreframed starting on June 28th.

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for interviews and special requests.

Film Credits

A Runaway Films presentation; directed and produced by Amanda Micheli; executive produced by Morgan Spurlock and Jeremy Chilnick; produced by Serin Marshall; edited by Greg O’Toole and Lisa Fruchtman; with Micheli as the Director of Photography; and original music by Paul Brill.

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>

@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

