



FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL
A film by Jamie Sisley and Miguel Martinez

TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel

“The wheels churn evenly in this well-made documentary about summer carnivals... In this age of polarization and accusation, it's very refreshing to see a documentary that is more in the old-style Flaherty tradition, just letting the pieces and the action fall where they might.” – Duane Byrge, *The Hollywood Reporter*

August 24, 2017 – (New York, NY) – Most people who work have an expectation of earning a fair wage in exchange for their labor. But in countries like Mexico, some agricultural workers earn a meager \$4 per day for back-breaking work. Given the prospect of earning close to \$400 per week, many make the tough choice of spending a large part of the year away from those they love in another country, most in exchange for a livable wage.

MEDIA RELATIONS
Neyda Martinez
917 656 7846
neyda@amdoc.org

AMERICA REFRAMED
20 Jay Street
Suite 940
Brooklyn, NY 11201

P: 212-989-8121
F: 212-989-8230
americareframed.com

FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL, a new documentary by Jamie Sisley and Miguel Martinez, shines a light on the largely unseen world of seasonal carnival workers who come to the U.S. legally under the H-2B guest worker visa program. The film follows Mexican carnival workers and their U.S. employers as they work together to sustain a struggling industry within the context of issues surrounding the H-2B visa.

FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL will have its national television broadcast premiere on [AMERICA REFRAMED](#) on **Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 8 p.m.**, during Hispanic Heritage Month on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)). The documentary series is dedicated to highlighting intimate stories by emerging and veteran filmmakers who are chronicling an ever-changing America.

The broadcast premiere will be followed by free streaming for audiences across the U.S. at www.worldchannel.org/americareframed starting on October 11th.

In the American imagination, carnivals bring back childhood memories of family fun, fantasy, and summer love. But rising expenses and changes in U.S. labor patterns have made this national pastime nearly extinct. **FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL** is an



inside look at the struggles of an industry trying to stay alive by employing Mexican migrant workers with a controversial visa.

In the film, we meet Jim, who started in the carnival business as a fire-eater and worked his way up to become a show manager. Over the years, he's grown in the business and handles nearly 81 percent of all the H-2B visas for migrant workers legally working in the outdoor amusement industry. Jim explains that he works with men like Florencio and Gregorio who, like other Mexican carnival workers, are dependable, willing to work long hours, and even help each other complete tasks collaboratively, a trait that one carnival operator noted he "couldn't find among U.S. workers." Working in the carnival has afforded Gregorio the opportunity to buy land and build a home for his family back in Mexico.

Through various perspectives ***FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL*** explores a classic "David and Goliath" battle where progressive legal advocates argue that workers are "being taken for a ride," and business owners argue that increasing the payroll and benefits could put them out of business. Citing countless accounts of workers' rights violations and a moral imperative, the advocates argue that the H-2B visa gives employers a way to get around not offering a fair wage or dignified work conditions.

FAREWELL FERRIS WHEEL reveals the human toll endured by the workers seeking opportunity, who lack air conditioning and electricity in their trailer homes, operate old machines and face workplace hazards that result in injuries for which they get no compensation and minimal medical attention.

###

Media Contacts

For interviews and special requests, journalists and reviewers may contact: Neyda Martinez at **917-656-7846** or via email at neyda@amdoc.org.

Film Credits

Directed by: Jamie Sisley and Miguel Martinez

Farewell Ferris Wheel is a co-production of Kola Pictures and Independent Television Service (ITVS), produced in association with KAET / Arizona PBS, and Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB), with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).



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>

@worldchannel
@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

