



PRESS RELEASE

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‘AFROPOP’ CLOSURES WITH AN INSPIRING STORY OF COURAGE

Documentary series season finale, John Rowe’s ‘Omo Child: The River and the Bush,’ is the incredible tale of one man’s crusade to change a society

Film premieres Monday, February 13, 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT, on the WORLD Channel

NEW YORK (February 2, 2017)—Season nine of the award-winning documentary series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* ends with the empowering story of one man who stood up to change his culture, saving generations of children. John Rowe’s visually stunning *Omo Child: The River and the Bush* demonstrates how one determined individual can transform an entire society. The season finale premieres on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on Monday, February 16. *AfroPoP* is hosted by acclaimed actress Nikki Beharie (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Shame*, *42*), produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](#) and co-presented by series distributor [American Public Television \(APT\)](#).

This multiple award-winning film shot over five years captures a young man’s crusade to end an ancient cultural practice. In the Omo Valley of Ethiopia, the Kara tribe maintained an unimaginable tradition: killing infants thought to be cursed. Risking his own life, Lale Labuko, who had left the area to live in the wider society, creates a movement to change the practice that threatens the lives of healthy babies and the eventual extinction of his tribe. “How many of us can stand firm and alone against the leaders of our community to right a wrong in the face of ostracism and threat of physical harm? Lale Labuko’s quest to end this harmful practice and move his community towards a more humane future is both inspirational and empowering, and a call for us all to stand firm against injustice,” said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Co-Executive Producer Kay Shaw. “*Omo Child* touched me in ways few films have and left me hopeful for our future.”

Other films in the series this season include:

- George Potter and Andy Adkins’ *An American Ascent*, which shows the first African-American team to attempt to summit North America’s highest peak, Denali.

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- Eric Kabera’s moving ***Intore***, which reveals the work of a new generation of artists in Rwanda to help bridge the divide caused by the country’s horrific 100-day genocide.
- Tyler Johnston and Miquel Galofré’s beautiful ***My Father’s Land***, which follows an undocumented worker in the Bahamas who risks it all to return to his native Haiti to see his ailing, aged father.
- Eva Weber’s important documentary ***Black Out***, which shines the spotlight on schoolchildren in Guinea who trek for miles each day during exam season to find places with light so they can study.
- Olivia Peace’s narrative short film ***Pangaea***, a moving story of a young girl who was trapped on a rooftop after Hurricane Katrina, which airs with ***Black Out***.

This season’s episodes of *AfroPoP* can be seen online at worldchannel.org. APT will release the series to the nation’s public television stations later this month. Check local listings or www.APTonline.org.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

To find out more about *AfroPoP*, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org.

ABOUT THE HOST

Nikki Beharie will next be seen in Will Packer Productions remake of *Jacob’s Ladder*, directed by David M. Rosenthal. She recently starred in the hit Fox series *Sleepy Hollow* for producers Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci, for which she was nominated for an NAACP Award for “Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series,” in addition to “Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture” for *42* and “Entertainer of the Year.” Beharie starred with Michael Fassbender in Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen’s feature *Shame* and began her career on Broadway opposite Jeffrey Wright and Mos Def in John Guare’s *A Free Man of Color*. She was also the lead of the critically acclaimed feature *American Violet* opposite Alfre Woodard and Tim Blake Nelson for Samuel Goldwyn Films.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

ABOUT NBPC:

The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative

media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. NBPC provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of Black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, NBPC produces the *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator + Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important Black serial and interactive content.

ABOUT AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION:

[American Public Television](#) (APT) has been the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations since 1961. For more than 10 years, APT has annually distributed one-third or more of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. Among its 250 new program titles per year, APT programs include prominent documentaries, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series and classic movies. *America's Test Kitchen From Cook's Illustrated*, *Cook's Country*, *AfroPoP*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Front and Center*, *Doc Martin*, *Nightly Business Report*, *Midsomer Murders*, *A Place to Call Home*, *Lidia's Kitchen*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, and *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT licenses programs internationally through its [APT Worldwide](#) service. Now in its 12th year, [Create® TV](#) — featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming — is distributed by American Public Television. APT also distributes [WORLD™](#), public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](#).

ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL:

The [WORLD Channel](#) delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming. The channel features original content by and about diverse communities to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at [worldchannel.org](#). WORLD reached 33.3 million unique viewers 18+ last year (52% 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. For its exploration of the human spirit, WORLD Channel won the 2016 Christopher Award in the TV/cable category for the episode "If You Build It," a part of its *America Reframed* series.

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](#)

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