

Contact:

Cheryl Hirasa
808-591-0059 ext. 160
chirasa@piccom.org

Gabriella Jones-Litchfield
503-297-6436
gabriellajlitchfield@gmail.com

PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES SEASON SEVEN OF “PACIFIC HEARTBEAT”

--New Season Features Three Films from the Pacific Islands starting on April 30 for
Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May--

(Honolulu) Pacific Islanders in Communications announced today the line-up for season seven of public television series “Pacific Heartbeat,” public television’s premiere annual showcase of culture and content from and about the Pacific Islands.

The new season will be available to viewers beginning April 30, 2018.

“We are thrilled to offer this latest installment in television’s greatest showcase of the Pacific Islands and its people,” said Leanne Ferrer, Executive Director of Pacific Islanders in Communications, founder and executive producer of the series. “There has never been a more important time for Pacific Islanders to bring our voices to the national dialogue.”

Pacific Heartbeat, now in its seventh season, is an anthology series that provides viewers a glimpse of the real Pacific—its people, cultures, languages, music, and contemporary issues. From revealing exposés to rousing musical performances, the series features a diverse array of programs that will draw viewers into the heart and soul of Pacific Island culture.

Films are selected each year from numerous submissions, including projects funded by PIC with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pacific Heartbeat comes to Public Television through a partnership between Pacific Islanders in Communications and PBS Hawai'i, and is presented and distributed by Boston-based American Public Television and broadcast nationally on WORLD Channel in addition to scheduled broadcasts on your local PBS station.

Pacific Heartbeat Season Seven: Coming April 30, 2018

POI E: The Story of Our Song

Episode PH 701

By Alexander Behse and Tearepa Kahi

A film about the unofficial national waiata (anthem) of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the community spirit of Pātea and Dalvanus Prime.

POI E: The song behind our PRIDE is a story which brings to the screen, the life of Dalvanus Prime - a man who brought disco to Australia; the warmth of the Ngoi Pewhairangi, a community elder whose passion for indigenous Māori language; and the lives of the Pātea Māori club, a traditional Māori Kapahaka (dance) group comprised of freezing workers from the small town Pātea. When Dalvanus returns to Pātea, he not only comes face-to-face with the reality of a dying mother but also to a devastated community whose livelihood was on the brink when the Freezing Works were shut down. The lives of everyone in Pātea were up in the air as families struggled to make ends meet. Dalvanus did the only one thing he could to make ends meet - tour and sing in a time when being Māori meant you had to watch where you step.

Making Good Men

Episode PH 702

By Fiona Apanui-Kupenga

Making Good Men is an honest and moving story about high school bullying and the pathway to redemption.

Two high profile New Zealanders, a former All Black, Norm Hewitt, and Hollywood actor, Manu Bennett reveal their unforgettable account of bullying with unprecedented honesty. Making Good Men is not a story of blame or humiliation. It's a path to redemption, reconciliation and ultimately to restoration.

Being Bruno Banani

Episode PH 703

By Susann Wentzlaff and Jörg Junge

Being Bruno Banani tells the unique story of the first and only Tongan luger who qualified for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

After several days of trials in Tonga, the 21-year-old student, Fuahea Semi from the island of Eua was selected. No one could have foreseen it, but it was an inspirational choice, he was a real natural talent. Without any financial support from overseas partners, it would probably only be a short trip. Mathias Ihle from Makai Europe came up with the unique marketing strategy of changing the successful candidate's name to that of a sponsoring company - Bruno Banani.

About Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC):

Established in 1991, Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) is the only national public media organization that supports media content and its makers to work together to promote a deeper understanding of Pacific Islander history, culture and contemporary issues that define our communities. PIC addresses the need for media content that reflects America's growing ethnic and cultural diversity by funding independently produced media, and by providing hundreds of hours of innovative media by and about Pacific Islanders to American public television including its flagship series *Pacific Heartbeat*. For more information about Pacific Islanders in Communications and *Pacific Heartbeat*, visit www.piccom.org.

About American Public Television (APT):

[American Public Television](#) (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. APT distributes one-fourth of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. Founded in 1961, among its 250 new program titles per year, APT programs include prominent documentaries such as Pacific Heartbeat and AfroPop, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children's series, and classic movies -- many of which are considered some of the most popular on public television. For the complete catalog, visit [APTonline.org](#).

About WORLD:

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. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](#).

About PBS Hawai'i:

PBS Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Hawaii's sole member of the trusted Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). We advance learning and discovery through storytelling that profoundly touches people's lives. We bring the world to Hawaii and Hawaii to the world. [PBSHawaii.org](#) | [facebook.com/pbshawaii](#) | [@pbshawaii](#)

About the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

About the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB):

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private, nonprofit corporation created by Congress in 1967, is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. It helps support the operations of nearly 1,500 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations nationwide. CPB is also the largest single source of funding for research, technology, and program development for public radio, television, and related online services. For more information, visit [www.cpb.org](#) and follow us on Twitter [@CPBmedia](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#), and [subscribe](#) for email updates.