

REEL SOUTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Documentary Series REEL SOUTH Returns for Second Season

Darius Rucker Hosts New Season Premiering on
WORLD Channel Sunday, January 8, 2017



Top to bottom: Darius Rucker, *The Exceptionally Extraordinary Emporium*, *Overburden*, *120 Days*.

(DECEMBER 9, 2016) — **REEL SOUTH**, the public television series spotlighting documentary films steeped in Southern flavor, will return with an expanded season and a new host—platinum-selling, Grammy-winning recording artist Darius Rucker. The series, a coproduction of UNC-TV, South Carolina ETV and the Southern Documentary Fund, premieres weekly on WORLD Channel on Sunday nights from January 8 through March 5, 2017, at 9 pm ET / 6 pm PT.

Season Two of **REEL SOUTH** features 12 documentaries from across the region, highlighting the rich Southern tradition of storytelling and celebrating diverse voices and unexpected points of view. This season's films include a look back at the rise and fall of the utopian Soul City in 1970s North Carolina, a thoroughly modern story of a young transgender Christian trying to find his place in the church, a portrait of influential Mississippi bluesman Fred McDowell, the story of two unforgettable women from West Virginia coal country who find common ground across the divide that separates them, a visit to the epicenter of the costuming community in New Orleans, and timely looks at the region's oldest and newest immigrants.

Season Two also features Charleston, South Carolina's Darius Rucker as the host. After phenomenal success as lead singer and rhythm guitarist of Hootie & The Blowfish, Darius embarked on a solo career in country music, releasing four consecutive albums to top the *Billboard* Country

albums chart. Throughout three decades of worldwide fame and acclaim, he has remained committed to the South—as his involvement with **REEL SOUTH** attests.

All films from Season Two will stream on reelsouth.org and WORLDChannel.org the day after broadcast. REEL SOUTH will also engage audiences through monthly screenings and conversations moderated by intriguing thought leaders via the OVEE interactive streaming platform.

REEL SOUTH is a collaboration between South Carolina ETV, UNC-TV and the Southern Documentary Fund (SDF). Rachel Raney and Amy Shumaker are Executive Producers.

The complete lineup for Season Two of **REEL SOUTH** on the WORLD Channel is below. One-hour episodes premiere Sundays at 9 pm ET / 6 pm PT.

January 8, 2017

Soul City (30 min.) by Monica Berra, SheRea DelSol and Gini Richards

Learn the story of a group of civil rights activists who attempted to build a multiracial utopia—Soul City—in the heart of North Carolina’s Klan country during the 1970s. Rich archival material, interviews with former and current Soul City residents, animation and soulful rhythms of the era bring alive the vision of founder Floyd B. McKissick and his band of idealists who, despite the odds stacked against them, risked it all to build the city of their dreams.

Eat White Dirt (30 min.) by Adam Forrester

Discover the oddly spellbinding personal, cultural and scientific history of the deeply transgressive and often misunderstood practice of consuming earth, a phenomenon known as geophagy. The film collects and combines the experiences, processes and explanations of people who eat white dirt with information from the scientists who study the phenomenon.

January 15

Deep Run (60 min.) by Hillevi Loven

Exiled by family and rejected by an ex, 17-year-old Jasmine finds new love and the courage to become Cole, a strong-willed transgender man, in this powerful verité portrait of trans life in rural North Carolina. Cole’s candid humor and steadfast Christian beliefs counter the bigotry he experiences daily. Executive produced by Susan Sarandon.

January 22

Overburden (60 min.) by Chad A. Stevens

Meet two unforgettable women—a fiery, pro-coal activist and a tenacious, environmentalist grandmother—whose lives collide when a mine disaster shatters their community. Filmed over seven years, the pair’s courageous story underscores the need for reconciliation as they take on a rogue industry to help heal their Appalachian Mountain community.

January 29

The State of Eugenics (60 min.) by Dawn Sinclair Shapiro

Between 1933 and 1974, the state of North Carolina ran one of the most aggressive eugenics programs, sterilizing more than 7,600 men, women and children. This film follows the journey of survivors, legislators and journalists who insist the state confront

its role in the tragic, forced sterilization of thousands of Americans thought to have “undesirable” genetics.

February 5

The Exceptionally Extraordinary Emporium (30 min.) by Lindsey Phillips and Lauren Domino

Come along with colorful characters carrying on a cherished Mardi Gras tradition as they gather at the epicenter of all things costuming—the family-owned Jefferson Variety fabric and craft store. The film highlights the creativity and personal expression linked in the cultural identity and narrative of New Orleans and provides a deeper look into the significance of costuming and the carnival season.

The Last Barn Dance (30 min.) by Ted Richardson and Jason Arthurs
(Encore Presentation)

In this film about farming, fragility and a fight to preserve the family business, Randy Lewis struggles to save his dairy farm in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, where dozens of family-owned dairies have disappeared. While keeping the business afloat, Randy also hosts one of the only true old-time barn dances left in the region, keeping the tradition alive and the community that loves it.

February 12

120 Days (60 min.) by Ted Roach

Due to his immigration status, family man Miguel Cortes must make a tough choice. After an unexpected traffic stop, a North Carolina judge has offered Miguel 120 days to get his affairs in order and self-deport to Mexico—leaving his wife and two daughters behind. Will he leave for Mexico or disappear into the shadows in his adopted homeland?

February 19

Private Violence (60 min.) by Cynthia Hill

With at least four women murdered each day by abusive (and often, ex) partners, a woman in America is most in danger in her own home. Witness the complex realities of intimate partner violence through the eyes of two survivors: Deanna Walters, a mother seeking justice for her estranged husband’s crimes against her, and victims’ advocate Kit Gruelle. Executive produced by Gloria Steinem.

February 26

Red Wolf Revival (30 min.) by Roshan Patel and Madison McClintock

Three decades ago, the nearly extinct red wolf was reintroduced in North Carolina. While this flagship conservation effort paved the way for reintroducing several other species across the country, today fewer than 100 wild red wolves remain—and their fate hinges on significant biological, political, cultural and economic challenges.

An Enduring Legacy: Louisiana’s Croatian-Americans (30 min.) by James V. Catano

Little known even in their home state, the Croatians of Lower Plaquemines Parish have used grit and determination to build an oystering industry that has made Louisiana famous. Follow the lives of four people who embody the 150-year Croatian experience in Louisiana and share in the history of this unique tight-knit community.

March 5

Shake 'Em On Down: The Blues According to Fred McDowell (60 min.) by Joe York
Through interviews and never-before-seen footage, delight in the story of Mississippi sharecropper Fred McDowell, the godfather of the North Mississippi style of blues, who was first recorded by Alan Lomax in 1959, traveled to Europe with the Rolling Stones in the mid-1960s, mentored Bonnie Raitt, and influenced the music of RL Burnside, Taj Mahal, the North Mississippi All Stars and many others.

About REEL SOUTH

REEL SOUTH is an anthology series highlighting the best non-fiction storytelling from across the American South. Distributed to public television stations nationally, the series brings diverse Southern voices, topics and points of view into millions of homes. REEL SOUTH was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television. The series is a collaboration between UNC-TV, South Carolina ETV, and the Southern Documentary Fund (SDF). Visit www.reelsouth.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About 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.

About The Southern Documentary Fund

[The Southern Documentary Fund](#) (SDF) is a nonprofit arts organization that cultivates documentary projects made in or about the American South. Inspired by a core belief that documentaries have the power to change lives and communities, SDF serves as a leading advocate for powerful southern storytelling, providing filmmakers and artists with professional support, filmmaking grants and fiscal sponsorship. Since its 2002 founding, SDF has sponsored over 100 projects that have screened all over the world, won critical acclaim and prestigious awards and inspired audiences with authentic stories that matter.

About South Carolina ETV

South Carolina ETV is the state's public educational broadcasting network. Using television, radio and the web, ETV's mission is to enrich lives by educating children, informing and connecting citizens, celebrating our culture and environment and instilling the joy of learning. ETV currently presents *A Chef's Life*, *Expeditions*, *Reel South*, and *For Your Home* on public television in addition to national radio productions *Song Travels*, *Piano Jazz*, *Chamber Music from Spoleto Festival USA*, and *World of Opera*. More information is available at sctv.org.

About UNC-TV

UNC-TV provides people of all ages with an enriching array of distinctive programs and services, including four digital channels: flagship UNC-TV—PBS & More, UNC-EX—The Explorer Channel, Rootle—The Kids Channel, and the North Carolina Channel—Stories with a Local Accent. UNC-TV's 12 stations comprise North Carolina's only statewide television network, made possible through a unique partnership of public investment and

private support. UNC-TV is committed to producing, broadcasting and sharing content for and about North Carolina. For more information, visit UNCTV.org and join the conversation by liking us at facebook.com/unctv and following us on Twitter [@unctv](https://twitter.com/unctv).

About WORLD Channel

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. Last year alone, WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ (55% adults 18-49) and it over-indexes in key diversity demographics. Online, 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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Media Contacts:

CaraMar, Inc.

Mary Lugo, 770-623-8190; lugo@negia.net

Cara White, 843-881-1480; cara.white@mac.com

Additional information and photos available at reelsouth.org.

