



**AMERICA REFRAMED and the Center for Asian American Media  
celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month with television broadcast  
premieres and online events**

*9-MAN by Ursula Liang, May 5, 2015*

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*WINNING GIRL by Kimberlee Bassford, May 12, 2015*

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*CAMBODIAN SON by Masahiro Sugano, May 19, 2015*

**Tuesdays on Public Television's  
WORLD Channel at 8 p.m.**

<http://worldchannel.org/programs/america-reframed/>  
[www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed](http://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed)

Twitter: @americareframed #americareframed

May 1, 2015 -- (New York, NY) – AMERICA REFRAMED and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month with new films by **Ursula Liang, Kimberlee Bassford, Masahiro Sugano, and P.J. Raval.**

Each filmmaker will enjoy a national television broadcast premiere on Tuesday at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel as part of the third season of the **AMERICA REFRAMED** series. ([Check local listings.](#)) The morning following the broadcast premiere, audiences across the nation can also view the film FREE on <http://worldchannel.org/>.

**May 5**  
**9-MAN by Ursula Liang**  
**Online screening dates: May 6, 2015 to May 9, 2015**

Much more than an urban pastime, 9-Man is a competitive Chinese-American sport with roots that trace back to the Toisan\* region of Guangdong province. In North America, the game was a way for Chinese workers to escape the drudgery of menial labor during an era of extreme discrimination. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 -- the first U.S. immigration law targeting a single ethnic group -- constrained the formation of Chinese families, effectively creating Chinatown "bachelor societies" where men outnumbered women by huge ratios. In the 1930's, a traveling 9-Man tournament emerged, and helped create fraternity within a community plagued by unjust stereotypes of Asian masculinity.

Today, 9-Man provides a lasting connection to culture and community pride for men that know a different, more integrated America. Following several teams over the course of one season, the documentary captures the spirit of 9-Man as teams prepare

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for battle on gritty asphalt streets and oil-spotted Chinatown parking lots throughout North America and fight for the championship in Boston. While the elders question how to pass the torch, the next generation struggles with maintaining tradition in gentrified urban centers while the community becomes increasingly multi-ethnic. What does the future hold for this street ball battle?

*WINNER 2015 BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD CAAMFEST*

*(Note: Hoisan is a region in the Guangdong Province of China. Other names are Toisan and Taishan.)*

“9-MAN is an exceptionally athletic Chinese-American sport that shines a light on how community ties are strengthened and reaffirmed,” says Chris Hastings, Co-Executive Producer, America ReFramed.

“AmDoc is thrilled to collaborate with WORLD Channel and WGBH on the third season of AMERICA REFRAMED presenting encores and television premieres of important films such as 9-MAN. As co-producers, we share a passion for storytellers committed to helping us gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of America today,” says Simon Kilmurry, Executive Director, American Documentary, Inc.

**May 12**

**WINNING GIRL by Kimberlee Bassford**

**Online screening dates: May 13, 2015 to August 7, 2015**

Teshya Alo is 16 years old and weighs 125 pounds. But on the judo and wrestling mats, she throws women twice her age and many pounds heavier. And she beats boys. Now she has her sights set on taking gold at both the judo and wrestling world championships. If she does, she'd be the first and youngest athlete ever to win world championships in two different sports in the same year. But it won't be easy.

Teshya lives in Hawai'i and the cost to travel to mainland tournaments drains her family's resources. She's a student at Kamehameha Schools and she's going through puberty. A WINNING GIRL follows the four-year journey of this part-Polynesian teenage judo and wrestling phenomenon from Hawai'i, and in doing so tells the dynamic story of an elite athlete on her ascent, a girl facing the challenges of growing up, and an entire family dedicated to a single dream.

**May 19**

**CAMBODIAN SON by Masahiro Sugano**

**Online screening dates: May 20, 2015 to June 3, 2015**

Born in a refugee camp in Cambodia, poet Kosal Khiev was lucky to escape the war-torn country before he was two years old. Granted asylum, Khiev grew up in the U.S. with his mother and siblings. By the age of 16, he was convicted of attempted murder and spent the next 14 years in jail—including 18 months of solitary confinement in the



New Folsom State Prison in California. Fatefully, during his time in solitary Khiev experienced a breakthrough that forged his path to freedom. In jail, he found writing and spoken-word mentors and upon release became a student/participant in the inaugural class of "The Actors' Gang" led by Artistic Director and Founder Tim Robbins. As a refugee with no permanent resident status in the U.S., however, Khiev was deported to Cambodia, a country he's never known. "How do you survive when you belong nowhere?" The documentary follows a year in the life of Khiev, while he navigates his new fame as Phnom Penh's premiere poet and receives the most important invitation of his career—to represent the Kingdom of Cambodia at the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Later he visits France for the first time where his life comes full circle and he faces a past he never dreamed of. WINNER 2014 BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD CAAMFEST

**ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN FILMMAKERS AND FILMS CONTINUE  
WITH P.J. RAVAL'S BEFORE YOU KNOW IT**

**June 30**

**BEFORE YOU KNOW IT by P.J. Raval**

**Online screening dates: July 1, 2015 to September 28, 2015**

With humor and candor, BEFORE YOU KNOW IT celebrates the bold and brave lives of active gay senior citizens who have witnessed unbelievable change in their lifetimes: from the Stonewall Riots and gay liberation to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and gay marriage rights. The film introduces us to Dennis, a gentle-hearted widower in his 70s who explores his sexual identity and fondness for dressing in women's clothing under the name "Dee," and becomes a resident at Rainbow Vista, a gay retirement community outside of Portland, Oregon. In Harlem, New York, we meet Ty, an impassioned activist for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, who hears nothing but wedding bells once gay marriage legislation passes in New York; and, Robert, known as "The Mouth," who was born and reared in Houston, Texas. The son of a Southern Baptist preacher, Robert always knew he was a "sissy." But in Galveston, Texas, he is a feisty bar owner who presses on when his neighborhood institution is threatened.

Born before the modern gay rights movement, Dennis, Ty and Robert have become pioneers in an unprecedented "out" generation of elders. They are also among the estimated 2.4 million LGBT Americans over the age of 55. While some gay Americans adhered to the cultural norms of earlier times, others became activists and made it their mission to live out, loud and proud. Each has faced discrimination, neglect and exclusion. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT reminds us that while LGBT elders face a specific set of issues, aging and its challenges are universal.



### **About AMERICA REFRAMED**

**AMERICA REFRAMED** is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc. and is hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro.

Through the lens of independent documentaries, AMERICA REFRAMED brings to national audiences compelling stories that illuminate the changing contours of an ever-evolving America. The 26-week, social-issue documentary series presents an array of personal voices and experiences, through which we learn from our past, understand our present and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future.

Season three of AMERICA REFRAMED curates a diverse selection of films highlighting innovative and artistic approaches to storytelling from emerging to veteran filmmakers alike. Viewers will be immersed in personal stories from the streets of towns big and small to the ex-burbs 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. Hosted by journalist Natasha Del Toro, several episodes will feature a roundtable discussion with special guest commentators and filmmakers.

AMERICA REFRAMED has won five 2013 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, three Telly Awards, a Gracie Award and recently was nominated for its second national Imagen Award, which honors films featuring Latinos and their culture in television and film.

### **AMERICA REFRAMED Series Credits**

Executive Producers: Chris Hastings, Simon Kilmurry  
Series Producer: Carmen L. Vicencio  
Host: Natasha Del Toro

### **About CAAM**

The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. CAAM does this by funding, producing, distributing and exhibiting works in film, television and digital media. For more information on CAAM, please visit [www.caamedia.org](http://www.caamedia.org).



### **Web and Social Media**

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  
@ndeltoro

### **AMERICA REFRAMED Co-Producers**

**American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc)** is a multimedia company 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.

**The WORLD Channel** delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming to US audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at [worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org). WORLD reached 35 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. (Source: Nielsen Local Buyer Reach Scorecard 01/13-12/13)

WORLD is programmed by WGBH/Boston, in partnership with American Public Television and WNET/New York, and in association with the American Public Television and National Educational Telecommunications Association. Funding for the WORLD Channel is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Ford Foundation. Additional funding for AMERICA REFRAMED is provided by the MacArthur Foundation.

### **Media Contact**

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