



## WE BREATHE AGAIN

A film by Marsh Chamberlain, Evon Peter,  
Enei Begaye Peter and Ryan Jacobi

TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED  
Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel

“Suicide is a tough topic in Alaska... Increasingly, Alaskans are starting to talk about it, to bring the despair out from its quiet, pained darkness and into the light. “– Craig Medred, *Alaska Dispatch News*

**August 7, 2017** – (New York, NY) – Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for Alaska Natives. Almost every family has lost brothers, sisters, parents, and children to it. How does a community break free from family histories of trauma and suicide to create hope for the next generation?

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**WE BREATHE AGAIN**, the debut feature documentary directed by Marsh Chamberlain, will have its national television broadcast premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 8 p.m. 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.

Programmed in connection with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, **WE BREATHE AGAIN** introduces viewers to four Alaska Native people, each confronting the impacts of intergenerational trauma and suicide. Alaska has one of the highest rates of suicide per capita in the country.

Youth who are exposed to suicide or suicidal behaviors are more at-risk for attempting suicide. More than 90 percent of people who die by suicide have had depression or another diagnosable, treatable mental or substance-abuse disorder, according to the American Association of Suicidology. (Source: Department of Health and Social Services, [Alaska.gov](http://Alaska.gov)) The film, a frank meditation on loss, leads to a journey of healing and discovery through the stories of Eddie, Paul, Jody and Keggulluk. Their truths reveal painful past experiences while conveying their hopes for the future. “Sometimes the darker days of your childhood have real long-lasting effects,” says Jody, a suicide survivor. “There’s something about suicide that just



tears your heart out.”

For millennia, Alaska Native people thrived in the seasonally harsh conditions of life in the far north, dependent upon strong social, cultural and spiritual practices passed from generation to generation. These are values that Keggulluk, a village elder and survivor, shares with youth through workshops, discussions, and cultural retreats. At the Inupiaq Leadership Conference, he encourages teens to reflect and asks, “How many of you realize your ancestors fought, lived, and died just to give you the chance to have it better than they did? Keggulluk emphasizes, “...we are their descendants... You are their descendants. Persistence--not giving up in the face of adversity, especially in the moment, the heat of the moment when it means and matters the most. You don’t back down. You don’t give up. All you have to do is be who you are.”

In the last century, rapid and forced changes in the daily lives of Alaska Native peoples created complex, painful scars for elders who experienced them and for their children and their children’s children, like Eddie. Through penning hip-hop lyrics, Eddie channels his angst to connect with and inspire other young people. But, can this help him break through a cycle of pain and violence as he strives to overcome his own anger and suicidal thoughts to be a good husband and father?

**WE BREATHE AGAIN** offers an intimate, authentic portrait of people working to pass on to future generations their communities’ ancestral legacy, strength and resilience.

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#### **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](mailto:neyda@amdoc.org).

#### **Film Credits**

Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor: Marsh Chamberlain

Producer/Cultural Advisor: Evon Peter

Producer: Enei Begaye Peter

Producer/Story Consultant/Editor: Ryan Jacobi

**We Breathe Again** is a co-production of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Crawl Walk Run, Native Movement, and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), produced in association with Vision Maker Media (VMM) and KUAC TV/FM, 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>

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**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.worldchannel.org)

