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For Immediate Release:

**My Louisiana Love Tackles the Continuing Cycle of Social and Economic
Injustice in Louisiana's Fragile Wetlands**

Premieres Sunday, November 11 on Public Television's WORLD Channel: America ReFramed

Lincoln, Neb.: *My Louisiana Love* first began when Monique Verdin (Houma) and her boyfriend, Mark Krasnoff, started recording Monique's Native American relatives in southeast Louisiana. Hoping to capture the Houma Indian's struggle to live in bayou communities plagued with environmental injustice, they filmed eroding wetlands and interviewed Native elders. Their documentation quickly shifted after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, leaving Mark and Monique facing their own personal struggles in the aftermath's apocalyptic reality—only to be followed by more devastation to the Gulf Coast with Hurricane Rita and the BP oil leak.

"I want to keep living on our land—but I'm inheriting a dying delta," exclaimed Verdin, who is also the film's co-producer/co-writer along with director Sharon Linezo Hong.

The Houma Tribe is one of the largest Native American tribes in North America with a population of about 17,000. The Tribe is recognized by the state of Louisiana but not by the federal government. There are six service areas of the United Houma Nation and most of the communities in this area are located outside risk-reduction levees with decaying marshlands to the south as their only buffer against storm-surge floodwaters. South Louisiana has lost over 1,883 square miles from 1932 to 2010—a land mass greater than the state of Rhode Island.

The Houma people have thrived through farming, fishing, and hunting game. This lifestyle has been severely threatened by a combination of both manmade and natural disasters. As the film progresses, we learn more about how the land is being changed by man's endless efforts for "progress"—witnessing the impact of the oil and gas industry, manipulation of the waterways, and other influences that are hurting the fragile environment.

"We hope *My Louisiana Love* will help the Houma people find a seat at decision-making tables, and give a face to the dire need for a long-term balance between industrial development and preservation of Indigenous cultures and the environment," explained Hong.

To watch the film's trailer, visit www.nativetelecom.org/my_louisiana_love. *My Louisiana Love* is offered by WORLD Channel's *America ReFramed* series and will be available to Public Television stations nationwide Sunday, November 11, 2012, 8 p.m. ET/ 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. CT/ 9 p.m. PT. For broadcast information in your area, please visit http://worldcompass.org/where_to_watch_world_tv.

About America ReFramed

The 52-week series, *America ReFramed*, tells the stories of a transforming American culture in all its broad diversity. With independent films, 60 to 90 minutes in length as well as in-depth interviews and commentary from host Natasha Del Toro, the series takes an unfiltered look at challenging national issues with personal storytelling. *America ReFramed* showcases films that offer viewers a "snapshot" of America — the guts, the glory, the grit of a new and changing culture. From contemporary life on Native American reservations to stories of recovery on the Gulf, from hardships and renewal in small towns to stories of tough city streets across the country, these independent and personal films document the times in which we live. Host **Natasha Del Toro** is an independent journalist and documentary producer who brings an urban and energetic voice to the series. From interviews with filmmakers and others, Del Toro elicits the issues, the challenges, and the back-story of each featured film. The series is produced by American Documentary, Inc., and broadcast by Public Television's WORLD Channel. On the web at <http://worldcompass.org/shows/america-reframed>.

About American Documentary, Inc.

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. On the web at www.amdoc.org.

About WORLD

The WORLD Channel is a 24/7 Public Television channel dedicated to delivering the best of Public Television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming, and a growing schedule of original content from independent producers. The complementary website www.WORLDchannel.org expands on broadcast topics and fuels content across social media, providing opportunities for broad and diverse audience interaction. WORLD is produced and distributed by WGBH Boston, WNET New York Public Media, and American Public Television (APT) in association with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA). The WORLD channel is available in markets representing more than 54% of U.S. TV households, and 12 of the top 20 markets, including New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Dallas, Boston and Atlanta. Funding for WORLD is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). On the web at www.WORLDchannel.org.

About NAPT

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT)—soon to be Vision Maker Media—a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, shares Native stories with the world through support of the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media. Founded in 1977, through various media—Public Television, Public Radio and the Internet—NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues. NAPT operates VisionMaker, your premier source for quality Native American educational and home videos. All aspects of our programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media—to be the next generation of storytellers. NAPT is located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. NAPT offers student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media. On the web at www.nativetelecom.org.

Additional Information Regarding *My Louisiana Love*:

Feed Date/NOLA: PBS's WORLD Channel: America ReFramed | Sunday, November 11, 2012,
8 p.m. ET/ 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. CT/ 9 p.m. PT

Run time: apprx. 60 minutes

Credits: A film by Sharon Linezo Hong & Monique Verdin (Houma)

My Louisiana Love is a co-production of Within A Sense, LLC and Vision Maker Media.

Funding for *My Louisiana Love*:

Major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Vision Maker Media.

Press Kit available online at: www.nativetelecom.org/my_louisiana_love

http://worldcompass.org/shows/americanreframed_press

Listen to the filmmaker interview online at:

http://www.nativetelecom.org/producer_profile_monique_verdin_sharon_linezo_hong

Sign-up to get notified of when the DVD becomes available: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MyLouisianaLove>

Crew Bios:

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER

Sharon Linezo Hong is an independent documentary filmmaker based in Cambridge, Mass. Sharon experientially learned filmmaking through her five-years of directing, producing, and co-writing *My Louisiana Love*, her first full-length documentary. Sharon's mentors and advisors for her film include Julie Mallozzi, Fernanda Rossi, Robb Moss, and Judith Helfand. Sharon augmented this learning experience by taking classes on film theory and technical training at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. *My Louisiana Love* has been screening at festivals, museums, and universities, and will be broadcasted on Public Television (2012). Sharon founded Within A Sense, LLC, an independent production company aspiring to create portrait documentaries reflecting on social and environmental issues through personal perspective.

PRODUCER/WRITER

Monique Michelle Verdin is a native daughter of southeast Louisiana. Her intimate documentation of the Mississippi River Deltas' indigenous Houma Nation exposes the complex interconnectedness of environment, economics, culture, climate, and change. Her photography has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and is included in *The Good Pirates of the Forgotten Bayous*, Yale University Press (2008) and Nonesuch Records' Habitat for Humanity benefit

album *Our New Orleans* (2005). She received her Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications at Loyola University in New Orleans. *My Louisiana Love* (2012) is her first documentary film.

PRODUCER/EDITOR

Julie Mallozzi is an independent documentary filmmaker whose work explores the fluidity of cultural identity and historical memory. Julie's films have been supported by Sundance Documentary Fund, ITVS, the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), LEF Foundation and Humanities Foundations. Her recent film *Monkey Dance* screened at festivals around the world and was broadcast nationally on Public Television in 2006. Julie has served as a consultant and editor for several films, including editing Ross McElwee's *In Paraguay*. She received her BA from Harvard University and her MFA from San Francisco Art Institute. Julie has taught filmmaking at Harvard University, Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Boston University.

ORIGINAL MUSIC, Alex Weinstein

ADDITIONAL EDITING, Shondra Burke

ADVISOR, Robb Moss

STORY CONSULTANT, Fernanda Rossi

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