



ISLAND SOLDIER A film by Nathan Fitch

**Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

"An affecting chronicle of gentle lives and quiet outrage."
– Sheri Linden, [The Hollywood Reporter](#)

MEDIA RELATIONS

Neyda Martinez
917 656 7846
neyda@amdac.org

AMERICA REFRAMED
20 Jay Street
Suite 940
Brooklyn, NY 11201

P: 212-989-8121
F: 212-989-8230
americareframed.com

October 18, 2018 – (New York, NY) – Set in motion by the odyssey of young men from the island of Kosrae, *Island Soldier* offers an intimate portrait of parents grappling with the absence of their precious children, humanizing the repercussions of America's foreign wars. The film lends a new perspective on the small island nation and its people, caught in the ever-changing tides of international politics, on the brink of economic and environmental collapse.

Island Soldier, the documentary by Nathan Fitch, will make its U.S. television premiere and streaming debut on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel ([check local listings](#)) as part of the new season of [America ReFramed](#), public media's award-winning documentary series. It will also be available for free on all station-branded PBS platforms including PBS.org, and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

On the small island of Kosrae, Micronesia, *Island Soldier* follows members of the Nena family as they grieve the loss of their son, Sapuro "Sapp" Nena. His death in Afghanistan makes waves through the community where nearly everyone is connected to the U.S. military. Known as a "recruiter's paradise," Micronesia, a U.S. protectorate in the Pacific Ocean, contributes a disproportionate number of soldiers to the American armed forces: soldiers who cannot receive benefits when they return home after their service. Yet, scores of young men and women leave their families behind in pursuit of the American Dream.



The film also follows the father of a currently deployed service man, a young enlistee, and a soldier on active duty, as well as Sapp's best friend who travels from the U.S. to Kosrae to pay his respects to the family in mourning. Together, these stories bring to light the little-known history of the remote island nation and its complex relationship with the U.S. military, and the unrecognized sacrifices of foreign soldiers who fight America's wars.

While serving in the Peace Corps more than a decade ago, director Nathan Fitch was struck by the number of young Micronesians who were leaving home to serve in the U.S. military at a time of war. "It felt like almost every family on the island had a relative serving in the U.S. military. I was struck by the sheer number of Micronesian citizens willing to put their lives on the line for American wars, and the ensuing repercussions upon the tranquil community that I called home for two years."

Island Soldier is a co-production of Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

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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@amdocr.org.

Film Credits

Director/Director of Photography: Nathan Fitch
Producers: Nathan Fitch, Fivel Rothberg, Bryan Chang
Writers: Nathan Fitch and Bryan Chang
Editor: Bryan Chang
Executive Producer for PIC: Leanne K. Ferrer
Supervising Producer for PIC: Cheryl Hirasa

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About America ReFramed

America ReFramed is a co-production of the WORLD Channel and American Documentary, Inc.

America ReFramed curates a diverse selection of independent documentaries that brings to national audiences compelling stories which illuminate the changing contours of our ever-evolving country. Viewers will be immersed in stories that span the spectrum of American life, from the streets of towns big and small to its exurbs and country roads. The 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.

An award-winning documentary series, America ReFramed is the recipient of a Peabody and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for broadcast journalism. The series has earned several Christopher, GRACIE, Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as multiple 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

WORLD Channel

WORLD Channel tells stories that humanize complex issues. WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries, and fact-based informational programming that helps us understand conflicts, movements and cultures that may be distinct from our own. WORLD's original content offers a national platform to makers examining issues too often ignored by mainstream media. These emerging and master filmmakers spotlight a diversity of voices, telling stories not heard elsewhere. WORLD has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award and numerous national honors—including an RTNDA Kaleidoscope Award, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie, and an Asian American Journalists Award. Carried by 154 partner stations in markets representing almost 64% of US TV households, WORLD can also be experienced via WORLDChannel.org and social media platforms.

WORLD is operated 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 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation and The Kendeda Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit www.worldchannel.org.

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