

EMBARGOED FOR:
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“PACIFIC HEARTBEAT” UNVEILS ITS LANDMARK 10TH SEASON WITH A NEW SLATE OF INDIE FILMS FROM ACROSS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

-Tenth Anniversary Line-Up Includes Four All-New Documentaries Alongside Encore Presentations of the ‘Hula’ Trilogy of Films from Lisette Marie Flanary-

(Honolulu) - Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) unveiled today the line-up for **the tenth consecutive season** of its flagship public television series, ***Pacific Heartbeat***, with four new documentary films recounting diverse aspects of Pacific lives, and two encore presentations that delve into the celebrated spiritual and cultural world of hula—from Hawai‘i to Tokyo and beyond. The new season will be available to viewers on U.S. public television and online, **beginning XXX, 2021**.

“After ten consecutive years and more than 40 original films from across the Pacific Islands region, ***Pacific Heartbeat*** is set to deliver its new season to a growing global audience eager to celebrate the unique culture and heritage of the Pacific Islands diaspora,” said Leanne Ferrer, Executive Director of Pacific Islanders in Communications. “The ***Pacific Heartbeat*** series opens people’s hearts and minds to the stories of Pacific Islands— our history, culture and contemporary life, available to U.S. viewers on PBS and online.”

Pacific Heartbeat is presented through a partnership between [Pacific Islanders in Communications](#) and [PBS Hawai‘i](#), and is distributed by Boston-based [American Public Television](#) (APT) and **broadcast nationally on [WORLD Channel](#)** (distributed by APT in partnership with WGBH & WNET), **in addition to hundreds of scheduled broadcasts on local PBS stations.**

Now in its tenth consecutive season, *Pacific Heartbeat* is an anthology series that provides viewers a glimpse of the real Pacific—its people, cultures, languages, music, and contemporary issues. From revealing exposés to rousing musical performances, the series features a diverse array of programs that will draw viewers into the heart and soul of Pacific Island culture.

Pacific Heartbeat’s showcase of feature length films is complimented by its online companion series, Pacific Pulse, which presents award-winning short films from across the region. In 2021, Pacific Pulse will announce all-new line-ups of great online shorts in March and August, 2021.

Films are selected each year from among numerous submissions, including projects funded by PIC with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pacific Heartbeat Season Ten Line-Up

The Australian Dream

Episode PH 1001 (60 mins)

DATE TBD

By Daniel Gordon

The Australian Dream tells the story of sports legend Adam Goodes and the abrupt end to his career in the Australian Football League (AFL). Goodes' love for the sport is homage to his Indigenous culture, which created the first football game known as Marn Grook. But when he objected to racial abuse from fans, an all-too-familiar experience for Indigenous athletes, Goodes became the target of a sustained booing campaign that drove him from the game. His story raises critical issues of race, identity, and belonging in contemporary Australia.

For My Father's Kingdom

Episode PH 1002 (60 mins)

Release Date TBD

By Ve'a Mafile'o

Director Ve'a Mafile'o's Tongan father Saia drives this deeply personal film. Ve'a raises thorny questions about the relationship between money and the church in Tongan culture, questions that caused her Kiwi/Tongan family pain. Pensioner Saia Mafile'o's dedication to raising large amounts of money for Misinale (an annual church donation celebration) upset his children and splintered his marriage. Mafile'o returns to Tonga with her father and siblings, for Saia's college's 150th anniversary, to attend the Misinale and learn why the financial sacrifice matters to him.

Stan

Episode PH 1003 (60 mins)

Coming June 2020

By Mitchell Hawks

New Zealand Idol Stan Walker was born with a gene that gave him—and most of his whānau (family)—cancer. The film *Stan* documents his tumultuous journey through recovery from a surgery that removed his stomach. He leans on his mom, his faith, and his Māori culture to cope. But the fate of his family's health and the future of his singing voice weighs heavily on Stan's mind. In an intimate look at health and healing, *Stan* invites the viewer in to contemplate their own relationship with their body.

Tokyo Hula

Episode PH 1004 (60 mins)

Date TBD

By Lisette Marie Flanary

Tokyo Hula explores the phenomenal popularity of the hula dance in Japan from both Native Hawaiian and Japanese perspectives. An estimated two million people dance hula in Japan – a figure greater than the entire population of Hawai'i. With more people dancing hula in Japan than in Hawai'i where the native art was born, this explosive growth has created a multi-million dollar industry based on culture as a commodity. Through interviews with Hawaiian master hula teachers and Japanese students, *Tokyo Hula* asks important questions about what happens to culture when it is exported.

*Encore presentations of Lisette Flanary's previous two films in this hula trilogy—*Na Kamale: The Men of Hula* and *American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawai'i* will have encore presentations in July 2021.

***Encore Presentations:**

American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawai'i

By Lisette Marie Flanary

(54 min)

American Aloha is a documentary film exploration of what it means to be Hawaiian in California. The Kumu Hulas of three different immigrant Hawaiian communities serve as the central characters. They speak about the challenge of community building, conflicted allegiances, the divide between traditionalists and innovators, and the search for ways to preserve identity and culture through the teaching of Hula as “a way of life.” Each Kumu Hula has found a way to build and sustain community through the transmission of the values that are linked to this specific dance practice, while reinterpreting, and in some cases, completely reinventing that practice for a generation that was born far from its origins.

Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula

By Lisette Marie Flanary

(54 min)

Following legendary teacher Robert Cazimero and the only all-male hula school in Hawaii, NA KAMALEI: The Men of Hula goes beyond deep-rooted stereotypes of "grass skirt girls" and reveals a story of Hawaiian pride through the exploration of male roles in the hula tradition—past and present.

PRESENTED. BY:

About Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC):

Established in 1991, Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) is the only national public media organization that supports media content and its makers to work together to promote a deeper understanding of Pacific Islander history, culture and contemporary issues that define our communities. PIC addresses the need for media content that reflects America’s growing ethnic and cultural diversity by funding independently produced media, and by providing hundreds of hours of innovative media by and about Pacific Islanders to American public television including its flagship series *Pacific Heartbeat*. For more information about Pacific Islanders in Communications and *Pacific Heartbeat*, visit www.piccom.org and follow us on social media: Twitter: @PICpacific | facebook.com/piccom | Instagram: @picpacific

About American Public Television (APT):

[American Public Television](http://www.aptonline.org) (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation’s public television stations. APT distributes one-fourth of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. Founded in 1961, among its 250 new program titles per year, APT programs include prominent documentary anthology series such as *Pacific Heartbeat* and *AfroPop*, performance, news and current affairs programs, dramas, how-to programs, children’s series, and classic movies -- many of which are considered some of the most popular on public television. For the complete catalog, visit [APTONline.org](http://www.aptonline.org).

About 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 Emmy® Award-winning 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. Carried by 165 partner stations in markets representing almost 67% of US TV households, WORLD can also be experienced via [WORLDChannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org) and social media platforms.

About PBS Hawai'i:

PBS Hawaii is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Hawaii’s sole member of the trusted PBS system. We advance learning and discovery through storytelling that profoundly touches people’s lives. We bring the world to Hawaii and Hawaii to the world.

PBShawaii.org | facebook.com/pbshawaii | [@pbshawaii](https://twitter.com/pbshawaii)

About the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

About the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (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](https://twitter.com/CPBmedia), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CPBmedia), and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cpb), and [subscribe](#) for email updates.

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