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PACIFIC HEARTBEAT ANNOUNCES 11TH SEASON WITH A FRESH LINE-UP OF INDIE DOCS FROM ACROSS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

***–Season Eleven Launches in April with an Intimate Look at Student Environmental Activism
and a Live Online Event for Earth Day 2022–***

(Honolulu) - Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC) announced today the [eleventh season](#) of its flagship public television series, ***Pacific Heartbeat***, with **four new documentary films** profiling the diverse peoples, cultures, and issues of the Pacific region, along with an encore presentation of a fan favorite from season 10. The new season will be available to viewers on U.S. public television and online, **beginning April 4, 2022 on WORLD Channel, and will be carried by PBS stations nationwide beginning in early May.**

“As we launch our eleventh season of [Pacific Heartbeat](#), we are more aware than ever of the need to be connected to our diaspora, to our neighbors, and to each other,” said Cheryl Hirasa, Interim Executive Director of Pacific Islanders in Communications. “We are honored to carry on our late Executive Director, Leanne K. Ferrer’s vision of providing consistent authentic programming about the Pacific Islander experience and to bring awareness of the beauty, complexity and diversity of Pacific people to the American public.”

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 nationwide.**

***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 complemented by **live online events** that invite audiences to engage with filmmakers, documentary subjects, issue experts, and more. This season, special events are planned in conjunction with Earth Day in late April (featuring *High Tide Don’t Hide*) and Pride Month in early June (featuring *The Healer Stones of Kapaemahu*); dates/times and live participants will be announced three weeks prior to each event.

“The intimate and timely documentaries in the *Pacific Heartbeat* series, along with our live online events and social media channels, allow us to remain connected and engaged, even across a region as vast as the Pacific Ocean,” added Hirasa.

Pacific Heartbeat also boasts an online companion series, [Pacific Pulse](#), which presents award-winning short films from across the region. The fourth season will kick off with six fresh profiles of emerging and established wāhine (female) filmmakers with continued profiles from *Reel Wāhine of Hawai‘i*. PIC will announce titles and release dates in the coming weeks.

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 Eleven Line-Up

<https://www.piccom.org/pages/season-eleven-1>

HIGH TIDE DON'T HIDE (60:00)

Episode 1101

By The Rebel Film Collective

In 2019, students in more than 150 countries launched strikes to demand action to avert cataclysmic climate change. Determined to provoke real action, New Zealand teenagers nationwide join the global School Strike for Climate. But planning a movement and building momentum are the easy parts as they face political indifference, their own white privilege, and the ongoing struggle to be heard...as the tides continue to rise.

“We were given intimate access to New Zealand students’ meetings, homes and personal video diaries to record how the local movement began... We were there when an unexpected turn of events changed the face of the protests. High Tide Don’t Hide reveals the inner processes of teenagers mobilizing record-setting numbers of children and adults... while dealing with the looming threat of climate change, interpersonal politics, and the need to just be teenagers.” -Rebel Film Collective

JAMES & ISEY (60:00)

Episode 1102

By Florian Habicht

Ahead of her 100th birthday, Isey and her devoted son James prepare for the party of a lifetime. Ngāti Manu woman Isey Cross lives with her youngest son, James, on a farm in Kawakawa, a small town on New Zealand’s North Island. Cheeky and vivacious, the 99-year-old is preparing to celebrate her centenary. Over the next several days, as James organizes the festivities, director Florian Habicht captures their devoted bond – to each other and to the spirit world – as well as their infectious aroha (love).

“Rich with life, their unique world is crafted from a spiritual relationship with the everyday mixed with the art of dreaming and a great appreciation for what they have...Mixing the imagined worlds with the real stuff is something I’ve always been into.” -Florian Habicht

LOIMATA, THE SWEETEST TEARS (60:00)

HEBE 1103

By Anna Marbrook

In LOIMATA, The Sweetest Tears, director Anna Marbrook takes us with her friend, the extraordinary ocean-going waka (canoe) captain, Lilo Ema Siope on an emotional healing journey in the last months of her life. A finely-crafted compassionate documentary strongly tied to Ema’s Samoan culture, LOIMATA, The Sweetest Tears is an intimate exploration of a family shattered by shame working courageously to liberate themselves from the shackles of the past. A journey of courage, tears, laughter and above all, unconditional love.

“This is a story about transformation through the belief that if you can change your heart, you can change

your environment, you can change a family, a community, even a country. Ema understood the power of personal testimony and had the courage to examine the trauma in her life, taking her family with her. I was privileged to walk alongside them.” -Anna Marbrook

HEALER STONES OF KAPAEMAHU (60:00)

Episode 1104

By Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, and Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

On Honolulu's famed Waikiki Beach stand four giant boulders placed as a tribute to the four legendary mahu – individuals of dual male and female spirit - who brought the healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii long ago. Although the stones have survived for centuries, their story has been hidden and the respected role of mahu erased. The Healer Stones of Kapaemahu documents the trail of post-colonial suppression through the eyes of a Native Hawaiian director, herself mahu, and uses rare archival materials, new historical findings, and vivid animation to bring the unexpurgated story back to life.

I am Kanaka — a native person descended from the original inhabitants of the islands of Hawaii. Our survival as indigenous people depends on our ability to know and practice our cultural traditions, to speak and understand our language, and to feel an authentic connection to our own history.

-Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM (60:00—encore presentation)

Episode PH 1001

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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/piccom) | Instagram: @picpacific

About American Public Television (APT):

American Public Television (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.

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 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://facebook.com/CPBmedia), and [LinkedIn](https://linkedin.com/company/cpb), and [subscribe](#) for email updates.

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