



## RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY

A film by Ali Kazimi

**National Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED  
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

**“...a haunting, essential document that, for all its specificity, comments on the universal human condition.” – Glenn Sumi, *Now Magazine, Toronto***

### MEDIA RELATIONS

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April 17, 2018 – (New York, NY) – In **RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY** filmmaker Ali Kazimi finds a rare cache of deteriorating 16mm home movies spanning from 1936 to 1951. What emerges is a rare portrait of a creative and enterprising Chinese American family in Middle America during the Depression years.

RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY, a documentary by Ali Kazimi, will make its U.S. broadcast premiere on Tuesday, May 15, 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. Free streaming will begin on May 16, 2018 on [worldchannel.org](#) and all station-branded PBS platforms including [PBS.org](#), and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

When filmmaker Ali Kazimi discovered the treasure-trove of 16mm home movies at an internet auction, he bought the whole lot -- sight unseen. The filmmaker learned the work belonged to Silas Henry Fung and his desire to understand the material led him to Irena Lum, Mr. Fung's daughter.

Fung's footage is extraordinary for the representation of his family's life, at home, church and play. It offers a surprising counter-narrative to stereotypes of Chinese Americans in his day, when technology for home movies was available for mass consumption but was expensive. With commentary by historians and Fung's relatives who react with surprise and nostalgia, the rare films lend insight into lives otherwise omitted from moving-image history.

Fung, a trained commercial artist and musician, was an avid fan of The Century of Progress International Exposition held in Chicago from 1933



to 1934, and became a noteworthy collector of its memorabilia. Fung's wife, Edythe, sold insurance to Chinese immigrants, and funded his pastimes.

Defying stereotypes Fung, who lived under The Chinese Exclusion Act, did not see himself as a hyphenated American, and asserted, through his images, an embrace of American culture. Revealing not only the social and political context of the time, his images celebrate the everyday life of his upwardly-mobile, Chinese American family.

In Kazimi's ode to filmmaking and the filmmaker, he illuminates history and memory, but more importantly he honors Mr. Fung's work and legacy.

**RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY** is part of WORLD Channel's celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander (API) American Heritage Month throughout May 2018. In partnership with AMERICA REFRAMED, PBS, and other public television organizations, WORLD Channel is honored to participate in the social media campaign #MyAPALife. A great success among API Americans for the past several years, #MyAPALife brings together film and video content from across the PBS system that is relevant to the Heritage Month and to API audiences nationwide.

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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**

A film by Ali Kazimi

**RANDOM ACTS OF LEGACY** is a co-presentation with the [Center for Asian American Media \(CAAM\)](#).

The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting stories that convey the richness and diversity of Asian American experiences to the broadest audience possible. We do this by funding, producing, distributing and exhibiting works in film, television and digital media. For 37 years, CAAM has exposed audiences to new voices and communities, advancing our collective understanding of the American experience through programs specifically designed to engage the Asian American community and the public at large.



### **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, health care, politics, gun violence, religion and more.

An award-winning documentary series, AMERICA REFRAMED is the recipient of an 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 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>  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericaReFramed>

@worldchannel  
@americareframed

### **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. The channel features 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 33.3 million unique viewers 18+ last year (52% 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 has won numerous national honors including an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, Tellys, a Media for a Just Society Award, two Lesbian & Gay Journalist Awards, a Gracie, an Asian American Journalists Award and many others. WORLD Channel also won the Radio Television Digital News Association's 2017 Kaleidoscope Award for its critically-acclaimed series, AMERICA REFRAMED and has received four National News & Documentary Emmy Nominations.

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, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation and The Kendeda Fund. For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit [www.worldchannel.org](http://www.worldchannel.org)

