



**THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS**  
A film by Patrick O'Connor

**National TV Broadcast Premiere on AMERICA REFRAMED  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 8 p.m. on WORLD Channel**

*"...compassionately and with dignity takes us inside the most vulnerable moments of these lives." — Richard Propes, The Independent Critic*

MEDIA RELATIONS

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Feb. 2, 2018 – (New York, NY) – **THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS** sheds light on some of the most urgent healthcare issues facing our nation today: from the living conditions of the elderly, poor, and end-of-life care, to the complexity of insurance and over-prescription of opiates.

**THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS**, the feature documentary by Patrick O'Connor, will make its national TV broadcast premiere on Tuesday, March 20, 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. Streaming will begin on March 21, 2018 on [worldchannel.org](http://worldchannel.org) and all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](http://PBS.org), and on PBS apps for iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast.

Jessica Macleod, Ph.D., is a family nurse practitioner who provides primary care to homebound and home-limited patients. With unwavering dedication, she seeks to infuse some common-sense practices into the healthcare system. Researchers estimate that there are approximately five million adults in the U.S. who are homebound or home-limited due to chronic illness or functional limitations.

At the expense of quality time with her own family, Jessica treks back and forth from one homebound patient to another. With her laptop satchel and stethoscope, Jessica makes old-fashioned house calls throughout her workday, typically seeing 8 to 10 patients and driving an average 60 miles throughout her territory in southwestern Indiana and northwestern Kentucky.



*“I really just want the audience to see the people I see – how they live, what challenges they face in terms of health, economics, addiction, lack of education,”* says Jessica Macleod, the nurse practitioner featured in the film. *“I want people to know that these invisible patients are here, living among us – they’re in our communities, and we need to do more to take care of them.”*

Often, Jessica’s clients are under-resourced. Many face difficult circumstances and exist at the outer edges of our health-care system. Wink and Patty, for example, are an elderly couple dealing with chronic conditions while blackballed by their physician for failing a drug screening; Roger is a 30-year-old man who’s bedridden with Duchenne’s Muscular Dystrophy; and Ron is a wheelchair-bound man with functional limitations caused by injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Director Patrick O’Connor says, *“It was an unforgettable privilege to be allowed into these patients’ homes and witness the dignity and grace with which they handled incredibly difficult situations.”*

Through Jessica’s story and those of her patients, the film reveals the emotional and financial toll created by our current system. **THE INVISIBLE PATIENTS** pulls back the curtain on a hidden population and cries out for human-centered solutions. It challenges us to wrestle with healthcare policy and, as importantly, asks us how to care for all persons with dignity and respect.

**###**

#### **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 Patrick O’Connor, Director and Producer

#### **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. 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)

