



# WORLD Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2019

*#MyAPALife*



Social Activity Toolkit • [WORLDCHANNEL.ORG](http://WORLDCHANNEL.ORG)

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This month, **WORLD CHANNEL** programs hold up a mirror to the diverse histories and experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, and call on audiences to bring their own stories to the conversation. The activities in this toolkit are designed to engage and inspire in a variety of settings - in personal reflection, in the classroom, at the family dinner table, at the office, and in community gathering spaces.

This APA Heritage Month, WORLD invites you to watch and engage with critically important stories featured in our exclusive series America ReFramed, Local, USA and Pacific Heartbeat, and 50 films and programs in all throughout the month of May.

### About APAHM

The U.S. Congress officially designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage month in 1990. The month was chosen because it marked two significant anniversaries: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was built primarily by Chinese immigrants.

**Asian Americans**, defined as those with ancestral origins in East Asia, Southeast Asia, or South Asia, are the fastest growing racial or ethnic minority in the United States. According to the 2017 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, there are roughly 21.6 million Asian Americans (alone or in combination with one or more races) who reside within the U.S.; this group represents about 6.6% of the U.S. population. **Pacific Islander American** is defined as one whose ancestors were the indigenous people of Polynesia, Micronesia, or Melanesia. According to the 2017 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, there are roughly 1.4 million Native Hawaiians/ Pacific Islanders (alone or in combination with one or more races) who reside within the U.S.; this group represents about 0.4 percent of the U.S. population.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION ACROSS  
SOCIAL PLATFORMS USING THE HASHTAG**

*#MyAPALife*

## WORLD

**WORLD CHANNEL** is a public television channel with a mission to inform and inspire with real stories from around the world. Featuring nonfiction documentary, science and news programming, you can find WORLD Channel through your local PBS station, and can access our programming directly on **WORLDCHANNEL.ORG**

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*Featured Programs:*

# Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2019

WORLD is celebrating APAHM with four exciting premieres and 50 broadcasts of themed programming. Learn more about the critically acclaimed feature films and series premieres below, followed by a short list of additional WORLD programming for APAHM.

## WORLD PREMIERES



*MAY 5 on REEL SOUTH*

### **GIMME A FAITH**

Cultures clash when Chinese students arrive in the U.S. and convert to evangelical Christianity.



*MAY 7 on AMERICA REFRAMED*

### **NAILED IT**

A look at the genesis and 40-year history of the Vietnamese nail salon and its influence on an \$8 billion-dollar American industry.



*MAY 6 on PACIFIC HEARTBEAT*

### **LEITIS IN WAITING**

Transgender women (Leitis) in Tonga fight for acceptance amidst a growing wave of Christian fundamentalism.



*MAY 14 on AMERICA REFRAMED*

### **CIRCLE UP**

Mothers seeking true justice for their murdered sons - and redefine forgiveness, accountability, and justice.

## ADDITIONAL APAHM PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

- 5/4 The Quietest Place on Earth
- 5/5 **Doc World: Finding Samuel Lowe**
- 5/6 **Forever, Chinatown: A Local USA/ Truly California Special**
- 5/7 P.O.V.: Still Tomorrow
- 5/8 Independent Lens: Out of State
- 5/10 American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion Act
- 5/11 Kimono Revolution
- 5/12 **Doc World: One Child**
- 5/13 **Local USA: Ku Kanaka**
- 5/14 Nobody Dies: A Film About a Musician, Her Mom and Vietnam
- 5/15 American Masters: Tyrus Wong
- 5/18 Tsuruko's Tea Journey
- 5/19 **Doc World: Daze of Justice**
- 5/20 P.O.V.: My Love, Don't Cross That River
- 5/21 **Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story**
- 5/22 Frontline: Abacus—Small Enough to Jail
- 5/24 Relocation, Arkansas: Aftermath of Incarceration
- 5/24 **Resistance at Tule Lake**
- 5/26 **Doc World: My Atomic Aunt**
- 5/27 Pacific Heartbeat: Let's Play Music! Slack Key with Cyril Pahinui and Friends
- 5/28 **America ReFramed: Island Soldier**
- 5/29 Independent Lens: Meet the Patels

Programs in **bold** are **WORLD** exclusives.

APAHM WORLD PREMIERE:

# NAILED IT

Director: Adele Free Pham

In virtually every city, state and strip mall across the U.S., women get their nails done in salons likely owned by Vietnamese entrepreneurs. How did this community come to dominate an \$8 billion dollar nail economy? *Nailed It* takes viewers from Los Angeles to the Bronx to meet the people behind this booming and sometimes controversial industry.



**NATIONAL PREMIERE: MAY 7 @ 8P ON WORLD CHANNEL'S AMERICA REFRAMED**  
**STREAMING: STARTS MAY 8**  
**WORLDCHANNEL.ORG/EPISODE/ARF-NAILED-IT**

## Discussion Questions

- While *Nailed It* chronicles an important piece of the Vietnamese American experience, one of its central stories is the partnership between Olivett Robinson, a Black woman, and Charlie Vu, a Vietnamese refugee, who launched a phenomenally successful nail salon chain in South LA in the early 1980s. The two recount with laughter the ways in which their work infused nail salon style with elements of Black culture. What are some other examples of the interweaving between Asian American/Pacific Islander American and other cultures?
- How have policies and public discourse relating to refugee admissions in the U.S. changed since the Vietnam War? In what ways have those policies and narratives affected Asian Pacific Americans?
- Olivett Robinson says, "If you can feel one person's pain or joy, you're forever connected with that person." Storytelling through film holds power to shed light on experiences different from our own and build understanding across difference. Can you remember a moment in a film that gave you a sense of connection with someone very different from you? What was it that made you feel that connection?
- Director Adele Free Pham, who is mixed race Vietnamese American, interviewed her own father for *Nailed It*. What do you imagine might have gone into her decision to include this interview in the film?
- Toward the end of the film, we learn that, today, nail salon owners and employees are coming together in places like New York and California to raise standards for health and safety in their industry. Why did it take so long to address the hazardous conditions facing those who work in the nail salons?

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**  
**ONLINE - SHARE YOUR ANSWERS**  
**AND INSIGHTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**WITH THE HASHTAG #MyAPALife**

# APAHM WORLD PREMIERE: CIRCLE UP

**Director: Julie Mallozzi**

Circle Up is the story of a grieving mother, the men who murdered her son, and the unexpected bonds they create to prevent more violence. After the brutal slaying of her teenage child, Janet Connors reaches out to her son's killers to offer a chance for forgiveness. She establishes a connection with one of the men responsible, AJ, in the hopes that their bond will help him turn his life around. In community, Janet and AJ team up with other mothers of murdered children to form Native-American-inspired peacemaking circles to help young people break the chain of violence and revenge.



**NATIONAL PREMIERE: MAY 14 @ 8P ON WORLD CHANNEL'S  
AMERICA REFRAMED STREAMING: STARTS MAY 15  
WORLDCHANNEL.ORG/EPISODE/ARF-CIRCLE-UP**

## Discussion Questions

- In her Director's Statement, Julie Mallozzi, who is Chinese American, says, "as a person of mixed heritage, I have always been fascinated by the ways cultural practices are hybridized or 'repurposed' far from their original context to address social issues." How might Julie's APA heritage have shaped her decision to tell this story and the choices she made in telling it?
- Circle Up opens with Janet Connors asking students in a restorative circle, "revenge, justice, forgiveness, accountability - what do these words have to do with each other?" What messages about the meaning of justice were passed down through your family and community? In what ways might they have been rooted in culture and history?
- Early on, as a single mother struggling to raise her two young children, Janet goes to a welfare rights meeting to find out how she can better support her family. Reflecting on her entry into activism, Janet says, "when something negative happens in your life, it's never just about you. It's always bigger than ourselves." Can you think of an experience of hardship in your own life that led you to take action around something that was bigger than yourself as an individual?
- For Janet Connors, Clarissa Turner, and the other mothers featured in the film, restorative practice in the wake of unspeakable violence can offer healing for individuals and for whole communities. What are ways you've seen members of your Asian American or Pacific Islander American community, and perhaps member of your own family, heal from experiences of violence, war, or other trauma?
- Can you think of a difficult situation or issue, whether in your own life, your community, or society at large, that you think would benefit from a restorative circle?

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WITH THE HASHTAG *#MyAPALife***



## Social Activities:

# Amplify Your APAHM Story

### Activity 1: They Made the Way for Us

***Nailed It*** tells the story of how refugee women found a unique way to support their families and communities after arriving in the United States. As director Adele Free Pham says in the film, “nails proved a toolkit for survival for countless refugees.” Throughout U.S. history, small-scale entrepreneurship has served as an economic lifeline for immigrants, many of whom faced barriers like discrimination in employment and lack of access to capital.

- *How did the first members of your family to arrive in the U.S. find a way to make ends meet? What barriers did they face, and what opportunities did they find to support themselves and their families? Who helped them and who did they help along the way?*

**Post your answer and a family photo on social media using the hashtag #MyAPALife.**

**Be sure to tag @WORLDChannel!**

### Activity 2: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Already, 2019 has been a landmark year for Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans, with a record 20 AAPI members sworn into the U.S. Congress. Along with cultural milestones like Marvel’s recent announcement of its first Asian superhero movie and several other firsts for Asian-American leading actors in film and TV, Asian Americans are more visible than ever before. When it comes to AAPI inclusion and representation in culture and politics, how far have we come, and how far do we have yet to go? Invite a friend or family member of AAPI descent for an intergenerational dialogue. Talk with a grandparent, a nephew, a neighbor, or someone else older or younger than you about representations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders when you both were growing up. How often did you see people who looked like you represented positively in the media, film, TV? What has changed since then? What has not changed? What would it take for Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities to be fully represented in politics and culture?

**Share your reflections on social media and tag #MyAPALife and @WORLDChannel!**

## RESOURCES

[Center for Asian American Media](#)

[National Association of Community and Restorative Justice](#)

[New York Healthy Nail Salons Coalition](#)

[“Chinese immigrants built CA, but they’ve been written out of its history,” Los Angeles Times, 4/5/19](#)

[“Building the Political Pipeline for AAPI Women by Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke” The Brown Girls Guide to Politics Blog, 3/12/19](#)

[AngryAsianMan: “They Call Us Bruce” Podcast with Jeff Chang and Phil Yu](#)

[Ronald Tatak, Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans \(Revised Edition\), New York: Back Bay Books, 1998.](#)