



PACIFIC HEARTBEAT

STORIES FROM THE PACIFIC

SEASON 9

Discussion Guide



PACIFIC HEARTBEAT

Now in its ninth 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 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.

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 is broadcast nationally on WORLD Channel and on your local PBS station.



SEASON 9

2020 PREMIERE FILMS

EP 901



ANOTE'S ARK

BY MATTHIEU RYTZ

Kiribati (population: 100,000) is one of the most remote places on the planet and it's one of the first countries that must confront the main existential dilemma of our time: imminent annihilation from sea-level rise.

EP 902



POWER MERI

BY JOANNA LESTER

Follow Papua New Guinea's first national women's rugby league team, the PNG Orchids, on their journey to the 2017 World Cup in Australia.

EP 903



BORN THIS WAY: AWA'S STORY

BY MITCHELL HAWKES

Follow Te Awarangi 'Awa' Puna, an openly transgender Maori teen on her journey from male to female as we see the support of her family and the hurdles she must overcome.

EP 903



THE ROGERS

BY DEAN HAMER AND JOE WILSON

An intimate glimpse into the lives of those who formed the first visible group of transgender men in the Pacific Islands - The Rogers of Samoa.

2020 ENCORE PRESENTATIONS

EP 601



MELE MURALS

BY TADASHI NAKAMURA AND KEONI LEE

A documentary about the transformative power of art through the unlikely union of graffiti and ancient Hawaiian culture.

EP 801



PRISON SONGS

BY KELWICK MARTIN AND HARRY BARDWELL

The people imprisoned in a Darwin jail are shown in a unique and completely new light in Australia's first ever documentary musical where the inmates share their feelings, faults and experiences in the most extraordinary way - through song.



EPISODE 901

ANOTE'S ARK [\(Preview here\)](#)

BY MATTHIEU RYTZ
EyeSteelFilms

PLACE

KIRIBATI AND NEW ZEALAND

HASHTAGS

#PacHB #MyAPALife #AnotesArk #StandUpForThePacific

SYNOPSIS

The remote Pacific Island nation of Kiribati is one of the first countries in the world that must confront the effects of climate change. The imminent annihilation from sea-level rise is at their shores, and Kiribati's President Anote Tong must find a way to save his people. Set against the backdrop of international climate and human rights negotiations, Tong's struggle for global action is intertwined with the intimate story of Sermary, a young mother of six migrating from Kiribati to New Zealand to escape the rising tides. At stake is the survival of Sermary's family, the Kiribati people, and 4,000 years of Kiribati culture.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sea levels rose 7.5 inches globally in the 20th century and could rise 3 feet more by the end of the 21st, according to UN climate scientists.
- Kiribati consists of 33 coral atolls and reef islands that lie no higher than six feet above sea level.
- More than 60 countries pledged to reduce their net carbon emissions to zero by 2050, but the biggest emitters — China, the United States and India — are not among them.

MORE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

- Read how the effects of climate change have already impacted Kiribati in [this article](#) from *The New York Times*.
- Learn how Pacific Island nations banded together to urge global action on climate change at the 2015 Paris Climate Accords in this [article](#) from *TIME Magazine*.
- Hear Pacific Island leaders respond to the 2019 UN Climate Summit as global protests over climate change intensify in this [NPR piece](#).
- Read the [op-ed](#) from Anote Tong and Matthieu Rytz criticizing the current president of Kiribati for his inaction on climate change and his response to the film.
- See how Pacific Islanders are living with climate change in this [photo essay](#) from The National Geographic.
- Teach students about the effects of climate change on Pacific Islander communities in [this curriculum](#) by The Edmund Rice Centre.

MORE ON CLIMATE MIGRANTS

- Read how New Zealand is preparing for climate-related migration in this [Newsroom article](#).
- See how climate migration is expected to affect Kiribati and other Pacific Island nations in [this factsheet](#) from the United Nations University.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS OR REFLECTION

- The effects of climate change are becoming visible for the first time through extreme weather, rising sea levels, and wildfires. How is climate change beginning to affect your way of life and the lives of those around you?
- Tong’s administration coined the phrase “migration with dignity,” but critics have dismissed it as a contradiction in terms. What do you think “migration with dignity” looks like for traditional Pacific Island cultures?
- How do you think Tiemeri feels about migrating to New Zealand? What has she gained and what has she lost in the move?
- What does “climate justice” mean to you? How do we make sure those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change receive support?
- What is your country’s current response to climate change? Is it satisfactory? If not, how would you like your leaders to respond?

ACTIVITY

From [first-hand accounts](#) to [international reports](#), the effects of climate change are now undeniable. How are you responding? Are you committing to lifestyle changes, relocating, or advocating for policy change? Whatever your response to climate change, post or tweet it online to start a conversation about global action. Add the hashtags #PacHB #MyAPALife #AnotesArk #ClimateChange #StandUpForThePacific to include your response to the conversation. You can get more involved in climate justice with [350 Pacific](#), a youth-led grassroots net-work working with communities to fight climate change from the Pacific Islands.



EPISODE 902

POWER MERI [\(Preview here\)](#)

BY JOANNA LESTER
Media Stockade

PLACE PAPUA NEW GUINEA
HASHTAGS #PacHB #MyAPALife #PowerMeri

SYNOPSIS

Power Meri follows Papua New Guinea's first national women's rugby league team, the PNG Orchids, on their journey to the 2017 World Cup in Australia. These trailblazers must beat not only the sporting competition, but also intense sexism, a lack of funding, and national prejudice to reach their biggest stage yet. Proud, strong and hopeful, these women have overcome more challenges than most to take the field in their much-loved national sport. But after years playing at grassroots level with no coaches, funding or support, they have just three months to transform themselves into a competitive national team to take up an invitation to compete on the world stage.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest and most populated Pacific nation. Over 800 languages are spoken across 600 islands, making this one of the most diverse countries in the world.
- 80 percent of men in PNG and Bougainville say they have physically or sexually assaulted their partner in their lifetime, according to a UN study.
- Rugby originated in 1895 in Northern England. The first women's Rugby League World Cup took place in 2000.

MORE ABOUT RUGBY AND THE PNG ORCHIDS

- PNG Orchids' star Amelia Kuk responds to the problem of social media harassment against women athletes in this [op-ed](#) published in the Sydney Morning Herald.
- Watch [an interview](#) with captain Cathy Neap, who discusses her experience getting into Rugby as a young woman and becoming a leader on the PNG Orchids team.
- Use the [Power Meri curriculum](#) to teach students about the history of Rugby and the issue of violence against women and girls.
- Brush-up on your Rugby basics with this [beginner's guide](#) by World Rugby.



MORE ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST PACIFIC ISLANDER WOMEN AND GIRLS

- See the [Human Rights Watch report](#) on the problem of family violence in Papua New Guinea.
- Review [the stats](#) on violence against women in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville published by the International Women’s Development Agency.
- Hear Pacific Islander girls discuss their experiences growing up with discrimination in this [Australian Aid video](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS OR REFLECTION

- How did the individual women athletes on the PNG Orchids team benefit from playing Rugby? What opportunities did they gain?
- In what ways were the PNG Orchids different from the teams they were competing against in the World Cup games?
- What is your response to seeing the disparaging social media comments that were directed at the PNG Orchids? Why do you think the filmmakers chose to include them?
- Do you agree that women athletes have the power to decrease violence against women and girls? How might women’s Rugby change attitudes about gender roles in PNG?
- What other initiatives have you seen to address violence against Pacific Islander women and girls? What gives you hope?

ACTIVITY

For the PNG Orchids, the sport of Rugby represented more than just a past time--it meant opportunity, camaraderie, and purpose. Have you participated in a sport in your lifetime? It could be your childhood football team or a race that you’ve trained for--whatever it is, take a moment to reflect on the lessons that athletics have taught you and share your thoughts on social media. Include the hashtags #PacHB #MyAPALife #PowerMeri to share your response with other viewers.

You can cheer on the PNG Orchids virtually on social media by posting a message of encouragement on their [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) pages.



EPISODE 903

BORN THIS WAY: AWA'S STORY [\(Preview here\)](#)

BY MITCHELL HAWKES
Ruckus Media

PLACE NEW ZEALAND
HASHTAGS #PacHB #MyAPALife #BornThisWay #LGBT
#GenderAwareness

SYNOPSIS

Te Awarangi 'Awa' Puna is an openly transgender Māori teen attending her final year of college in New Zealand. With the love of her family and friends and the care of her physician and counselor, she has transitioned from male to female. Now, she seeks the support of her traditional Māori kin as she faces her most significant challenge yet: gender affirmation surgery. In New Zealand, the waitlist for a gender affirmation surgery is decades long, leaving many in the trans community to face an uncertain future. Given the significant rates of depression and suicide in the trans community, the stakes couldn't be higher. Weaving in footage filmed by Awa, an aspiring filmmaker herself, this documentary offers an intimate look into the journey of transition.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Nearly 40% of transgender students in New Zealand had been unable to access healthcare when they needed it, according to the Youth'12 study.
- Approximately 40% of transgender students had significant depressive symptoms and nearly half had self-harmed in the previous 12 months. One in five transgender students had attempted suicide in the last year.
- Takātapui is an ancient Māori word that meant companion of the same-sex. Modern scholars have reclaimed the word as a cultural affirmation of queerness in pre-colonial times..

MORE ON GENDER DIVERSITY IN NEW ZEALAND

- Listen to scholars discuss takātapui and ancient evidence of Māori concept of gender diversity, in [this podcast](#) from BANG! and [see a map](#) of other gender diverse cultures worldwide.
- Follow the updates on access to gender affirmation surgeries for the New Zealand trans community, including the [arrival of a new surgeon](#) and the [lifting of a cap on surgeries](#).
- Review the [Youth'12: Fact Sheet about Transgender Young People](#) cited in the film.
- Watch the [More Than Four](#) video series by InsideOUT to learn more about gender diversity.
- Review the [Counting Ourselves Executive Summary](#) and the [OutLoud Report](#) for more perspectives from New Zealand's trans community.

MORE ON SUPPORTING THE TRANS COMMUNITY

- Help family and friends become better trans allies with [this beginner's guide](#) developed by InsideOUT and RainbowYOUTH.
- Support trans students in school by using the [OutLoud](#) curriculum by RainbowYOUTH.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS OR REFLECTION

- What support systems were vital during Awa's transition?
- How did filmmaking and storytelling contribute to Awa's transition? What might her storytelling offer to other trans teens?
- What did you hear Awa say about her concerns for her future? What obstacles will she still have to face?
- How does your culture regard trans individuals? Do you think colonialism has affected the way people view LGBTQ identities in your culture of origin?
- Based on what you heard in the film, how do you think New Zealand could improve human rights for the trans community?



EPISODE 903

THE ROGERS [\(Preview here\)](#)

BY DEAN HAMER AND JOE WILSON
QWaves Films

PLACE SAMOA

SYNOPSIS

An intimate glimpse into the lives of those who formed the first visible group of transgender men in the Pacific Islands - The Rogers of Samoa - as they build an outside oven, seek romance, and prepare to perform a traditional men's dance in public. While still facing many obstacles, their stories illustrate the power that come when those rejected by society create their own community.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Fa'atama (also spelled fa'afatama) means “in the manner of a boy” and Fa'afafine means “in the manner of a girl” in Samoan.
- Samoa is one of seven Pacific nations that criminalize same-sex relations, including Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS OR REFLECTION

- What obstacles did you hear The Rogers say they faced after they came out as transgender?
- How did you see The Rogers benefit from being part of a trans community?
- What traditional gender roles exist in your cultural ceremonies? Do you think cultural traditions should be adapted to allow for more gender diversity?

ACTIVITY

Whether you identify as transgender or cisgender, you can help to educate others about gender diversity. Watch this video tutorial about [Gender Identity](#) created by RainbowYOUTH in New Zealand to learn basic terms about diverse genders and things to avoid like misgendering and deadnaming. Then share something you heard with others by posting it on your social media page with the hashtags #PachB #MyAPALife #BornThisWay #GenderAwareness.

You can support Awa's storytelling by subscribing to her [YouTube Channel](#) and watch Awa's film [Black Dog](#).

ABOUT US

PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS

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

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AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION

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 www.APTonline.org

WORLD CHANNEL

The **WORLD Channel** delivers the best of public television's nonfiction, news and documentary programming, including original content by and about diverse communities, to U.S. audiences through local public television stations and streaming online at worldchannel.org. WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ last year (55% 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.

For more information about The WORLD Channel, visit worldchannel.org

PBS HAWAI'I

PBS Hawai'i is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and Hawai'i's sole member of the trusted Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). We advance learning and discovery through storytelling that profoundly touches people's lives. We bring the world to Hawai'i and Hawai'i to the world.

www.PBSHawaii.org | facebook.com/pbsHawaii |

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Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts (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. www.arts.gov/

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and subscribe for email updates.