

AiroPoP

the ultimate cultural exchange

*The nation's only documentary public television series
on contemporary life, art and culture across the African Diaspora*

Season 9

Hosted by Nikki Beharie



**AN AMERICAN ASCENT • INTORE • MY FATHER'S LAND •
BLACK OUT • PANGAEA • OMO CHILD: THE RIVER AND THE BUSH**

Premieres on:



**Monday, January 16, 2017
8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT**

**with new weekly episodes
through February 13, 2017**

**For photos and additional film information, including screeners,
contact Cheryl Duncan, cheryl@cherylduncanpr.com**

Presented by:





PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIKKI BEHARIE HAS BEEN TAPPED AS HOST OF 'AFROPOP'

Season nine of the documentary series 'AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange' brings inspiring true stories of perseverance and reconciliation

Series premieres on WORLD Channel on Monday, January 16

NEW YORK (December 21, 2016)—Acclaimed actress Nikki Beharie will host the ninth season of the enlightening and award-winning public television show *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. This season, the series presents a slate of documentaries to inspire and uplift, films that show how individuals and groups are positively impacting their communities and families and that capture the importance of home. The program premieres on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on Monday, January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—with new episodes airing weekly through February 15. *AfroPoP* is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium](#) and co-presented by series distributor [American Public Television \(APT\)](#). APT will release the series to the nation's public television stations in February 2017.

Beharie is best known for her star turn in the hit Fox TV show *Sleepy Hollow* and for her breakout role in director Steve McQueen's *Shame* opposite Michael Fassbender.

Previous hosts of *AfroPoP*, which has been revealing fascinating stories on contemporary life, art and culture in the African Diaspora since 2008, include Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Wyatt Cenac, Gabourey Sidibe, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta and Jussie Smollett.

"NBPC has been so fortunate to have had great hosts bring their fame to the show and either watch the series or really support the mission of the program," said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Executive Producer Kay Shaw. "Nikki Beharie does both! She was a very informed and engaged host, which comes through every episode."

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The five-week series travels from North America to Africa to the Caribbean and back again, taking viewers on a journey of hope throughout the Diaspora. Episodes include:

George Potter and Andy Adkins' gripping **An American Ascent** (January 16) highlights the first African-American team of climbers as they attempt to summit Denali, North America's highest peak, challenging their personal limits as well as society's notions of what a mountaineer looks like.

The moving **Intore**, by Eric Kabera (January 23), demonstrates the impact a new generation of artists in Rwanda is having in healing a nation that suffered greatly in the horrific 100-day genocide in 1994.

Tyler Johnston and Miquel Galofré's beautiful **My Father's Land** (January 30) follows an illegal immigrant in the Bahamas and the lengths to which he goes to return to his native Haiti to see his ailing 103-year-old father, while exploring issues of immigration and human rights.

Eva Weber's important documentary **Black Out** (February 6) shines the spotlight on schoolchildren in Guinea who trek for miles each day during exam season to find places with light so they can study and better themselves and their families. *Black Out* will air with Olivia Peace's narrative short **Pangaea**, a moving story of a young girl who was trapped on a rooftop after Hurricane Katrina.

The series finale is the heartwarming **Omo Child: The River and the Bush** by John Rowe (February 13) which shows the positive impact one determined individual can have on his community to save lives. Shot over five years, the film follows Lale Labuko, from the Kara tribe in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia, as he works to create a cultural shift in his tribe by ending an ancient practice that will save a generation of children.

"This season of *AfroPoP* features compelling programs from both the U.S. and around the globe. We look forward to sharing these stories with American audiences," said APT Director Business Development & International Sales Tom Davison.

"More than ever before, *AfroPoP*'s captivating look into the diverse stories of African Diaspora are important and relevant. WORLD Channel is excited to be the first to bring the new season of *AfroPoP* to US audiences," said WORLD Channel Executive Producer Chris Hastings. "Viewers may find that the cultural experiences shown through each film are similar to their own personal journeys."

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

To find out more about *AfroPoP*, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org. For viewing information, check local listings or www.APTonline.org.

ABOUT THE HOST

Nikki Beharie will next be seen in Will Packer Productions remake of *Jacob's Ladder*, directed by David M. Rosenthal. She recently starred in the hit Fox series *Sleepy Hollow* for producers Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci, for which she was nominated for an NAACP Award for "Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series," in addition to "Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture" for *42* and "Entertainer of the Year." Beharie starred with Michael Fassbender in Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen's feature *Shame* and began her career on Broadway opposite Jeffrey Wright and Mos Def in John Guare's *A Free Man of Color*. She was also the lead of the critically acclaimed feature *American Violet* opposite Alfre Woodard and Tim Blake Nelson for Samuel Goldwyn Films.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

ABOUT NBPC:

The National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) is committed to enriching our democracy by educating, enlightening, empowering and engaging the American public. The nonprofit supports diverse voices by developing, producing and distributing innovative media about the Black experience and by investing in visionary content makers. NBPC provides quality content for public media outlets, including, among others, PBS and PBS.org and BlackPublicMedia.org, as well as other platforms, while training and mentoring the next generation of Black filmmakers. Founded in 1979, NBPC produces the *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* documentary series and manages the 360 Incubator + Fund, a funding and training initiative designed to accelerate the production of important Black serial and interactive content.

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and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

ABOUT WORLD CHANNEL:

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. Last year alone, WORLD reached 35.8 million unique viewers 18+ (55% adults 18-49) and it over-indexes in key diversity demographics. Online, WORLD Channel expands on broadcast topics and fuels dialogue across social media, providing opportunities for broad and diverse audience interaction. For its exploration of the human spirit, WORLD Channel won the 2016 Christopher Award in the TV/cable category for the episode IF YOU BUILD IT, a part of its *America ReFramed* series.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEASON NINE OF 'AFROPOP' RISES WITH 'AN AMERICAN ASCENT'

Hosted by Nikki Beharie, the 'AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange' documentary series premieres on WORLD Channel on Monday, January 16

NEW YORK (January 4, 2017)—The ninth season of the award-winning documentary series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* premieres on WORLD Channel at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on Monday, January 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—with *An American Ascent*. The gripping film captures the first African-American team of climbers to attempt to summit Denali (formerly Mount McKinley), North America's highest peak, and to inspire other Blacks to connect with the outdoors. Hosted by acclaimed actress Nikki Beharie (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Shame*, *42*), *AfroPoP* is comprised of documentaries about contemporary life, art and culture across the African Diaspora. The program is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium](#) and co-presented by series distributor [American Public Television \(APT\)](#).

New episodes of *AfroPoP* air weekly through February 15. APT will release the series to the nation's public television stations in February 2017.

The season opens with George Potter and Andy Adkins' *An American Ascent*. Winner of Best Documentary and Best Director at the 2015 San Diego Black Film Festival and Best Feature Film at the 2015 Film Festival Flix Mountain and Adventure Film Festival, the film depicts the mountaineers' backbreaking journey to scale the 20,310-foot mountain. The reward? The satisfaction of overcoming personal limits and societal views of what a mountaineer looks like, not to mention the peaks' breathtaking views.

Previous hosts of *AfroPoP* include Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Wyatt Cenac, Gabourey Sidibe, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta and Jussie Smollett.

"*An American Ascent* is more than beautiful mountainous vistas and harrowing, dramatic scenes pitting man against nature. Its purpose is also to convey two important messages—African Americans still have 'firsts' to summit, and as citizens of a new majority in 2020, we must become familiar with, care about and become guardians of our national parks to ensure they are preserved for future generations," said NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions and *AfroPoP* Co-Executive Producer Kay Shaw. "This season of *AfroPoP*

- more -

presents six beautifully crafted stories that like *An American Ascent* will challenge, inspire and touch the heart and mind. It's a season the public should not miss."

Other films this season include:

- the moving ***Intore***, by Eric Kabera (January 23), which demonstrates the impact a new generation of artists in Rwanda is having in healing a nation that suffered greatly in the horrific 100-day genocide in 1994.
- Tyler Johnston and Miquel Galofré's beautiful ***My Father's Land*** (January 30), which follows an illegal immigrant in the Bahamas and the lengths to which he goes to return to his native Haiti to see his ailing 103-year-old father. The film also explores issues of immigration and human rights.
- Eva Weber's important documentary ***Black Out*** (February 6), which shines the spotlight on schoolchildren in Guinea who trek for miles each day during exam season to find places with light so they can study and better themselves and their families. The film airs with Olivia Peace's narrative short ***Pangaea***, a moving story of a young girl who was trapped on a rooftop after Hurricane Katrina.
- season finale ***Omo Child: The River and the Bush*** by John Rowe (February 13), a heartwarming story demonstrating the positive impact one determined individual can have on his community to save lives. Shot over five years, the film follows Lale Labuko, from the Kara tribe in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia, as he works to create a cultural shift in his tribe by ending an ancient practice that will save a generation of children.

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Nikki Beharie will next be seen in Will Packer Productions remake of *Jacob's Ladder*, directed by David M. Rosenthal. She recently starred in the hit Fox series *Sleepy Hollow* for producers Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci, for which she was nominated for an NAACP Award for "Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series," in addition to "Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture" for *42* and "Entertainer of the Year." Beharie starred with Michael Fassbender in Academy Award-winning director Steve McQueen's feature *Shame* and began her career on Broadway opposite Jeffrey Wright and Mos Def in John Guare's

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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. For its exploration of the human

spirit, WORLD Channel won the 2016 Christopher Award in the TV/cable category for the episode "If You Build It," a part of its *America Reframed* series.

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PRESS RELEASE

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‘AFROPOP’ SEASON 9 TACKLES TANGLED ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION

Heartwarming new episode of ‘AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange’ gives viewers an inside look at undocumented immigrants in the Caribbean

Airs ‘My Father’s Land’ on WORLD Channel on Monday, January 30, with host Nikki Beharie

NEW YORK (January 18, 2017)—The ninth season of the award-winning documentary series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange* continues at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on Monday, January 30, with *My Father’s Land*. The poignant film is an up-close look at the often precarious lives of undocumented immigrants. Now in its ninth season, this incarnation of *AfroPoP* is hosted by acclaimed actress Nikki Beharie (*Sleepy Hollow*, *Shame*, *42*). A compelling documentary series about contemporary life, art and culture across the African Diaspora, *AfroPoP* is produced by [National Black Programming Consortium \(NBPC\)](#) and co-presented by series distributor [American Public Television \(APT\)](#).

In a time when the issues of immigration, national borders and asylum seekers dominate headlines and are the subject of global debate, *My Father’s Land* is at once an uplifting tale of the enduring bonds of family and a sobering examination of modern xenophobia. Directed by Miquel Galofré and Tyler Johnston, the film tells the story of Papa Jah. A gardener originally from Haiti, Jah has lived in the Bahamas for 40 years where he is part of an impoverished Haitian community facing increased nationalism and new, stronger deportation policies. When he receives word that his centenarian father is ill, Papa Jah decides he must return to his homeland to visit his father despite running the risk that he may not be allowed re-entry to the Bahamas, where his Bahamian-raised children also live. The winner of the Amnesty International Human Rights Prize at the 2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, this captivating film will leave viewers with new insight and questions on immigration, human rights and family.

“It saddened me that some people in the Dominican Republic or in the Bahamas spoke about Haitian immigrants as if they were all criminals. I felt that if people had a

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chance to get to know someone like Papa Jah, they would have a little more respect for and understanding of their neighbors,” said Galofré. “As this issue of undocumented workers affects societies across the world, we are happy our film will air in the *AfroPoP* series to enlighten even more viewers as to the real-life people behind the headlines.”

This season’s third *AfroPoP* episode, *My Father’s Land*, joins other films in the series detailing the unique perspectives of people of African descent throughout the world.

An American Ascent by George Potter and Andy Adkins, which documents the first group of African-Americans attempting to reach the summit of Denali, the highest mountain in the United States, premiered on January 16. ***Intore*** by Eric Kabera, a documentary on the work of artists in Rwanda to help the nation heal following the horrific 1994 genocide, premieres on January 23. ***Black Out***, Eva Weber’s documentary on children in Guinea searching to find a lighted place to study during exam season, airs together with Olivia Peace’s ***Pangaea***, a moving short film of a young girl trapped on a rooftop during Hurricane Katrina, on February 6. ***Omo Child: The River and the Bush***, John Rowe’s film about one man’s work to create a cultural shift in his tribe by ending an ancient practice that will save a generation of children, closes out the series on February 13.

Viewers can be part of the conversation during each Monday’s premiere, as NBPC hosts Twitter chats at 8 p.m. EST/5 p.m. PT; follow NBPC on Twitter at @BLKPublicMedia.

AfroPoP also airs online at worldchannel.org. APT will release the series to the nation’s public television stations in February 2017.

Previous hosts of *AfroPoP* include Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Wyatt Cenac, Gabourey Sidibe, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta and Jussie Smollett.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is produced by Angela Tucker and directed by Duana Butler with the generous support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and National Endowment for the Arts.

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Many complicated, opposing and controversial viewpoints are often presented about Africans, African Americans and people of the African Diaspora. Perhaps because of this, the experiences of people of the African Diaspora are one of the most fertile grounds in our modern age for new, fresh and exciting exploration.

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange is the only U.S.-based public television show featuring independent documentaries and short films about contemporary life, art and culture across the African Diaspora. The African Diaspora includes Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, South America, Europe, the U.S., and anywhere people of African descent have made a significant contribution to the culture.

Produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) and distributed by American Public Television (APT), the award-winning ***AfroPoP*** series reaches more than 85% of the public television market, with plays in major cities including New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Washington, DC.

As it heads into its ninth season, ***AfroPoP*** has already featured 42 documentaries. Its films include such titles as *An African Election*, *Rise Up: Reggae Underground*, *Fighting Spirit*, *Calypso Rose: Lioness of the Jungle*, *Hip Hop Revolution*, *Doin' It In the Park: Pick Up Basketball NYC*, *Boys of Summer* and *My Africa Is*. Since 2011, ***AfroPoP's*** online content has featured short web serial content such as *Haiti: One Day, One Destiny*, *Seeking Asylum* and a Caribbean short series.

In its ongoing commitment to provide broadcast opportunities to producers of color, more than 50 percent of the titles featured in the ***AfroPoP*** series are made by filmmakers of color, and more than 50 percent are of African American or Black African descent. Better than 60 percent of the titles are made by women filmmakers.

AfroPoP's list of celebrity hosts includes Idris Elba, Anika Noni Rose, Gabourey Sidibe, Wyatt Cenac, Anthony Mackie, Yaya DaCosta and Jussie Smollett.

National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), founded in 1979, is a nonprofit media arts organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for film producers and media makers telling contemporary stories about the African American and African Diaspora experience in public media.

Website: BlackPublicMedia.org; Twitter: [@BlkPublicMedia](https://twitter.com/BlkPublicMedia); Facebook: National Black Programming Consortium

AfroPOP

the ultimate cultural exchange

ABOUT THE EPISODES

Episode 1

An American Ascent

by

George Potter and Andy Adkins

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:

Monday, January 16, 2017

8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT

(reairs; check local listings)

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/102678492>

password: distilldenali



Website:

<http://www.anamericanascent.com/>

Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anamericanascent/?fref=ts>

Synopsis:

An American Ascent documents the first African-American expedition to tackle Denali (aka Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak), while shedding light on the complex relationship many African-Americans have with the outdoors. As the United States transitions to a "minority majority" nation, a staggering number of people of color do not identify with America's wild places. By embarking on the grueling multi-week climb of the 20,237-foot Denali, nine African-American climbers try to bridge this "adventure gap"—challenging outdated notions of what adventure looks like by changing the face of America's biggest and baddest mountain on the 100th anniversary of its first summit.

Awards:

Best Documentary	2015 San Diego Black Film Festival
Best Director	2015 San Diego Black Film Festival
Best Feature Film	2015 Film Festival Flix Mountain and Adventure Film Festival

Directors' Bios:

George Potter, originally from Australia, travels the world as a conservation biologist and filmmaker. His most recent documentary *An American Ascent* raised over \$100,000 on Kickstarter to document the first African-American team's attempt to summit Denali, North America's highest peak. He has produced documentary and commercial work for outdoor

companies, environmental groups, government organizations and businesses looking to enhance their brand. Potter has a bachelor's degree in Zoology and a master's degree in Science and Natural History filmmaking.

Andy Adkins is a video producer, editor and motion graphic artist in Portland, Oregon. A few of Andy's career highlights include a two-season stint as senior producer for the Emmy-winning Montana PBS series *Terra*, and a recent Emmy for his editorial work on the nationally televised documentary *Indian Relay*. His film career began in earnest in 2006 when he co-produced and edited the award-winning documentary *Source to Sea* and he has since produced films for the National Park Service, National 4-H Council and many other organizations. His commercial work includes producing the Get Lost and High Plains broadcast campaigns for Montana Tourism. Andy has a Master of Fine Arts in documentary film.

Episode 2

Intore

by
Eric Kabera

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:
Monday, January 23, 2017
8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT
(reairs; check local listings)



Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMWf6wgLofE>

Website:

<http://www.intore-themovie.com>

Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/intorethemovie/>

Synopsis:

Intore offers a rare and powerful look at how Rwanda survived a tragic past by regaining its identity via music, dance, and the resilience of a new generation. It's a story of triumph and a lesson in how to forgive and live, told through the eyes of a mother whose grief provides hope; an artist, who chooses to forgive rather than seek revenge; a maestro, who brings together the National Ballet with an incredible touch of genius; and a young man, whose determination and hard work has given the Rwandan culture a new dimension of identity and celebration. These characters and others show viewers how a nation rose above the ashes of a horrific 1994 genocide to become a world model of post-conflict peace and unity. Featuring performances from Rwanda's top traditional and commercial artists in music and dance, interwoven with poignant interviews with genocide survivors and perpetrators who sit side by side, Rwandan leaders, and the Hollywood elite.

Awards:

Humanitarian Award

2015 International Film Festival Federation
(International Family Film Festival)**Directors' Bios:**

Eric Kabera founder of the Kwetu Film Institute and the Hillywood and Rwanda Film Festivals, has an impressive filmography that includes *Africa United*, an award-winning feature film about three youngsters from Rwanda who embark on an epic journey to the World Cup; *Keepers of Memory*, a documentary commemorating the 10th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda; *Through My Eyes*, a documentary film about Rwandan youth reflecting on their past, present and future perspectives; and *100 Days*, a riveting film recounting the legacy of the Rwandan genocide. Kabera has been recognized by the Director's Guild of America, and is the 2012 recipient of the Pan African Film Festival's prestigious African Creative Visionary Award.

Episode 3***My Father's Land***

by

**Tyler Johnston and
Miquel Galofré****WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:****Monday, January 30, 2017****8 p.m.ET/5 p.m. PT**

(reairs; check local listings)

**Trailer:**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HXAQanQTo8>**Website:**<http://trinidadandtobagorocks.com/>**Social Media:**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/myfathersland/>**Synopsis:**

Papa Jah, a humble Haitian gardener, has lived in the Bahamas for 40 years. As his marginalized community faces a strict new deportation policy and growing xenophobia in the Bahamas, he returns to Haiti, to reunite with his 103-year-old father and the land he left behind.

Awards:

Amnesty International Human Right's Prize

2015 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival

Directors' Bios:

Tyler Johnston is an award-winning producer, director and actor with Caribbean and American roots. His work as an artist and filmmaker is recognized internationally and

throughout the Caribbean, including in the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas' permanent collection. His short film *Five Bones* won the RBC First Look Caribbean Award in 2011 and in 2015 his feature documentary, *My Father's Land*, was awarded the Amnesty International Human Rights award. Johnston is also the founder of the Portland Maine Film Festival.

Miquel Galofré is a filmmaker born in Barcelona and based in the Caribbean. He has worked as a director, producer, photographer and editor for more than 25 years. With experience in television, commercials and feature film production, he has traveled extensively and filmed on location around the world. His documentary *Songs of Redemption* won the best documentary award at the Krakow Film Festival in 2014 and his feature documentary *Art Connect* won the premier award at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival.

Episode 4

Black Out

by
Eva Weber

and

Pangaea

by
Olivia Peace

WORLD Channel Premiere
Date/Time:
Monday, February 6, 2017
8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT
(reairs; check local listings)

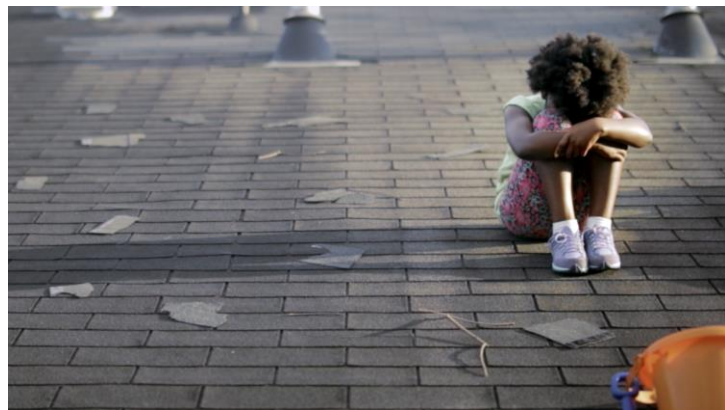
Trailers:

Black Out
<https://vimeo.com/172764494>

Websites:

Black Out
http://www.autlookfilms.com/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=145&id=184

Pangaea
<http://apps.northbynorthwestern.com/magazine/2016/spring/quad/cinematic-shift/>



Pangaea
none

Social Media:

Pangaea

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pangaeafilm>

Synopsis:

Every day during exam season, as the sun sets over Conakry, Guinea, hundreds of school children begin a nightly pilgrimage to the airport, petrol stations and wealthy parts of the city, searching for light. The evocative documentary, ***Black Out***, tells the story of these children's inspiring struggle for education in the face of the country's own fight for change.

Pangaea tells the story of a young girl, trapped on the roof of her house during the days following the landfall of Hurricane Katrina. The film aims to comment on the lives of the children whose lives were drastically changed by the aftermath of the hurricane and the flooding that followed it, as well as on the role of those who experienced the events on television from the safety of their own living rooms. *Pangaea* was shot by a group of Northwestern University students over the course of a week in New Orleans, LA.

Awards:

Black Out

Best Emerging UK Director Award

Jury Award

Best Medium Length Documentary

Best Short Documentary

Open City Film Festival

Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival

Cinemambiente (London)

Environmental Film Festival (Paris)

Pangaea

Creative Arts People's Choice Award

Best in Show

Northwestern Undergraduate Research and Arts
Exposition 2016

Moore College of Art and Design 2016 In/Out
Summer Symposium

Directors' Bios:

Originally from Germany, **Eva Weber** is a London-based filmmaker working in both documentary and fiction. Her multi-award-winning films have screened at numerous international film festivals, such as Sundance, Edinburgh, SXSW, BFI London Film Festival and Telluride, among others. Her films have also been broadcast on UK and international television, and shown at art exhibitions and museums. Her film *The Solitary Life of Cranes* was described as "one of the most absorbing documentaries of the year" by The Observer newspaper in the UK.

Eva is currently developing a number of feature projects, including the fiction/documentary hybrid *Ghost Wives*.

Olivia Peace is a filmmaker and artist living in Chicago. Originally from Detroit, Peace has always been fascinated with themes of identity and individuality. *Pangaea* was Olivia's final directorial piece while at Northwestern University, following an animated short *Lucid* (2014) along with several music videos that have received grants as well as festival recognition.

Episode 5

Omo Child: The River and the Bush

by
John Rowe

WORLD Channel Premiere Date/Time:
Monday, February 13, 2017
8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT
(reairs; check local listings)



Trailer:

https://jman.tv/link/u6ux2zg3tr8/Omo_Child

Website:

<http://omochildmovie.com/>

Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/omochildmovie/>

Twitter: @OmoChildMovie

Synopsis:

Omo Child: The River and The Bush tells the amazing true story of one man's journey to bring about a progressive cultural shift that will save children's lives. Lale Labuko, born and raised in the Kara tribe in the Omo Valley, Ethiopia, learns of "mingi" at age 15. Children born out of wedlock, or whose top teeth grow in before their bottom teeth, or even those who are born a twin, are killed by virtue of this ancient tradition that deems them "mingi," or cursed. Lale strives to not only save these children's lives but to also lift the "burden" from the shoulder's of the Kara people; he adopts these children as his own. Lale attempts to reconcile with Kara elders to end this tradition forever to ultimately protect the longevity of his people and his culture. Filmed over a five-year period, this documentary paints stunning portraits of Ethiopian landscapes as it follows Lale's journey where he confronts his own death, negotiates deeply rooted superstition and navigates the difficult position of leading a cultural movement.

Awards:

Finest Documentary Award
Social Impact Media Award
Grand Prize Humanitarian Award
Top 10 Audience Award
Special Recognition "One in a Million" Doc
Audience Choice Best Documentary
Award For Excellence
Best Documentary
Best Feature Film
Best Documentary

Cinema Society 2015/16 Society's
Ethos Jury Award
IndieFest
2015 HOT DOCS
2015 Sun Valley International Film Festival
Real to Reel International Film Festival
2015 IndieFest
2015 Oceanside International Film Festival
Lunenburg Doc Fest
2015 New Hope Film Festival

Cinema for Conscience Award	2015 Wine Country Film Festival
Best Documentary	2015 Washington DC Independent Film Festival
Best Cinematography	Arizona International Film Festival
Best Documentary	2015 Palm Beach International Film Festival
Best of Fest	2015 ASU Human Rights Film Festival
Award of Excellence	2015 Accolades Global Film
Audience Choice Best Documentary	2015 Mammoth Lakes Film Festival
Audience Choice Best Doc	2015 Real to Reel Film Festival
Best Documentary	2015 Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival
Audience Choice Best Feature	2015 BendFilm Festival
Outstanding Cinematography	2015 Tallgrass International Film Festival
Best Feature Film	2015 Ottawa International Film Festival
Best Original Music	2015 Ottawa International Film Festival
Jury Award Best Documentary	2015 Charleston International Film Festival
Audience Choice Award Best Documentary	2015 Charleston International Film Festival
Audience Choice Best Documentary	2015 Red Rock Film Festival

Directors' Bios:

John Rowe is a photographer and filmmaker who first trained at the US Navy School of Photography when he was 18-years-old. He has spent many years travelling the world photographing some of its most intriguing people and cultures. His love for people and their cultures led him to Southwest Ethiopia and the tribes of the Omo Valley in 2004 and he has since been documenting the life and struggles of the tribal people in the Omo Valley. Together with Lale, the documentary's protagonist, he formed the Omo Child foundation to care for rescued Mingi children.



ABOUT THE CREATIVES

AfroPoP: The Ultimate Exchange is executive produced by the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC). NBPC has been the executive producer of *AfroPoP* since its inception in 2008. NBPC is also the executive producer of *180 Days: A Year Inside an American High School* and the online hit web series *Black Folk Don't*. Key personnel for *AfroPoP* include:

Leslie Fields-Cruz

NBPC Executive Director

Leslie Fields-Cruz joined NBPC in 2001 and was recently appointed its Executive Director. Prior to her appointment she was the organization's VP of Operations and Programs overseeing the Program Development Fund and supervising program distribution to PBS including producing all previous seasons of *AfroPoP*.

Kay Shaw

NBPC Director of Programs and Acquisitions

As Director of Programs and Acquisitions for NBPC, Kay Shaw has oversight of all NBPC funded broadcast and Web productions, including NBPC's signature PBS series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*, and online series such as *Black Folk Don't*. In addition, Shaw is responsible for NBPC 360, a development fund launched in 2015, which incubates and funds broadcast and Web serial content. Previously, she directed Public Media Corps (PMC), NBPC's community engagement and public media fellowship program. Shaw has more than 20 years' experience marketing and distributing independent films theatrically and for broadcast.

Lisa Durden

NBPC Broadcast Manager

Lisa Durden, NBPC Broadcast Manager, is an award winning, independent producer. Durden served as associate producer of Byron Hurt's award-winning feature documentary *Soul Food Junkies* and the critically acclaimed, five-part docu-series, *Brick City 1*. Lisa's directorial debut, the controversial feature documentary, *PROJECT WOW: Men On The Down Low*, won the Best Documentary Award at the Pocono Mountains Film Festival and Best Topic Award at the Urban Film Series; it was broadcast in short form on BET J *Black Stories*.

Angela Tucker

Series Producer, AfroPoP

Angela Tucker is a New Orleans-based filmmaker. As the Director of Production at Big Mouth Films, a social issue documentary production company (formerly of Arts Engine, Inc.), she produced *Pushing the Elephant*, the Emmy-nominated documentary, *Deadline, Election Day* and *Beyond the Steps: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater*. Angela directed

(A)*SEXUAL*, a feature length documentary about people who experience no sexual attraction. She is also the producer and director of the web series *Black Folk Don't*. Angela is now directing the feature length dance film, *All Styles*, which she also co-wrote.

Duana C. Butler

Series Director, AfroPoP

Duana C. Butler is a producer and director based in Harlem, U.S.A. Butler serves as series director for the National Black Programming Consortium's public television series *AfroPoP: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange*. She produced the short film *Hold On* (Dir: Christine Turner; Official Selection Sundance Film Festival 2017) and co-produced the documentary *Miss Navajo* (Dir: Billy Luther; Official Selection Sundance Film Festival 2007/PBS' Independent Lens). Butler has also served as a curator/producer at WNET/Thirteen. She is currently producing and directing a documentary about the Harlem community.



CREDITS

AFROPOP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Season 9

Series Producer

ANGELA TUCKER

Series Director

DUANA C. BUTLER

***AfroPOP* is produced by**

**THE NATIONAL BLACK PROGRAMMING CONSORTIUM
(NBPC)**

Executive Producers

LESLIE A. FIELDS-CRUZ and KAY SHAW

And distributed by

AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION (APT)

Director, APT Presentations

TOM DAVISON

**Executive Producer,
World Channel/WGBH-TV**

CHRISTOPHER HASTINGS