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P.O.V. Honors U.N. World Refugee Day, Focuses on Africa In Series' 20th Season on PBS Starting Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Films Profile Somali Bantu Families Resettling in the U.S., Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars Band, Women in Eastern Congo Recovering from Rape

MEDIA ALERT – FACT SHEET

Summary: The **P.O.V.** series (a cinema term for “point of view”) celebrates its 20th year on PBS starting **Tuesday, June 19, 2007**. American television’s longest-running independent documentary series, P.O.V. is public television’s premier showcase for point-of-view, nonfiction films. The 20th season kicks off with two films, **Rain in a Dry Land (June 19)** and **Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars (June 26)**, scheduled to coincide with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) World Refugee Day (June 20). These documentaries, along with **LUMO (Sept. 18)** chronicle the hopes, struggles and achievements of African people from war-torn nations.

P.O.V. is broadcast **Tuesdays at 10 p.m.** (check local listings), June through September on PBS, with primetime specials in the fall and winter. P.O.V. works with PBS stations and national and community-based groups across the country to foster community dialogue around the issues presented in our films. Find events at: www.pbs.org/pov/utills/povnews.html#events. The series celebrates its 20th year with a limited-edition DVD set, **P.O.V.’s 20th Anniversary Collection**, produced in partnership with Docurama. With subjects ranging from immigration to civil rights, culture and the environment, the collection represents the intersection of art and social issues that has become P.O.V.’s trademark: www.amdoc.org/shop.

Descriptions: **RAIN IN A DRY LAND** by Anne Makepeace (www.pbs.org/pov/raininadryland)
June 19, 2007

How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today’s “global village?” **Rain in a Dry Land** provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families, transported by relief agencies from years of civil war and refugee life to Springfield, Mass., and Atlanta. As the newcomers confront racism, poverty and 21st-century culture shock, filmmaker Anne Makepeace (P.O.V.’s *Baby, It’s You*) captures their efforts to survive in America and create a safe haven for their war-torn families. Their poetry, humor and amazing resilience show us our own world through new eyes. A co-production of the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

SIERRA LEONE’S REFUGEE ALL STARS by Zach Niles and Banker White
(www.pbs.org/pov/sierraleone), **June 26, 2007**

If the refugee is today’s tragic icon of a war-ravaged world, then **Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars**, a reggae-inflected band born in the camps of West Africa, represents a real-life story of survival and hope. The six-member Refugee All Stars came together in Guinea after civil war forced them from their native Sierra Leone. Traumatized by physical injuries and the brutal loss of family and community, they fight back with the only means they have—music. The result is a tableau of

tragedy transformed by the band's inspiring determination to sing and be heard. The film is co-produced by Ice Cube. *A Diverse Voices Project co-production.* The band begins its U.S. tour on June 8. See www.sierraleonesrefugeeallstars.com for details.

LUMO by Bent-Jorgen Perlmutt, Nelson Walker III and Louis Abelman
(www.pbs.org/pov/lumo), **Sept 18, 2007**

The agonies of present-day Africa are deeply etched in the bodies of women. In eastern Congo on the Rwandan border, vying militias, armies and bandits use rape as a weapon of terror. Lumo Sinai was just over 20 when marauding soldiers attacked her. A fistula, a medical condition common among victims of violent rape, rendered her incontinent and threatens her ability to bear children. Rejected by her fiancé and cast aside by her family, she awaits reconstructive surgery. **LUMO** is her story, tragic in its cruelties and inspiring for her struggle, with the help of an extraordinary African hospital, to overcome shame, fear and the affliction that robs her of a normal life.

Pressroom: Visit P.O.V.'s pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom, for press releases, downloadable art, filmmaker biographies, transcripts and special features.

Interactive: P.O.V.'s award-winning Web department produces companion Web sites with streaming video; filmmaker interviews (video, podcast and text); related Web sites, organizations and books; downloadable discussion guides and classroom activities; and special features: www.pbs.org/pov.

P.O.V.: Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and celebrating its 20th season on PBS in 2007, the award-winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running showcase on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing on PBS on Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through September, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought more than 250 documentaries to millions nationwide, and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *P.O.V.'s Borders*. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the Educational Foundation of America, PBS and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s *Diverse Voices Project* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston, and Thirteen/WNET New York.

TAPE REQUESTS: Please note that broadcast versions of the films are available upon request, as the films may be edited to comply with new FCC regulations.



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