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PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES SEASON SEVEN OF “PACIFIC HEARTBEAT”

--New Season Features Three Films from the Pacific Islands starting on April 30 for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May--

(Honolulu) Pacific Islanders in Communications announced today the line-up for season seven of public television series “Pacific Heartbeat,” public television’s premiere annual showcase of culture and content from and about the Pacific Islands.

The new season will be available to viewers beginning April 30, 2018.

“We are thrilled to offer this latest installment in television’s greatest showcase of the Pacific Islands and its people,” said Leanne Ferrer, Executive Director of Pacific Islanders in Communications, funder and executive producer of the series. “There has never been a more important time for Pacific Islanders to bring our voices to the national dialogue.”

Pacific Heartbeat, now in its seventh season, 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.

Films are selected each year from numerous submissions, including projects funded by PIC with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Pacific Heartbeat comes to Public Television through a partnership between Pacific Islanders in Communications and PBS Hawai‘i, and is presented and distributed by Boston-based American Public Television and broadcast nationally on WORLD Channel in addition to scheduled broadcasts on your local PBS station.

Pacific Heartbeat Season Seven: Coming April 30, 2018

POI E: The Story of Our Song

Episode PH 701

By Alexander Behse and Tearepa Kahi

A film about the unofficial national waiata (anthem) of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the community spirit of Pātea and Dalvanus Prime.

POI E: The song behind our PRIDE is a story which brings to the screen, the life of Dalvanus Prime - a man who brought disco to Australia; the warmth of the Ngoi Pewhairangi, a community elder whose passion for indigenous Māori language; and the lives of the Pātea Māori club, a traditional Māori Kapahaka (dance) group comprised of freezing workers from the small town Pātea. When Dalvanus returns to Pātea, he not only comes face-to-face with the reality of a dying mother but also to a devastated community whose livelihood was on the brink when the Freezing Works were shut down. The lives of everyone in Pātea were up in the air as families struggled to make ends meet. Dalvanus did the only one thing he could to make ends meet - tour and sing in a time when being Māori meant you had to watch where you step.

Making Good Men

Episode PH 702

By Fiona Apanui-Kupenga

Making Good Men is an honest and moving story about high school bullying and the pathway to redemption.

Two high profile New Zealanders, a former All Black, Norm Hewitt, and Hollywood actor, Manu Bennett reveal their unforgettable account of bullying with unprecedented honesty. Making Good Men is not a story of blame or humiliation. It's a path to redemption, reconciliation and ultimately to restoration.

Being Bruno Banani

Episode PH 703

By Susann Wentzlaff and Jörg Junge

Being Bruno Banani tells the unique story of the first and only Tongan luger who qualified for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

After several days of trials in Tonga, the 21-year-old student, Fuahea Semi from the island of Eua was selected. No one could have foreseen it, but it was an inspirational choice, he was a real natural talent. Without any financial support from overseas partners, it would probably only be a short trip. Mathias Ihle from Makai Europe came up with the unique marketing strategy of changing the successful candidate's name to that of a sponsoring company - Bruno Banani.

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