

New Immigrant and Refugee Visions

NIRV Highlights, Issue 6

September 7, 2018

For this issue of NIRV Highlights, Community Supported Film is delighted to share three newly completed NIRV films, announce a variety of Screen & Discuss events, and update you on the exciting accomplishments and new adventures of the NIRV filmmakers and NIRV team.

We need your help:

- [Organize](#) pre-election events in **Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas and your community**
- [Fundraise](#) to support our engagement of communities resistant to and welcoming of immigrants
- [Watch & Share](#) these new films by and about immigrants and refugees

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## New NIRV Film Excerpts Available

The production and final editing of the NIRV films have [encountered many challenges](#), but we are pleased to announce the completion of **three more films**, with more on the way soon.

[View excerpts on the NIRV Films page](#)



### **An American Child**

[Rafael DeLeon](#) (Dominican Republic)  
Director, Videographer



A dilemma of identity. A life of uncertainty. A woman facing domestic violence in the Dominican Republic escaped to the United States with her toddler daughter. The woman remains undocumented and her now 22-year old daughter has been granted protection by the US government through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Will one or both be deported? Will the daughter end up in country she has not set foot in since she was five years old?



### **Navigating Hope**

[Sayed Najib Hashimi](#) (Afghanistan)  
Director, Videographer



*"A refugee is that person who has lost everything in his life. But he hasn't given up his hope."*  
Compelling words from a man who lived over 17 years in a refugee camp in Nepal, where he had fled as a boy with his family to escape persecution as Christians in their Buddhist country of

Bhutan. Arriving as a man in the United States nearly two decades later, he finds new hope and help in a “big country” he had never heard of as a child. As his life of freedom grows, he chooses to work two different jobs helping other refugees from many countries to build on their hope and navigate the challenges of their new life in the United States.



## Lift with Your Heart

Braulio Tellez-Vilches (Cuba)  
Director, Videographer



A dancer struggles for years to find a sense of belonging in his native country of Haiti and in the United States. He discovers his purpose and his own healing in teaching dance to motivate and heal community members of all ages and backgrounds and engage them in celebrating their own cultural heritage.

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Upcoming Screen & Discuss Events



Thank you to all who joined us for the [Screen & Discuss event at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#) earlier this summer. Read about the [powerful impact](#) it had on attendees. If you are in the **New York area in September** we invite you to join us for one of these events:

L to R: Mubarak Muwonge Nsamba (NIRV, Uganda & his son behind), Michael Sheridan (CSFilm Founder & Director), Abdirahman Abdi (NIRV, Somalia), Qin Li (NIRV, China & her son), Dimple Rana & Lata Rana (film subjects, India)

New York City Locations

Wednesday, 19 September, 7p: **Brooklyn Central Library**
10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY

Thursday, 27 September, 12:30p: **New York Institute of Technology**
(invitation only, contact caryn@csfilm.org) 1855 Broadway, Manhattan, NY

Mid Hudson Valley at State University of New York (SUNY) Locations

Tuesday, 25 September, 11a: **SUNY Orange**
Middletown, NY

Tuesday, 25 September, 2:30p: **SUNY Sullivan**
Loch Sheldrake, NY

Wednesday, 26 September, 1p: **SUNY Ulster**
Stone Ridge, NY

Wednesday, 26 September, 5p: **SUNY New Paltz**
New Paltz, NY

We are working on scheduling *Screen & Discuss* events in four states in October: **Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas**. To see why we selected these states first, see our [Target City Strategy](#). **If you have connections that can help us organize a screening**, please contact Caryn Anderson at caryn@csfilm.org.

Looking ahead, we plan to focus on Southern California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and the Washington, DC area, but **we encourage you to organize a screening** anywhere there is a need for greater understanding and community conversation about immigrants.



In order to help these unique insider perspectives on a wide range of immigrant and refugee experiences to reach as many people as possible, we need your help. [Please consider making a donation](#) to CSFilm to strengthen this work.

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## NIRV Team Accomplishments and Adventures

We are proud of the accomplishments and growth of all the NIRV filmmakers this past year. We are especially grateful to all of the editors, mentors, staff, volunteers and assistants that have helped throughout this project.



**Abdirahman Abdi of Somalia** graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science in Communications and Business.



**Katsyris Rivera-Kientz of Puerto Rico** received her Master of Science from the Transnational, Cultural and Community Studies program at the UMass and has begun her PhD in sociology there.



**Qin Li of China** spent Spring 2018 as the BBRG-Chau Hoi Shuen Scholar in Residence at the Beatrice Bain Research Group at the University of California, Berkeley.



**Sayed Najib Hashimi of Afghanistan** has moved to Washington, DC where he has assumed the role of Media Officer for the Embassy of Afghanistan.



**Mohammad Arifuzzaman of Bangladesh** was selected as an Insight Data Engineering Fellow, an elite 7-week fellowship.



**Sarah Chapple-Sokol**, former CSFilm Operations and Engagement Coordinator, found a new position as Career Coach for immigrants and refugees with Jewish Vocational Services.



**Samantha Corsini**, former Program Coordinator, found a role as Assistant Editor for Verse Video working on Harvard University education videos and Poetry in America.



**Aakanksha Gupta**, our new volunteer Program Coordinator, has joined CSFilm fresh from her master's degree in Civic Media Arts & Practice at Emerson College.

We are especially grateful to new editors that have joined CSFilm to assist with completing the films: Zayde Buti, Devvrat Mishra, and Lydia Eccles.

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You can help share immigrant stories to increase understanding and motivate action:

[Donate to support the National Screen & Discuss Tour](#)

[Organize a Screening in your Community](#)

[Explore our Action Toolkit and Teaching Resources](#)

[Subscribe to CSFilm email updates](#) and follow us on:      

Thank you to all the [Friends of CSFilm](#), for your support.



Community Supported Film Community Supported Film strengthens the documentary storytelling capacity in communities where the dissemination of balanced and accurate information is essential for development and conflict resolution.