

WORLD to Premiere *Crossings* by Emmy-winning director Deann Borshay Liem on Anniversary of Korean Armistice Agreement

Emmy Award-winning director Deann Borshay Liem's film joins 30 women from around the world on a journey across the line that divides North and South Korea as they call for peace

New York, N.Y. – The Korean War is neither “forgotten” nor ended. Although fighting was halted by an armistice in 1953, the warring parties never signed a peace treaty. Seventy years later, North Korea and the United States remain adversaries, the threat of renewed fighting looms, and millions are tragically separated from their families.

The enduring trauma of the war is the subject of *Crossings*, a documentary by Deann Borshay Liem that will air nationally on WORLD as part of its Doc World program series beginning **July 23, 2023 at 10 p.m. ET**. Simultaneously haunting and inspiring, the film focuses on women impacted by the brutal conflict, as well as the determination of women to create peace on the Korean Peninsula. There will also be a special pre-broadcast screening on July 22 for 70 watch parties planned nationwide. *Crossings* is presented in partnership with Center for Asian America Media.

“The Korean War resulted in untold suffering. It’s a historical trauma that continues to impact multiple generations. It has left in its wake an ongoing U.S. military occupation of South Korea and an unresolved armistice that leaves open the risk of renewed fighting, including a potential nuclear war,” says Deann Borshay Liem.

In *Crossings*, a group of international women peacemakers sets out on a risky journey across the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, calling for a peace agreement that would bring a formal end to this conflict. Comprised of Nobel Peace Laureates from Liberia and Northern Ireland, as well as renowned activists like Gloria Steinem and Christine Ahn, the intrepid team faces daunting logistical and political challenges as they forge a path toward peace and reconciliation with their Korean sisters on both sides of the most heavily militarized border in the world. Their groundbreaking action, as well as the extreme reactions they face in both South Korea and the United States, is captured in an intimate cinema vérité style framed by historic newsreels of the Korean War and dramatic contemporary news coverage. From threats of annihilation to promises of peace, the rollercoaster ride of U.S.-North Korea relations provides key moments of drama throughout the story.

“Throughout history, women have organized to create powerful calls for peace in the midst of conflict. Now, 70 years after the Korean Armistice Agreement, we witness, through Deann’s

eyes, a cadre of feminist changemakers embark on a bold mission to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula,” said Chris Hastings executive producer of WORLD at GBH in Boston. “WORLD is proud to bring this remarkable story to viewers, many of whom are personally affected by this division.”

The main protagonist of the film, Christine Ahn, has devoted the past decade to fostering the growing movement among Korean Americans and the general public to support Koreans in Korea working for peace by addressing the main obstacle to their shared vision: U.S. foreign policy. The WORLD premiere of [Crossings](#) on July 23 (10 p.m. ET) commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice. Like Liem’s other films, *Crossings* is supported by [a dynamic impact campaign](#) that includes rich educational content. WORLD will make the film available for free streaming through August 21.

Liem has devoted her career as a documentary filmmaker to exploring the human costs of the Korean War—which killed 4 million people in 3 years, more than half of them Korean civilians, and scattered hundreds of thousands more across the globe—through films like *First Person Plural*, her Emmy-nominated personal documentary exploring her history as a Korean adoptee, and [Geographies of Kinship](#), which WORLD will broadcast on America Reframed on **Thursday, July 27th at 8 p.m. ET.**

WATCH CROSSINGS: WORLDWIDE EARLY DIGITAL RELEASE:

On WORLD: <https://worldchannel.org/episode/doc-world-crossings/>

Short Link: https://to.worldchannel.org/DW_Crossings

On PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/video/doc-world-crossings-trailer>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-7a7eUvdMmgkYL3L2bgAXIjNUhsuduSb>

###

Deann Borshay Liem is an Emmy Award-winning documentarian known for films that explore war, memory, family and identity including her landmark adoption films *First Person Plural*, *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* and *Geographies of Kinship*. Her work on the Korean War including *Memory of Forgotten War*, *Crossings* and the oral history project, *Legacies of the Korean War*, explores divided families and women’s role in peacemaking. She has served as Executive Producer, Producer, Executive in Charge and consultant on numerous films including *The Apology*, *Mimi & Dona*, *Seeing Allred*, *Who Will Write Our History*, *Dorothea Lange: Grab A Hunk of Lightning*, *Ishi’s Return*, *The Eddy Zheng Story*, *Kelly Loves Tony*, *AKA Don Bonus* and many others. She is the recipient of grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, California Humanities, Sundance Institute, Rockefeller Foundation and San Francisco Film Society. She is currently serving as Producer for the ITVS-supported film, *Vivien’s Wild Ride*, and is directing a new documentary that looks at

the intersections between US military occupation, Korean military brides, and transnational adoption.

About WORLD

WORLD shares the best of public media in news, documentaries and programming. WORLD's original series examine the issues and amplify the voices of those often ignored by mainstream media. The multiplatform channel helps audiences understand conflicts, movements and cultures from around the globe. Its original work has won a Peabody Award, an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, an International Documentary Association Award, a National News and Documentary Emmy Award, two Webby Awards and many others honoring diversity of content and makers. WORLD is carried by 194 member stations in markets representing 77% of US TV households. Funding for WORLD is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Wyncote Foundation. WORLD is produced by GBH in partnership with WNET and is distributed by American Public Television (APT). Find out more at WORLDChannel.org.

###