

July 13, 2012

## HOMELAND: IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

Thursday July 26 – Part 1 JOBS 8:00pm

Thursday July 26 – Part 2 ENFORCEMENT 9:00pm

Thursday Aug 9 – Part 3 REFUGEES 9:00pm



*Citizenship ceremony*

Immigration is a national issue this election year, but it plays out daily in the lives of people in communities across the country and here in Kansas City. **HOMELAND: IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA on KCPT** presents stories of immigrants — legal and illegal — and those who confront them, help them, employ them and craft legislation that affects them. Ray Suarez, senior correspondent for the PBS NEWSHOUR, narrates.

Immigration is one of the most polarizing issues facing America today. It's a story of new immigrants who find themselves walking a fine line between access to and expulsion from the American dream. It's also a story of American citizens who wonder if legal and illegal immigrants threaten their way of life. These intertwined and complex issues may have a significant effect on the choices people make when they go to the polls in November. **HOMELAND**

reveals the complex economic, political, personal and cultural dilemmas that are often portrayed as simple choices of right or wrong, legal or illegal. Immigration is not just a short-term border state issue; it is a national and local issue with long-term consequences for Kansas City and the nation as a whole.

**HOMELAND** travels to small towns and big cities that are dealing with immigration, towns such as tiny Monett, Missouri, where immigrants fuel the poultry processing industry. The series also meets with experts around the country, from Los Angeles, where UCLA professor Abel Valenzuela talks about the impact of immigrant labor, to Washington, DC, where policy-makers wrestle with the concerns of humanitarian, political and business interests. Among those interviewed are Michael Chertoff, former secretary of Homeland Security under President

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*KCPT is a nonprofit, community-owned television station serving the greater Kansas City area that provides programming and services—on air and off—that entertain, educate and enrich the community. For more information about KCPT's programs and services, or to become a member and support public television in Kansas City, please go to [www.KCPT.org](http://www.KCPT.org).*

George W. Bush; former governor and U.N. ambassador Bill Richardson (D-New Mexico); Juan Williams, political analyst, FOX News; Edward Alden, senior fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; and Sasha Chanoff, executive director, Mapendo International, an organization dedicated to refugee rescue, relief and resettlement in Africa and the U.S.

The first two hours of **HOMELAND: IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA** are part of PBS' primetime schedule. A third part airs on KCPT at 9:00pm, August 9. Part one, **"Jobs"** (July 26), looks at the spectrum of immigrant jobs and the complex maze of rules, regulations, caps and quotas challenging our country at many levels. Among the people included in **"Jobs"** are an American-educated Taiwanese scientist searching for an employer to sponsor her visa and immigrant workers in a sleepy Ozark town who have brought a much-needed economic turnaround, but also language barriers and culture clashes.

Part two, **"Enforcement"** (July 26), cuts through the heated rhetoric to explore how communities and the nation struggle to enforce inconsistent immigration policies. One story explains why two **Kansas City** beat cops have adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward legal status, knowing that aggressive enforcement threatens to break community trust when illegal and legal immigrants live side by side, often in the same family.

The third part, **"Refugees"** (August 9), takes viewers to the heart of America's humanitarian position as a refuge for those fleeing violence, disaster, war and persecution around the world. The stories in this hour illustrate the forces and factors that can lead refugees to a life of stability and success or to isolation, welfare and homelessness.

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