

off the fence.

Outpost

12 x 30'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Empowering New Voices

In this episode of Outpost we travel to Sao Paulo, Brazil; and El Alto, Bolivia to look at how people are taking back the power – at least a little bit – in order to shape the world they live in. We travel to Sao Paulo with celebrity and LGBT advocate Carmen Carrera to meet the transgender community in Brazil and understand how they're fighting for acceptance and to protect themselves from a strikingly high rate of violence against the community. And Gabriel Leigh travels to the high plain of Bolivia to meet the indigenous Aymara people shaping their new city of El Alto through its architecture, in stark contrast to the European traditions of next-door capital La Paz, and claiming the land as theirs in the process.

2. The Wild Coast

In this special episode of Outpost, we travel to the region of the Guyanas, located in the northeastern corner of South America and often overlooked by the rest of the world. We visit Suriname, and get an animated history lesson of the region, to get a glimpse into this unusual, impenetrable part of the world. We follow former heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson along on the trip of a lifetime, to visit Suriname and witness the unique bird-singing contests held there for generations.

3. Drugs

In this episode of Outpost, we look at the varied and far-reaching effects that drugs have and continue to have on Latin America. You can't talk about Latin America without talking about drugs, and in the mountains of Mexico, and in the distant corners of Paraguay, we confront the issues head-on. First, consciousness expert and TV personality Jason Silva takes us to the remote mountains of Oaxaca, Mexico, and later to the scientific circles of Baltimore, Maryland, to look at the origins as well as the potential modern medical applications of psilocybin mushrooms. We then look at the prospects for legalization of marijuana in Paraguay, one of the biggest producers of marijuana in the Americas which continues to take a hard line on the drug.

4. Power of the Internet

In this episode of Outpost, we head to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and to Lima, Peru as we see how the power of the internet shapes culture, and even politics. Social media superstar Rudy Mancuso

takes us to Brazil to meet the founders of the comedy troupe, Porta dos Fundos, whose videos have made them one of the most popular YouTube channels in the world, as they satirize and demolish many aspects of mainstream Brazilian society and politics. Gabriel Leigh then takes us to Lima, Peru to meet a young woman – who rose to YouTube fame with a song about breastfeeding, made when she was only eight years old – struggling now to define herself and a hopeful career as a pop musician, as she moves into adulthood.

5. Identity

In this episode of Outpost, we travel to Argentina and Honduras, as we come to understand the importance of identity, and how that identity may often come as a surprise. Mia Maestro heads to Buenos Aires, Argentina to meet the young people starting companies and inventing new technology even as the country struggles through a recession that has last for nearly their entire lives. While Vytenis Didziulis went to Honduras, where a tattoo is more than a fashion statement, to find out how gang members are trying to get their lives back.

6. Puerto Rico

In this special episode of Outpost, we travel to Puerto Rico and highlight the number of ways the Puerto Rican culture is not only unique to North and Latin America, but also to the rest of the world. From good food to punk rock to local biology, there's a lot more than meets the eye on one the Caribbean's Greater Antilles. Prominent New York experimental chef Laila Gohar takes us to visit the people reviving an agricultural industry on Puerto Rico that's feeding an explosion of great restaurants serving fresh, local food. We also meet the growing band of punk rockers on the island and learn that they do indeed have a lot to be angry about. In addition, we tag along with a pair of local biologists who are working hard to document a decline in the iconic tree frog of Puerto Rico, the Coqui, as they study the links between its shrinking population and global warming.

7. Move to the Music

In this episode of Outpost, we travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Easter Island, Chile to meet the people making a difference through music – finding hope in destruction, and exploring the possibilities of culture for social rescue. Jon Batiste, New Orleans musician and band leader of the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, meets the young Haitians finding their way as musicians in the wake of Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake, despite having no music industry to speak of. Meanwhile, in Easter Island, Kim Brooks meets the people who've started a music school and NGO to address problems on the island ranging from a lack of education to tears in the social fabric to environmental concerns.

8. Girl Power

In this episode of Outpost, we travel to the coast of Nicaragua, and the northwestern jungles of Colombia, to meet the women taking hold of their lives and their futures, and representing for women everywhere in the quest to show the world what they're capable of. Famous big wave surfer Maya Gabeira takes us to see a surf camp in Nicaragua that's helping victims of sex trafficking regain control of their lives. Meanwhile, we meet a female rebel fighter in Colombia's ELN guerrilla army, and we learn about daily life as in insurgent group.

9. Outside Influence

In this episode of Outpost, we travel to the desert north of Colombia and the jungle hills of rural Dominican Republic, to witness the ways in which outside influences can bring both good and bad to small, unseen communities in the developing world. The world's top amputee kitesurfer, Sean Reyngoudt, takes us to the Guajira province of Colombia, to the northernmost tip of South America, to meet a trio of indigenous Wayuu kids who have taken up kitesurfing and become incredible at it, taking advantage of one of the windiest, most deserted places on earth. Then, we travel with Kim Brooks to see how a giant Canadian mining company has impacted the lives of the residents of a small town in the Dominican Republic. Residents complain of acid rain, ruined rivers, and various health problems, but will their complaints ever be heard?

10. Underdog

In this episode of Outpost, we travel to Chile and Brazil to meet the underdogs of Latin America fighting against immeasurable odds to have their voices heard, to safeguard the places they call home, and to challenge the typical stereotypes still prevalent in our society. We travel to Rio's favelas with Vytenis Didziulis to visit a pastor trying to make sure gangsters and drug dealers find God, even if they haven't left the murdering life behind. Then Gabriel Leigh takes us to meet Pangal Andrade Astorga, whose extended family of professional kayakers, rafters and environmental stewards fight a major industrial project threatening the main river in the valley they live in. Finally, we meet the women banding together in Chile, a place that's full of incredible street art but traditionally mostly by men, to show they've got just as much to offer with their graffiti.

11. Land Grab

Vytenis Didziulis takes us deep in to the Amazon where a small band of eco-warriors are patrolling an enormous swathe of the jungle to fight against illegal loggers and other environmental criminals. Then, Ramon Iriarte meets the indigenous Nasa people of Colombia battling the wealthy landowners and massive sugarcane plantations that they say are currently occupying their native land. Finally, Ramon Iriarte takes us to French Guiana, still a part of France and the European Union, to witness how French police and military are trying their hardest to hold this melting pot of a jungle territory together.

12. Facing the Future

In this episode of Outpost we travel to Cuba for an extended look at a country in transition via its traditions in dance and, in particular, ballet. We meet the people looking to the future of Cuba and shaping its path as it finds its way forward. Michaela De Prince, dancer with the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam, takes us on a tour deep inside Cuba's dance world, exploring the role of ballet in its revolution, and the role it plays now in popular culture. In doing so, she shows us some of the big change coming to the island, and we come to understand the role dance can play in that future, both on the island and in terms of Cuba's image abroad.