



**DOC NYC FESTIVAL, NOV. 9-16, ANNOUNCES “DOC NYC PRO”
EIGHT-DAY CONFERENCE FOR DOCUMENTARY PROFESSIONALS**

**PROGRAMS INCLUDE “THE STATE OF DOCUMENTARY”
PLUS DAYS DEVOTED TO FUNDING, DISTRIBUTION, PITCHING,
EDITING & CINEMATOGRAPHY**

**“SHORT LIST DAY” SPEAKERS INCLUDE
ERROL MORRIS, LAURA POITRAS, YANCE FORD, BRETT MORGEN,
HEIDI EWING & JR**

NEW YORK, Oct. 5, 2017 – **DOC NYC**, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the lineup for its eight-day **DOC NYC PRO** conference, running November 9-16 concurrent with the festival’s public film screenings. The PRO lineup features over 100 speakers including acclaimed filmmakers Errol Morris, Laura Poitras, Brett Morgen, Roger Ross Williams and Joe Berlinger; plus industry leaders such as Chris Horton (Sundance Institute), Dan Cogan (Impact Partners) and Julie Goldman (Motto Pictures).

“DOC NYC PRO is a vital convening of America’s documentary industry, like an annual gathering of wizards sharing their secrets of craft, technology and business,” said Artistic Director Thom Powers. “For independent filmmakers who often work in isolation, this information exchange is priceless and hard to find elsewhere.”

New this year is **The State of Documentary** (Nov. 9) that begins the conference by covering trends in storytelling, financing, post-production and distribution. Now in its second year, **Short List Day** (Nov. 10) brings together many of the filmmakers behind the prestigious DOC NYC Short List of awards contenders for a day of panels; and **Pitch Perfect Day** (Nov. 13) helps to connect works-in-progress with funders and mentors.

Each day of DOC NYC PRO kicks off with a **Morning Manifesto** featuring an esteemed guest distilling their wisdom in a half-hour conversation. This year’s Manifesto speakers include Oscar-nominated filmmakers Joe Berlinger, Amy Berg, IDA Executive Director Simon Kilmurry, Sub-Genre’s Brian Newman, Black Public Media’s Leslie Fields-Cruz, Center for Media and Social Impact Director Caty Borum Chattoo and WME agent Liesl Copland.

Only in New York roundtables, returning for the second year, allow DOC NYC filmmakers to connect with industry leaders during four days of meetings on November 13-16. Additionally, festival programmers select 20-30 work-in-progress documentaries to also participate. Those projects were chosen from a call for submissions. Only in New York is co-presented by Showtime Documentary Films.

The entire DOC NYC PRO conference is co-presented by **Amazon Studios**. The conference is programmed by Deborah Rudolph, returning for her fourth year.

DOC NYC PRO takes place at the Cinepolis Chelsea on West 23rd Street in Manhattan. Inside Cinepolis Chelsea, DOC NYC PRO also hosts a networking lounge for passholders. Each day begins with a Breakfast and concludes with a Happy Hour for passholders, panelists and filmmakers.

Several pass options provide access to DOC NYC PRO, including a new money-saving option to experience four days of the conference with a DOC NYC PRO FIRST HALF or SECOND HALF Pass; as well as individual day passes:

ALL ACCESS PASS: \$750 – provides admission to all festival films and panels, plus use of the PRO Lounge at the Cinepolis Chelsea, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours. All Access passholders bypass the lines at screenings and panels so that their DOC NYC experience is wait-free. Only a limited number of All Access Passes will be available. The All Access Pass is valid for one person per event, but is transferable between individuals. Pass does not grant access to the Visionaries Tribute event.

DOC NYC PRO PASS: \$350 – grants access to the full eight-day lineup of DOC NYC PRO Thursday, Nov. 9 - Thursday, Nov. 16 at Cinepolis Chelsea. Pass also includes Breakfasts and Happy Hours. Pass is valid only for one and is not transferable.

DOC NYC PRO FIRST HALF PASS (Nov 9-12) or SECOND HALF PASS (Nov 13-16): \$200 – The same benefits as a PRO Pass, but only valid for the four-day period indicated.

DAY PASSES FOR DOC NYC PRO: \$75 - The same benefits as a PRO pass, valid for a single day's events.

To purchase passes, go to: www.docnyc.net

Earlier, DOC NYC announced Greg Barker's *The Final Year* as its Opening Night presentation, as well as the 15 films selected for the festival's prestigious Short List section. Additionally, the festival released details of this year's Visionaries Tribute event, with Lifetime Achievement Awards given to filmmaker Errol Morris and to HBO Documentary Films President Sheila Nevins, the Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence given to filmmaking team Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, and the Leading Light Award to Cara Mertes, director of the JustFilms initiative at The Ford Foundation | JustFilms.

Below are details on panels. Panelists will continue to be updated on docnyc.net:

Thursday, Nov. 9 – THE STATE OF DOCUMENTARY DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – IDA Executive Director Simon Kilmurry.
- **What's Your POV?** – Filmmakers Nanfu Wang (*I Am Another You*), Jennifer Brea (*Unrest*) and Drew Xanthopoulos (*The Sensitives*) on storytelling; moderated by Rose Vincelli Gustine. Co-presented by SVA MFA Social Documentary Film.
- **The State of Funding: Budgets, Grants & More** – Chicken and Egg Pictures' Jenni Wolfson, LEF Foundation's Sara Archambault and Ford Foundation | JustFilms' Andrew Catauro provide a road map for film financing.
- **Post-Production Secrets** – Post-production experts Joe Beirne, Ben Murray and filmmaker Daniel DiMauro (*Get Me Roger Stone*) advise on strategies. Co-presented by Technicolor PostWorks NY.
- **Enter the Market** – Josh Braun (*Submarine*), Matt Cowal (Magnolia Pictures), Natalie Mooallem (*The Orchard*) and Eric Sloss (*Cinetic*).
- **Happy Hour** – Co-presented by The Orchard

Friday, Nov. 10 – SHORT LIST DAY

Co-presented by MTV

- **Morning Manifesto** – WME agent Liesl Copland.
- **The Art of Observation** – Directors Greg Barker (*The Final Year*), Laura Poitras (*Risk*), editor Matthew Hamachek (*City of Ghosts*) and producer Julie Goldman (*Abacus: Small Enough to Jail*) discuss the craft of observational filmmaking.
- **Navigating Sensitive Relationships** – Directors Amanda Lipitz (*Step*), Dan Sickles (*Dina*), Heidi Ewing (*One of Us*) and Peter Nicks (*The Force*) discuss documenting complex lives.
- **When the Filmmaker Is Part of the Story** – Directors Bryan Fogel (*Icarus*), Yance Ford (*Strong Island*) and Jeff Orlowski (*Chasing Coral*) discuss appearing in their own films.
- **Finding the Style for the Story** – Directors Brett Morgen (*Jane*), Ceyda Torun (*Kedi*), JR (*Faces Places*) and Errol Morris (*The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's Portrait Photography*) discuss their unique stylistic approaches.
- **Happy Hour** – Co-presented by Vulcan Productions.

Saturday, Nov. 11 – MASTERING YOUR CRAFT: EDITING DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – Filmmaker Amy Berg (*Janis: Little Girl Blue, Deliver Us From Evil*).
- **Composing & Sound Design** – Composers T. Griffin (*One of Us; Life, Animated*) and Nathan Halpern (*What Haunts Us, Rich Hill*) present case studies.
- **Getting Creative with Archives** – Filmmaker Sierra Pettengill (archivist, *Risk; The Reagan Show, Gimme Danger*), Robert Pascale (Pond5) and others share insights about using archival material. Co-presented by National Geographic Documentary Films.
- **Writing for Nonfiction** – Filmmakers Yance Ford (*Strong Island*) and Cecilia Aldarondo (*Memories of a Penitent Heart*) discuss their writing process; moderated by Jenna Bond (Writers Guild of America, East). Co-presented by Writers Guild of America, East.
- **Tales from the Edit Room** – Editors Maya Mumma (*O.J.: Made in America*), Fiona Otway (*Hell and Back Again*) and David Teague (*Life, Animated*) share storytelling secrets.
- **Power and Perspective in Storytelling** – Renee Tajima-Pena (*No Más Bebés*) leads a conversation with Nadia Hallgren (*Motherland*), Stephen Maing (*High Tech, Low Life*), Geeta Gandbhir (*Armed With Faith*) and Edwin Martinez (*To Be Heard*) on telling stories as a community insider vs outsider. Co-presented by A-Doc (Asian American Documentary Network) and Ford Foundation | JustFilms.
- **Reception** – Co-presented by A-Doc (Asian American Documentary Network) and Ford Foundation | JustFilms.

Sunday, Nov. 12 – MASTERING YOUR CRAFT: CINEMATOGRAPHY DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – Filmmaker Joe Berlinger (*Cold Blooded, Paradise Lost* trilogy)
- **Observational Camera** – Jenni Morello and Alex Takats (cinematographers, *One of Us*), Erika Cohn and Amber Fares (director and cinematographer, *The Judge*) and Ross Kauffman (director/cinematographer, *Born Into Brothels*) discuss their craft.
- **What Makes a Great Interview?** – Filmmakers Kristi Jacobson (*Solitary*) and Sam Pollard (*Maynard*) discuss the art of the interview.
- **Big Images, Small Budget** – Filmmakers Mike Day (*The Islands and the Whales*) and Daniel McCabe (*This is Congo*) discuss making the most of their camerawork.

- **Technical Questions** – Filmmaker Henry Roosevelt (*Tough Guys*) discusses his favorite cinematic tools.
- **Happy Hour** – Co-presented by Pond5.

Monday, Nov. 13 – PITCH PERFECT DAY

Co-presented by A&E IndieFilms

- **Breakfast - Co-presented by ScreeningRoom**
- **Pitch Perfect, Part 1** – Three works-in-progress, *Second Coming* (Cara Jones), *Shadow of His Wings* (Lucas Habte), and *Plucked* (Joel Van Haren) pitch to a panel of industry leaders.
- **Pitch Perfect, Part 2** – Three works-in-progress, *Good Ol Girl* (Sarah Brennan Kolb), *Finding Home* (Abraham Troen) and *Blue Code of Silence* (Magnus Skatvold) pitch to a panel of industry leaders.
- **Reception** – Co-presented by ImageNation Abu Dhabi.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 – SMART PRODUCING DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – Brian Newman of Sub-Genre
- **The Distribution Landscape: Where Are We Heading?** – Dan Cogan (Impact Partners) leads a panel of experts assessing the future of documentary distribution. Co-presented by Impact Partners.
- **Case Study: *Life, Animated*** – Producers Julie Goldman, Carolyn Hepburn and Christopher Clements (Motto Pictures) join director/producer Roger Ross Williams for a study of their Oscar-nominated film.
- **Reaching the Audience: Press, Outreach & Marketing** – Christie Marchese (Picture Motion), Sara Kiener (Cinereach) and others discuss how to maximize an audience.
- **Evaluating Impact** – John Hoffman (Discovery), Meredith Blake (ProSocial) and Miriam Horn (Environmental Defense Fund) discuss spreading a film's message. Co-presented by Discovery.
- **Happy Hour** – Co-presented by Discovery.

Wednesday, Nov. 15 – SHOW ME THE MONEY DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – Leslie Fields-Cruz (Black Public Media)

- **Leveraging Partnerships** – Danielle Perissi (ImageNation Abu Dhabi), DOC NYC 2016 Pitch Perfect winner Julia Bacha (*Naila and the Uprising*) and others share advice on partnerships. Co-presented by Image Nation Abu Dhabi.
- **Going DIY with Distribution** – Producers Lindsey Dryden, Alys Nahmias (*Unrest*) and Chris Horton (Sundance Institute) discuss variations of self-distribution.
- **Grants & Labs** – Maxyne Franklin (Doc Society) and Lucila Moctezuma (Chicken & Egg Pictures) share tips on making the most of grants and filmmaking labs.
- **Crowdfunding in 2018** – Filmmakers offer case studies on how crowdfunding can raise money and create excitement around your work; moderated by Elise McCave (Kickstarter). Co-presented by Kickstarter.
- **Happy Hour** – Co-presented by Participant Media.

Thursday, Nov. 16 – LAW SCHOOL DAY

- **Morning Manifesto** – Caty Borum Chattoo (Director, Center for Media & Social Impact).
- **Ethics, Objectivity & Controversial Subjects** – Marc H. Simon (Fox Rothschild LLP) leads a discussion with filmmakers on dealing with controversial topics. Co-presented by Fox Rothschild LLP.
- **Financing & Distribution: Facts & Figures** – Experts from Cowan DeBaets Abrahams & Sheppard LLP, along with filmmakers, financiers and distribution executives, discuss documentary business and legal issues. Co-presented by Cowan DeBaets Abrahams & Sheppard LLP.
- **Filmmaking in the Trump Era** – Filmmakers David Byars (*No Man's Land*), Deia Schlosberg (*The Reluctant Radical*), Katy Scoggin (*Risk*) and attorney Victoria Cook (Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz), discuss contemporary challenges for documentary.
- **Filming Outside Your Turf** – Filmmakers Evgeny Afineevsky (*Cries from Syria*), Rebecca Cammisa (*Atomic Homefront*), Lana Wilson (*The Departure*) and DOC NYC 2017 Pitch Perfect filmmaker Nathan Fitch (*Island Soldier*) discuss filming in foreign territory.

SPONSORS

The festival is made possible by **Major Sponsors** A&E IndieFilms, Amazon Studios, HBO Documentary Films, History Films, Netflix; **Supporting Sponsors** Discovery, ImageNation Abu Dhabi, National Geographic Documentary Films, Showtime Documentary Films; **Leading Media Sponsors** New York magazine, WNET; **Signature Sponsors** Bloomberg Philanthropies,

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Friends of the Festival include Agile Ticketing, Blue Point Brewing, Bluecoat Gin, Brooklyn Roasting Company, Essentia, Few Spirits, Fox Searchlight, Kickstarter, Kino Lorber, Posteritati, ScreeningRoom, Writers Guild of America East, Variant, Wheelhouse Creative and Zico.

For more info. on DOC NYC go to:

www.docnyc.net

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