



**DOC NYC FESTIVAL, NOV. 8-15, ANNOUNCES “DOC NYC PRO” EIGHT-DAY  
CONFERENCE FOR DOCUMENTARY PROFESSIONALS**

**EVENT DOUBLES IN SIZE WITH OVER 200 SPEAKERS ON DIRECTING,  
PRODUCING, PITCHING, FUNDING, DISTRIBUTION & MORE**

**“SHORT LIST” PANELISTS INCLUDE RASHIDA JONES,  
SUSAN LACY, MICHAEL MOORE, MORGAN NEVILLE,  
ELIZABETH CHAI VASARHELYI, WIM WENDERS**

NEW YORK, Oct. 4, 2018 – **DOC NYC**, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the lineup for its eight-day **DOC NYC PRO** conference, running November 8-15 concurrent with the festival’s public film screenings. This year’s conference doubles in size from last year, with each day featuring two strands of thematic panels. Pass holders can choose between eight different panels each day and network at a daily Breakfast and Happy Hour. The PRO lineup features over 200 speakers including notable filmmakers Rashida Jones, Susan Lacy, Michael Moore, Morgan Neville, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Wim Wenders who will all appear on panels related to the festival’s Short List (Nov. 9). The entire DOC NYC PRO conference is co-presented by Amazon Studios.

“DOC NYC PRO is an unparalleled gathering of America’s leading documentary creators and decision makers,” said Artistic Director Thom Powers. “There’s no better place for filmmakers to gain insights into the latest developments in the craft and business of nonfiction film.”

Each day of the PRO conference starts with a **Morning Manifesto**, delivering insights from a filmmaker or industry leader. This year’s Manifesto speakers are Amy Hobby (Tribeca Institute), Abigail Disney (Fork Films), Jannat Gargi (Vulcan Productions), Jon Reiss (DIY distribution expert), and filmmakers Nelson George (*A Ballerina’s Tale*), Jeff Orlowski (*Chasing Coral*), Dawn Porter (*Bobby Kennedy for President*), and Yoruba Richen (*The New Black*).

Popular themes from previous years will return in panels devoted to the **First-Time Filmmaker** (Nov. 8), **Editing** (Nov. 10), **Cinematography** (Nov. 11), **Pitch Perfect** (Nov. 12), **Smart Producing** (Nov. 13), **Show Me the Money** (Nov. 14) and **Doc Law School** (Nov. 15).

With its doubled size, the conference offers day-long themes of content in several new areas this year:

- **Series Focus** (Nov. 9) - panels exploring the growth of documentary series and episodic content
- **Showcases** (Nov. 10) - prominent distributors discuss where documentary is now and where the market is heading
- **American Snapshots** (Nov. 11) - panels that take a deep dive into hot button topics
- **Short Form Stylings** (Nov. 12) - panels devoted to the growing field of short form documentary
- **Post-Production Secrets** (Nov. 13) - panels exploring sound, graphics, music and other post-production secrets
- **Everything Archival** (Nov. 14) - veteran archival producers share secrets of their craft
- **Make Your Career** (Nov. 15) - panels focusing on career sustainability

The DOC NYC PRO conference is programmed and produced by Eric Johnson with the festival's Director of DOC NYC PRO Deborah Rudolph. The events mainly take place at the Cinopolis Chelsea on West 23rd Street in Manhattan with select break-out events at SVA Theatre and IFC Center (noted below). Inside the Cinopolis Chelsea, DOC NYC PRO also hosts a networking Lounge for passholders for all eight days, sponsored by Adorama November 11-14. Each day begins with a Breakfast and concludes with a Happy Hour for passholders, panelists, industry attendee and filmmakers.

The PRO conference also hosts the Only in New York roundtable meetings, co-presented by **SHOWTIME®** Documentary Films, for over 40 work-in-progress projects; and the new 40 Under 40 initiative, co-presented by Topic Studios, to identify rising talent. Those projects and recipients will be announced later in October.

Admission to DOC NYC PRO events is limited to festival passholders. This year the PRO conference has revamped its pass system to allow attendees to better curate their own experience from over 60 choices of panels, presented in two parallel strands of themes on each of the conference's eight days:

The **All-Access Pass** (\$995) grants admission to all festival screenings and up to 32 PRO events (one for each of the conference's time slots), plus access to the PRO Lounge and its daily industry and filmmaker Breakfasts and Happy Hours November 8-15, along with the pre-festival kickoff and Opening Night parties. All-Access passholders may reserve tickets online ahead of the festival, which will include seating in a special reserved section.

The **DOC NYC PRO Gold Pass** (\$399 until Nov. 5, \$450 after) grants access to a selection of DOC NYC PRO events November 8-15. Gold passholders may reserve tickets for up to 16 PRO panels before the festival, and have rush-line access to an additional 16 PRO events during the festival, allowing them to attend a PRO event during each of the conference's timeslots. The PRO Gold Pass also includes free admission to all weekday matinee festival screenings that start before 5pm, along with access to the PRO Lounge and its daily industry and filmmaker Breakfasts and Happy Hours (November 8-15) and an invitation to an official DOC NYC festival party. Additional free screening opportunities for Gold passholders to be announced closer to the festival.

The **DOC NYC PRO Silver Pass** (\$225 until Nov. 5, \$250 after) allows passholders to reserve tickets for up to 8 PRO panels before the festival, and have rush-line access to an additional 8 PRO panels during the festival. The PRO Silver Pass also includes free admission to all weekday morning festival screenings that start before noon, along with access to the PRO Lounge and its daily industry and filmmaker Breakfasts and Happy Hours November 8-15. Additional free screening opportunities for Silver passholders to be announced closer to the festival.

Below is a full list of panels at DOC NYC PRO day-by-day:

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

**Morning Manifesto: Dawn Porter** – The director of the Netflix series *Bobby Kennedy For President* shares her thoughts on the current state of documentary filmmaking.

#### **Panels: The State of Documentary**

Filmmakers, distributors and industry executives lead conversations examining the documentary world from artistic, business and financial perspectives and discuss how to succeed in today's landscape.

- **A Doc Style Guide** - Amir Bar-Lev (*Long Strange Trip*) and others go in depth to discuss ways to merge style and content seamlessly.

- **Who Owns The Story** - Marilyn Ness (*Charm City*), Nanfu Wang (*I Am Another You*) and others explore the issues of complicated filmmaker/subject relationships and storytelling ownership.
- **The Future of Funding** - Filmmakers and funders discuss the ins and outs of financing your film, analyzing recent projects and tracking what's on the horizon.
- **Beyond Your Core Audience** - Producer Susan Bedusa (*Bisbee '17*) and others discuss how to maximize your film's reach.

### **Panels: First Time Filmmaker**

Immerse yourself in panel discussions providing specific, in-depth and enlightening studies for emerging documentary filmmakers.

- **Dig Deep: Doc Storytelling** - Susan Froemke (*Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman*), Vanessa Gould (*Obit.*), Nancy Schwartzman (*Roll Red Roll*) and Marco Williams (*Crafting An Echo*) discuss building the foundation of exemplary storytelling.
- **Silver Linings (Doc) Playbook** - Filmmakers Elan Bogarín (*306 Hollywood*), Daniel Patrick Carbone (*Phantom Cowboys*) and Madeleine Sackler (*It's a Hard Truth Ain't It*) provide tips for taking daunting situations and turning them into cinematic gold.
- **Distribution Demystified** - Distributors and filmmakers shed light on the distribution phase of your film's journey and challenges you may face.
- **Optimizing Post Production: A Case Study** - The experts at Technicolor PostWorks NY lead an in-depth post-production case study to break down everything you need to know. *Co-presented by Technicolor PostWorks NY.*

**Happy Hour** *Co-Presented by Consulate General of Canada, New York*

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

**Morning Manifesto: Amy Hobby** - Tribeca Film Institute's Executive Director discusses her thoughts on what makes great documentary content.

### **Panels: The Short List**

Hear a special day of conversations with the filmmakers featured in the DOC NYC Short List section that highlights 15 of the year's standout documentaries.

- **Portraits** - Discussing biographical films with directors Wim Wenders (*Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*), Rashida Jones & Alan Hicks (*Quincy*), Morgan Neville (*Won't You Be My Neighbor?*) and Susan Lacy (*Jane Fonda: A Life in Five Acts*). *Co-presented by Focus Features*
- **Getting Personal** - Discussing films that rely on a strong bond between director and subject with filmmakers Bing Liu (*Minding the Gap*), Rudy Valdez (*The Sentence*), Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi (*Free Solo*) and Alexandria Bombach (*On Her Shoulders*). *Co-presented by MTV.*
- **Pushing Boundaries** - Discussing docs that are inventive with the documentary form, featuring the filmmakers Sandi Tan (*Shirkers*), Tim Wardle (*Three Identical Strangers*) and RaMell Ross (*Hale County This Morning, This Evening*). *Co-presented by MTV.*
- **Getting Political** - Discussing films that plunge into the political, featuring the filmmakers Michael Moore (*Fahrenheit 11/9*), Julie Cohen (*RBG*), Annie Sundberg (*Reversing Roe*) and Stephen Maing (*Crime + Punishment*). *Co-presented by MTV.*

### **Panels: Series Focus**

Find out what you need to know about how to construct, pitch, develop and create your series idea.

- **Developing Your Series** - Filmmakers discuss developing documentary ideas into series and why you should consider the format for your next idea.
- **Crafting Standout Digital Content** - Panelists provide a primer to creating memorable digital documentary series.
- **Should You Pitch It?** - Distributors lead a conversation about what they are looking for in the documentary series market.
- **Case Study: *Bobby Kennedy For President*** - Director Dawn Porter, producer Laura Michalchysyn and archival producer Rich Remsberg discuss creating the acclaimed Netflix documentary series.

**Happy Hour** *Co-presented by Focus Features.*

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

**Morning Manifesto: Abigail Disney** - The founder of Fork Films has been a major force in funding documentary films. Hear her thoughts on what stories are the most important to tell.

### **Panels: Master Your Craft - Editing**

The first of two days focusing on the craft of nonfiction filmmaking. Saturday's sessions will break down and delve into all aspects of documentary editing.

- **Grab Your Audience's Attention** - Editors Carla Gutierrez (*RBG*) and Katharine Garrison (*United Skates*) discuss bringing an audience into your film's world. *Co-presented by the Karen Schmeer Fellowship.*
- **Cut A Killer Trailer** - Editors and trailer experts discuss the nitty gritty of what makes great, visceral trailers and how to craft one that best fits your film.
- **Anatomy of a Scene** - Director Clay Tweel (*Out of Omaha; Gleason*) and others break down key moments from their films and discuss how to cut with an eye toward finding the meaning in a scene.
- **Storytelling in a Post-Truth World** - Editor Rabab Haj Yahya (*The Feeling of Being Watched*) and others share thoughts on crafting story during each stage of a cut and on ensuring that it remains truthful.

### **Panels: Showcases**

Hear directly from distributors on the content they are producing and the types of projects they look for, plus a get a glimpse of upcoming works.

- **Discovery Showcase** - Join the filmmaking team, including director Ross Kaufman and Discovery's Jon Bardin and Jessica Beatus, as they go in depth on *Taken By The Tiger* and Discovery's Project C.A.T. initiative.
- **NEON Showcase** - Join executives from NEON as they discuss turning *Three Identical Strangers* into a hit, what they look for in the acquisitions market and how the company has quickly established itself as a force in the distribution world.

- **Topic Studios Showcase** - Topic develops, produces and finances documentaries, feature films, shorts and series for all screens. Hear Topic executives discuss what types of projects they look to develop and partner with and how they go about it.
- **National Geographic Documentary Films Showcase** -For over 130 years, National Geographic has been known for its iconic photography and breathtaking cinematography. Hear from world-renowned filmmaker Jimmy Chin whose vertigo-inducing camerawork is showcased in the new film *Free Solo*, along with a panel of other cinematographers to find out how they “get the shot”.

**Happy Hour** Co-Presented by *Herflix*, *WIFNordic*, & *NYWIFT*

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**Morning Manifesto: Jeff Orlowski** - The director of *Chasing Coral* and *Chasing Ice* is known for his stunning cinematography. Hear how he captures such incredible images.

### **Panels: Master Your Craft - Cinematography**

In the second of two days focusing on the craft of nonfiction filmmaking, we dive deep into all aspects of documentary cinematography.

- **Tight Spots, Dynamic Shots** - Cinematographers Claudia Raschke (*RBG*), Erik Shirai (*Blowin' Up*) and others discuss working against the clock and what techniques you can use to get what you need.
- **SPECIAL EVENT: Our Golden Age of Documentary** (takes place at SVA Theatre) - Join industry leaders as they discuss the current state of documentary film distribution, funding, career sustainability, artistry, diversity, impact and more, as well as take audience questions in this special centerpiece panel event.
- **Make Your Interviews Pop** - Cinematographers Tom Hurwitz (*Studio 54*), Ferne Pearlstein (*The Last Laugh*) and others discuss creating the best environment to capture interviews.
- **The Invisible Cinematographer Paradox** - Cinematographer Rudy Valdez (*The Sentence*), Ryan Scafuro (*Phantom Cowboys*), and Laela Kilbourn (*How to Dance in Ohio*) discuss objectivity and subjectivity in observational filmmaking.

### **Panels: American Snapshots**

Dive into discussions of prominent themes in the current American discourse, including race, gender, politics, religion and free speech, and how documentary films can offer a window into our times.

- **Journalism Under Fire** - Panelists discuss best practices in documentary journalism and how filmmakers should – and need to – push back on false claims against their work.
- **Decade of Fire: Activation and Accountability** - Working Films and Ford Foundation present an interactive conversation featuring the makers of *Decade of Fire*, issue-based funders, and community-based organizations discussing the ecology of partnerships needed to activate a film. *Co-presented by JustFilms | Ford Foundation.*
- **Ordinary Americans, Extraordinary Subjects** - Panelists speak about getting to the emotional heart of your subjects and your film.

**Happy Hour** *Co-presented by Lexus*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

**Morning Manifesto: Jannat Gargi** (takes place at IFC Center) - Vulcan Productions' Head of Documentary Films gives her thoughts and advice on how best to pitch your documentary projects.

**IF/Then & Pitch Perfect** (takes place at IFC Center)

Twelve projects give their pitches to industry experts at this special daylong event.

- **IF/Then Shorts American Northeast** - Six filmmaking teams pitch their short doc projects for completion funding, free post production services (provided by Sim NY), and the opportunity to participate in Tribeca Film Institute's IF/Then distribution initiative. *Co-presented by Tribeca Film Institute.*
- **Pitch Perfect** - Six works-in-progress doc features and series, selected by our programming team, pitch to a panel of industry experts - representing distributors, producers, sales agents, publicists, and more. *Co-presented by A&E IndieFilms.*

### **Panels: Short Form Stylings**

Short form content has exploded in recent years. Discover what's next for shorts.



- **Case Study With Michele Stephenson and Joe Brewster** - Go in-depth with award-winning filmmakers Michele Stephenson and Joe Brewster (*American Promise*) to discuss crafting exemplary short films.
- **The Heart of the Sports Doc** - Darius Clark Monroe (*Black 14*) and others discuss using sports as a way to explore other aspects of our culture.
- **The Future is Short** - Filmmaker Kim Snyder (*Newtown*) and others discuss working in both short and feature forms.
- **The New Distribution Landscape** - Chloe Gbai (POV Shorts) and other distributors describe what they look for in short films.

**Happy Hour** *Co-presented by Tribeca Film Institute.*

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**Morning Manifesto: Jon Reiss** - The director of *Bomb It* and *Bomb It 2* and author of *Think Outside the Box Office* discusses innovative distribution techniques and how to use data for decision making.

### **Panels: Smart Producing**

Learn how to roll with the punches, take on challenges and be an effective producer in a competitive and complex landscape.

- **Access is Everything** - Filmmakers Kimberly Reed (*Dark Money*), Caitlin Mae Burke (*Feast of the Epiphany*) and others focus on ways you can build trust with documentary subjects and communities.
- **Close Up On Impact Producing** - Filmmakers discuss effective measures of impact producing and campaigns.
- **The Art of Immersive** - Dive in with RYOT's Chief Content Officer Hayley Pappas for a discussion on how superior storytelling is at the core of immersive. *Co-presented by RYOT.*

- **Build A Successful Production Company: Break Thru Films - *Reversing Roe*** directors Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg discuss working with distribution partners and growing a production company.

### **Panels: Post-Production Secrets**

Professionals in composing, animation, graphics, and post-sound share their expertise.

- **Post-Sound: What You See is What You Hear** - Post-sound professionals lead you through the steps you need to know to execute the perfect audio strategy.
- **Animation, Graphics & Enhanced Storytelling** - Panelists discuss when you should include an animator in your process and other best practices.
- **Composers Tell All** - Composers Troy Herion (*306 Hollywood*) and Wendy Blackstone (*I Am Evidence*) discuss building the perfect score for your film.
- **Case Study: Prep Your Film For Distribution** - Learn valuable insights into how to prep your film for distribution in this case study from industry experts. *Co-presented by Technicolor PostWorks NY.*

### **Happy Hour**

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

**Morning Manifesto: Nelson George** - The director of *A Ballerina's Tale*, author and television producer, provides insights into building a career.

### **Panels: Show Me the Money**

Panelists address the critical issues of development funding, grant-writing, creating a sizzler and self-distribution.

- **Dissecting Development With Impact Partners** - Impact Partners' Dan Cogan and other guests discuss efforts to establish development funding for documentaries and why this is such a crucial topic. *Co-presented by Impact Partners.*
- **In-Depth Grant Writing** - Dive into the ins and outs of grant writing and what you need to know to have the inside edge.

- **Creating a Fundraising Sizzler** – Wheelhouse Creative trailer expert and filmmaker Jeremy Workman (*The World Before Your Feet*) guides attendees through the steps of creating great fundraising sizzle reels.
- **Self-Distribution: Case Studies** - Panelists share advice about getting their own projects out into the world via self-distribution.

### **Panels: Everything Archival**

Experts in archival film share their secrets.

- **Way More Than B-Roll** - Penny Lane (*The Pain of Others*), Maxim Pozdorovkin (*The Truth about Killer Robots*) and Anna Garwood (POND5) discuss how the varied use of archival or historic footage and images can imbue deeper meaning and complexity in documentary films. *Co-presented by POND5.*
- **Archival Success: A Roadmap** - Archival producers Annie Salsich (*Long Strange Trip*) and Jim McDonnell (*Elvis Presley: The Searcher*) give advice on servicing all your archival needs.
- **RBG: A Case Study** - *RBG* co-directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West join a special panel to discuss building their film through the use of archival material.
- **The Ethical Archive** - *Love, Gilda* director Lisa D’Apolito and editor Anne Alvergue discuss how to navigate the ethics involved in use of archival footage.

### **Happy Hour**

#### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**Morning Manifesto: Yoruba Richen** (*The New Black*) shares her thoughts on getting films made.

### **Panels: Make Your Career**

Industry veterans discuss how to create a lasting, sustainable career in documentary film.

- **Jumpstarting Sustainability** - Funders, filmmakers and executives share how grants are being supplemented by a variety of helpful resources and programs in support of a filmmaker's long-term career.

- **Realizing Your Film's Potential** - Filmmakers discuss what steps you can take to utilize your projects not only monetarily, but also to create your next opportunities.
- **Are Brands the Studios of the Future?** - Panelists explore how brands and digital media companies will affect the future of film and television financing and distribution.
- **Case Studies: Making It** - Filmmakers Marshall Curry (*Point and Shoot*) and Doug Tirola (*National Lampoon: Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead*) discuss challenges to achieving success in the industry.

### **Panels: Doc Law School**

Lawyers with deep experience in documentary film share their knowledge on a wide range of topics.

- **Withstanding the Assault on Free Speech** - Victoria Cook leads a legal panel discussing how documentary filmmakers can cover protests, police actions and other highly-charged situations. *Co-presented by Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz*
- **Fair Use Case Studies** - Lindsay Bowen and Nancy Wolff from CDAS run you through case studies of fair use and what you need to know, focusing on instances of incidental capture and deliberate inclusion in documentary films. *Co-presented by Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard.*
- **Dealmaking Insights: Production, Sales and Distribution Agreements, and More** - Legal experts from Fox Rothschild, sales agents and distributors provide insights into what you should know about production agreements including releases, sales and distribution agreements. *Co-presented by Fox Rothschild.*
- **Licensing Music & Art** - Panelists guide you through best practices for navigating the art and music licensing landscapes.

### **Happy Hour**

The festival is made possible by:

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