

For immediate release
Contact: press@docnyc.net

DOC NYC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL “40 UNDER 40” CELEBRATION OF RISING TALENT WITH OPEN CALL FOR NOMINEES

Co-Presented with Topic Studios

May 28, 2019 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced an open call for nominees for its second annual “40 Under 40” initiative.

“40 Under 40” celebrates emerging talent in the documentary world, including directors, producers, cinematographers and editors, during the 2019 edition of the festival, held November 7-14 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinopolis Chelsea. “40 Under 40” is co-presented by **Topic Studios**, returning for the second year as a sponsor. Last year’s inaugural list celebrated filmmakers such as Lyric Cabral, Maxim Pozdorovkin, Erin Lee Carr and Darius Clark Monroe.

“The ‘40 Under 40’ initiative was a big success for us last year,” said the festival’s Artistic Director Thom Powers. “It was a highly effective spotlight for documentary funders and talent scouts to identify rising stars.”

“Documentaries often shine a light on the stories that are overlooked,” said Maria Zuckerman, EVP of Topic Studios. “We’re excited to partner once again with DOC NYC to help identify the next ‘40 Under 40’ who will continue to tell the stories that need to be told.”

“40 Under 40” honorees will participate in exclusive networking meetings with key financiers, distributors, broadcasters and industry figures during the festival’s “Only In New York” sessions at DOC NYC PRO at Cinopolis Chelsea. In addition to being highlighted in the festival’s Industry Guide and on its website, the group will also be special guests at a by-invitation celebratory luncheon with industry leaders.

To qualify for consideration for the 2019 “40 Under 40” class, nominees must be born in 1980 or later and be based in the U.S. or Canada. Nominees must have at least one credit in the position of director, producer, cinematographer or editor on a feature-length documentary with national distribution via theaters, television or a digital platform. Veteran filmmakers and industry figures in the documentary field can submit a recommendation for one or more nominees on the DOC NYC website (<http://www.docnyc.net/about-us/40-under-40/>), **until the deadline of Friday, June 28, 2019**. The festival’s programming team will evaluate nominations to select a list of 40 honorees representing a wide diversity of talent. The list will be announced in August.

ABOUT TOPIC:

Topic is the entertainment studio (Topic Studios) and storytelling brand (Topic.com) dedicated to supporting creators at the forefront of culture. From Academy Award®-winning films (*Spotlight*), to television (*Losers*), digital (*aka Wyatt Cenac, The Loving Generation*) and audio (*Anthem, Missing Richard Simmons* podcast), we explore a wide range of subject matter, both fiction and nonfiction. Recent documentary projects at Topic include: *XY Chelsea* with Pulse, FOV & BFI about the former U.S. Army intelligence analyst, Chelsea Manning, premiering on Showtime June 7; *16 SHOTS* from Academy Award® nominated director Richard Rowley, about the 2014 shooting of a 17 year-old Laquan McDonald by a Chicago police officer and the cover-up that ensued, also premiering on Showtime June 14. Kimberly Reed's *Dark Money* (POV, 2018) which explores political corruption in Montana and Patrick Bresnan and Ivete Lucas' *Pahoake* (Sundance, SXSW 2019) about teenagers coming of age in the Florida Everglades.

ABOUT DOC NYC:

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, takes place over 8 days in November; the tenth edition will be held November 7-14, 2019 at New York's IFC Center, Cinopolis Chelsea and the SVA Theatre. The 2018 festival showcased over 300 films and events with more than 350 filmmakers and special guests appearing in person. In addition to premiering feature-length and short documentaries, the festival's highlights also include DOC NYC PRO—a series of in-depth panels and master classes—and the Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony that honors major figures in the field of nonfiction film. DOC NYC is produced by the IFC Center.
www.docnyc.net

For more information please contact Deborah Rudolph (DOC NYC) via email Deborah@docnyc.net or Jeannie Kedas (Topic Studios) via email Jeannie.kedas@topic.com.