



**DOC NYC UNVEILS OPENING NIGHT FILM
THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM
AND INFLUENTIAL SHORT LIST FOR
DOCUMENTARY FEATURES IN AWARDS CONTENTION,
INTRODUCES NEW SHORT LIST FOR SHORT FILMS**

NEW YORK, September 27, 2018 - DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, running November 8-15, announced its opening night film will be John Chester's *The Biggest Little Farm*, an audience and critical favorite at the recent Telluride and Toronto film festivals, which will be released by NEON early next spring. A chronicle of Chester and his wife Molly creating a sustainable family farm in California, the film is "a captivating look at putting your ideals into action," notes DOC NYC Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen. "That's a perfect theme to kick off DOC NYC."

The festival also announced its **2018 DOC NYC Short List: Features**, the seventh annual selection of the year's top 15 award contenders for feature documentary. The list is considered influential for its steady track record of anticipating Academy Award nominees and winners.

New this year, the festival announced its inaugural **2018 DOC NYC Short List: Short Films**, selecting the year's top 12 award contenders for the documentary short category.

"Since 2012, the DOC NYC Short List for features has been wonderful for drawing attention to the breadth and depth of the year's most exceptional nonfiction filmmaking," said the festival's Artistic Director Thom Powers. "This year we're excited to expand our spotlight to include great short films too."

2018 DOC NYC SHORT LIST: DOC FEATURES

The DOC NYC Short List for documentary features officially started in 2012 with 10 titles and grew to 15 titles in 2014. It has a history of being a predictor of other awards, from critics' prizes and top ten lists to the Oscars. For each of the past five years, the DOC NYC Short List has had nine to ten titles overlapping the subsequent Academy Award Documentary Short List, and four to five titles that were Oscar nominated. For the last seven years, DOC NYC screened the

documentary that went on to win the Academy Award, a streak dating before the Short List began. The list is selected by the festival's leadership team, led by Artistic Director Thom Powers.

All of the DOC NYC Short List titles will be shown during the festival with the director or other special guests present for their primary screening.

Additionally, most of the Short List directors or other collaborators will participate in the DOC NYC Short List Day of conversations on Friday, November 9, followed by a Happy Hour. The panels "Getting Personal," "Breaking Boundaries," and "Getting Political" are co-presented by MTV. The panel "Portraits" and the Happy Hour are co-presented by Focus Features.

Admission to events in the Short List Day is available with an All Access Pass or DOC NYC PRO Gold or Silver Pass. Admission to all Short List screenings is included with All Access Passes; individual screening tickets for Short List titles go on sale in early October.

Notable this year: Seven of the Short List feature selections are directed or co-directed by women, marking a new high. This year's list is also the most racially diverse. Returning veterans of the DOC NYC Short List include Morgan Neville, who appeared twice before for *20 Feet From Stardom* and *Best of Enemies*. Three other directors have appeared once before: Alan Hicks (*Keep on Keepin' On*), Michael Moore (*Where to Invade Next*), and Wim Wenders (*The Salt of the Earth*).

CRIME + PUNISHMENT (IFC Films / Hulu)

Dir: Stephen Maing

FAHRENHEIT 11/9 (State Run Films / Briarcliff Entertainment)

Dir: Michael Moore

FREE SOLO (National Geographic Documentary Films)

Dirs: Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi & Jimmy Chin

HALE COUNTY THIS MORNING, THIS EVENING (Cinema Guild)

Dir: RaMell Ross

JANE FONDA: A LIFE IN FIVE ACTS (HBO Documentary Films)

Dir: Susan Lacy

MINDING THE GAP (Magnolia Pictures / Hulu)

Dir: Bing Liu

ON HER SHOULDERS (Oscilloscope Laboratories / RYOT)

Dir: Alexandria Bombach

POPE FRANCIS: A MAN OF HIS WORD (Focus Features)

Dir: Wim Wenders

QUINCY (Netflix)

Dir: Rashida Jones & Alan Hicks

RBG (Magnolia Pictures / Participant Media / CNN Films)

Dirs: Betsy West & Julie Cohen

REVERSING ROE (Netflix)

Dirs: Annie Sundberg & Ricki Stern

THE SENTENCE (HBO Documentary Films)

Dir: Rudy Valdez

SHIRKERS (Netflix)

Dir: Sandi Tan

THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS (NEON / CNN Films)

Dir: Tim Wardle

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? (Focus Features)

Dir: Morgan Neville

2018 DOC NYC SHORT LIST: DOC SHORTS

DOC NYC presents this section for the first time, highlighting short form documentaries selected by the festival's programming team, led by Shorts Programmer Opal H. Bennett.

All the shorts selected will be screened during the DOC NYC festival in programs to be announced in mid-October.

'63 BOYCOTT (Kartemquin)

Dir: Gordon Quinn

EARTHRISE (New York Times Op-Docs / POV)

Dir: Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

END GAME (Netflix)

Dirs: Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman

THE GIRL AND THE PICTURE (USC Shoah Foundation / Cause & Affect Media)

Dir: Vanessa Roth

THE HEAD & THE HAND (Lost Time Media)

Dir: Marc Serpa Francoeur

LESSONS FROM A SCHOOL SHOOTING: NOTES FROM DUNBLANE (Netflix)

Dir: Kim A. Snyder

MY DEAD DAD'S PORNO TAPES (New York Times Op-Docs)

Dir: Charlie Tyrell

RX EARLY DETECTION: A CANCER JOURNEY WITH SANDRA LEE (HBO

Documentary Films)

Dir: Cathy Chermol Schrijver

SIDELINED (A&E IndieFilms / Lifetime Films)

Dir: Galen Summer

TAKE BACK THE HARBOR (Discovery / Motto Pictures)

Dirs: Kristi Jacobson & Roger Ross Williams

WE ARE NOT DONE YET (HBO Documentary Films)

Dir: Sareen Hairabedian

ZION (Netflix)

Dir: Floyd Russ

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Friends of the Festival include Agile Ticketing, Blue Point Brewing, Brooklyn Roasting Company, Essentia, Green Desk, Kickstarter, Posteritati, Ptex, Topo Designs, Variant, and Wheelhouse Creative.

Images from Opening Night and Short List titles:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mi10b9y4mqtnqzy/AABGmsyY3QZh6LKVLYoAoc6-a?dl=0>

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