



**DOC NYC VISIONARIES TRIBUTE TO HONOR  
WIM WENDERS, ORLANDO BAGWELL,  
ELIZABETH CHAI VASARHELYI & JIMMY CHIN,  
AND TABITHA JACKSON ON NOVEMBER 8**

NEW YORK, Sept. 24, 2018 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, running November 8-15, announced the honorees for the fifth annual **Visionaries Tribute**, taking place on November 8, 2018 at Manhattan’s Edison Ballroom. Veteran filmmakers **Wim Wenders** and **Orlando Bagwell** will receive **Lifetime Achievement** recognition. The **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** will go to **Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi** and **Jimmy Chin** (*Meru, Free Solo*) and the **Leading Light Award** will go to **Tabitha Jackson**, Director of the Sundance Institute’s Documentary Film Program.

The festival announced **Netflix** as its Leadership Sponsor supporting the Visionaries Tribute.

The **NEON Shorts Award** will debut at this year’s Visionaries event. The team at NEON will select one short from the DOC NYC lineup to honor with the opportunity for theatrical distribution. The winner will be announced on November 8.

“The Visionaries Tribute is known to gather an astonishing array of documentary talent,” said DOC NYC’s Artistic Director Thom Powers. “For our fifth year, we’re dedicated to making it the best version ever.”

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors individuals with a substantial body of film work. Past recipients are Sheila Nevins, Errol Morris, Stanley Nelson, Jonathan Demme, Barbara Kopple, Jon Alpert, Frederick Wiseman, D.A. Pennebaker, Chris Hegedus and Albert Maysles.

The 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award goes to:

**Wim Wenders** has directed the Oscar-nominated documentaries *The Salt of the Earth*, *Pina* and *Buena Vista Social Club*, along with nonfiction titles such as *The Blues* and *Room*

666 and celebrated fiction films such as *Paris, Texas* and *Wings of Desire*. His latest documentary is *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*.

**Orlando Bagwell's** directing credits include *Citizen King*, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey*, *Malcolm X: Make It Plain*, and two episodes in the landmark *Eyes on the Prize* series. Serving as a program officer at the Ford Foundation for nearly a decade, Bagwell established the \$50 million JustFilms fund. He is currently finishing a documentary on Gil Scott-Heron.

### **ROBERT AND ANNE DREW AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY EXCELLENCE**

The **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** is named for the pioneering husband and wife filmmaking team. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize to the filmmakers, contributed by Drew Associates, under the helm of Jill Drew. The award honors a mid-career filmmaker or partnership that excels in observational filmmaking. Past recipients include Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, Dawn Porter, Kim Longinotto, and Laura Poitras.

The 2018 Robert and Anne Drew Award goes to:

**Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi** and **Jimmy Chin**, the filmmaking team behind *Meru* and this year's *Free Solo*. Vasarhelyi has additional solo directing credits on other films including *Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love*, *Touba*, *A Normal Life* and the award-winning *Incorruptible*. Chin is also a professional climber and has an accomplished career as a photographer for National Geographic and other outlets.

### **LEADING LIGHT AWARD**

The **Leading Light Award** honors an individual making a critical contribution to documentary in a role other than as a filmmaker. The past recipients are Cara Mertes, Molly Thompson, Tom Quinn, and Dan Cogan.

The 2018 Leading Light Award goes to:

**Tabitha Jackson**, who has served as the Director of the Documentary Film Program at the Sundance Institute since 2013. She previously worked as the Head of Arts and Performance at Channel 4 Television in London.

The Visionaries Tribute honorees are identified by recommendations from members of the Host Committee from past years and chosen by the festival's programming team. The 2018 Host Committee will be named in October.

Additional support for the Visionaries Tribute is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies and National Geographic Documentary Films.

## **SPONSORS**

The festival is made possible by:

**Leadership Sponsor** Netflix

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

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