



**DOC NYC UNVEILS INFLUENTIAL SHORT LISTS FOR FEATURES & SHORTS  
PLUS INAUGURAL “WINNER’S CIRCLE” SECTION,  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT SCREENINGS,  
“40 UNDER 40” LIST AND NEW AWARDS**

NEW YORK, September 26, 2019 - DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, celebrating its 10th anniversary, announced the lineup for three of its most prestigious sections. **Short List: Features** and **Short List: Shorts** each curate a selection of nonfiction films that the festival’s programming team considers to be among the year’s strongest contenders for Oscars and other awards. For the first time, the Short List: Features will vie for juried awards in four categories: Directing, Producing, Cinematography and Editing, and a Best Director prize will also be awarded in the Short List: Shorts section.

The festival also announced the launch of a new section, **Winner’s Circle**, highlighting films that have won top prizes at international festivals, but might fly below the radar of American audiences.

Michael Apted and Martin Scorsese, the two recipients of DOC NYC’s previously announced **Visionaries Lifetime Achievement Awards**, will also have their latest documentary films screened: **63 Up** and **Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese**, respectively.

The festival also announced the second year of its **40 Under 40** list of young rising stars in the documentary community, co-presented by Topic Studios.

“Today’s announcements of the DOC NYC Short Lists, Winner’s Circle and 40 Under 40 showcase a tremendous breadth and depth of talent,” said festival Artistic Director Thom Powers. “We’re excited to bring New York audiences to some of the year’s best films and showcase the future of the documentary field.”

AMPAS members can email [passes@docnyc.net](mailto:passes@docnyc.net) to register for a Short List Pass to gain free admission to Short List, Winner’s Circle and Lifetime Achievement screenings; as well as to the panel discussions for Short List: Features (Fri, Nov. 8) and Short List: Shorts (Sat, Nov. 9) that brings together the directors or collaborators for all the films in those sections.

**2019 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 the last eight years, DOC NYC screened the documentary that went on to win the Academy Award, and the festival has screened 27 of the last 30 Oscar-nominated documentary features. The DOC NYC Short List has also had a notably strong track record for spotlighting titles that are named to the subsequent Academy Award Documentary Short List. The list is selected by the festival's programming 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, the Short List directors or other collaborators will participate in the DOC NYC PRO Short List: Features Day, a series of four conversations on Friday, November 8, followed by a Happy Hour.

The public can attend Short List: Features Day, gaining access to four panels with directors or collaborators from all 15 film teams, by purchasing a DOC NYC PRO pass for the Short List: Features Day, on sale now.

Notable this year: The list has 9 films with a female director—60% of the entries—an increase from last year's peak of 7 films directed by women. Returning veterans from the DOC NYC Short List include Roger Ross Williams, who has appeared twice before with *God Loves Uganda* and *Life Animated*. Three other directors have appeared once before: Jehane Noujaim (*The Square*), Ryan White (*The Case Against 8*) and Asif Kapadia (*Amy*).

This year's Short List Features are:

**AMERICAN FACTORY** (Netflix)

Dir: Julia Reichert, Steven Bognar

**THE APOLLO** (HBO Documentary Films)

Dir: Roger Ross Williams

**APOLLO 11** (NEON)

Dir: Todd Douglas Miller

**ASK DR. RUTH** (Hulu / Magnolia Pictures)

Dir: Ryan White

**THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM** (NEON)

Dir: John Chester

**THE CAVE** (National Geographic Documentary Films)

Dir: Feras Fayyad

**DIEGO MARADONA** (HBO Sports)

Dir: Asif Kapadia

**THE EDGE OF DEMOCRACY** (Netflix)

Dir: Petra Costa

**THE ELEPHANT QUEEN** (Apple)

Dir: Mark Deeble, Victoria Stone

**FOR SAMA** (PBS Distribution/Frontline/Channel 4)

Dir: Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts

**THE GREAT HACK** (Netflix)

Dir: Karim Amer, Jehane Noujaim

**HONEYLAND** (NEON)

Dir: Tamara Kotevska, Ljubomir Stefanov

**THE KINGMAKER** (Showtime Documentary Films)

Dir: Lauren Greenfield

**KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE** (Netflix)

Dir: Rachel Lears

**ONE CHILD NATION** (Amazon Studios)

Dir: Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang

**2019 DOC NYC SHORT LIST: DOC SHORTS**

DOC NYC presents our Short List for documentary shorts for the second consecutive year, highlighting the year's standout short form documentaries selected by the festival's programming team.

"We're in a golden age of documentary shorts," said DOC NYC Shorts Programmer Opal H. Bennett, who oversees the selection. "This lineup reflects a wide spectrum of filmmakers and distributors who are actively involved in pushing the medium forward."

All the shorts selected will be screened during the DOC NYC festival in programs to be announced in mid-October. Additionally, for the first time, the Short List: Shorts Day will present the filmmakers or their collaborators in person for a day of conversations on Saturday, November 9, followed by a Happy Hour.

The section includes two films showcased last year at DOC NYC: *In the Absence* that was the festival's 2018 jury winner; and *Tungrus*.

The public can attend Short List: Shorts Day, gaining access to four panels with directors or collaborators from all 12 film teams, by purchasing a DOC NYC PRO Shorts List: Shorts Day Pass, on sale now.

**FIRE IN PARADISE** (Netflix)

Dir: Drea Cooper and Zackary Canepari

**GHOSTS OF SUGAR LAND** (Netflix)

Dir: Bassam Tariq

**IN THE ABSENCE** (Field of Vision)

Dir: Yi Seung-Jun

**LEARNING TO SKATEBOARD IN A WARZONE (IF YOU'RE A GIRL)** (Lifetime Films/A&E IndieFilms)

Dir: Carol Dysinger

**LITTLE MISS SUMO** (Netflix)

Dir: Matt Kay

**LOST AND FOUND** (National Geographic Documentary Films)

Dir: Orlando von Einsiedel

**MACK WRESTLES** (ESPN Films)

Dir: Erin Sanger, Taylor Hess

**THE NIGHTCRAWLERS** (National Geographic Documentary Films)

Dir: Alexander A. Mora

**SONG OF PARKLAND** (HBO Documentary Films)

Dir: Amy Schatz

**ST. LOUIS SUPERMAN** (MTV Documentary Films)

Dir: Smitri Mundhra, Sami Kahn

**STAY CLOSE** (New York Times Op-Docs/POV Shorts)

Dir: Luther Clement, Shuhan Fan

**TUNGRUS** (New York Times Op-Docs)

Dir: Rishi Chandra

**2019 DOC NYC WINNER'S CIRCLE**

New this year, the Winner's Circle section was created to highlight films that have won major festival awards—in many cases, from Oscar-qualifying international festivals—but might fly below the radar of American audiences. Some have been distributed in American art house theaters; others have not. Last year, several international titles that were previously overlooked by prognosticators were selected by the Academy for its Short List of Documentary Features, including *Communion*, *The Distant Barking of Dogs* and *The Silence of Others*, not to mention *Of Fathers and Sons*, which played at DOC NYC 2018 and went on to an Oscar nomination.

“Winner's Circle is full of hidden gems,” said DOC NYC Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos who oversees the section. “I look forward to our audience discovering why these films were beloved by juries and critics around the world.”

The 2019 Winner's Circle films are:

**ADVOCATE** (Film Movement)

Dir: Rachel Leah Jones, Philippe Bellaïche

Winner: DocAviv (Israel), Krakow (Poland), Thessaloniki (Greece)

**COLD CASE HAMMARSKJÖLD** (Magnolia Pictures)

Dir: Mads Brügger

Winner: It's All True (Brazil)

**THE FOURTH KINGDOM (EL CUARTO REINO)**

Dir: Adán Aliaga, Àlex Lora Cercos

Winner: DocumentaMadrid (Spain)

**HOPE FROZEN**

Dir: Pailin Wedel

Winner: Hot Docs (Canada)

**MIDNIGHT FAMILY** (1091 Media)

Dir: Luke Lorentzen

Winner: Sheffield (UK), Hong Kong

**MIDNIGHT TRAVELER** (Oscilloscope Laboratories)

Dir: Hassan Fazili

Winner: Doc Edge (New Zealand)

**SEA OF SHADOWS** (National Geographic Documentary Films)

Dir: Richard Ladkani

Winner: Sundance Audience Award

**40 UNDER 40**

Returning for its second year, DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 list honors 40 documentary talents under the age of 40. The honorees span the documentary disciplines of directing, producing, editing, and cinematography. The initiative is sponsored again this year by Topic Studios, First Look Media's entertainment studio.

The honorees will be treated to two days of industry networking events at the DOC NYC PRO conference on Nov. 11-12; and celebrated at a luncheon on Nov. 12. The list was chosen by the DOC NYC team of Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos, Shorts Programmer Opal H. Bennett, and Artistic Director Thom Powers.

"We're thrilled to continue the 40 Under 40 initiative with the support of Topic Studios," said Powers. "The list represents a multitude of perspectives and backgrounds. For funders, commissioning editors, and producers looking for new talent, this is an invaluable resource."

"We're delighted to partner with DOC NYC once again to present 40 Under 40," said Maria Zuckerman, EVP, Topic Studios. "We are looking forward to celebrating each of these forces in documentary filmmaking and to honor their accomplishments in their respective disciplines."

The list ranges from past Oscar nominees such as Bing Liu (*Minding the Gap*) and RaMell Ross (*Hale County This Morning, This Evening*) to rising stars. Over half the list are women.

**Cecilia Aldarondo**, director/producer, *Memories of a Penitent Heart*

**Puloma Basu**, director/producer, *Other Music*

**Alexandria Bombach**, director, *On Her Shoulders*

**Shane Boris**, producer, *The Edge of Democracy*

**Jamie Boyle**, editor, *Jackson*

**Jennifer Brea**, director/producer, *Unrest*

**Bryan Chang**, producer, *Island Soldier*

**Ian Cheney**, director/producer, *Picture Character*

**Lauren Cioffi**, producer, *Jawline*

**Erika Cohn**, director/producer, *The Judge*

**Cristina Costantini**, director/producer, *Science Fair*

**Trevor Davidoski**, producer, *The Clinton Affair*

**Bennett Elliott**, producer, *Bisbee '17*

**Lawrence Everson**, sound editor, *American Factory*

**Rob Hatch-Miller**, director/producer, *Other Music*

**Alan Hicks**, director, *Quincy*

**Yuqi Kang**, director, *A Little Wisdom*

**Bess Kargman**, director, *First Position*

**Sonia Kenneback**, director/producer, *National Bird*

**Sofian Khan**, director/producer, *The Interpreters*

**Amanda Lipitz**, director/producer, *Step*

**Bing Liu**, director/producer/cinematographer, *Minding the Gap*

**Ivete Lucas**, director/producer/editor, *Pahokee*

**Nicholas Ma**, producer, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*

**Crystal Moselle**, director/producer, *The Wolfpack*

**Kristina Motwani**, co-editor, *Midnight Traveler*

**Tadashi Nakamura**, director/editor, *Mele Murals*

**Anjali Nayar**, director/producer, *Silas*

**Nico Opper**, director/producer, *The F Word*

**Clair Popkin**, cinematographer, *Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates*

**RaMell Ross**, director/producer/editor/cinematographer, *Hale County This Morning, This Evening*

**Deia Schlosberg**, director/producer, *The Story of Plastic*

**Martha Shane**, director/producer, *Narrowsburg*

**Yvonne M. Shirley**, producer, *Black 14*

**Erick Stoll**, director/producer/cinematographer/editor, *América*

**Kareem Tabsch**, director/producer, *The Last Resort*

**Izabella Tzenkova**, producer, *Walking on Water*

**Lindsay Utz**, editor, *American Factory*

**Chase Whiteside**, director/producer/editor, *América*

**Shuling Yong**, cinematographer, *The Feeling of Being Watched*

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DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center, a division of AMC Networks.

### **Images of Films and 40 Under 40 Honorees:**

<https://bit.ly/2mCyKwG>

*\*DOC NYC will announce the full lineup of its PRO conference and its official selection of over 150 new feature and short documentaries in the coming weeks.*

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