



**DOC NYC REVEALS LINEUP FOR 8-DAY PRO CONFERENCE:  
15 PROGRAMS COVER NEW TRENDS IN ART & INDUSTRY,  
INCLUDING CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING, PRODUCING, FUNDING,  
PITCHING, DISTRIBUTION & PODCASTS,  
NOVEMBER 7-14**

**OVER 180 SPEAKERS INCLUDING AMY BERG, ALAN BERLINER,  
MARGARET BODDE, DAN COGAN, ALISON KLAYMAN, NICHOLAS KRISTOF,  
RACHEL LEARS, STANLEY NELSON, SHEILA NEVINS, JEHANE NOUJAIM,  
BRIAN REED, NANFU WANG, SHERYL WUDUNN & MORE**

NEW YORK, Oct. 3, 2019 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the lineup for its eight-day DOC NYC PRO conference, running November 7-14 concurrent with the festival’s public film screenings. The PRO lineup features over 180 speakers including notable filmmakers Feras Fayyad, Lauren Greenfield, Asif Kapadia, Rachel Lears, Jehane Noujaim, Steven Bognar. and Roger Ross Williams, who will all appear on panels for the festival’s popular **Short List Day** (Nov. 8).

The conference gives a showcase to projects that represent new breakthroughs in documentary artistry, financing and distribution. Among the high-profile speakers are Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn on **Journalism and Documentary** (Nov. 8); Alan Berliner and Carla Gutierrez on **Editing** (Nov. 9); representatives from Kanopy, NEON, Magnolia Pictures and Participant on **Distribution and Audience Impact** (Nov. 10); filmmakers of *The Brink* and *Honeyland* for **Cinematography** (Nov. 10); directors of *The Case Against Adnan Syed* and *Couples Therapy* for a **Focus on Documentary Series** (Nov. 11); Sheila Nevins, Dan Cogan and Lisa Cortés on **Producing** (Nov. 12); film teams of *The Great Hack* and *Apollo 11* for **Composing and Sound Design** (Nov. 13); representatives from Impact Partners and Kickstarter for **Funding** (Nov. 13); the director of *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool* and the producer of *Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese* for **Working with Archival** (Nov. 14); and *Murder on the Bayou* director Matthew Galkin with top entertainment attorneys covering **Legal for Docs** (Nov. 14).

Two new themes are being introduced this year. **Short List: Shorts Day** (Nov. 9) highlights new trends in short-form filmmaking with the 12 filmmakers chosen for the festival’s prestigious Short List for Shorts. **Podcasts** (Nov. 14) focuses on nonfiction audio storytelling, including case studies of the hit shows *S-Town*, *Headlong* and *By the Book*.

Favorite themes returning from past years include **First-Time Filmmakers Day** (Nov. 7), delivering crucial insights for newcomers; and **Pitch Perfect** (Nov. 11), which allows attendees to hear top decision-makers give feedback on projects.

The entire DOC NYC PRO conference is co-presented by Kanopy. Kanopy is a video-streaming platform dedicated to thoughtful and thought-provoking films, accessible to students and library patrons through partnerships with both public and academic libraries around the world.

“Every year I learn new things at DOC NYC PRO,” said Artistic Director Thom Powers. “It’s an unparalleled wellspring of knowledge from the world’s leading documentary makers and experts.”

New this year, DOC NYC PRO’s pass structure has changed to provide a lower-cost point of entry and allow attendees to target their particular interests. Attendees can purchase individual themed PRO Passes for each distinct day-long programming track. Each individual PRO Pass costs \$125 and grants access to a full day of talks and panels around a specific theme, plus a Networking Breakfast and Happy Hour. For those who want to attend multiple days, discount packages are available. See below for details on the different types of passes and packages available.

“Whatever role you play in the doc community, we have a day for you — Cinematography, Editing, Producing, Funding, Archival Research, Legal work, Sound Design, Podcasting and more,” said Director of DOC NYC PRO Amy Jelenko. “It’s an invaluable career investment to gain new insights and network with colleagues who can lead to your next job.”

The events mainly take place at the Cinépolis Chelsea on West 23rd Street in Manhattan with the Short List: Features program to be held at IFC Center on Sixth Ave. Inside the Cinépolis Chelsea, DOC NYC PRO also hosts a networking Lounge for passholders for all eight days, November 7-14. Each day begins with a Networking Breakfast and concludes with a Happy Hour for passholders, panelists, industry attendees 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, filmmakers named to DOC NYC’s 40 Under 40 list and filmmakers from the festival.

**The full DOC NYC PRO lineup is:**

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

### **FIRST-TIME FILMMAKER**

Seasoned experts unpack fundamental filmmaking elements of story development, assembling a team, financing and distribution.

#### **Developing Your Story**

How do filmmakers test their story concepts? Panelists: Lauren Haber (Impact Partners), Netsanet Negussie (Catalyst Films) and director Malika Zouhali-Worrall (*Thank You for Playing*).

### **Building the Team**

How do you retain the best collaborators? Panelists: Barak Goodman (*Woodstock*), Nick Ravich (Art21) and Rose Vincelli Gustine (SVA MFA Social Documentary).

### **Funding an Independent Documentary**

Grants, crowd-funding, investments and more. Panelists: Chelsi Bullard (*On The Ledge*), Leah Warshawski (*Big Sonia*) and moderator Tracie Holder (*Grit*).

### **Distribution Case Study: 306 Hollywood**

Filmmaker Jonathan Bogarín describes crafting a specialty distribution and impact campaign with moderator Doug Block (*The D-Word*).

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

### **SHORT LIST: FEATURES (Location: IFC Center)**

DOC NYC's Short List for Features has a multi-year history of predicting the Oscar winner and nominees. This day of panels brings together the most influential filmmakers of the year for a day of thematic conversations exploring their creativity.

#### **History Lessons**

The directors of *Apollo 11*, *Ask Dr. Ruth*, *Diego Maradona* and *The Apollo* discuss the challenges of telling complicated histories.

#### **Humans and Nature**

The directors of *The Elephant Queen*, *Honeyland* and *The Biggest Little Farm* discuss the intricacies of capturing humans and nature.

#### **The Personal Is Political**

The directors of *One Child Nation*, *The Edge of Democracy*, *The Kingmaker* and *For Sama* frame politics in individual lives.

#### **The Art of Observation**

The directors of *American Factory*, *The Cave*, *Knock Down the House* and *The Great Hack* discuss stories unfolding on camera.

## **JOURNALISM AND DOCUMENTARY**

Explore the intersection of journalism and documentary with leading practitioners.

### **Case Study: *Murder in the Bayou***

Hear lessons from Showtime's investigative series *Murder in the Bayou* from film team Matthew Galkin and Josh Levine.

### **Case Study: *Paradise Without People* & Time Studios**

Time Studios plunges into documentary-making with *Paradise Without People*. Hear from filmmaker Francesca Trianni and photographer Lynsey Addario in discussion with Nathalie Applewhite (Pulitzer Center).

### **Ethics, Consent, Perspective**

We peel back the layers on our beliefs to reveal how they inform our ability to authentically represent people, stories and events in a discussion led by Molly Murphy (Working Films).  
*Co-presented by JustFilms | Ford Foundation*

### **In-depth with Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn on *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope***

Pulitzer Prize winners Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn discuss *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* with filmmakers Maro Chermayeff and Joshua Bennett.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

**SHORT LIST: SHORTS** - Last year, DOC NYC created its first Short List: Shorts section. This year, we bring you the first day of panels devoted to conversations with the filmmakers behind these films.

**The Golden Age of Short Docs** - Short documentaries are flourishing. Hear from representatives of the leading distribution platforms on what they look for.

**Shorts: Profiles** - We discuss the art of profiling unique individuals in short docs. Panelists are from the films *Fire in Paradise*, *Little Miss Sumo*, *Song of Parkland* and *Stay Close*.

**Shorts: Getting Political** - We discuss different way of approaching political topics in short docs. Panelists are from the films *In the Absence*, *Lost and Found*, *Mack Wrestles* and *St. Louis Superman*.

**Shorts: Global Studies** - We discuss the challenges of telling local stories to international audiences. Panelists are from the films *Ghosts of Sugar Land*, *Learning How to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)*, *The Nightcrawlers* and *Tungrus*.

## **EDITING**

Immerse yourself in the expertise of editors working at the top of their field as they discuss creativity and making a career.

**In-depth with Alan Berliner** - Acclaimed filmmaker Alan Berliner discusses the monumental editing of his latest film *Letter to the Editor* using thousands of photographs.

**The Relationship Between Editor and Director** - Editors Carla Gutierrez (*RBG*) and Amy Foote (*Hail Satan?*) share their experiences collaborating with directors, moderated by Maya Mumma (*O.J.: Made in America*).

**Editing to Develop Characters** - Per Kirkegaard (*The Cave, The Kingmaker*), Alla Kovgan (*Cunningham*) and Toby Shimin (*Ernie & Joe*) reveal their tactics in developing characters with Garret Savage (Karen Schmeer Editing Fellowship).

*Co-presented by Karen Schmeer Editing Fellowship*

**Anatomy of a Scene: *Knock Down the House*** - Director Rachel Lears and editor Robin Blotnick guide us through creating key scenes in *Knock Down the House*.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

### **DISTRIBUTION AND AUDIENCE IMPACT**

Representatives from leading funders, distributors and outreach coordinators join filmmakers to discuss the latest thinking in audience impact.

**How to Execute a Theatrical Hit** - NEON executives including Dan O'Meara explain the theatrical release strategies behind *Apollo 11*, *The Biggest Little Farm* and *Honeyland*.

**Impact Case Studies: *Eating Animals* and *Roll Red Roll*** - Reaching an audience and making an impact requires a multi-faceted strategy. Learn what works with Nancy Schwartzman (*Roll Red Roll*) and Christopher Quinn (*Eating Animals*).

*Co-presented by EJF Philanthropies*

**Impact Strategy: From Funding to Distribution** - Explore opportunities and challenges for integrating an impact campaign with traditional distribution. Panelists: Elise Pearlstein, (Participant), Wendy Cohen (Picture Motion) and Neal Block (Magnolia Pictures).

*Co-presented by Participant*

**Kanopy Shares Its Numbers** - Kanopy, the streamer serving a university and library audience of documentary lovers, offers insight into a top-performing doc through a deep dive into audience numbers and a filmmaker interview.

*Co-presented by Kanopy*

### **CINEMATOGRAPHY**

Documentary cinematography covers many areas from observing human interaction to capturing a stunning landscape. Leading practitioners share their secrets and also reflect on building a career.

*Co-presented by Sony*

**Building Rapport** - Experienced cinematographers discuss navigating intimate, tense and emotional scenes. Panelists: Meg Kettell (*This Changes Everything*), Alison Klayman (*The Brink*) and Katy Scoggin (*CITIZENFOUR*).

**Imagery as Character** - Filmmakers Samir Jiluma (*Honeyland*) and Richard Ladkani (*Sea of Shadows*) discuss how cinematography can capture visuals that are as vital to storytelling as the characters.

*Co-presented by National Geographic Documentary Films*

**Building Your Career: Cinematography** - Nausheen Dadabhuoy (*The Town I Live In*), Amitabh Joshi (*A Little Wisdom*) and Jenni Morello (*One of Us*) share insights on building a cinematography career.

*Co-presented by SVA MFA Social Documentary Film*

**In-depth with Nanfu Wang** - Nanfu Wang (*Hooligan Sparrow*; *One Child Nation*) shares her experiences as a director/cinematographer working under difficult conditions.

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

### **PITCH PERFECT**

Eight filmmakers with works in progress selected from DOC NYC's Only in New York program pitch to industry decision-makers. We'll start the day with a session on best pitching practices. Then attendees observe the pitches and hear panelist feedback. Industry panelists include representatives from A&E IndieFilms, ESPN Films, Impact Partners, NEON and WNET. Moderated by **Elise McCave** (Kickstarter).

*Co-presented by A&E IndieFilms*

### **FOCUS ON DOCUMENTARY SERIES**

Documentary series are a burgeoning area of nonfiction filmmaking. Gain insights into developing, pitching and production from experts in the field, including a case study of the hit series *Couples Therapy*.

**Developing Your Series** - Producers and showrunners including Mira Chang (*Soundtracks: Songs that Defined History*) discuss what makes developing a series different from a feature.

**Case Study: *The Case Against Adnan Syed*** - We go behind the scenes of *The Case Against Adnan Syed* with director Amy Berg and her team, discussing creative tactics and the issues covered in the series.

**Pitching Your Series** - What makes a winning pitch for a documentary series? Expert panelists describe how to present your access, creative team, samples and more.

**Series Case Study: *Couples Therapy*** - Go inside the hit Showtime series *Couples Therapy* with director Elyse Steinberg.

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

### **PRODUCING**

Leading producers de-mystify the role and provide strategies for contributing creatively, negotiating co-productions and creating a robust career.

**Creative Producing** - Impact Partners' Jenny Raskin leads a conversation about creative producing with veterans Lisa Cortés (*The Apollo*), Leah Natasha Thomas (*America Divided*) and Beth Levison (*Made in Boise*).

*Co-presented by Impact Partners*

### **Building a Career**

Hear strategies to develop a pipeline of projects and create a career from veteran filmmakers Julie Goldman, Kristi Jacobson and Fariyah Zaman.

*Co-presented by Writers Guild of America, East*

**Navigating International Co-productions** - Oscar-winning producer Dan Cogan (Story Syndicate) and Laura Michalchyshyn (*Good Trouble - The John Lewis Story*) share expertise in international co-productions.

*Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada in New York*

### **In-depth with Sheila Nevins**

Sheila Nevins shares insights from her legendary reign at HBO Documentary Films and her new role at MTV Documentary Films.

## **COMPOSING AND SOUND DESIGN**

Composing and sound design are as essential as cinematography or editing. Learn how to elevate your film from master craftspeople behind films such as the DOC NYC Short List titles *The Great Hack* and *Apollo 11*.

### **How to Prepare for Post Audio Success**

Plan for creative success and cost efficiency in post-production with Samara Levenstein (*The Armstrong Lie*) and Coll Anderson (*LA 92*).

### **Sound Design Case Study: *The Great Hack***

We go behind the scenes with producer Pedro Kos and the team for *The Great Hack*, where sound design was a critical component in telling the story.

### **How to Score and License Music for Documentaries**

Our panelists guide you through the minefield of music licensing and instruct on how to budget.

### **Composing Case Study: *Apollo 11***

*Apollo 11* composer Matt Morton and the film team discuss their unique approach to scoring one of this year's highest performing docs at the box office.

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

### **FUNDING A DOCUMENTARY**

Funding sources for documentaries have never been more diverse. Gain insights into grants, equity, crowdfunding and production deals.

**Funder + Filmmaker Relationships** - What are best practices for dealing with grant makers? Panelists: David Weinstein (National Endowment for the Humanities), Jenny Wolfson (Chicken & Egg Pictures) and more, moderated by Tracie Holder (*Grit*).

### **Documentaries and Investment: A New Frontier**

What you need to know about taking investments for your film. With Marilyn Ness (Big Mouth Productions), Jenny Raskin (Impact Partners) and more.

*Co-presented by the Documentary Producers Alliance*

**New Insights into Crowdfunding** - Elise McCave (Kickstarter) schools us on the latest in crowdfunding techniques for raising money and building a following.

**[4th panel to be announced]**

### **WORKING WITH ARCHIVAL**

Learn from the filmmakers and footage researchers behind some of the year's biggest historical films.

**Project Plan for Archival** - Experts share recommendations for developing an archival approach at various budget levels.

**Archival Storytelling Case Study: *Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese*** - Producer Margaret Bodde, Executive Producer and Editor David Tedeschi and Joe Beirne (Technicolor Postworks) take us behind the scenes of Martin Scorsese's epic music film.

*Co-presented by Technicolor PostWorks New York*

**Research: Tips from the Experts** - Seasoned archive producers share secrets on research techniques, working with archive houses and licensing tips.

**Archival Storytelling Case Study: *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*** - Director Stanley Nelson explains how archival revelations helped enrich his acclaimed biography of Miles Davis.

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

#### **PODCASTS**

How can documentary makers apply their skills to the burgeoning field of podcasting? Our experts discuss both storytelling and the practical mechanics of launching a series.

**Telling Your Nonfiction Story with Audio** - Filmmakers-turned-podcasters Andrew Jenks (*What Really Happened*) and Zak Levitt (*Root of Evil*) discuss crossing from visual to audio.

**Case Study: *Headlong*** - Dan Taberski, creator of the podcast series *Headlong* from Topic, discusses his addictive series, including *Missing Richard Simmons* and *Running From Cops*.

**"So You Want To Start A Podcast?"** - Get the inside scoop from Kristen Meinzer (author, *So You Want to Start a Podcast*), Jolenta Greenberg (co-host, *By The Book*) and Jenny Barish (Director of Business Development, Stitcher).



**In-depth with Brian Reed on *S-Town*** - Brian Reed's *S-Town* is a podcast blockbuster, surpassing download records. He breaks down the show in a conversation with *Pure Nonfiction* host Thom Powers.

## **LEGAL FOR DOCS**

Many of the top lawyers specializing in documentary discuss tips and tricks to avoid potential pitfalls.

**Securing Clearances and Third Party Rights for Distribution Agreements** - The legal minds from Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP, including Nancy E. Wolff (Partner) and Mikaela Gross (Associate), unpack issues with clearances, including Fair Use.  
*Co-presented by Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP*

**Documentary Filmmaking Risks, Insurance and What it All Means if You Actually Get Sued** - How does Errors & Omissions (E&O) insurance work if you are sued? Lawyer and filmmaker Marc Simon (Fox Rothschild LLP) leads a discussion with Alan Friedman (Fox Rothschild), director Lofty Nathan and Laird Criner (Film Emporium, Partner, Entertainment Insurance Division) on risk, protection and how filmmakers can respond to lawsuits.  
*Co-presented by Fox Rothschild LLP*

**Documentary Filmmaking in a Global World** - Victoria Cook, Melissa Georges, Andrew Unberg (Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz) and others explain major changes in international law around privacy and the “right to be forgotten.” They discuss international considerations when negotiating financing and broadcaster agreements.  
*Co-presented by Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz*

**True Crime: Understanding Your Rights, Gaining Access, Protecting Your Footage** - Get educated on defamation and privacy claims, Freedom of Information requests and protecting your film. Panelists include Matthew Galkin (*Murder in the Bayou*) and Nicole Page (Reavis Page Jump LLP).  
*Co-presented by Reavis Page Jump LLP*

## **Attending PRO Events:**

PRO events can be attended with the purchase of an **individual PRO pass** for each separate day-long theme for \$125. Each pass also includes access to the PRO lounge for that day, including the Networking Breakfast and Happy Hour.

Discounted **PRO multi-pass packs** can be purchased for \$425 for a four-pack, or \$750 for an eight-pack.

PRO events can also be attended with the purchase of an **All Access Pass**, which includes access to all festival film screenings, for \$995.

Passes are now available for purchase online at [docnyc.net/passes](http://docnyc.net/passes). In-person advance pass sales run October 24-November 5 at the IFC Center box office (323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street, open daily 10:30am-10:00pm). During the festival itself, November 6-14, passes may be purchased

at the Cinépolis Chelsea box office (260 West 23rd Street, open 30 minutes before the venue's first event of the day until 15 minutes after the day's last screening).

## **SPONSORS**

The festival is made possible by:

**Leadership Sponsor:** Netflix

**Major Sponsors:** A&E IndieFilms; HBO Documentary Films; HISTORY Films; Kanopy

**Supporting Sponsors:** National Geographic Documentary Films; SHOWTIME® Documentary Films; Topic Studios

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**Friends of the Festival:** Agile Ticketing; Brooklyn Roasting; Chicago Media Project; Essentia; Kickstarter; Posteritati; Ptex; Shiftboard; Together Films; Writers Guild of America, East; Wheelhouse Creative

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

*\*DOC NYC will announce its official selection of over 150 new feature and short documentaries on Oct. 10.*

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