



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES “40 UNDER 40” HONOREES,
PLUS WORK-IN-PROGRESS DOCUMENTARIES
FOR “ONLY IN NEW YORK” INDUSTRY MEETINGS**

NEW YORK, Oct. 5, 2020 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the honorees for its third annual “40 Under 40” list celebrating young talent. The festival also announced the line-up for its fifth annual “Only In New York” section of work-in-progress documentaries. All the filmmakers selected for “40 Under 40” and “Only In New York” are eligible to participate in one-on-one meetings with documentary funders, agents, distributors, and other industry leaders. They also receive free access to over 35 hours of DOC NYC PRO webinars covering topics such as funding, distribution, and editing. The festival’s 11th edition will take place online November 11-19, with public screenings streaming across the US and industry meetings and webinars available around the world.

"From the beginning, both ‘40 Under 40’ and ‘Only In New York’ have made it a core goal to amplify a diversity of voices," said DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Opal H. Bennett. "This commitment has only deepened and become more fine-tuned as we work to stay responsive to the challenges of this time."

Starting in March when the pandemic hit New York City, the festival pivoted to roll out dozens of online DOC NYC PRO webinars reaching thousands of filmmakers around the world. “This year, we’ve experimented with approaches to fostering meaningful connections between industry and filmmakers despite our physical distance,” said DOC NYC Director of Industry & Education Caitlin Boyle. “We’re excited to apply what we’ve learned when we connect documentary’s creative and business communities in November.”

“40 Under 40” is co-presented by HBO Documentary Films and Topic Studios. “Only in New York” is co-presented by SHOWTIME® Documentary Films.

40 UNDER 40

Now in its third year, the “40 Under 40” list shines a spotlight on emerging talent. Honorees from past years who brought forth acclaimed new works in 2020 include Nadia Hallgren (*Becoming*), Cecilia Aldarondo (*Landfall*), Smriti Mundhra (*Indian Matchmaking*), and Sonia Kennebeck (*Enemies of the State*).

The 2020 class will be honored during the November festival at a private online celebration, including a Keynote Conversation between filmmakers Garrett Bradley (*Time*) and Roger Ross Williams (*The Apollo*). Bradley was on the inaugural “40 Under 40” list in 2018. Williams is a repeat alum of DOC NYC, having appeared three times on the festival’s Short List for top award contenders.

The 40 Under 40 selection process begins with an open call for nominations for filmmakers based in the U.S. and Canada. The final list of honorees was chosen by the DOC NYC team of Director of Filmmaker Development Opal H. Bennett, Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos, and Artistic Director Thom Powers. In addition to directors, the list encompasses talent working in producing, editing, cinematography, sound, composing, and other creative roles.

“Some names will be familiar to documentary insiders, but many will be new,” said Bennett. “We hope funders will make themselves familiar with this talent that will help chart the future of documentary making in North America.”

Maxx Caicedo, director/producer, *A La Calle*

Victoria Chalk, editor, *Asian Americans*

Luther Clement-Lam, director/editor/cinematographer, *Stay Close*

Reid Davenport, director/editor, *Director I Didn't See You There*

Lauren Domino, producer, *Time*

Jessica Earnshaw, director/producer/cinematographer, *Jacinta*

Asad Faruqi, cinematographer, *Armed with Faith*

Ja'Tovia Gary, director/producer/editor, *The Giverny Document (Single Channel)*

Patricia E. Gillespie, director/producer, *The Devil You Know*

Tiffany Hsiung, director, *Sing Me a Lullaby*

Ian Hultquist, composer, *How to Fix a Drug Scandal*

Crystal Kayiza, director, *See You Next Time*

Jessica Kingdon, director/producer, *Untitled PRC Project*

Alexandra Lazarowich, director/producer, *Fast Horse*

Daniel B. Levin, director/producer/cinematographer, *I Promise*

Viridiana Lieberman, director/editor, *Born to Play*

Elizabeth Lo, director/producer, *Stray*
Luke Lorentzen, director/producer/editor/cinematographer, *Midnight Family*
Emelie Mahdavian, producer/editor/writer, *Midnight Traveler*
Clare Major, cinematographer, *Belly of the Beast*
Holly Meehl, producer, *Jacinta*
Ruchi Mital, producer, *The Case Against Adnan Syed*
Nelson G. Navarrete, director/producer, *A La Calle*
Codie Elaine Oliver, director/producer, *Black Love*
Tommy Oliver, director/producer/editor/cinematographer, *40 Years a Prisoner*
Lance Oppenheim, director, *Some Kind of Heaven*
David Osit, director/editor/cinematographer, *Mayor*
Kellen Quinn, producer, *Time*
Evan Rosenfeld, director/producer, *Warriors of Liberty City*
Anya Rous, producer, *Pray Away*
Zach Seivers, sound designer, *City of Gold*
Elaine McMillion Sheldon, director, *Recovery Boys*
Jiayan "Jenny" Shi, director/producer, *Finding Yingying*
Lesley Steele, editor/director/cinematographer, *By Way of Canarsie*
Kristine Stolakis, director, *Pray Away*
Emily Strong, producer/location sound mixer, *Keep Moving Forward*
Poh Si Teng, producer, *St. Louis Superman*
Christine Turner, director/producer, *Betye Saar: Taking Care of Business*
Nanfu Wang, director/producer/cinematographer/editor, *One Child Nation*
Malika Zouhali-Worrall, director/producer/writer, *Thank You for Playing*

ONLY IN NEW YORK

New York City is a media capital for documentary the way Hollywood is for fiction filmmaking. That makes DOC NYC a unique gathering place, able to leverage the city's power to advance creative careers, as evoked in the phrase "Only In New York." Starting in 2016, the festival has run this showcase to facilitate face-to-face meetings between industry and filmmakers with works-in-progress.

As the festival moves online for the showcase's fifth year, the phrase "Only In New York" becomes more metaphoric. The festival continues to assemble an A-list of key industry figures, but this year they'll take their meetings online—from not only New York, but also Los Angeles, London, and beyond, expanding the program's scope. Meetings will take place on November 17 & 18.

Notable projects that have gone through the “Only In New York” program include *Down a Dark Stairwell*, *The Dilemma of Desire*, and *Other Music*, as well as the 2019 winners of DOC NYC’s two competition sections: Viewfinders Grand Jury Award, *City Dream*; and Metropolis Grand Jury Award, *Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back*.

The process for “Only In New York” selection starts with an open call for submissions. The final list of 33 projects was chosen by the DOC NYC team of Director of Industry & Education Caitlin Boyle, Director of Filmmaker Development Opal H. Bennett, Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos, Associate Producer of DOC NYC PRO Valerie Torres, and Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen.

“This year’s ‘Only In New York’ line-up represents a wide range of filmmaker voices and diverse approaches to documentary, and each of our selected teams made us eager to see the finished film,” said Boyle. “We hope to play a valuable role in helping to bring these projects to completion.”

The film teams participating in this year’s “Only In New York” range from first-time directors to established filmmakers. Featured projects include films celebrating the cultural achievements and activism of historically marginalized communities (*¡Quba!*, dir. Kim Anno; *The Black Theatre Project*, dir. Rome Kyn Neal; *Born in New York, Raised in Paris*, dir. Victoria Thomas). The line-up also centers films reflecting on American racism and racist violence (*Cycle: The Right to Remain Violent*, dirs. Laura Dyan Kezman and William Howell; *Welcome to Jay*, dir. Jeffrey Morgan; *How the Monuments Came Down*, dirs. Lance Warren, Hannah Ayers; and *Imagining the Indian*, dirs. Aviva Kempner and Ben West; *Bound by Blood - Echoes of the Elaine Massacre*, dirs. Franziska Blome and Llewellyn Smith). Other timely titles document the mounting pressures of economic inequality and global pandemic (*Untitled 2020 Weddings Documentary*, dirs. Ellen Martinez, Steph Ching; *Los Sandy’s*, dir. Jaime Puerta; *That’s How We Roll*, dir. Sara Terry). And additional projects explore family separation, identity, and belonging (*One of Ours*, dir. Yasmine Mathurin; *Between Goodbyes*, dir. Jota Sosnowski; and *Our Daughters*, dir. Chithra Jeyaram).

Companies and organizations participating in Only In New York meetings include American Documentary / POV, America ReFramed, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Cinetic Media, Cora Media, Disney+, Endeavor Content, ESPN, Hulu, IFC Films, Impact Partners, First Look Media’s Topic Studios and Topic streaming service, Fork Films, *The Guardian*, Kickstarter, Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, NEON, Reavis Page Jump LLP, Shutterstock, Submarine Entertainment, SVA’s MFA in Social Documentary, The Film Sales Company, *The New York Times*, Together Films, WNET, and XTR.

Only In New York Projects:

¡Quba!

Directed by Kim Anno; Produced by Kim Anno and Kristy Guevara-Flanagan

The story of the LGBTQ community in Cuba and how their dramatic and creative activism is catapulting the country into a more humane society, despite the growing threat of the evangelical church.

Between Goodbyes

Directed by Jota Sosnowski; Produced by Blair Foster

A hybrid documentary that reframes adoption as a form of family separation through the intimate voices of a queer adoptee and her birth mother.

The Black Theatre Project

Directed by: Rome Kyn Neal; Produced by Darryl Harrison and Erika Wortham

Half a century ago, African Americans used theatre to be the “for us, by us” platform to tell unapologetically Black stories. That legacy continues today.

Born in New York, Raised in Paris

Directed by Victoria Thomas; Produced by Victoria Thomas, Jezz Vernon, and Annie Stopford

A chronicle of the role of hip hop in empowering disenfranchised Black and Arab youth in France to highlight and protest police brutality.

Bound by Blood - Echoes of the Elaine Massacre

Directed and Produced by Franziska Blome and Llewellyn Smith

When Sheila Walker and her son Marcus discover their ancestors were victims of the 1919 Elaine Race Massacre, it triggers a quest for racial reconciliation.

Breaking Boundaries

Directed by Dina Burlis; Produced by Melissa Azizi

Nastasya, 19, was poised to become the first woman of color to ever compete in rhythmic gymnastics at the 2020 Olympic Games. Our film follows the physical, financial, and emotional challenges she faced on her unprecedented journey against all odds—and what led her to quit.

Chain of Rocks

Directed by Damon Davis; Produced by Chris Renteria

After a death row inmate confesses to a crime after 30 years, the activist who once fought for his innocence is faced with the moral dilemma of whether the fight was in vain.

Contamination

Directed by Ariel Ritchin and Charlie Eckert

After discovering that her small children are being poisoned by the factory next door, a young, determined mother does all she can to protect them from a manufacturing giant accused of polluting her community's entire water supply.

Cusp

Directed by Parker Hill and Isabel Bethencourt; Produced by Zachary Kislevitz

In a small Texas town, four wild-spirited teenage girls search for freedom and navigate early adulthood as they each break away from their past traumas. This raw vérité portrait dives down the rarely seen rabbit hole of modern girlhood, where adolescence clashes with personal agency.

Cycle: The Right to Remain Violent

Directed by Laura Dyan Kezman and William Howell; Produced by Vianca Fuster

The killing of Ty'rese West propels the narrative of police violence forward by exposing what is beneath an unquestioned police report when an incident is not captured for the world to see. *Cycle: The Right to Remain Violent* actively investigates this systemic whitewashing and gives a voice to the countless names that have not yet been said.

Happy Campers

Directed and Produced by Amy Nicholson

The residents of a scrappy seasonal trailer park reveal the secrets to a rich life as market forces threaten their shabby Shangri-La.

Heart & Soul

Directed by Kenny Vance; Produced by Bronwyn Berry and Liz Nickles

A Brooklyn music star's lifelong search for the soul of doo-wop, a new kind of music that sprang out of his hometown in the 1950s, uniting a generation and creating a cultural revolution that endures today.

Hero Pilot

Directed by Neelu Bhuman

Set in idyllic Kerala, this story of hope and defiance reveals the epic journey of India's first transman pilot, 21-year-old Muslim Adam Harry.

How the Monuments Came Down

Directed by Hannah Ayers and Lance Warren; Produced by Michelle Taylor

Virginia has more Confederate monuments than any other state—including five tributes on a mansion-lined stretch of the capital. Discover who built them, and who took them down.

Imagining the Indian

Directed by Aviva Kempner and Ben West; Produced by Kevin Blackistone and Sam Bardley

A film exploring the fight against Native American mascotting.

It Takes Guts: The Microbiome Revolution

Directed and Produced by Adrienne Grierson

An investigative and character driven documentary exploring the origins and impact of the destruction of the human microbiome and the willingness of patients to try fecal transplants to restore their health.

Los Sandy's

Directed by Jaime Puerta; Produced by Jaime Puerta and Alan Thompson

Julia, a Mexican immigrant currently living in California, has raised a family of talented Mexican folk musicians who play under the name of “Los Sandy’s.” The stability of the family is threatened by the sudden death of her husband Enrique, the harsh working conditions to which immigrants are subjected, and the notice that they must leave the home where they've lived for 18 years.

Martha

Directed by Anne Alvergue and Debra McClutchy; Produced by Debra McClutchy and Judith Mizrachy

An archival documentary portrait of the unlikeliest of whistleblowers: Martha Mitchell, wife to President Nixon’s right hand man, who was despised by the administration, adored by a hungry truth-seeking press, and ultimately discredited when she threatened to expose Nixon's dirty tricks in the notorious Watergate scandal.

Middle School 243

Directed and Produced by Camilla Calamandrei

An intimate, face-to-face exploration of a high-performing public school that requires 10-14 year olds to collaborate in almost all classes, and somehow it actually works. Shot in the years just before the current COVID19 experiment in remote learning began, it is a chaotic and glorious reminder of what school can be.

The New Extinction

Directed by Kyle Arpke; Produced by Jessica Knap and Jessica Farrell

In this modern-day bone war, vigilant paleontologist Dr. Thomas Carr and controversial commercial collector Alan Detrich hunt for rare fossils in an America torn between science and capitalism.

One of Ours

Directed by Yasmine Mathurin; Produced by Laura Perlmutter and Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith

A poetic observational look at reconciliation and belonging through the eyes of a young Haitian-born Indigenous adoptee in Canada.

Our Daughters

Directed by Chithra Jeyaram; Produced by Chithra Jeyaram and Nico Opper

A single white mother makes a bold move and chooses an Indian American couple as her twin daughters' adoptive parents. The twins, now 8, want to reconnect with their birth mother. *Our Daughters* captures what unfolds.

The Philadelphia Eleven

Directed by Margo Guernsey and Nikki Bramley; Produced by Margo Guernsey

When eleven women defy church leadership and become the first women Episcopal priests, they hit a chord in a deeply divided world about who speaks the word of God, and learn what it takes to challenge patriarchy.

Sanctuary Rising

Directed by Theo Rigby

An exploration of families staying together in the face of deportation and communities turning faith into action.

Song of Salt

Directed by Emma Baiada and Nicolas Snyder; Produced by Emma Baiada

A haunting and intimate glimpse into the everyday life of Trona, California as it grapples with waning American industry, isolation, and a series of powerful earthquakes.

Sons of Detroit

Directed by Jeremy Xido; Produced by Amanda Burr

A family forged in 1970s Detroit. Two boys—one white, one black—raised as cousins. When tragedy strikes, the boys are propelled on radically different paths, each shaped by violence, opportunity, and race. Now, 20 years later, they return to reckon with the loss of home and family—and their roles in the destruction.

Storming Caesars Palace

Directed by Hazel Gurland-Pooler; Produced by Hazel Gurland-Pooler and Jamila Wignot

The untold story of Black women who took on presidents, the mob, and everyday Americans, challenging the pernicious lie of the “welfare queen” and launching one of the most extraordinary yet forgotten feminist, anti-poverty movements in our history.

Tandem

Directed by Dana Kalmey; Produced by Dana Kalmey and Nori Mizukami

Two Hawaiian world champion tandem surfing pioneers fight to keep their endangered sport and its Hawaiian roots alive by making Olympic history.

That's How We Roll

Directed by Sara Terry; Produced by Alysa Nahmias

When housing on the lowest rung of the American dream is being devoured by the wealthiest of the wealthy, whose dream are we serving? *That's How We Roll* addresses urgent issues of class and economic (im)mobility through the lives of mobile home park residents who can't afford housing anywhere else.

Untitled 2020 Weddings Documentary

Directed and Produced by Ellen Martinez and Steph Ching

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted almost everything on the planet, but it can't stop some 2020 couples from throwing the wedding of their dreams. This documentary follows couples, planners, and other members of the industry as they navigate the challenges of planning a wedding in 2020.

Untitled China Surf Film

Directed and Produced by Jessica Chen and Jeremiah Bogert

Inside a state-run sports academy in tropical Hainan, China molds its first generation of surfers as the sport makes its Olympic debut. Team members navigate the tension between surfing as a quintessentially anti-authority pursuit and a culture that values collective achievement.

Untitled Rio Grande Valley Project

Directed by George Lerner; Produced by Julie Bridgham and Patricia Benabe

On the Texas border, a civil rights worker battles against the possible deportation of her mother, and a DACA recipient who strives to become the next Pavarotti finds his dreams boxed in by Border Patrol checkpoints. Despite the unprecedented militarization of the border, these residents of Texas' Rio Grande Valley are determined to fight for

their civil rights, and call on the United States to fulfill its promise of equal justice under the law.

Welcome To Jay

Directed and Produced by Jeffrey Morgan

When a Black teenager is shot and killed attending a party in a predominantly white Southern town, the community's racist past becomes its present.

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

Complete DOC NYC program information can be found at: www.docnyc.net

This year's edition of DOC NYC will take place online November 11-19, 2020.

To inquire about sponsor or partnership opportunities for DOC NYC, please contact Raphaela Neihausen, Executive Director, at raphaela@docnyc.net.

Images of 40 Under 40 Honorees:

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