



**DOC NYC FESTIVAL, NOV. 9-16, ANNOUNCES
ERROL MORRIS & SHEILA NEVINS
TO RECEIVE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

NEW PLANS FOR 8-DAY PRO CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, August 16, 2017 – **DOC NYC**, America’s largest documentary festival, now in its eighth year, returns November 9-16. The festival will showcase more than 100 features, over 100 shorts and some 40 panels, including its closely watched Short List section, known as a predictor of awards season. DOC NYC announced that acclaimed director **Errol Morris** and legendary HBO Documentary Films president **Sheila Nevins** will receive **Lifetime Achievement Awards** at the festival’s fourth annual **Visionaries Tribute** lunch on Thursday, November 9. The Host Committee for the event includes esteemed filmmakers Ezra Edelman, Alex Gibney, Barbara Kopple, Laura Poitras, Morgan Spurlock, D.A. Pennebaker, and Chris Hegedus (full list below).

The festival also revealed details of its 8-day **PRO** conference, featuring documentary panels and master classes, including an expanded initiative to support works-in-progress with a section called “**Only in New York.**” Organizations participating in the **PRO** conference include A&E IndieFilms, Amazon Studios, Discovery, Ford Foundation | JustFilms, HBO Documentary Films, Impact Partners, Netflix, Showtime Documentary Films, and more. The **PRO** conference will take place concurrently with the festival on November 9-16.

“Our Visionaries Tribute is a rare gathering of the documentary community to celebrate those who continue to leave an indelible mark on the field,” said DOC NYC artistic director Thom Powers. “At the **PRO** conference, we’re committing more resources to focus on the future, connecting filmmakers to leaders in creativity, funding, distribution, and technology.”

DOC NYC also announced the roster of sponsors already confirmed for the 2017 festival.

“We are so pleased to welcome the DOC NYC festival back for another year, and proud to support this groundbreaking celebration of documentary filmmaking,” said Commissioner Julie Menin of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, a returning signature sponsor of the festival. “Our agency strives to support storytellers in all media, and from all backgrounds. Documentary films are among the most influential vehicles for diverse narratives, and we are proud and grateful that this important festival

calls NYC home.”

Additionally, DOC NYC festival passes went on sale, with a special early bird discount in effect until September 22.

VISIONARIES TRIBUTE

The fourth annual Visionaries Tribute lunch will take place Nov. 9 at the Edison Ballroom.

Lifetime Achievement Awards are given for a distinguished output of documentaries. This year’s two recipients are:

- **Errol Morris** has been a continuous innovator in the documentary form with films such as *Gates of Heaven*; *Vernon, Florida*; *The Thin Blue Line*; *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control*; *Mr. Death*; the Oscar-winning *The Fog of War*; and *Standard Operating Procedure*. His film *Tabloid* was the Closing Night Film of DOC NYC’s first year in 2010; and *The Unknown Known* was the Opening Night film of the 2013 festival. His latest film is *The B-Side*, while his highly anticipated Netflix series, *Wormwood*, will debut later this year.

- **Sheila Nevins** is President of HBO Documentary Films and has overseen documentaries for the channel for over 30 years. She has supervised the production of over 1,000 documentary programs for HBO. As an executive producer or producer, she has received 32 Primetime Emmy Awards, 34 News and Documentary Emmys, and 42 George Foster Peabody Awards. During her tenure, HBO’s documentaries have gone on to win 26 Academy Awards. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling book *You Don’t Look Your Age... and Other Fairy Tales*.

Past Lifetime Achievement recipients are Jon Alpert, Jonathan Demme, Chris Hegedus, Barbara Kopple, Albert Maysles, D.A. Pennebaker, Stanley Nelson, and Frederick Wiseman. The honorees are selected by the festival programming team, based on recommendations from the Visionaries Host Committee.

Two more Visionaries Tribute honorees will be announced in the fall for the **Leading Light Award**, given to a mid-career industry leader (previously Molly Thompson, Tom Quinn, Dan Cogan); and the **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** that goes to a mid-career filmmaker (previously Dawn Porter, Kim Longinotto, Laura Poitras).

The 2017 Visionaries Host Committee includes Amir Bar-Lev, Joslyn Barnes, Geof Bartz, Amy Berg, Joe Berlinger, Rachel Boynton, Nancy Buirski, Maro Chermayeff, Christine Choy, Marshall Curry, Kate Davis, Carl Deal, Nicholas Doob, Ezra Edelman, Bob Eisenhardt, Lewis Erskine, Heidi Ewing, Susan Froemke, Geeta Gandbhir, Alex Gibney, Julie Goldman, Rachel Grady, Thomas Allen Harris, Chris Hegedus, Matthew Heineman, Kristi Jacobson, Ross Kauffman, Barbara Kopple, Penny Lane, Tia Lessin, Marc Levin, Marilyn Ness, D.A. Pennebaker, Frazer Pennebaker, Laura Poitras, Bob Richman, Robert Richter, Richard Rowley, Deborah Shaffer, Morgan Spurlock, Jonathan Stack, Ricki

Stern, Robert Stone, Annie Sundberg, Jean Tsien, Chai Vasarhelyi, and Pamela Yates.

Tickets for the Visionaries Tribute lunch are available for \$625 per seat or \$5000 per table. Individual tickets are on sale at www.DOCNYC.net. For table purchases or more information, contact Event Producer Jen Kim at jen@docnyc.net.

DOC NYC PRO

Industry talks have been part of the festival since its beginning and were branded as **DOC NYC PRO** starting in 2015. The program has grown each year, including the notable additions of **Short List Day, Pitch Perfect Day, and Only in New York meetings** that were piloted in 2016 and will expand significantly in 2017.

Confirmed participants to date for the 2017 edition include A&E IndieFilms, Amazon Studios, Discovery, Firelight Media, Ford Foundation | JustFilms, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, HBO Documentary Films, IDA, Image Nation Abu Dhabi, Impact Partners, Kickstarter, LEF Foundation, Motto Pictures, Naked Edge Pictures, Netflix, POND5, Showtime Documentary Films, Sub-Genre, Sundance Institute, SVASocDoc, Vulcan, VH1, WGA East and more.

“DOC NYC PRO has a mission to offer the best industry programming at the most affordable prices,” said PRO Producer Deborah Rudolph, who has overseen the panels since 2014. “For a field that’s constantly changing, this is an opportunity for filmmakers to invest in absorbing vital knowledge and meeting key industry players.”

Each day of DOC NYC PRO is organized around a specific aspect of the business and craft of documentary filmmaking:

November 9 – First Time Doc Maker Day – addressing fundamentals in production, funding, and distribution.

November 10 – Short List Day – featuring directors of the 15 films picked by DOC NYC programmers as the year’s leading awards contenders.

November 11 – Mastering Your Craft: Editing – spanning multiple elements of the process including structure, sound design, archives, and writing.

November 12 – Mastering Your Craft: Cinematography – focusing on creative and technological trends in camerawork.

November 13 – Pitch Perfect Day – six work-in-progress documentaries pitch before panels of industry leaders to gain support in financing, distribution and mentorship.

November 14 – Smart Producing Day – covering changes in distribution, audience engagement and measuring impact.

November 15 – Show Me the Money Day – covering grants, equity, crowdfunding and

maximizing revenue.

November 16 – Documentary Law School – examining the latest legal thinking on controversial topics, filmmakers’ rights, Fair Use, and more.

New in 2017, the festival will offer First Half (November 9-12) and Second Half (November 13-16) passes that present economical options to access the PRO conference in addition to the Full (November 9-16) pass or One-Day passes.

SPONSORS

DOC NYC welcomes back several returning sponsors, joined by first timers.

Major Sponsors

A&E IndieFilms returns for its eighth year.
Amazon Studios returns for its second year.
HBO Documentary Films returns for its fourth year.
History Films returns for its seventh year.
Netflix returns for its third year.

Supporting Sponsors

Discovery expands its partnership for its second year at DOC NYC as a Supporting Sponsor.
ImageNation Abu Dhabi returns for its third year.
Showtime Documentary Films returns for its second year.

Signature Sponsors

NYC Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment returns for its third year.
Participant returns for its second year.
SundanceNow returns for its seventh year.
Technicolor-PostWorks New York returns for its eighth year.
The Yard returns for its third year.

Event Sponsors

Impact Partners, SVA MFA Social Documentary Film, Vulcan, VH1.
Event Sponsors new to DOC NYC this year include Adorama, POND5 and The Orchard

Leading Media Sponsor

New York magazine returns for its eighth year.
WNET returns for its fifth year.

FESTIVAL PASSES NOW ON SALE, DISCOUNTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 22

Festival passes are now on sale at www.DOCNYC.net, with early bird discounts available until September 22.

ALL ACCESS passes (\$650 until September 22, \$750 after) provide admission to all festival films, panels and events, plus use of the PRO Lounge at the Cinopolis Chelsea.

All Access pass holders bypass the lines at screenings and events so that their DOC NYC experience is wait-free. Pass does not grant access to Visionaries Tribute event.

DOC NYC PRO passes (\$300 until September 22, \$350 after) grant access to the eight-day lineup of DOC NYC PRO panels and events Thursday, November 9–Thursday, November 16 at Cinopolis Chelsea, as well as free rush admission to weekday matinee screenings at all festival venues; use of the PRO Lounge, a networking and meeting space; and additional free screenings announced during the festival.

DOC NYC PRO: FIRST HALF or SECOND HALF passes (\$160 until September 22, \$200 after) offer access to four days of the DOC NYC PRO lineup, November 9-12 or November 13-16, at Cinopolis Chelsea, as well as free rush admission to weekday matinee screenings at all festival venues and use of the PRO Lounge, a networking and meeting space, during that period.

ABOUT DOC NYC

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, takes place over 8 days in November; the eighth edition will be held November 9-16, 2017 at New York's IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinopolis Chelsea. The 2016 festival showcased over 150 films and events with more than 200 filmmakers and special guests appearing in person. In addition to premiering feature-length and short documentaries, the festival's highlights also include DOC NYC PRO—an eight-day series of in-depth panels and master classes—and the Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony that honors major figures in the field of nonfiction film. DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center.

For media-specific inquiries, please contact:

Susan Norget Film Promotion

212-431-0090

Susan Norget, susan@norget.com