

## DOC NYC ANNOUNCES AWARDS AND RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL

*Homme Less* and *Cairo Drive* Win Top Jury Prizes  
*The Hand That Feeds* Wins SundanceNow Doc Club Audience Award

**Festival Attendance Up 28%;  
155 Films and Events Plus Scores of  
Special Guests In Attendance, November 13-20**

NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 2014 – On the evening of its final day of programming, DOC NYC announced the 2014 award-winners as well as news of record attendance. Now in its fifth year, showcasing 155 films and events, the festival is the largest documentary festival in the US. This year's DOC NYC chalked up record-breaking ticket sales, with a 28% increase in attendance, reflecting more than 50 sold out screenings and close to 25,000 attendees.

Among the 92 feature-length documentaries featured from November 13-20 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and the Chelsea Bow Tie Cinemas were 20 world premieres, 8 US premieres and 38 New York City premieres, along with 37 short films and 25 panels and masterclasses. Over 200 documentary makers presented their films to New York City audiences, including Amir Bar-Lev, Amy Berg, Joe Berlinger, Nick Broomfield, Ric Burns, Katy Chevigny, Chris Hegedus, Steve James, Ross Kauffman, Rory Kennedy, Albert Maysles, DA Pennebaker, Laura Poitras, Lucy Walker, Frederick Wiseman, and Pamela Yates. Other special guests and festival attendees included Fred Armisen, Darren Aronofsky, Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, Jim Carrey, Mayor David Dinkins, Béla Fleck, Jim Jarmusch, Billie Jean King, Greg Louganis, Natasha Lyonne, Albie Sachs, Spandau Ballet, Michael Stipe, Naomi Watts, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, and The Yes Men.

"DOC NYC has grown to its present state in response to a clear desire for a world-class documentary event by New York City's vibrant community of non-fiction filmmakers, industry and film lovers," said DOC NYC artistic director Thom Powers. "We are encouraged by the festival's success to make each edition better than the previous one. Now that our fifth edition has wrapped, we'll happily get to work on number six!"

Three awards juries selected films from each of the festival's Viewfinders, Metropolis and Shorts programs to recognize for their outstanding achievements in form and content. Festival audiences voted for the SundanceNow Doc Club Audience Award.

**Viewfinders Competition:** The jury selected from among ten films in this section, chosen by the programmers for their distinct directorial visions.

**Grand Jury Prize Winner – *Cairo Drive***, directed by Sherief Elkatsha, explores Cairo from the street level through the perspectives of its drivers, who represent a cross section of Egyptians trying to make their way through a country fraying at its edges.

Jurors' statement: "*Cairo Drive* is a funny, endearing, deeply humane look at the everyday struggle to navigate the crazy streets of Egypt's capital. Director Sherief Elkatsha introduces us to a range of Cairenes—secular, religious, young, old, rich, poor, traditional, cosmopolitan—and somehow never manages to lose sight of them as individuals. The film's amused look at the subtleties of honking, the informal rules of the road and the inevitability of commuter frustration points to deeper truths about recent developments in Egypt, even while carefully avoiding direct political or social commentary. With the Arab Spring as a backdrop, we see the enduring rhythms—and the often crushing inertia—of public life as experienced by the people of Cairo."

Jurors: Andrea Holley, Deputy Director, Human Rights Watch Film Festival; Gary Rosen, Editor, Wall Street Journal (Weekend Review), Writer; Jesse Weinraub, Manager, Documentary Programming, Home Box Office.

Films featured in the Viewfinders section: *Almost There*, dirs. Dan Rybicky & Aaron Wickenden; *Cairo Drive*, dir. Sherief Elkatsha; *In Country*, dirs. Mike Attie & Meghan O'Hara; *Kasamayaki*, dir. Yuki Kokubo; *The Life and Mind of Mark Defriest*, dir. Gabriel London; *Meet the Patels*, dirs. Geeta V. Patel & Ravi V. Patel; *Monsieur Le Président*, dir. Victoria Campbell; *No Control*, dir. Jessica Solce; *Song From the Forest*, dir. Michael Obert; *The Wound and the Gift*, dir. Linda Hoaglund.

**Metropolis Competition:** The jury selected from among nine films in this section, which showcases films that exemplify the diverse range of stories in New York City.

**Grand Jury Prize Winner – *Homme Less***, directed by Thomas Wirthensohn, is a portrait of photographer Mark Reay, who seems to have the kind of glamorous New York City life that many would envy but sleeps each night in a hidden corner of an East Village rooftop.

Jurors' statement: "New York is a city where anything is possible. So it takes a lot to surprise and shock us. It's also rare to find a film that does this in such a skillful way -- through a present-tense cinematic language that explores every dark nook and cranny of its subject's life. We were impressed with this film's craft, but we were even more impressed with its content. It portrays both the beauty and cruelty of New York. It also shows the city's obsession with surfaces, and it gives us a figure who's complex, troubling, and fascinating. For these reasons, the Metropolis Jury recognizes Thomas Wirthensohn's *Homme Less*."

Jurors: Bilge Ebiri, Film Critic, New York magazine; David France, Filmmaker (*How to Survive a Plague*), Journalist, Author; Linda Pan, General Manager, SundanceNow Doc Club.

Films featured in the Metropolis section: *Coming Home*, dir. Viko Nikci; *The Hand That Feeds*, dirs. Rachel Lears & Robin Blotnick; *Homme Less*, dir. Thomas Wirthensohn; *Penthouse North*, dir. Johanna St Michaels; *Rubble Kings*, dir. Shan Nicholson; *The Seven Five*, dir. Tiller Russell; *Some Kind of Spark*, dir. Ben Niles; *Stop*, dir. Spencer Wolff; *Tough Love*, dir. Stephanie Wang-Breal.

**Shorts Competition:** All 37 short films featured in the festival were eligible for this jury prize. As of this year, the winning short film qualifies for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

**Grand Jury Prize Winner – *Mirror Image***, directed by Danielle Schwartz, in which the filmmaker questions her grandparents about the contested origins of a family heirloom.

Jurors' statement: "This perfectly titled film holds a mirror up to the challenges of transferring knowledge and accountability through the generations, and how history changes over time. Schwartz's surprisingly complicated portrait of war and possession explores social expectations and the justifications we tell ourselves. The film's structure reflects how we grapple with history and how the nitty gritty is elided over time."

Jurors: Jeffrey Bowers, Senior Manager of VOD Curation, Vimeo, Programmer, Tribeca Film Festival, Hamptons International Film Festival, Rooftop Films; Rachel Fishman Feddersen, Digital GM, The Week.com, MentalFloss.com; Susan Margolin, President, Docurama, Special Acquisitions, Cinedigm.

**Winners** of the Grand Jury Prize in the Viewfinders and Metropolis competitions received a Deliverables Package provided by Technicolor-PostWorks New York. They will also receive a one-week theatrical, awards-qualifying run at the IFC Center in 2015.

**SundanceNow Doc Club Audience Award:** Features from both competitive sections were eligible for this award, based on audience balloting at the primary screening of each film.

**Winner – *The Hand That Feeds***, directed by Rachel Lears and Robin Blotnick, exposes an Upper East Side "Hot & Crusty" bakery through a David vs. Goliath story, as service workers demand better working conditions and wages.

The winner of the SundanceNOW Doc Club Audience Award received a selection of 50 DVDs from the IFC Films and Sundance Selects library. SundanceNow Doc Club, which features a monthly selection of films curated by DOC NYC artistic director Thom Powers, offers streaming access to up to ten new documentaries each month.

DOC NYC is made possible by its sponsors, including Leadership Sponsor HBO Documentary Films; Media Sponsors WNET and New York magazine; and Major Sponsors A&E IndieFilms, History Films and SundanceNow Doc Club. The festival is produced by IFC Center.

**Complete DOC NYC program information can be found at: [www.docnyc.net](http://www.docnyc.net)**

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