



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES SHORT LISTS FOR FEATURES AND SHORTS
PLUS COMPLETE SLATE FOR WINNER’S CIRCLE**

**FESTIVAL ALSO ANNOUNCES “DOC NYC LIVE”
PROGRAM OF DAILY CONVERSATIONS WITH FILMMAKERS,
JURORS FOR ITS COMPETITIVE SECTIONS,
AND DOC NYC PRO EVENTS FOR SHORT LIST SELECTIONS IN DECEMBER**

NEW YORK, November 9, 2020 - DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the full lineup for three of its most prestigious sections—Short List: Features, Short List: Shorts, and Winner’s Circle. Additionally, the festival announced the launch of DOC NYC Live, a program of live daily conversations with filmmakers during the festival, named jurors for its competitive sections, and revealed preliminary details for Short List DOC NYC PRO events in December. With these new announcements, DOC NYC will present 119 features and 100 short films in its 11th edition, taking place online November 11-19 with films available to viewers across the US.

The Short List sections showcase a selection of nonfiction features and shorts that the festival’s programming team considers to be among the year’s strongest contenders for Oscars and other awards. Winner’s Circle was inaugurated last year 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. See below for the complete slates for each section.

“Our Short Lists and Winner’s Circle offer a guide to some of the most exciting nonfiction filmmaking of the year,” said DOC NYC Artistic Director Thom Powers. “In this disruptive year, many of these films lost festival opportunities, so taking the time to honor their achievements feels extra meaningful.”

All the films from Winner’s Circle and nearly all the films from both Short List sections will be available for audiences to screen online on the DOC NYC platform during the dates of November 11-19.

DOC NYC LIVE

As it moves online for the first time, the festival is launching a daily block of free programming, DOC NYC Live, available to audiences throughout the US and around the world on Facebook Live. Each afternoon during the festival, the programming team will host live conversations throwing a spotlight on individual films. Speakers expected to participate include **Werner Herzog** and **Clive Oppenheimer**, along with festival filmmakers and special guests, including **Representative Barbara Lee** (*Truth to Power: Barbara Lee Speaks for Me*), **Alex Winter** (*Zappa*), philosopher and activist **Angela Davis** (*Since I Been Down*), author **David Mitchell** (*The Reason I Jump*), fashion designer **Nicole Miller** (*Calendar Girl*), violinist **Joshua Bell** (*Los Hermanos/The Brothers*), celebrity restaurateurs **Guy Fieri**, **Marcus Samuelsson**, **Antonia Lofaso**, **Maneet Chauhan**, and **Christian Petroni** (*Restaurant Hustle 2020: All on the Line*), author **Francine Prose** (*The Meaning of Hitler*), chess grandmaster **Garry Kasparov** (*The Dissident*), and philosopher **Cornel West** (*The Big Scary "S" Word*), with additional participants to be announced. The schedule and updates are available at www.DOCNYC.net/DOCNYCLive2020

“Since March, we’ve been adapting to our new online reality and trying to find fresh ways to reach audiences,” said DOC NYC Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen. “DOC NYC Live is our latest effort to help filmmakers connect with audiences all over the world.”

Audiences can tune in and contribute questions or comments at facebook.com/docnycfest. This live program builds on the success of the festival’s earlier DOC NYC Road Trip, a week of virtual visits with filmmakers and documentary advocates in 10 cities across the country that attracted thousands of viewers.

DOC NYC Live on Wed. Nov. 11 and Thurs. Nov. 12 is co-presented by XTR. DOC NYC Live on Fri. Nov. 13 is co-presented by Hulu.

SHORT LIST: FEATURES

The DOC NYC Short List for documentary features has a history of being a predictor of other awards—from critics’ prizes and top ten lists to the Oscars. The selection officially started in 2012 with 10 titles and grew to 15 titles in 2014. Notable statistics:

- For the last nine years, DOC NYC has screened the documentary feature that went on to win the Academy Award.
- The festival has screened 24 of the last 25 Oscar-nominated documentary features.
- In 2019, DOC NYC screened 13 of 15 titles that were named to the subsequent Academy Award Documentary Shortlist.

DOC NYC's Short List selections are chosen by the festival's programming team, overseen by Artistic Director Thom Powers and Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos. Most of the DOC NYC Short List titles will be shown on the festival's online platform, with the films followed by a recorded Q&A with the filmmakers. Additionally, the films't directors or other collaborators will participate in DOC NYC PRO Short List Features and Shorts days that will take place online in early December; details to be announced. The DOC NYC PRO Short List Features Day is co-presented by MTV Documentary Films.

For the second year, the Short List: Features will vie for juried awards in four categories: Directing, Producing, Cinematography, and Editing. Last year's winners in these categories were *The Edge of Democracy* (Directing), *American Factory* (Producing), *Apollo 11* (Editing), *The Elephant Queen* (Cinematography), and *For Sama* (Special Recognition for Courage in Filmmaking).

This year's selections for **Short List: Features** are:

76 DAYS

Dir: Hao Wu, Weixi Chen, Anonymous

Prod: Hao Wu, Jean Tsien

A suspenseful, immersive look at life under COVID-19 lockdown in Wuhan, China, focused on front-line hospital workers and their patients. (Courtesy of MTV Documentary Films)

BOYS STATE

Dir/Prod: Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine

An annual civics program reveals modern-day democracy in a microcosm as high school boys create a mock government in Austin, Texas. (Courtesy of Apple Original Films/A24)

COLLECTIVE

Dir/Prod: Alexander Nanau

Prod: Bianca Oana, Bernard Michaux, Hanka Kastelicová

This riveting investigative film follows a team of Romanian reporters as they doggedly uncover a deadly scandal that reaches the highest levels of government. (Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures/Participant)

CRIP CAMP

Dir/Prod: Nicole Newnham, Jim LeBrecht

Prod: Sara Bolder

A chronicle of America's disability rights movement and its origins in a liberating summer camp for disabled teens. (Courtesy of Netflix)

DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

Dir/Prod: Kirsten Johnson

Prod: Katy Chevigny, Marilyn Ness

When the filmmaker's 86-year-old father begins to lose his memory, she enlists him in a playful project to confront his mortality with a sense of humor. (Courtesy of Netflix)

THE FIGHT

Dir/Prod: Elyse Steinberg, Josh Kriegman, Eli Despres

Prod: Maya Seidler, Peggy Drexler, Kerry Washington

This inspiring and vital film follows lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union as they battle the Trump administration over cases of immigration, abortion, LGBTQ+ equality, and voting rights. (Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures/Topic)

GUNDA

Dir: Victor Kossakovsky

Prod: Anita Rehoff Larsen

A cinema vérité immersion into the experiences of several animals on a farm, focused on a sow and her new litter of piglets. (Courtesy of NEON)

I AM GRETA

Dir: Nathan Grossman

Prod: Cecilia Nessen, Fredrik Heinig

A portrait of Greta Thunberg's meteoric one-year rise from high-school climate strike organizer to inspiration for a global movement. (Courtesy of Hulu)

MLK/FBI

Dir: Sam Pollard

Prod: Benjamin Hedin

Using recently declassified files, *MLK/FBI* examines J. Edgar Hoover's relentless campaign of surveillance and harassment against Martin Luther King, Jr. (Courtesy of IFC Films)

ON THE RECORD

Dir/Prod: Kirby Dick, Amy Ziering

Prod: Jamie Rogers, Amy Herdy

This groundbreaking investigation of sexual assault in the music industry explores the complex factors that make it difficult for Black women to speak out and be heard. (Courtesy of HBO Max)

THE SOCIAL DILEMMA

Dir: Jeff Orlowski

Prod: Larissa Rhodes

An exposé of the insidious hidden systems of control behind our increasingly networked world, as revealed by former tech world insiders. (Courtesy of Netflix)

A THOUSAND CUTS

Dir/Prod: Ramona S. Diaz

Prod: Leah Marino, Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn

A chilling look at the assault on fundamental democratic freedoms in the Philippines through the persecution of courageous journalist Maria Ressa. (Courtesy of PBS Distribution/Frontline)

TIME

Dir/Prod: Garrett Bradley

Prod: Lauren Domino, Kellen Quinn

A moving chronicle of a marriage and a family separated by incarceration, focused on Fox Rich, who has spent 21 years fighting for the release of her husband from a 60-year prison sentence. (Courtesy of Amazon Studios)

THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS

Dir/Prod: Michael Dweck, Gregory Kershaw

Enter the secretive world of the only people—and dogs—who are able to find the elusive white Alba truffle, the most expensive ingredient in the world. (Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics)

WELCOME TO CHECHNYA

Dir/Prod: David France

Prod: Alice Henty, Joy A. Tomchin, Askold Kurov

A courageous team of Russian activists operate an underground railroad to help LGBTQ+ Chechens escape state-sanctioned persecution (Courtesy of HBO Documentary Films/Music Box Films)

SHORT LIST: SHORTS

The Short List: Shorts showcase of 12 titles is now in its third year at DOC NYC. Last year the selection included 7 of the 10 films that went on to be named to the Oscars Shortlist for Documentary Shorts and 3 of DOC NYC's picks went on to be Oscar nominees. For the second year, a DOC NYC jury will select one of the Shorts for a Directing Award. Last year's winner was *Stay Close*.

This year's selections for **Short List: Shorts** are:

Abortion Helpline, This Is Lisa

Dir/Prod: Barbara Attie, Janet Goldwater, Mike Attie

At a Philadelphia abortion helpline, counselors answer nonstop calls from women who are seeking to end a pregnancy, but can't afford to do so. A revealing look at how economic stigma and cruel legislation determines who in America has access to abortion. (Courtesy of Topic/Women Make Movies)

Ashes to Ashes

Dir: Taylor Rees

Prod: Shirley Whitaker

Winfred Rembert, a survivor of an attempted lynching in 1967, a *Star Wars* fanatic, and leather artist, develops a friendship with Doctor Shirley Jackson Whitaker, who is on a mission to memorialize the forgotten 4,000 African Americans lynched during the Jim Crow era. (Courtesy of XTR)

Call Center Blues

Dir: Geeta Gandbhir

Prod: Jessica Devaney

A tale of migration and deportation, this film follows four characters as they struggle to make sense of their lives in Tijuana. Each with a different story, they're linked by displacement and call center work in a country that's unfamiliar and frightening, yet sometimes a ray of hope. (Courtesy of Topic)

Do Not Split

Dir/Prod: Anders Hammer

Prod: Charlotte Cook

In the fall of 2019, a proposed bill allowing the Chinese government to extradite criminal suspects to mainland China escalates protests throughout Hong Kong. Unfolding across a year, this film captures the determination and sacrifices of the protesters, the government's backlash, and the passage of the new Beijing-backed national security law. (Courtesy of Field of Vision)

Flower Punk

Dir/Prod: Alison Klayman

Japanese artist Azuma Makoto has sent his floral sculptures into space and sunk them to the bottom of the ocean, but, most of the time, he thinks about the life and death of flowers. (Courtesy of *New Yorker*)

Hunger Ward

Dir/Prod: Skye Fitzgerald

Prod: Michael Scheuerman

This unflinching look at the human-caused famine in Yemen follows health care workers Dr. Aida Alsadeeq and Nurse Mekkia Mahdi as they work to save the lives of hunger-stricken children in two therapeutic feeding centers, against the backdrop of a forgotten war. (Courtesy of RYOT/Vulcan)

A Life Too Short

Dir: Safyah Usmani

Prod: Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy

Social media superstar Qandeel Baloch pushed boundaries in conservative Pakistan like no other. In 2016, high on her newfound celebrity, Qandeel exposes a well-known Muslim cleric—with tragic results. (Courtesy of MTV Documentary Films)

A Love Song for Latasha

Dir/Prod: Sophia Nahli Allison

Prod: Fam Udeorji

The injustice surrounding the shooting death of 15-year-old Latasha Harlins at a South Central Los Angeles store became a flashpoint for the city's 1992 civil uprising. Nearly three decades later, director Sophia Nahli Allison removes Latasha from the context of her death to craft a dreamlike portrait of a promising life lost. (Courtesy of Netflix)

No Crying at the Dinner Table

Dir/Prod: Carol Nguyen

Prod: Aziz Zoromba

Filmmaker Carol Nguyen interviews her family to craft a portrait of love, grief, and intergenerational trauma. (Courtesy of Travelling Distribution)

Now Is the Time

Dir: Christopher Auchter

Prod: Selwyn Jacob

On the 50th anniversary of the first new totem pole raising on British Columbia's Haida Gwaii in almost a century, Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter steps through history to revisit the day that would signal the rebirth of the Haida spirit. (Courtesy of New York Times Op-Docs / POV / National Film Board of Canada)

Sing Me a Lullaby

Dir/Prod: Tiffany Hsiung

A daughter journeys to China seeking her adopted mother's long lost mother, uncovering family secrets and connecting the generations. (Courtesy of CBC/POV)

Then Comes the Evening

Dir/Prod: Maja Novaković

In the lush pastoral hills of Eastern Bosnia, two old women share solitude. The care they have for each other is not composed of words, but rather their daily conduct. They are in a conversation with the land, welcoming the voices of nature, and the songs of a memory that is dying out.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

The festival previously announced a Winner's Circle lineup of 8 titles and has now added *The Painter and the Thief* and *The Mole Agent* for a total of 10 films in the showcase.

In 2019, the Winner's Circle included two titles—*Advocate* and *Midnight Family*—that went on to be chosen for the Oscars' Documentary Feature Shortlist.

This year's selections for **Winner's Circle** are:

ACASA, MY HOME

Dir: Radu Ciorniciuc

Prod: Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan

Winner: Golden Horn for Best Documentary Film, Krakow Film Festival

A large Roma clan who have lived off the grid in the wilderness for 20 years are forced to resettle in the unfamiliar city. (Courtesy of Zeitgeist Films in association with Kino Lorber)

BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING LEFT BEHIND

Dir: Katrine Philp

Prod: Katrine A. Sahlstrøm

Winner: Documentary Feature Competition Grand Jury Award, SXSW Film Festival

An affectionate and intimate child's eye view of New Jersey's Good Grief counseling center, which offers a holistic approach to mourning the loss of loved ones. (Courtesy of MTV Documentary Films)

INFLUENCE

Dir: Richard Poplak, Diana Neille

Prod: Bob Moore, Neil Brandt

Winner: Best International Documentary Film, Durban International Film Festival

This portrait of the founder of the infamous public relations firm Bell Pottinger explores the disturbing way our perceptions—and politics—are shaped by outside forces.

MAYOR

Dir/Prod: David Osit

Winner: The Reva and David Logan Grand Jury Award, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival

Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, Palestine, navigates day-to-day civic responsibilities, but the darker realities of life under occupation are never too far away. (Courtesy of Film Movement)

THE MOLE AGENT

Dir: Maite Alberdi

Prod: Marcela Santibáñez

Winner: Audience Award for Best European Film, San Sebastian International Film Festival

An 83-year-old man goes undercover in a Chilean retirement home in this stylish observational documentary spy film. (Courtesy of Gravitas Ventures)

THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF

Dir: Benjamin Ree

Prod: Ingvil Giske

Winner: Jury Award for Best International Documentary, Docville International Documentary Festival Belgium

A dual portrait of an artist and the thief who stole her art—but who becomes her unlikely friend and artistic collaborator. (Courtesy of NEON)

THE REASON I JUMP

Dir: Jerry Rothwell

Prod: Jeremy Dear, Stevie Lee, Al Morrow

Winner: World Cinema Documentary Competition Audience Award, Sundance Film Festival

Based on the groundbreaking book written by Naoki Higashida, this film explores the interior worlds and fascinating daily experiences of five nonverbal autistic young people. (Courtesy of Kino Lorber)

SONGS OF REPRESSION

Dir: Estephan Wagner, Marianne Hougen-Moraga

Prod: Heidi Elise Christensen, Signe Byrge Sørensen

Winner: DOX:Award, CPH:DOX (Copenhagen International Documentary Festival)

Executive produced by Joshua Oppenheimer, this complex portrait reveals the dark truth behind Chile's seemingly idyllic German colony, Colonia Dignidad, formerly led by a cruel cult leader.

STRAY

Dir/Prod: Elizabeth Lo

Prod: Shane Boris

Winner: Best International Feature Documentary Award, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

A remarkable portrait of three dogs in Istanbul, where strays are an everyday part of the fabric of the community, belonging to no one and everyone at the same time. (Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures)

THE WALRUS AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER

Dir/Prod: Nathalie Bibeau

Prod: Frederic Bohbot

Winner: Audience Award, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

An eccentric former marine animal park trainer wages a war via social media and the courts to save Smooshi, his beloved walrus, from deplorable conditions. (Courtesy of Gravititas Ventures)

JURORS

Viewfinders Competition:

Simon Kilmurry, Executive Director, International Documentary Association (IDA)

Jolene Pinder, former Executive Director, Kartemquin Films

Abby Sun, Curator, The DocYard

Metropolis Competition:

Clayton Davis, Film Awards Editor, *Variety*

Rachel Rosen, Selection Committee, New York Film Festival

Sky Sitney, Co-Creator/Co-Director, Double Exposure Film Festival/Director, Film and Media Studies Program at Georgetown University

Shorts Competition:

Jackie Glover, Head of Documentary, ABC News

Liliana Rodriguez, Artistic Director, Palm Springs International Film Society

Angela Tucker, filmmaker

Short List: Features

Heidi Ewing, filmmaker
Carla Gutierrez, film editor
Beth Levison, filmmaker

Short List: Shorts

Carol Dysinger, filmmaker
Chiemi Karasawa, filmmaker
Bernardo Ruiz, filmmaker

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

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

TICKETS:

Tickets are available at **docnyc.net**. Films will be available to screen throughout the U.S. November 11-19.

Ticket Prices:

Individual tickets are \$12 each (\$9 for IFC Center members)

Five-Ticket Packs are \$45, offering film lovers access to five festival selections.

Ten-Ticket Packs are \$80, and provide access to ten festival films.

The **All Access Pass offers access to all films on the festival platform for \$199**.

Press is invited to apply for accreditation to DOC NYC 2020. Accredited press will have access to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal. Contact: publicity@norget.com

ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:

Downloadable images and press notes for individual films, as well as the festival poster, can be found at: <http://2020.docnyc.net/PressAssets2020>

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