



**DOC NYC VISIONARIES TRIBUTE TO HONOR JOAN CHURCHILL, RAOUL PECK,
PETER NICKS, AND CHI-HUI YANG ON NOVEMBER 10**

**FESTIVAL PLANS FOR IN PERSON AND ONLINE OFFERINGS
AND EXTENDS DATES TO NOVEMBER 10-28**

New York, September 23, 2021 - DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, announced the honorees for its annual Visionaries Tribute, which will take place as an in-person event on November 10. **Lifetime Achievement** honors will be presented to **Joan Churchill** and **Raoul Peck**. The **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** will go to **Peter Nicks** (*Homeroom*) and the **Leading Light Award** will go to **Chi-hui Yang**, Senior Program Officer for Ford Foundation's JustFilms Initiative.

Following a fully online edition in 2020, DOC NYC's 2021 festival will take place both in person and online. The in-person screenings, panels and events will take place November 10-18 in New York at the festival's traditional venues: IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinepolis Chelsea. The festival's online presentations will extend through November 28, with online screenings available to viewers across the US.

"When we began sharing our thoughts about honoring Joan Churchill and Raoul Peck with some members of the documentary community, we heard passionate support for both filmmakers," said DOC NYC's Artistic Director Thom Powers. "They are inspirational figures not only for what they've put on screen, but also for breaking ground in their careers for others to follow. We are also pleased to honor Peter Nicks for his feats of observational filmmaking, including his latest, *Homeroom*, and Chi-hui Yang for his career trying to create a better environment for documentary filmmaking at Ford Foundation and in other roles."

This year's Visionaries Tribute will return to Gotham Hall as an in-person private luncheon and ceremony, after the event went online for 2020.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors individuals with a substantial body of documentary film work. Past recipients are Sam Pollard, Jean Tsien, Martin Scorsese, Michael Apter, Wim Wenders, Orlando Bagwell, Sheila Nevins, Errol Morris, Stanley Nelson, Jonathan Demme, Barbara Kopple, Jon Alpert, Frederick Wiseman, D.A. Pennebaker, Chris Hegedus, and Albert Maysles.

The 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award goes to:



Joan Churchill has a distinguished documentary career. She began her career as a cameraperson on films such as *Gimme Shelter*, *Hail, Hail Rock and Roll* and *Jimi Plays Berkeley*. She is a long-time collaborator with Nick Broomfield with directing credits on *Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer*, *Soldier Girls* and *Juvenile Liaison*. Among her many credits as a cinematographer are the documentaries *Last Days in Vietnam*, *Shut Up & Sing* and *Down from the Mountain*. She is the first documentary-focused director of photography to be accepted into the American Society of Cinematographers (A.S.C.) and one of the few women.

Raoul Peck was born in Haiti and educated in Congo, Brooklyn and France. His credits as a documentary director include *Lumumba*, *Death of a Prophet*, *Fatal Assistance*; the Oscar-nominated *I Am Not Your Negro*; and the four-part HBO Documentary Films' groundbreaking series *Exterminate all the Brutes*. His directing credits in fiction films include *Lumumba*; *Sometimes in April*; *Moloch Tropical*; and *The Young Karl Marx*. His complex career includes an 18-month stint as Haiti's Minister of Culture, two years teaching at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and nine years as the President of the French national film school La Fémis in Paris.

ROBERT AND ANNE DREW AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY EXCELLENCE

The **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** is named for the pioneering husband and wife filmmaking team. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize contributed by Drew Associates. The award honors a mid-career filmmaker or partnership that excels in observational filmmaking. Three of the past six recipients of the award have gone on to win the Oscar for Best Documentary. Past honorees include Alexander Nanau, Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin, Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, Dawn Porter, Kim Longinotto, and Laura Poitras.

The 2021 Robert and Anne Drew Award goes to:

Peter Nicks is an Emmy Award-winning director, producer and cinematographer known for the immersive documentaries *The Waiting Room*, *The Force* and *Homeroom*, which form a trilogy exploring health care, criminal justice and education in Oakland, California. Nicks recently co-founded Proximity Media with fellow Oakland-based filmmaker Ryan Coogler.

Jill Drew, the general manager of Drew Associates, who established this award at DOC NYC, said, "Peter Nicks uses the best of observational filmmaking to tell big, complicated, interconnected stories that are rooted in place and character. Bob Drew used to say that he could not make a film on a topic; a film needs a story and memorable characters. Peter's work honors this tradition."

LEADING LIGHT AWARD



The **Leading Light Award** honors an individual making a critical contribution to documentary in a role other than as a filmmaker. The past recipients are Yvonne Welbon, Cynthia Lopez, Tabitha Jackson, Cara Mertes, Molly Thompson, Tom Quinn, and Dan Cogan.

The 2021 Leading Light Award goes to:

Chi-hui Yang is a Senior Program Officer for Ford Foundation's JustFilms initiative and makes grants globally in documentary film, new media and visual storytelling. He manages a portfolio of grants that support artist-led, socially engaged filmmaking, advance a more equitable and inclusive documentary sector, and build the power of organizations and individuals grounded in communities of color and the Global South. At Ford he has helped found a number of innovative funding initiatives, including Critical Minded, which supports and builds the capacity of cultural critics of color.

Before joining the foundation in 2015, Chi-hui worked extensively as a film curator, including as a selection committee member for MoMA's Doc Fortnight and a consulting series producer for PBS's POV. From 2000 to 2010, he was director of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, the largest event of its kind in the nation.

Support for the Visionaries Tribute comes from Netflix. Additional support comes from Supporting Sponsors discovery+ and National Geographic Documentary Films, and Signature Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies.

For information about purchasing a table at the Visionaries Tribute or advertising in the program book, please contact Allyson Morgan at allyson@docnyc.net.

More news about the festival, including features and shorts named to the festival's Short List sections, the main slate lineup, jurors for DOC NYC's competitive sections, and other updates will be announced in the coming weeks.

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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.

Images of Visionaries Tribute honorees:

<https://2021.docnyc.net/VisionariesTributeAssets>

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