



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES CLOSING NIGHT FILM “THE FIRST WAVE”  
AND CENTERPIECE PRESENTATIONS “CITIZEN ASHE” AND  
“DIONNE WARWICK: DON’T MAKE ME OVER”**

**DIONNE WARWICK IN PERSON FOR POST-SCREENING CONVERSATION  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

**PORTRAIT OF TENNIS LEGEND ARTHUR ASHE  
SCREENS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**CLOSING NIGHT PORTRAIT OF NYC FIGHTING THE FIRST ONSLAUGHT OF  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PRESENTED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

NEW YORK, Oct. 14, 2021 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival (running in-person November 10-18 and continuing online until November 28), announced three new special screenings as part of the festival’s 12th edition. The 2021 festival will include two Centerpiece screenings: *Citizen Ashe*, a portrait of the inspiring tennis star who broke barriers, directed by Sam Pollard and Rex Miller and produced by Rex Miller, Beth Hubbard, Anna Godas, Steven Cantor, Jamie Schutz and Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe; and *Dionne Warwick: Don’t Make Me Over*, directed by Dave Wooley and David Heilbroner and produced by Dave Wooley, with the iconic pop star appearing in person. This year’s DOC NYC will close with a special screening of National Geographic Documentary Films’ *The First Wave*, a chronicle of New York City and its tireless healthcare workers during the initial onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, directed by Matthew Heineman and produced by Jenna Millman and Leslie Norville.

The festival’s first Centerpiece presentation, *Dionne Warwick: Don’t Make Me Over* will be presented Friday, November 12 at 6:45pm at SVA Theatre, with filmmaker Dave Wooley and the legendary singer herself in person for a post-film conversation. Dionne Warwick emerged from New Jersey gospel groups, launched her career at the Apollo Theater and has been dazzling audiences for decades—both musically and, more recently, on Twitter. In this career-spanning biography, richly illustrated with vintage musical performances, she’s a marvelous raconteur sharing candid stories behind her hit songs. We hear from others including Snoop Dogg on

Auntie Dionne’s schooling of young rappers; and Elton John on her recording “That’s What Friends Are For” to support AIDS research.

Also screening as a festival Centerpiece presentation is *Citizen Ashe*, playing Saturday, November 13 at 6:45pm at SVA Theatre. Directors Sam Pollard (*MLK/FBI* and a DOC NYC 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient) and Rex Miller (*Althea*) chart the evolution of tennis legend Arthur Ashe—still the only Black man to win singles championships at Wimbledon, the US Open and the Australian Open. As he gained international renown in the 60s, Ashe had to navigate between a conservative sports culture and the activist politics of the Civil Rights movement. The film chronicles how he found his voice as an advocate for the oppressed before his life was cut short by AIDS-related complications at age 49. The screening will be followed by an on-stage Q&A with the filmmakers.

The festival’s Closing Night film will be *The First Wave*, directed by Oscar®-nominated and Emmy® Award-winning director Matthew Heineman and produced by Jenna Millman and Leslie Norville. The film paints a powerfully moving portrait of New York City during the early months of Covid-19 through the experiences of health care workers and their patients at one of the hardest hit hospitals, Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens. A testament to the strength of the human spirit, *The First Wave* spotlights the everyday heroes at the epicenter of the pandemic as they come together to fight one of the greatest threats the world has ever encountered. In addition to festivalgoers, hundreds of New York City healthcare workers will also be invited to attend the screening, which will be followed by an on-stage discussion with the filmmakers and frontline workers featured in the documentary. *The First Wave* is released by National Geographic Documentary Films. Screening details to be announced.

The 2021 festival will take place both in person and online starting on Wednesday, November 10, with in-person screenings and events held at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinépolis Chelsea through Thursday, November 18. DOC NYC’s online offerings will continue through Sunday, November 28. The festival’s complete lineup of some 120 documentary features and 100 short films will be announced later in October.

In-person tickets for the Centerpiece screenings of *Citizen Ashe* and *Dionne Warwick: Don’t Make Me Over* are \$25 (\$20 IFC Center members). In-person tickets for the Closing Night screening of *The First Wave* will be made available free of charge by RSVP on the DOC NYC website in early November, thanks to the generosity of Northwell Health and National Geographic Documentary Films.

DOC NYC Centerpiece and Closing Night screenings are also available with an **All Film Pass**, which provides access to all in-person and online DOC NYC screenings, for \$995 (\$699 early

bird discount available through October 20). An **Online Film Pass**, good for all the festival's online screenings, will be available for \$250 starting November 1. Individual screening tickets for other titles will go on sale when the festival's full lineup is announced in mid-October.

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## **HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

All festival attendees and staff will be required to comply with our Health & Safety protocols while attending DOC NYC events, including providing proof of Covid-19 vaccination to enter any festival venue and wearing masks while inside. For the latest information, please review our policies [here](#).

## **SPONSORS**

The festival is made possible by:

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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  
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*Press is invited to apply for accreditation to DOC NYC 2021. Accredited press will have access  
to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal. Contact: [publicity@norget.com](mailto:publicity@norget.com)*

**ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:**

Downloadable images and press notes for individual films can be found [here](#).

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