



**DOC NYC, IN THEATERS AND ONLINE NOVEMBER 10-28,  
ANNOUNCES OPENING NIGHT FILM “LISTENING TO KENNY G”;  
REVEALS LINEUP FOR 8-DAY IN-PERSON PRO CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 11-18**

**CONFERENCE FEATURES MORE THAN 40 SPEAKERS, INCLUDING  
JULIE COHEN, BOB EISENHARDT, CARLA GUTIERREZ, TOM HURWITZ, SONIA  
KENNEBECK, KATHLEEN LINGO, DAWN PORTER, RUDY VALDEZ & OTHERS**

**FILM PASSES, OPENING NIGHT TICKETS,  
AND DOC NYC PRO PASSES NOW ON SALE,  
WITH EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE THROUGH OCTOBER 20**

NEW YORK, Oct. 7, 2021 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival (running in-person November 10-18 and continuing online until November 28), announced that it would open the 12th edition of the festival with *Listening to Kenny G*. Directed by Penny Lane and produced by Gabriel Sedgwick, the film will screen at SVA Theatre on Wednesday, November 10 at 6:45pm. The lineup for the festival’s DOC NYC PRO conference of filmmaker and industry panels, to be held November 11-18 in tandem with the festival’s in-person screenings, was also announced. Festival film passes, tickets for Opening Night, and DOC NYC PRO passes are currently on sale, with discounts on passes available through October 14.

DOC NYC’s Opening Night presentation, *Listening to Kenny G* profiles the Grammy-winning musician and explores critics’ and audiences’ wildly polarized reactions to his music. The screening will be followed by a conversation on stage with Lane and Kenny G. *Listening to Kenny G* is an HBO Documentary Films release.

“We’re thrilled to open DOC NYC’s return as an in-person festival with Penny Lane’s witty, innovative exploration of musical taste and artistry from one of the most creative voices in documentary film,” said DOC NYC Artistic Director Thom Powers.

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 in mid-October.

An **All Film Pass**, which allows access to all in-person and online DOC NYC screenings, can be purchased for \$995 (\$699 early bird discount available through October 20). In-person tickets for the Opening Night screening of *Listening to Kenny G* are \$25 (\$20 IFC Center members). An **Online Film Pass**, good for all the festival's online screenings, will be available for \$250 starting November 1. Individual screening tickets will go on sale when the festival's full lineup is announced in mid-October.

## DOC NYC PRO CONFERENCE

The festival also announced the lineup for its eight-day DOC NYC PRO conference, returning as an in-person event after being held online in 2020, and running November 11-18 concurrent with the festival's public film screenings. This is the first edition of the conference programmed by DOC NYC's new Director of Industry & Education, Malikkah Rollins, whose background encompasses education, independent production, and organizing panels addressing changes in the art, ethics, technology, financing and distribution of documentaries.

"In years past, I experienced the PRO conference as an attendee and found the range of perspectives invaluable," said Rollins. "Now I'm excited to shape its future in delivering insights and creating networking opportunities with a wide-ranging community of talent. I hope all attendees leave PRO freshly equipped with new resources, connections, and inspiration."

The conference gives a showcase to acclaimed recent projects that represent new breakthroughs in how documentaries are being made and reaching audiences. Among the high-profile speakers are representatives from Concordia, Fork Films, Kickstarter, and XTR on **Funding Day** (Nov. 11); film teams from *My Name is Pauli Murray*, *Val* and *John Lewis: Good Trouble* on **Producing Day** (Nov. 12); cinematographers, camerapeople and DPs from *Listening to Kenny G*, *Bitterbrush* and *Faya Dayi* on **Cinematography Day** (Nov. 13); editors from *The Rescue*, *Summer of Soul* and *Homeroom* on **Editing Day** (Nov. 14); producers for National Geographic Documentary Films, Netflix, 30 for 30 / ESPN Films and HBO Max on **Doc Series Day** (Nov. 15); representatives of NBC News Studios, *The New York Times*, and TIME Studios on **Journalism and Documentary Day** (Nov. 16); representatives from Participant, Brown Girls Doc Mafia and NEON on **Audience Engagement and Distribution Day** (Nov. 17); and representatives from four law firms specializing in documentary on **Legal for Docs Day** (Nov. 18).

The entire DOC NYC PRO conference is co-presented by Apple Original Films.

DOC NYC PRO takes place at the Cinépolis Chelsea on West 23rd Street in Manhattan. To attend PRO events, a PRO Day Pass, offering access to any individual day's events, can be purchased for \$125 (\$99 early-bird discount available through October 20). Discounted packages for any four days of PRO programming or for all eight days are also available; see below for details.

PRO Day Passes also include access to the Festival Lounge at Cinépolis Chelsea for that day, along with that day's networking breakfast and happy hour for passholders, panelists, industry attendees and filmmakers.

The PRO conference also hosts the Only In New York roundtable meetings, co-presented by SHOWTIME® Documentary Films, for more than 50 work-in-progress projects, filmmakers named to DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 list (co-presented by HBO Documentary Films) and filmmakers from the festival.

**The full DOC NYC PRO lineup is below. Additional panelists will be added in the coming weeks; visit the DOC NYC website for latest information.**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 9:00am-5:30pm**

#### **FUNDING DAY**

Join us for conversations from noted funders tracking new trends and offering insights into funding your films. Includes a deep dive conversation unpacking success.

##### **New Trends in the Doc Funding Landscape**

Join major funders including Kathryn Everett (XTR), Jonathan Silberberg (Concordia) and a TIME Studios executive, whose fingers are on the pulse of what's to come as they share insights and advice.

*Co-presented by XTR*

##### **Nuts and Bolts of Equity Investing**

Curious about equity as a component of your funding strategy? Join Paula Froehle (Chicago Media Project) and Susan Margolin (St. Mark's Productions) for a deep dive into this potential funding source.

##### **Thinking Strategically: Pulling Back the Curtain on Film Funding Success**

This workshop, moderated by grantmaking expert Tracie Holder in discussion with Kat Vecchio (Fork Films) and an accomplished filmmaker, will give you a set of tools to help frame your project so you can put your best foot forward with funders.

### **A Kickstarter Success Story**

Kickstarter's Elise McCave does an interactive case study with filmmakers who have recently raised funds for their projects.

Funding Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by XTR for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

## **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:00am-5:30pm**

### **PRODUCING DAY**

Leading producers share expertise about impact producing, making a living as an indie producer, how to be an effective producer in fast changing landscapes and equity shifts in the profession.

*Co-presented by Amazon Studios*

#### **How to Make a Living and Build a Career as a Doc Producer**

Join a frank and informative discussion with three veteran indie producers, Heidi Reinberg (*Charm Circle*), Julie Anderson (*Dreamland: The Burning of Black Wall Street*) and Jessica Edwards (Film First) designed to educate and inspire as you craft your career.

#### **Spectacular Failures and What We Learned**

Listen to three veteran producers, Xan Parker (*Rebuilding Paradise*), Yael Melameade (Salty Features) and Raeshem Nijhon (Culture House) reflect on how their failures were their greatest teachers.

#### **Impact Producing: Case Study**

Impact producers Hoda Howa (*John Lewis: Good Trouble*), Beth Levison (*Storm Lake*) and Alice Quinlan, Engagement and Impact Strategist, take you into the world of creating a lasting and meaningful impact campaign. *Co-presented by TIME Studios*

#### **Producing with Archival Footage**

Go behind the scenes with *My Name is Pauli Murray* producer Talleah Bridges McMahon and editor Cinque Northern and co-directors/co-editors Ting Poo and Leo Scott from *Val* as they share their secrets and insights on crafting an impactful documentary rich in archival footage.

Producing Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by Amazon Studios and community partner DPA for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 9:00am-5:30pm**

## **MASTERING YOUR CRAFT: CINEMATOGRAPHY**

A deep dive into various aspects of cinematography including case studies from noted DPs.

*Co-presented by SONY*

### **Introducing the DCA (Documentary Cinematographers Alliance)**

In this panel, DCA representatives including Jenni Morello and Nausheen Dadabhoy, will introduce the alliance and discuss how to work collaboratively with directors and filmmaking teams.

### **Case study: *Cusp***

Co-director Isabel Bethencourt delves into the cinematography behind her Sundance award winning documentary *Cusp* that takes an observational look at the lives of teenage girls in Texas.

### **Case Study: *Faya Dayi***

Director Jessica Beshir describes her visual approach filming in black and white for *Faya Dayi* that takes a dreamlike approach to documenting a rural town in Ethiopia, winning festival awards at Hot Docs and Visions du Réel.

### **DP and Director Collaborations**

Two established director and DP teams, Penny Lane and Naiti Gamez (*Listening to Kenny G*) and Emelie Mahdavian and Derek Howard (*Bitterbrush*), will peel back the layers of successful collaborative relationships.

Cinematography Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by Sony and community partner DCA for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 9:00am-5:30pm**

## **MASTERING YOUR CRAFT: EDITING**

Case studies from prominent editors will elucidate the craft and help build your editor's toolkit. A special panel launches the Alliance of Documentary Editors' new best practices guidelines and their BIPOC editors initiative.

### **ADE Launches Best Practices Guidelines and BIPOC Editors' Initiative**

This panel highlights the mission of the Alliance of Documentary Editors with representatives Carla Guterrez (*Julia, RBG*), Alisa Payne (*Between the World and Me*),

Bo Mehrad (*The Boiling Point*), Andrés Arias (*The Trade, Season 2*) and Geeta Gandbhir (moderator).

**Case study: *Summer of Soul***

Editor Josh L. Pearson gives us a front row seat to the editing feat of *Summer of Soul*.

**Case study: *The Rescue***

Go in-depth with veteran editor Bob Eisenhardt (*Free Solo*) on the monumental effort to create this nail-biting epic film.

**Finding and Shaping Your Main Character**

Editors including Rebecca Adrono (*Homeroom*), Katharine Garrison (*Clarkston, United Skates*), and Pax Wasserman (*Becoming Cousteau*) reveal their process for creating main characters.

Editing Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00am-5:30pm**

**DOC SERIES DAY**

Unpacking the nuts and bolts of creating, selling and distributing a doc series. Hear from both leading executives and filmmakers.

*Co-presented by National Geographic*

**Should My Project Be A Doc Series?**

Two established doc series producers, Rudy Valdez (*We Are the Brooklyn Saints* on Netflix) and Ben Selkow (*Trafficked* on National Geographic), provide tips and insights into which projects are best suited for a series.

**How to Pitch and Sell Your Doc Series**

Executives Adam Neuhaus (30 for 30 / ESPN Films), Jonathan Schaerf (Propagate), Julia Bodner (WME) and filmmaker Neha Shastry (*American Oligarchs*) describe how to present your access, creative team, samples and more.

*Co-presented by 30 for 30 / ESPN Films*

**Things I Wish I Knew When Starting a Doc Series** Established series producers Maro Chermayeff and Sam Pollard (*Atlanta's Missing and Murdered: The Lost Children* on HBO Max) set expectations for production and deliverables in the doc series world.

*Co-presented by SVA's MFA Social Documentary Film*

**Case Study: *Welcome to Earth***

Go behind the scenes of *Welcome to Earth*, the new Disney+ Original series from National Geographic, hosted by Academy Award nominee Will Smith, to discuss what it took to create the blockbuster adventure series.

Doc Series Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by National Geographic for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 9:00am-5:30pm**

**JOURNALISM AND DOCUMENTARY DAY**

Hear from experts as we explore the nexus of journalism and doc filmmaking, digging into issues like journalistic distance, power dynamics and ethics.

*Co-presented by NBC News Studios*

**Why Are So Many News Organizations Getting into the Documentary Business?**

Hear from thought leaders at four news organizations—Liz Cole (NBC News Studios), Kathleen Lingo (*The New York Times*), Chad Mumm (Vox Media) and Rebecca Teitel (TIME Studios)—as they explain their new role in the industry.

**Power Dynamics in Documentary and Journalism**

Documentary filmmakers Dawn Porter (*John Lewis: Good Trouble*), David France (*Welcome to Chechnya*) and Diane Tsai (*Be Our Guest*) wrestle with the ethical and power implications of their work.

**Proximity, Access, and Journalistic Distance**

Sonia Kennebeck (*United States vs Reality Winner*), Julie Cohen (*Julia, RBG*) and others discuss maintaining journalistic objectivity.

**Showcase**

To be announced.

Journalism and Documentary Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by NBC News Studios for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 9:00am-5:30pm**

**AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION DAY**

Join us to delve into practicalities and case studies to help build your audience on the road to distribution.

*Co-presented by Hulu*

### **How to Build Your Audience From Scratch**

Learn concrete steps to develop your community from two indie filmmakers, Natalie Pattillo and Daniel Nelson (*And So I Stayed*), and inside tips from Jim Hu (Participant).

*Co-presented by Participant*

### **Nuts and Bolts of Distribution**

Consultants Mia Bruno (Fourth Act Film), Alece Oxendine (Film Distribution Consultant and Director of Industry Outreach at Columbia University) and executive Dan O'Meara (NEON) provide guidance for how to navigate the world of distribution.

### **Choices in Distribution**

One year after their DOC NYC premieres, two film teams, Tom Hurwitz and Duana Butler (*Can You Bring It: Bill T Jones*) and Sian-Pierre Regis (*Duty Free*), reflect on their diverse paths to distribution.

### **Success**

Join Iyabo Boyd (Brown Girls Doc Mafia), Jeanelle Augustin (NBC Universal), Lisa Cortes (Cortes Films), and other thought leaders as we unpack the elusive nature of success in the landscape of distribution.

Audience Engagement and Distribution Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by Hulu for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 9:00am-5:30pm**

### **LEGAL FOR DOCS DAY**

Explore the practical and ethical legal questions that face documentary filmmakers.

#### **Building On Your Doc – Remake Rights and Ancillary Extensions**

The documentary is just the beginning! Entertainment attorney Simon Pulman and a panel of industry guests discuss how to extend and monetize your film. Covering scripted film and TV remakes, spinoff podcasts, live touring events, and companion publishing, this panel will talk about the legal and dealmaking considerations when moving beyond a single film and will explain how filmmakers can best prepare themselves for success.

*Co-presented by Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP*

### **The New and Evolving Unscripted Episodic Landscape**

Join Fox Rothschild entertainment attorneys Marc H. Simon, Daniel Bengel and Daniel Spencer and other industry leaders, as they discuss current trends in the unscripted episodic landscape, and illustrate distinctions between traditional documentary deal constructs and the new evolving episodic deal structures.

*Co-presented by Fox Rothschild LLP*

### **New Trends in Ethics and Documentaries**

Attorneys Nicole Page and Michelle Lamardo from law firm Reavis Page Jump LLP discuss ethical and legal issues in documentaries along with producer Jessica Devaney, Founder of Multitude Films and other industry experts.

*Co-presented by Reavis Page Jump LLP*

### **Working with Celebrities**

Join entertainment lawyers Victoria Cook, Melissa Georges and Ben Moskowitz for a discussion of the pros and cons of working with celebrities in docs.

*Co-presented by Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC*

Legal For Docs Day events also include a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** co-presented by Cinépolis for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

### **Attending PRO Events:**

PRO events can be attended with the purchase of an individual **PRO Day Pass** for any individual day's events for \$125, available at an early-bird discount of \$99 through October 20. Each pass also includes access to the Festival Lounge for that day, including the Networking Breakfast and Happy Hour.

Discounted **PRO Day Pass packages** can be purchased for \$450 for any four days of PRO programming (available at an early-bird discount of \$350 through October 20), or \$800 for all eight days of the PRO conference (available at an early-bird discount of \$600 through October 20).

PRO Passes are available for purchase online at [docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes/](http://docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes/) through November 18. In-person advance pass sales run November 1-10 at the IFC Center box office (323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street, open daily 10:30am-10:00pm). During DOC NYC PRO itself, November 11-18, PRO passes may be purchased at the Cinépolis Chelsea box office (260

West 23rd Street, open 30 minutes before the venue's first event of the day until 15 minutes after the day's last screening).

## **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 upon entry at and wearing masks in all festival venues. For the latest information, please review our policies [here](#).

## **SPONSORS**

The festival is made possible by:

**Leading Media Partners:** *New York Magazine*; The WNET Group

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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](mailto:raphaela@docnyc.net).

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