



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES “40 UNDER 40” HONOREES,  
DOCUMENTARY NEW LEADERS,  
INAUGURAL CLASS OF STORYTELLING INCUBATOR  
PLUS WORK-IN-PROGRESS DOCUMENTARIES  
FOR “ONLY IN NEW YORK” INDUSTRY MEETINGS**

**NEW YORK, November 3, 2021** – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced the honorees and projects across four initiatives intended to foster new talent. The fourth annual **40 Under 40** list puts a spotlight on young talent and offers unique networking opportunities at the festival. The second annual **Documentary New Leaders** program selects a group of individuals whose efforts in distribution, sales, festivals, and marketing bring greater inclusion and equity to the field.

New this year, the festival is launching the **DOC NYC x Video Consortium Storytelling Incubator**, which pairs emerging documentary filmmakers with underrepresented perspectives with hands-on creative consultation and professional guidance from industry veterans.

Finally, the festival revealed the line-up for its sixth annual **Only In New York** program, which pairs filmmakers of works-in-progress with leading industry decision-makers for roundtable meetings.

“We are delighted to spotlight and support the work of filmmakers and rising industry leaders who represent the full spectrum of talent and innovation in our field,” said DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Caitlin Boyle. “In addition to recognizing their efforts and achievements, we hope to actively foster relationships and create dialogues between established leaders and new voices.”

DOC NYC’s 12th edition takes place in theaters in New York and online November 10-18, 2021, with online screenings continuing through November 28. The full lineup of films and events, along with tickets and festival passes, are available at [docnyc.net](http://docnyc.net).

**40 Under 40** is co-presented by HBO Documentary Films. **Only In New York** is co-presented by SHOWTIME® Documentary Films. **Documentary New Leaders** is co-presented by A&E.

**40 UNDER 40**

Now in its fourth year, the **40 Under 40** list shines a spotlight on emerging talent. Honorees from 2020 who are returning to the festival with new works in 2021 include Jessica Kingdon (*Ascension*), Daniel B. Levin (*Kevin Garnett: Anything is Possible*), Christine Turner (*Lynching Postcards: 'Token of a Great Day'*) and Nanfu Wang (*In the Same Breath*). The 2021 class will be honored during the November festival at a private cocktail reception.

The 40 Under 40 selection process begins with an open call for nominations for filmmakers based in the U.S. and Canada. The final list of honorees was chosen by a selection committee that included DOC NYC staff and leading industry decision-makers. In addition to directors, the list encompasses talent working in producing, editing, cinematography, and other creative roles.

**Tabs Breese**, producer  
**Yael Bridge**, director/producer  
**Isabel Castro**, cinematographer, director/producer  
**Aisling Chin-Yee**, director/producer, editor  
**Maya Cueva**, director/producer  
**Lauren DeFilippo**, director/producer  
**Zackary Drucker**, director/producer  
**Leah Galant**, cinematographer, director  
**Èlia Gasull Balada**, editor  
**Lauren Haber**, producer  
**Karim Hajj**, cinematographer, producer  
**Emily Harrold**, director/producer  
**Chelsea Hernandez**, director/producer, editor  
**CJ Hunt**, director  
**Rebeca Huntt**, director  
**Daniel Hymanson**, cinematographer, director  
**Jeffrey Johnson**, cinematographer  
**Morgan Elise Johnson**, producer  
**Lance Kramer**, producer  
**Catherine Lee**, director/producer  
**Julia Liu**, cinematographer, director  
**Sura Mallouh**, director/producer  
**Angelo Madsen Minax**, director, editor  
**Ali Moss**, producer  
**Habiba Nosheen**, director/producer  
**Ashley O'Shay**, cinematographer, director  
**Hannah Olson**, director/producer  
**Nneka Onuorah**, director  
**Richard Peete**, director/producer  
**Sian-Pierre Regis**, director  
**Rodrigo Reyes**, director/producer  
**Sharon Shattuck**, director

**Nevo Shinaar**, producer  
**Mike Shum**, cinematographer, director/producer  
**Iliana Sosa**, director  
**Samantha Stark**, director  
**Cai Thomas**, cinematographer, director  
**Sweta Vohra**, director/producer  
**Elizabeth Woodward**, producer  
**Matt Yoka**, director/producer, editor

### **Documentary New Leaders**

DOC NYC's Documentary New Leaders initiative honors individuals whose efforts and fresh thinking on distribution, sales, festivals, and marketing bring greater inclusion and equity to the field. The 2021 selection process began with an open call for submissions; more than 100 nominations were received and reviewed by a six-person selection committee including DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Caitlin Boyle; DOC NYC Director of Industry and Education Malikkah Rollins; IFC Center's Operations Manager Asha Phelps; DOC NYC's Artistic Director Thom Powers; and 2020 Documentary New Leaders cohort members Iyabo Boyd (Founder, Brown Girls Doc Mafia) and Merrill Sterritt (Co-Director, If/Then Shorts).

"We are deeply inspired by the vision and hard work of these 18 Documentary New Leaders," said Malikkah Rollins, DOC NYC Director of Industry and Education, who served on the selection committee. "We look forward to spending the next year helping them develop their industry networks and watching their careers grow."

The list of 18 recipients draws from 12 cities--including New York, London, Los Angeles, Chicago and others--and reflects the honorees' broad range of experiences, including roles in funding, journalism, grassroots organizing, distribution and film festivals. While several honorees are filmmakers, this program highlights their leadership in roles that shape industry practices and culture. Over the next year, the Documentary New Leaders program will host monthly online gatherings for the honorees, offering a forum for guest speakers, camaraderie, collaboration and organizing.

The 2021 DOC NYC Documentary New Leaders wrote their own mission statements quoted below:

**Day Al-Mohamed**  
**Founding Member, FWD-Doc**

"Promoting authentic disability representation, not just content and accessibility, but supporting full inclusion of disabled creatives, to advance equity in the film industry. This doesn't just make more diverse films, it makes better films."

**Jeanelle Augustin**  
**Manager, Film Fellowships and Artist Development, NBC News Studios**

“Embracing risk and deepening investment.”

**Samara Grace Chadwick**  
**Executive Director, The Flaherty**

“Facilitating complicated conversations, new vocabularies, and bold imaginaries that shatter calcified forms of power and nurture real lasting community within the field of independent documentary.”

**Sahar Driver**  
**Field Builder**

“Harnessing the power of nonfiction to transform society and culture by preparing filmmakers and their teams to lead powerful impact campaigns, building communities of practice across sectors, and deepening the power of people of color in documentary.”

**Sky Dylan-Robbins**  
**Founder, Executive Director, The Video Consortium**

“Empowering nonfiction filmmakers with the supportive community, creative resources, and valuable connections they need to produce powerful true stories that catalyze positive social change.”

**Amber Espinosa-Jones**  
**Manager, Outreach and Inclusion, Sundance Institute**

“Cultivating equitable community partnerships and building authentic spaces for underrepresented artists to heal, thrive, and create change.”

**Alexandra Hannibal**  
**Senior Director, Program Development, CNN FILMS**

“Bringing entertaining and informative stories to the public via a global news brand while demystifying industry practices to uplift storytellers.”

**Rahi Hasan**  
**Co-founder, Undocumented Filmmakers Collective**

“Cultivating healing and creative spaces for marginalized artists, through participatory research, collective strategic organizing, and creative funding approaches.”

**Darian Henry**  
**Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director, Youth FX | NeXt Doc**

“Moving at the speed of trust to hold change in which minds mutate and futures unfurl.”

**Maori Holmes**  
**CEO & Artistic Director, BlackStar Projects**

“Illuminating the work of visionary filmmakers of color whose practices don’t often fit neatly with the confines of genre or field and championing the broader efforts to expand the power of cinema to shift how we see the world.”

**Sarah Mosses**

**Founder & CEO, Together Films**

“Increasing revenue and reach for films and festivals that champion social impact and diversity on a global scale through distribution, marketing, technology & advocacy.”

**Asadullah Muhammad**

**Vice President of Impact and Engagement Strategy, American Documentary | POV**

“Building power with mission-driven organizations, public media stations, community spaces, and educators by elevating the reach and impact of documentary film.”

**Lauren Pabst**

**Senior Program Officer, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

“Supporting the field of nonfiction multimedia storytelling and documentary and efforts to create a more equitable industry.”

**Anuradha Rana**

**Creative Lead, Diverse Voices in Docs + Co-Chair, Documentary Program, School of Cinematic Arts, Kartemquin Films + DePaul University**

“Mentoring and supporting emerging filmmakers to cultivate and foster a more diverse and authentic story ecosystem, rooted in community.”

**Tracy Rector**

**Managing Director, Storytelling, Nia Tero**

“Uplifting and amplifying the stories of Indigenous and BIPOC filmmakers to reach audiences around the world.”

**Marjan Safinia**

**Director/Producer, Field-Builder, Beyond Inclusion**

“Making good trouble and good films in pursuit of justice, equity, and diversity in the documentary field.”

**Poh Si Teng**

**Director of IDA Funds and Enterprise Program, International Documentary Association**

“Serving independent documentary filmmakers through values-based funding and grant-making, by prioritizing transparency, accountability and self-determination.”

**Chloe Walters Wallace**

**Director of Regional Initiatives, Firelight Media**

“Creating space, opportunities and platforms for underserved documentary talent to shine from wherever they call home through labs, commissioned work, and advocacy.”

**DOC NYC x Video Consortium Storytelling Incubator**

The DOC NYC x VC Storytelling Incubator, a new initiative from DOC NYC and the Video Consortium, provides emerging documentary filmmakers with underrepresented perspectives with hands-on creative consultation and professional guidance from established industry voices through a unique annual mentorship program.

Following an open call for applications, the Video Consortium's Filmmaker Advisory Council, in collaboration with DOC NYC, reviewed more than 100 promising work-in-progress documentaries from rising industry talent and selected 18 filmmakers representing 16 projects to participate as mentees in the program. Mentors, selected by DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Caitlin Boyle from DOC NYC's alumni list, will provide feedback on the mentee's work-in-progress nonfiction film, offering advice and insight on story, creative process, and funding and distribution potential over the course of six meetings, including one intensive meeting. In addition to one-on-one mentorship support, the program participants engage in a series of tailored master classes, closed community discussions, and intimate happy hours during the program. The Incubator concludes in July, with a festive screening and final gathering.

"We're thrilled to partner with DOC NYC and support bringing these important and compelling long-form stories to life," said The Video Consortium founder Sky Dylan-Robbins. "Our mission is to level the industry playing field, to facilitate a more collaborative media ecosystem, and to open doors for emerging nonfiction filmmakers around the globe. The varied perspectives and geographic diversity of this inaugural cohort beautifully reflect the immense potential of the next generation shaping our field.

As Incubator participants, mentees also receive free access to DOC NYC's year-round online program of educational events; complimentary access to its 8-day professional conference, DOC NYC PRO, and waived submission fees to its Only In New York industry networking program for works-in-progress.

Our inaugural Storytelling Incubator cohort includes filmmakers from cities across the world, including Oakland, Brooklyn, Washington, DC, Miami, Detroit, New Orleans, and Atlanta in The United States, as well as Mumbai, Mexico City, Hong Kong, Adelaide, Bangalore, the Australian Gold Coast, and Guwahati (India).

The cohort includes:

**A.K. Sandhu**  
**Michelle Leung**  
**Nada Bedair**  
**Xinyan Yu**  
**Jessamyn Ansary**  
**Joyce Mishaan**  
**Khaula Malik**  
**Loulwa Khoury**

**Ludwig Hurtado**  
**Andy Sarjahani**  
**Brenda Matthews**  
**Divya Kharnare**  
**Eden Ponce**  
**Gabriela Arp**  
**Natalie Chao**  
**Nathaniel Schmidt**  
**Poorva Dinesh**  
**Ragini Nath**

### **ONLY IN NEW YORK**

New York City is the media capital for documentary, making DOC NYC a unique gathering place for documentary filmmakers worldwide, who can come to the city to leverage its power to advance their creative careers. Since 2016, the festival has run the **Only In New York** program to facilitate face-to-face meetings between leading industry decision-makers and filmmakers with works-in-progress. In 2021, meetings will take place in-person on November 11 and 12.

The selection process for Only In New York starts with an open call for submissions. The final list of 45 projects was chosen by DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Caitlin Boyle.

“In a competitive field of well more than 100 applicants, we had the daunting task of curating a diverse, global cohort of film teams whose works-in-progress showed particular promise,” said Boyle “We are excited to present this slate of projects to industry representatives, and to nurture relationships between creative teams and the funders, co-producers, financiers, distributors and agents who can help shepherd these projects into the public eye.”

The film teams participating in this year’s Only In New York include first-time directors and long-time industry veterans from across the world, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, New Zealand and Norway. More than 75% of the selected film teams are helmed by filmmakers who identify as women, non-binary or genderqueer; 37% are headed by first-time directors; and 62% are director and/or produced by filmmakers who indentify as Black, Indigenous or people of color.

Companies and organizations participating in Only In New York meetings include **A&E, American Documentary / POV, Chicken & Egg Pictures, Cinetic Media, discovery+, ESPN, The Film Collaborative, The Film Sales Company, Hot Docs Festival, Hulu, IFC Films, Imagine Documentaries, Impact Partners, International Documentary Association, NBC News Studios, The New Yorker, Participant, Submarine Entertainment, Topic, TIME Studios, Vice Studios, Women Make Movies** and more.

**Selected projects include:**

### **15th Parish**

*15th Parish* recounts the dancehall music scene that reverberated across Brooklyn in the 90s, and brings justice to the community of Jamaican immigrants who helped build a globally celebrated subculture.

*Directed by Ben Digiacommo and Dutty Vannier*

*Produced by Amy Hillock and Jay Will*

### **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted A Culture**

*1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture* chronicles the moment a never-before-seen document was discovered, bringing doubt to the Bible translation that condemns all LGBTQIA+ people to hell. It investigates how the word “homosexual” was incorrectly entered into the Bible and the grave consequences this mistranslation has had on religion, culture, politics and the LGBTQIA+ community over the last century.

*Directed by Sharon "Rocky" Roggio*

*Produced by Jenna Serbu and Sharon "Rocky" Roggio*

### **A Double Life**

A radical lawyer once accused of murder spends 13 years underground with an assumed identity and returns home to clear his name and resume his life.

*Directed by Catherine Masud*

*Produced by Abby Ginzberg*

### **Aanikoobijigan**

The film explores the history of indigenous collections, the laws passed to ensure return of human remains and funerary objects, and portraits of the righteous and courageous individuals doing the hard and emotional work of bringing our ancestors back home.

*Directed by Zack Khalil and Adam Khalil*

*Produced by Steve Holmgren and Francesca Alfano*

### **Adam's Apple**

*Adam's Apple* is an intimate exploration of what characterizes “maleness” for today’s gender-redefining youth, filmed from the perspectives of Director Amy Jenkins and her teenage transgender son, Adam, each with a camera in hand.

*Directed by Amy Jenkins*

*Produced by Amy Jenkins*

### **Addicted to Life**

Marieke Vervoort, a Belgian Paralympic athlete, takes control of her painful decline by planning for legal medical aid-in-dying. Empowered by her choice, Marieke becomes a celebrated, inspiring world-champion and lives with humor and exuberance up until her final, irreversible decision.

*Directed by Pola Rapaport*

*Produced by Pola Rapaport and Rebecca Borden, Esq.*



### **An Unclenched Fist**

*An Unclenched Fist* tells the story of the historic negotiations that led to the Iran nuclear deal, from the perspective of the negotiators who worked to bring the deal together – and the spoilers intent on its demise.

*Directed by Michael Kleiman*

*Produced by Michael Kleiman and Trita Parsi*

### **B. F. Skinner Plays Himself**

*B.F. Skinner Plays Himself* explores the rise of behavioral psychology from rats, pigeons and dogs to children, prisoners and communes through never-before-seen footage of the work and life of its most controversial practitioner.

*Directed by Theodore Kennedy*

*Produced by Theodore Kennedy*

### **Between Earth and Sky**

Five years after surviving a life-changing fall from a tree, renowned rainforest ecologist Nalini Nadkarni confronts echoes of trauma across three generations of her family tree, unearths her own tangled roots, and plants new seeds with her children.

*Directed by Andrew Nadkarni*

*Produced by Katie Schiller and Swetha Regunathan*

### **Brigidy Bram**

After a draconian sequence of 1950s-era electroshock therapy, prolific artist Kendal Hanna pieces together the truth of his life story, examining the forces that threatened to erase his memory, his work and his name from history.

*Directed by Laura Gamse and Kareem Mortimer*

*Produced by Laura Gamse and Kareem Mortimer*

### **Demon Mineral**

*Demon Mineral* documents life in the radioactive desert on the Navajo Reservation. Spanning a landscape perforated by orphaned uranium mines in the American Southwest, the film follows a group of indigenous scientists, elders, and activists as they work to protect a vital living space on contaminated land.

*Directed by Hadley Austin*

*Produced by Nevo Shinaar and Tommy Rock*

### **Fedora**

In an Upper East Side apartment, married couple Betty (92) and José (56) live in a complicated balance between the fantasy of their past lives and the harsh reality of the present.

*Directed by Leland Palmer*

*Produced by Leland Palmer and Eduardo Vasconcelos*

### **Hollywood's Finest**

Three mothers fight to create a family: McKenzie, a young woman in recovery who became pregnant while living in a tent; Cat, her nomadic mom; and Leslie, the social worker with her own history of addiction, housing insecurity, and losing children to foster care.

*Directed by Claire Hannah Collins*

*Produced by Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein and Claire Hannah Collins*

### **How To Power A City**

A diverse cast of designers, activists, elected officials, and business leaders create solar and wind projects—overcoming technology gaps, political impasses, and natural disasters along the way and giving new meaning to “energy independence.”

*Directed by Melanie La Rosa*

*Produced by Melanie La Rosa*

### **I of the Water: The Unwritten Life of Sia Figiel**

After a painful event pushes her into self-exile, acclaimed Samoan writer Sia Figiel begins to make sense of her complicated past and the impact of childhood trauma.

*Directed by Kimberlee Bassford*

*Produced by Kimberlee Bassford and Marilyn McFadyen*

### **Jose and Derek**

An exploration of community, memory, and image making, Jose and Derek interweaves 25 years of footage to tell the intergenerational story of a Philadelphia boxing gym and the mother-daughter pair behind the camera.

*Directed by Keira Sultan*

*Produced by Arielle Knight*

### **Kings of Tort: The People v. Profits**

A court-side seat into the high stakes, big money consumer case 'game' where the top trial attorneys go head to head with the largest corporations in the world when profits are placed over the interest of people.

*Directed by Jack Lofton and Jeff Dailey*

*Produced by Jack Lofton*

### **Laying The Last Track**

*Laying The Last Track* is the overlooked story of the Chinese railroad workers who built the Transcontinental Railroad, as told by their descendants and the Asian American activists like Corky Lee who are rectifying history so their legacy is remembered.

*Directed by Shelley Cheung Claudon*

*Produced by Kira Simon-Kennedy*

### **Life + Life**

An incarcerated musician struggles for healing and peace as he comes of age in this documentary-musical odyssey composed behind bars.

*Directed by Contessa Gayles*

*Produced by Contessa Gayles and Richie Reseda*

### **Little Sallie Walker**

As Black women from across the generations navigate a less than idyllic American landscape, they contemplate if the childhood play that once served as their lifeline is magical enough to liberate and heal them now.

*Directed by Marta Effinger-Crichlow*

*Produced by Marta Effinger-Crichlow and Princess A. Hairston*

### **Making La Grande Boucherie**

*Making La Grande Boucherie* follows the ambitious architectural resurrection of Manhattan's 6 ½ avenue into an authentic 1920s-era French brasserie, during what would come to be known as one of the hardest times in history for the restaurant industry.

*Directed by Ben Digiacomio*

*Produced by Amy Hillock*

### **The Meme Economy (WT)**

A character-driven documentary exploring the high-stakes world of meme stocks through the eyes of young investors looking for their lucky break, *The Meme Economy* is a thrilling saga of hope, fear, and greed that's transforming our financial future.

*Directed by Chris Temple and Zach Ingrasci*

*Produced by Jenna Kelly and Carrie Weprin*

### **Mexican Dream**

Malena tied her tubes after an abusive relationship and fled to Mexico City to become a domestic worker. Now she wants another baby, and a new home. Does she have a shot at a second chance?

*Directed by Laura Plancarte*

*Produced by Iván Trujillo and Laura Plancarte*

### **MKO: Waiting for Mr. President**

Did the United States of America murder Nigeria's president elect through Ambassador Susan Rice and senior American diplomats, or was he assassinated by the Nigerian dictators?

*Directed by Ose Oyamendan*

*Produced by Veronique Bernard*

### **Patterns**

When a debilitating illness threatens the life of the filmmaker and her daughter, her journey leads her into hidden realms, revealing patterns in her family and nature, teaching her how to heal and live in this epoch of environmental destruction.

*Directed by Nicole Betancourt*

*Produced by Nicole Betancourt*

### **Phoolan**

What do you get when you combine Mahatma Gandhi, Che Guevara, Al Capone, and a 5-foot, illiterate, low-caste Indian girl? Phoolan Devi.

*Directed by Hossein Martin Fazeli and Gillian Greenfeld*

*Produced by Jack Silberman*

### **Queen of New York (WT)**

As NYC turns apocalyptic, two first-time candidates—an activist drag queen and a tenants' rights lawyer—compete for a New York City Council seat, racing to prove who can do the most good for their community.

*Directed by Emma Fidel*

*Produced by Gigi Dement and Robert Profusek*

### **Rocky Flats**

Tens of thousands of tons of nuclear weapons sit in the American landscape. *Rocky Flats* is the story of one community's fight to uncover the truth about the toxic legacy of the Cold War in their backyards.

*Directed by Nancy Wolfe*

*Produced by Rabia Sultana*

### **Roleplay**

An urgent coming of age story, *Roleplay* follows a diverse group of college students confront rampant sexual violence on their campus, creating an immersive play out of their real-life experiences.

*Directed by Katie Mathews*

*Produced by Darcy McKinnon and Jenny Mercein*

### **Sacrifice**

A Spanish monk is expelled from his monastery when he contracts TB. He returns home and for the next 60 years, with no help or prior architectural expertise, he dedicates his life to God by building a gigantic cathedral.

*Directed by Denis Dobrovoda and Matthew Bremner*

*Produced by Matthew Bremner*

### **School District**

Filmed fly-on-the-wall throughout the COVID-ridden 2020-2021 academic year, *School District* plunges into Connecticut's Stamford Public Schools observing what it takes to run an education system ... under the most extreme circumstances.

*Directed by Leigh Morfoot and Jason Morfoot*

*Produced by Leigh Morfoot*

### **Siouxsie & the Virus**

A pink-haired scientist becomes a rockstar in the pandemic but discovers along the way that breaking the rules and being yourself is a dangerous formula.

*Directed by Gwen Isaac*

*Produced by Alex Reed and Phillida Perry*

### **Skin of Glass**

A journey to reckon with Brazil's harsh inequality begins when the filmmaker discovers her father's architectural masterpiece is occupied by homeless people.

*Directed by Denise Zmekhol*

*Produced by Denise Zmekhol and Amir Soltani*

### **Slumlord Millionaire**

In some of the most quickly gentrifying neighborhoods in NYC, a small group of residents, activists and nonprofit attorneys fight corrupt landlords for the basic human right to a home.

*Directed by Ellen Martinez and Steph Ching*

*Produced by Ellen Martinez and Steph Ching*

### **So Help You God**

Over a period of 17 years, Ashley York—a filmmaker and journalist—examines a case involving six teenagers she went to high school with in rural Kentucky who are serving life in prison.

*Directed by Ashley York*

*Produced by John Fee and Susana Ruiz*

### **Sound of Ice**

When the annual Ice music festival in Norway melts down a third time because of climate change, famous ice musician Terje Isungset decides to go on a quest to build ice instruments from the most endangered glaciers in the world.

*Directed by Tommy Gulliksen*

*Produced by Thomas Robsahm and Renée Mlodyszewski*

### **Stonebreakers**

Filmed in a year of uprisings for racial and social justice, *Stonebreakers* is a documentary about the fight over monuments in the United States, the meaning of memorialization and how history can inflame present-day political action.

*Directed by Valerio Ciriaci*

*Produced by Isaak Liptzin and Curtis John*

### **The Beauty of Blackness**

In 1973, Eunice Johnson, the founder of *Ebony* and *Jet*, launched the first national cosmetics brand created exclusively for Black women. This film chronicles Fashion Fair's storied past, and follows its new leadership in real time as they reinvent the brand amidst our present social upheaval and intensified competition.

*Directed by Tiffany Johnson and Kiana Moore*

*Produced by Josh Levine and Mark Book*

### **The Entomologists (WT)**

A young filmmaker from southern China captures her family's decades-long ambitions to raise worms as a sustainable food source in an intimately personal film about family and the interconnections between humans and insects in a rapidly changing society.

*Directed by Jiayu Yang*

*Produced by Kira Simon-Kennedy and Shahong Lee*

### **The Petitioner**

A Chinese dissident takes her decade-long petition for land reparation from Beijing to Washington, DC while seeking asylum in the US, but instead is charged with a criminal case “United States of America v. Chunyan Wang.”

*Directed by Yi Chen*

*Produced by Yi Chen*

### **The Star of Hope**

When Robert Indiana died, the art legend’s “LOVE” was the best-known work in the history of American art—but he left behind a bitter legal battle over his estate and a small town divided over painful questions about his past.

*Directed by Jason Mann*

*Produced by Dallas Brennan Rexer and Lindsay Mann*

### **Traces of Home**

Through intertwining journeys with filmmaker Colette Ghunim's parents to find the ancestral homes they were forced to flee as children in Mexico and Palestine, Colette confronts the effects of intergenerational trauma on her family in suburban America.

*Directed by Colette Ghunim*

*Produced by Capella Fahoome*

### **Walk By Me**

*Walk By Me* follows evangelical artist Gabi P, twenty-five years after her gender transition was chronicled in Lisa Leeman’s groundbreaking film *Metamorphosis* (Sundance/POV 1990.) As Gabi, newly sober, slowly rebuilds her life, Leeman unexpectedly finds herself pulled into the story.

*Directed by Lisa Leeman*

*Produced by Lisa Leeman and Karen Hori*

### **We Build The Block (WT)**

Brooklyn is the epicenter for innovative alternatives to policing; Dana Rachlin momentarily pivots from her activism to help plan her best friend’s memorial service.

*Directed by Tristan Nash*

*Produced by Johnny Gaffney and Peter Reinstein*

### **Woman on the Outside**

A young woman creates a transportation service to keep Philadelphia families connected to incarcerated loved ones. But when her father and brother are released from prison, she confronts the ultimate question: can she reunite her own family?

Directed by Zara Katz and Lisa Riordan Seville

Produced by Kiara C. Jones, Zara Katz and Lisa Riordan Seville

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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 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:

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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).

**Press is invited to apply for accreditation to DOC NYC 2021. Accreditation grants press access to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal, and to attend in-person pre-festival press screenings. Contact: [publicity@norget.com](mailto:publicity@norget.com)**

**ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:**

Downloadable images and press notes for individual films, as well as the festival poster, can be found [here](#).

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