



**DOC NYC, IN THEATERS AND ONLINE NOVEMBER 9 – 27,
ANNOUNCES FIRST FOUR TITLES, INCLUDING US PREMIERE OF
STEPHANIE JOHNES’S “MAYA AND THE WAVE” AS
OPENING NIGHT FILM**

**THREE REMARKABLE WORLD PREMIERES
SET FOR CLOSING NIGHT AND CENTERPIECE PRESENTATIONS
WITH MAXIM POZDOROVKIN’S “THE CONSPIRACY,”
BARBARA KOPPLE’S “GUMBO COALITION”
AND DAWN PORTER’S “CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WITHOUT A NET”**

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NEW YORK, Sept. 29, 2022 - DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival — running in-person November 9 – 17 and continuing online through November 27 — announced the first four titles of its 13th edition, including the US Premiere of *Maya and the Wave* as its Opening Night Film. Directed by Stephanie Johnes, the film will screen at SVA Theatre on Wednesday, November 9. Three films making their World Premieres, all currently seeking U.S. distribution, were also announced for the festival’s Closing Night and Centerpiece Presentations.

DOC NYC’S Opening Night presentation, *Maya and the Wave*, profiles Brazilian athlete Maya Gabeira as she overcomes a brush with death to make history in the male-dominated world of big wave surfing. The screening will be followed by a conversation on stage with Johnes and Gabeira. *Maya and the Wave* is produced by Johnes and co-producer Jorge Leal, and has worldwide distribution rights available.

“We are elated to open DOC NYC with Stephanie Johnes’s inspiring testament to self-empowerment and boundary-breaking, in a visually spectacular arena,” said DOC NYC Artistic Director Jaie Laplante.

This year’s in-person DOC NYC event will close with the World Premiere of *The Conspiracy* from Maxim Pozdorovkin (*Our New President, Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer*), an animated documentary that traces almost 250 years of insidious anti-Semitic ideology by following the fates of three Jewish family dynasties. The film is produced by Allison Stern, Caroline Hirsch, Joe Bender, and Dan Cogan, and features voice-over artists Liev Schreiber, Jason Alexander, Lake Bell, Ben Shenkman, Mayim Bialik and many others. *The Conspiracy* will screen at SVA

Theatre on Thursday, November 17. The screening will be followed by an on-stage Q&A with the filmmakers.

The first of the festival's two Centerpiece presentations will be the World Premiere of two-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker (and DOC NYC 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient) Barbara Kopple's *Gumbo Coalition*. The film follows two contemporary civil rights leaders, Marc Morial and Janet Murguía, as they work to empower African American and Latino American communities to achieve a more just and equitable country, while weathering the challenges of a global pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the 2020 presidential election. Produced by Kopple, David Cassidy, Williams Cole and Ray Nowosielski, *Gumbo Coalition* will be presented on Saturday, November 12 at SVA Theatre. The screening will be followed by an on-stage conversation with Kopple, Morial and Murguía and other members of the film team.

Also screening as a festival Centerpiece presentation is *Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net*, playing Sunday, November 13 at SVA Theatre. Director Dawn Porter (*John Lewis: Good Trouble* and a 2016 DOC NYC Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence recipient) received unprecedented behind-the-scenes access to the world's greatest circus as it worked toward re-opening its flagship Las Vegas production "O" following more than a year of pandemic shutdown. Porter captures the uncertainty that both performers and crew members face as they strive to return to their world-class standards in time for the (re)opening night curtain. The film is produced by Porter, Eli Holzman, Aaron Saidman, Mark Burnett and Barry Poznick. Performers from Cirque du Soleil will be on-hand and a Q&A with the filmmakers will take place after the screening.

The 2022 DOC NYC festival will take place both in person and online starting on Wednesday, November 9, with in-person screenings and events held at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinépolis Chelsea through Thursday, November 17. The festival's online offerings will continue through Sunday, November 27. The complete lineup of more than 110 documentary features and 100 short films will be announced in the second week of October.

An **All Film Pass**, offering access to DOC NYC's full lineup of in-person and online screenings, can be purchased for \$995 (\$699 early bird discount available through October 12) at www.docnyc.net. In addition to screenings, All Film Passholders get complimentary access to the NBC News Studio Lounge at Cinépolis Chelsea, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours. Individual screening tickets, including tickets for Opening Night, Closing Night and Centerpiece screenings, will go on sale when the festival's full lineup is announced in mid-October. An Online Film Pass, good for all the festival's online screenings, will also be available in mid-October.

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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.

Film images: <https://2022.docnyc.net/FeaturedFilms>

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