



**DOC NYC VISIONARIES TRIBUTE TO HONOR
WERNER HERZOG, GERALYN WHITE DREYFOUS,
ONDI TIMONER AND SONYA CHILDRESS ON NOVEMBER 9**

DOC NYC FESTIVAL TAKES PLACE IN PERSON AND ONLINE NOVEMBER 9-27

New York, September 22, 2022 - 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 9. **Lifetime Achievement** honors will be presented to Impact Partners co-founder **Geralyn White Dreyfous** and filmmaker **Werner Herzog**. The **Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence** will go to **Ondi Timoner** (*Last Flight Home*) and the **Leading Light Award** will go to **Sonya Childress**, co-director of *Color Congress*.

DOC NYC's 2022 festival will take place both in person and online. The in-person screenings, panels and events will take place November 9-17 in New York at the festival's traditional venues: IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Cinopolis Chelsea. The festival's online presentations will extend through November 27, with online screenings available to viewers across the US.

"This year's four honorees embody the word 'Visionaries' in multiple ways," said DOC NYC co-founder and Director of Special Projects Thom Powers who oversees the event. "Werner Herzog has an unparalleled body of nonfiction films spanning more than five decades. Geralyn White Dreyfous has been a trailblazer in supporting filmmakers to get their projects financed. Ondi Timoner has an exemplary track record in observational filmmaking. And Sonya Childress has played a key leadership role in pushing for greater equity and transparency in the documentary field."

This year's Visionaries Tribute will return to Gotham Hall as an in-person private luncheon and ceremony.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors individuals with a substantial body of documentary film work. Past recipients are Joan Churchill, Raoul Peck, Sam Pollard, Jean Tsien, Martin Scorsese, Michael Apted, 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 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award goes to:

Geralyn White Dreyfous has over 180 credits as a producer and executive producer of documentary films. Those credits include *Born Into Brothels*; *The Invisible War*; *16 Shots*; *The Hunting Ground*; *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*; *The Great Hack*; *Us Kids*; *The Truffle Hunters*; *Mija*; *Aftershock*; and *The Grab*. She stands as Founder and Board Chair of Utah Film Center, Co-Founder of Impact Partners, and a founding member of Gamechanger Films. She spent an early part of her career at the Philanthropic Initiative in Boston and taught Documentary and Narrative writing with Dr. Robert Coles at Harvard University.

Werner Herzog was born in Munich on September 5, 1942. He grew up in a remote mountain village in Bavaria and studied History and German Literature in Munich and Pittsburgh. He made his first film in 1961 at the age of 19. Since then he has produced, written, and directed more than sixty feature- and documentary films including *Lessons in Darkness*; *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*; *My Best Fiend*; *Grizzly Man*; and *Encounters at the End of the World*. His film *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* was the opening night film of the first DOC NYC festival in 2010. His most recent documentaries are *Theater of Thought* and *The Fire Within*.

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 Peter Nicks, 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 2022 Robert and Anne Drew Award goes to:

Ondi Timoner has the rare distinction of winning the U.S. Grand Jury Prize at Sundance twice — for *Dig!* (2004), about the collision of art and commerce through the eyes of two rival rock bands, and *We Live in Public* (2009), about the loss of privacy online through a NY social experiment. Her other films include *Join Us*, about mind control; *Cool It*, about climate change; *Brand: A Second Coming*, about the transformation of comedian/author/activist Russell Brand; the 10-hour series *Jungletown*, about an intentional community in remote Panama; and *Coming Clean*, about the opioid crisis. Her latest film, *Last Flight Home*, documents her father's final days.

Jill Drew, the general manager of Drew Associates, who established this award at DOC NYC, said, "Ondi Timoner made a brave and beautiful film in *Last Flight Home*. The camera never wavers, though my heart certainly did, as her father, Eli Timoner, confronts his impending death. By turns unsparing and raw, then tender and surprising, the film masterfully uses *cinéma vérité*. This is what love is, I thought as I watched it."

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 Chi-hui Yang, Yvonne Welbon, Cynthia Lopez, Tabitha Jackson, Cara Mertes, Molly Thompson, Tom Quinn, and Dan Cogan.

The 2022 Leading Light Award goes to:

Sonya Childress is a cultural strategist who believes in the transformative power of film. She co-directs the Color Congress, an ecosystem-builder that resources, supports, and connects organizations led by people of color that serve nonfiction filmmakers, leaders, and audiences of color across the US and territories, with Sahar Driver. As Senior Fellow with the Perspective Fund, she supported projects that moved the documentary field towards equity and transparency. She spent two decades leading impact campaigns and distribution strategies at Active Voice, California Newsreel and Firelight Media, where she piloted a fellowship for impact producers of color. She is a board member of the Center for Cultural Power, a member of the Documentary Accountability Working Group, a working group member for 'The Lens Reflected' study, and was a 2015 Rockwood JustFilms Fellow.

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://2022.docnyc.net/VisionariesTributeAssets>

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