



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES MAIN SLATE LINEUP
FOR FOURTEENTH EDITION, NOVEMBER 8-26, 2023**

**FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THEATERS IN NYC
AND CONTINUES TO SCREEN ONLINE NATIONWIDE;
SLATE INCLUDES 30 WORLD PREMIERES AND 26 US PREMIERES,
AMONG MORE THAN 200 FILMS AND EVENTS**

The Contestant Opens Festival,
South to Black Power Closes Event,
Uncropped Screens as Centerpiece

Includes New Work by Veteran Filmmakers Wim Wenders, Sam Pollard, Penny Lane, Dawn Porter, Karim Amer, Tamara Kotevska, Fernando Trueba, Ramin Bahrani, Chris Wilcha, D.W. Young, Kim Longinotto, Everado Gonzalez, Rebecca Cammisa, Geeta Gandbhir, Amy Nicholson, Jeff Zimbalist

NEW YORK, Oct. 12, 2023 – **DOC NYC**, America’s largest documentary festival — running in-person November 8-16 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Village East by Angelika and continuing online through November 26 — announced its main slate lineup today. The 2023 festival presents more than 105 feature-length documentaries (including yet-to-be-announced Short List and Winner’s Circle titles) among over 200 films and dozens of events, with filmmakers expected in person at most screenings.

Opening the festival on Nov. 8 at SVA Theater will be **Clair Titley’s** jaw-dropping ***The Contestant***, a breakout hit from the recent Toronto International Film Festival where it was described as “one hell of a wild ride” (*Rolling Stone*). The truly stranger-than-fiction story of the earliest days of “reality TV” in the 1990s features an aspiring Japanese comedian trapped alone and naked in an apartment for 15 months, unaware that his participation in a twisted reality show is being broadcast weekly to millions of viewers and has transformed him into a TV superstar.

Closing the festival on Nov. 16, also at SVA Theater, will be **Sam Pollard** and **Llewellyn Smith’s** ***South to Black Power***, about *New York Times* columnist **Charles M. Blow** and his provocative writings. The festival’s Centerpiece screening on Nov. 11 at IFC Center is the World premiere of **D.W. Young’s** ***Uncropped***, a look back at the arts zeitgeist of 1970s and ‘80s NYC through the lens (and memories) of *Village Voice* and *Observer* photographer **James Hamilton**.

Included are **30 World Premieres** and **26 U.S. premieres**, with 20 films in the **U.S. Competition**, for new American-produced nonfiction films, and the **International Competition**, for work from around the globe, making their **U.S.** (or greater) premieres. The **Kaleidoscope Competition** for new essayistic and formally adventurous documentaries continues into its third year, while the festival's long-standing **Metropolis Competition**, showcasing New York stories and personalities, also returns. In addition, the festival includes thematically organized sections that spotlight new films on music, sports, activism, and more.

"We are beyond proud to be celebrating the international documentary community's incredible work this year," said the festival's artistic director **Jaie Laplante**. "These films reveal new insights into our interior lives and the world around us in complex, engaging and often prescient ways."

The **Special Presentations** section of the festival opens with legendary filmmaker Wim Wenders in person presenting a 3D screening of **Anselm**, his breathtaking portrait of acclaimed German artist Anselm Kiefer.

Among films making their world premieres, several are complex profiles of pivotal figures, including **June**, a new examination of the life and talents of June Carter Cash; **The Cowboy and the Queen**, the unusual story of Queen Elizabeth II's friendship with a California horse trainer; **Yours in Freedom, Bill Baird**, about a civilian male ally for women's reproductive rights that argued in the U.S. Supreme Court three times on the issue; **Candace Parker: Unapologetic**, the story of the WNBA superstar; **Ashima**, about Ashima Shirashi, the Japanese-American rock climber who set world records in her teens; **Shari & Lamb Chop**, a biography of pioneering children's television performer Shari Lewis; **The Trials of Alan Dershowitz**, about the famously controversial defense attorney; **How to Come Alive... with Norman Mailer**, a new examination of the American literary icon; and **David Holmes: The Boy Who Lived**, about the Harry Potter stunt double whose life took an unexpected turn when an on-set accident made him a quadriplegic.

The festival's popular **Sonic Cinema** section of music documentaries includes world premieres of **Pretty Ugly – The Story of the Lunachicks**, about the 1990s NYC punk band; and **Garland Jeffreys: The King of In Between**, a look at the career of the multi-talented biracial New York singer-songwriter.

World premieres that explore topical issues include **No One Asked You**, about a stand-up comedian's approach to fighting foes of women's reproductive freedom; **The Cost of Inheritance**, a detailed examination of reparations; **36 Seconds: Portrait of a Hate Crime**, a study of the 2015 Chapel Hill slaying of three Muslim students; and **Shaken**, about young parents torn apart by medical misdiagnosis of infant trauma.

Other significant premieres include the International premiere of **Someone Lives Here**, a study of an unusual citizen contribution to Toronto's unhoused problem; and the U.S. premieres of **Flipside**, Chris Wilcha's Gen X existentially comic look at career introspection; **Total Trust**, a look at Chinese surveillance techniques on human rights lawyers and independent journalists; and the North American premiere of **Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano**, about the production of a feature film in Beirut while Lebanon teeters on the edge of economic collapse.

Short-form content continues to be represented in the festival's **Shorts Competition** (104 films), and **DOC NYC U** (ten films representing student work from eight NYC schools).

More news, including the features and shorts named to the festival's **Short List** sections for the year's leading awards contenders, the **Winner's Circle** showcase of international festival laureates, DOC NYC's competition jury members, and other festival updates will be announced in the coming days.

Returning this year is the #MyJustice Film Award from Odyssey Impact® that, with the generous support of Paramount and its initiative Content for Change Academy, will present a \$10,000 cash prize and an Odyssey Impact® led, six-month National Impact Campaign to one eligible submitted short film that has a social justice theme and a strong call to action.

A new partner this year is Subject Matter, which will award a \$15,000 grant to support one social issue documentary's marketing and impact campaigns, alongside a \$15,000 grant to a nonprofit working on the issue featured in the film.

Three senior feature programmers oversee specific sections: **Ruth Somalo** on Kaleidoscope, **Karen McMullen** on Metropolis and Sonic Cinema, and **Brandon Harrison** on Game Face Cinema. They also selected other titles in the festival alongside feature programmers **Bedatri D. Choudhury** and **Murtada Elfadl**. **Samah Ali** is the festival's senior shorts programmer, working with programmers **DeWitt Davis** and **Anita Raswant**.

The following is a breakdown of programming by section (for screening details visit www.docnyc.net):

SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Night

THE CONTESTANT (New York Premiere)

Director: Clair Titley

Producers: Andee Ryder, Megumi Inman, Ian Bonhote

In the earliest days of "reality TV" in the 1990s, an aspiring Japanese comedian found himself trapped alone and naked in an apartment for 15 months, unaware that his participation in a twisted reality show was being broadcast weekly to millions of viewers, transforming him into a TV superstar.

Closing Night

SOUTH TO BLACK POWER (World Premiere)

Directors: Sam Pollard, Llewellyn Smith

Producers: Sam Pollard, Kelly Thomson, R.J. Cutler, Elise Pearlstein

New York Times columnist Charles Blow calls for a "reverse Great Migration" of African Americans from the North back to the South to reclaim the land and culture they left behind, while building political representation. (HBO Documentary Films)

Centerpiece Screening

UNCROPPED (World Premiere)

Director: D.W. Young

Producer: Judith Mizrachy

A portrait of longtime *Village Voice* photographer James Hamilton, whose work during the heyday of alternative print journalism brilliantly captured some of the most remarkable people and stories of the past half century.

Special Presentations

ANSELM (NYC Premiere)

Director: Wim Wenders

Producer: Karsten Brünig

Legendary filmmaker Wim Wenders creates a breathtaking 3D portrait of German artist Anselm Kiefer, one of the most innovative and important painters and sculptors of our time. (Sideshow/Janus Films)

DAVID HOLMES: THE BOY WHO LIVED (World Premiere)

Director: Dan Hartley

Producers: Simon Chinn, Jonathan Chinn, Vanessa Davies, Amy Stares

After an accident leaves him a quadriplegic, a stuntman finds new meaning in life with the support of family, friends, and his beloved colleagues from the Harry Potter films. (HBO Documentary Films)

DEFIANT (NYC Premiere)

Director: Karim Amer

Producers: Mike Lerner, Odessa Rae, Leen Karadsheh, Oleksiy Makukhin, Jake Swantko

Behind the scenes with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and other key figures in the administration who are fighting to save their country against Russia's invasion.

FLIPSIDE (US Premiere)

Director: Chris Wilcha

Producers: Joe Beshenkovsky, Michelle Currinder, Alex Fisch, Adam Samuel Goldman, James A. Smith, Chris Wilcha

The existential Gen-X movie that we didn't know we wanted, as Chris Wilcha reflects on opportunities lost and gained through a career in film.

JUNE (World Premiere)

Director: Kristen Vaurio

Producers: Sarah Olson, Mary Robertson, Jason Owen, Josh Matas, Kristen Vaurio

June Carter Cash is revealed as the complex woman and outstanding artist she was.

PATRIA Y VIDA: THE POWER OF MUSIC (New York Premiere)

Director: Beatriz Luengo

Producers: Michael Fux, Gloria Rubin

Cuban hip-hop musicians living in exile record a protest song calling for freedom of speech and an end to the repression of artists in Cuba—a single that becomes a worldwide anthem.

U.S. COMPETITION

36 SECONDS: PORTRAIT OF A HATE CRIME (World Premiere)

Director: Tarek Albaba

Producers: Sean Dash, Omar Altalib, Ahlam Muhtaseb

A family's and a community's journeys through grief and justice following the gruesome murder of three young Muslims in Charleston, N.C.

THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN (World Premiere)

Director: Andrea Nevins

Producer: Andrea Nevins

A California rodeo cowboy trains horses through nontraditional methods. When he attracts the royal friendship of Queen Elizabeth II, the pair begin to change the world – and not just for horses.

HAPPY CAMPERS (World Premiere)

Director: Amy Nicholson

Producer: Amy Nicholson

Annual visitors to a seaside trailer park wistfully eke out the joys of one last summer together as a melancholic twilight hangs in the air.

HOW TO COME ALIVE... WITH NORMAN MAILER (World Premiere)

Director: Jeff Zimbalist

Producers: Jeff Zimbalist, Vicki Marquette

A controversial public intellectual with a tumultuous personal life, Norman Mailer sits in the pantheon of the greatest authors of the 20th century.

MEDIHA (World Premiere)

Director: Hasan Oswald

Producers: Hasan Oswald, Annelise Mecca, Fahrinisa Campana, Alexander Spiess, Stephen Nemeth

In this uniquely collaborative film, a Yazidi teen once held captive by ISIS turns the lens on herself and takes us into her world of grief, pain, and hope.

OBSESSED WITH LIGHT (North American Premiere)

Directors: Sabine Krayenbühl, Zeva Oelbaum

Producers: Sabine Krayenbühl, Zeva Oelbaum

A visually entrancing portrait of influential dancer Loïe Fuller that captures her unique artistic achievement.

THE RIOT REPORT (World Premiere)

Director: Michelle Ferrari

Producers: Connie Honeycutt, Michelle Ferrari

What happens when a government-appointed group goes rogue and speaks truth to power? The story of the Kerner Commission and the racist policies it exposed. (PBS-American Experience)

SHAKEN (World Premiere)

Director: Asher Levinthal

Producers: Asher Levinthal, Kellen Quinn

Following their baby's flawed medical diagnosis, a young couple battles to stay together, weathering an unthinkable injustice.

TAKING VENICE (North American Premiere)

Director: Ami Wallach

Producers: Andrea Miller, Tal Mandil, Vanessa Bergonzoli

A fun caper movie that explores the true story behind the rumors that the U.S. government rigged the 1964 Venice Biennale so that their chosen artist, Robert Rauschenberg, could win the Grand Prize.

TOMORROW, TOMORROW, TOMORROW (World Premiere)

Director: Martina Radwan

Producers: Martina Radwan, Ruchi Mital, Alice Henty

When a determined, idealistic, and thoroughly unprepared American cinematographer decides to support three Mongolian orphans, emotional and ethical challenges ensue.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

AL DJANAT - THE ORIGINAL PARADISE (US Premiere)

Director: Chloé Aïcha Boro

Producers: Frédéric Féraud, Aïcha Boro, Faissol Gnonlonfin

A family's dispute over which laws to follow in a conflict over their patriarch's estate reveals the tensions between tradition and law in the post-colonial African nation of Burkina Faso.

THE CARAVAN (US Premiere)

Directors: Núria Clavero, Aitor Palacios

Producers: Aitor Palacios, Núria Clavero, Laura Collado

A portrait of one family's perilous trek from Honduras illustrates the multitude of issues facing migrants at the border with Mexico.

DALTON'S DREAM (North American Premiere)

Directors: Kim Longinotto, Franky Murray Brown

Producer: Lorine Plagnol

After winning a British competition, Jamaican singer Dalton Harris discovers that a fickle music industry and a toxic past can derail his dreams. His battles with anxiety and homophobia offer a poignant reflection on resilience and self-acceptance.

DANCING ON THE EDGE OF A VOLCANO (North American Premiere)

Director: Cyril Aris

Producers: Katharina Weser, Myriam Sassine

After an explosion in the port of Beirut destroys a large part of the city, a crew of filmmakers decides to continue to shoot their film in a life-affirming effort of resistance.

THE DMITRIEV AFFAIR (US Premiere)

Director: Jessica Gorter

Producer: Frank van den Engel

Yuri Dmitriev, the “archaeologist of terror,” dedicated his life to unearthing the brutal violence the Russian state would rather keep a secret.

THE HOME GAME (US Premiere)

Directors: Smari Gunn, Logi Sigursveinsson

Producers: Stephanie Thorpe, Heather Millard, Elfar Adalsteins, Freyja Kristinsdottir

An endearing team of underdogs, including a mother of three, register in the prestigious Icelandic Men's FA soccer cup, putting into motion a sequence of events that produces an unlikely female hero.

LE SPECTRE DE BOKO HARAM (US Premiere)

Director: Cyrielle Raingou

Producers: Véronique Holley, Dieudonné Alaka

A group of children in the village of Kolofata, Cameroon, attend school while the threat of the terrorist group Boko Haram looms.

NEIRUD (International Premiere)

Director: Fernanda Roth Faya

Producers: Fernanda Faya, Rica Saito, Michael Wahrmann

An investigation into the fascinating and colorful life of the titular Brazilian wrestler and circus performer.

SOMEONE LIVES HERE (International Premiere)

Director: Zachary Russell

Producers: Matt King, Andrew Ferguson, Zack Russell

During the winter of the pandemic, Khaleel takes it upon himself to use his professional carpentry skills to build tiny shelters for Toronto's unhoused population, gaining media attention and support – until city officials push back.

TOTAL TRUST (US Premiere)

Director: Jialing Zhang

Producers: Michael Grotenhoff, Saskia Kress, Jialing Zhang

An examination of the extent of surveillance in China, used to persecute human rights attorneys and independent journalists. (Film Movement)

METROPOLIS COMPETITION

NEW YORK STORIES

ASHIMA (World Premiere)

Director: Kenji Tsukamoto

Producers: Kenji Tsukamoto, Minji Chang, Roy Choi, Dave Boyle

With her father's coaching support, wunderkind sport climber Ashima Shirashi attempts to conquer South Africa's toughest ascent.

CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN (NYC Premiere)

Director: Penny Lane

Producer: Gabriel Sedgwick

A filmmaker's decision to give one of her kidneys to a stranger launches her on a provocative, intimate, and unexpectedly funny quest to understand the nature of altruism.

DIVERSITY PLAZA (World Premiere)

Director: Kesang Tseten

Producer: Sienna R. Craig

A richly observed vérité look at the community and culture built by Himalayan immigrants in and around the Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens, New York.

HOLDING BACK THE TIDE (World Premiere)

Director: Emily Packer

Producers: Emily Packer, Trey Tetreault, Ben Still, Josh Margolis, Liz Beeson

A quirky, lyrical love letter to oysters in NYC, this engaging documentary plumbs the history of the bivalves, their pollution-fueled decline, and their inspiring revival, finding poetry and charm in an unlikely subject.

LUCHA: A WRESTLING TALE (World Premiere)

Director: Marco Ricci

Producer: Marco Ricci

Seeking to vanquish opponents and personal struggles alike, four young women from the Bronx develop the inner and outer strength to succeed on the high school wrestling team.

NATHAN-ISM (NYC Premiere)

Director: Elan Golod

Producers: Melanie Vi Levy, Elan Golod

Assigned to guard Nazi war criminals as a young Jewish soldier in WWII, 90-year-old Nathan spends his days in his New York City apartment channeling his memories into captivating cartoon art, aka "Nathan-isms."

PSYCHEDELICIZED: THE ELECTRIC CIRCUS STORY (World Premiere)

Director: Larry Confino

Producer: Larry Confino

In a psychedelic swirl of hippies, Hell's Angels, circus performers, and good vibes, '60s club kids partied hard at the Electric Circus, a drug-fueled, multicultural dance club in NYC's East Village.

SCOOTER LAFORGE: A LIFE OF ART (World Premiere)

Director: Ethan Minsker

Producer: Ethan Minsker

Enter the playfully subversive world of artist Scooter LaForge. Influenced by Basquiat, Pollack, and Saturday morning cartoons, and intent on creating art that is fun, he has commanded a place for himself in NYC's seemingly impenetrable art world.

KALEIDOSCOPE COMPETITION

NEW DOCUMENTARY VISIONS

GRASSHOPPER REPUBLIC (NYC Premiere)

Director: Daniel McCabe

Producers: Daniel McCabe, Alyse Ardell Spiegel, Michele Sibiloni, Otto Bell

Following a group of grasshopper trappers in Uganda, this immersive and transcendent film explores capitalism and sustainability while meditating on the way humans engage with the natural world.

MEGAHEARTZ (North American Premiere)

Director: Emily Norling

Producer: Melissa Lindgren

Parallel stories of four young friends in Stockholm struggling with love, drugs, desire, art and mental illness seem to pose the question: Is there love without madness?

THE WALK (World Premiere)

Director: Tamara Kotevska

Producers: Harri Grace, Orlando von Einsiedel, David Lan, Tracey Seaward

Amal, a charming, gigantic puppet who represents millions of migrant and displaced children, walks from Turkey all the way across Europe in a journey of compassion and discovery.
(Participant Media)

A WOLFPACK CALLED ERNESTO (US Premiere)

Director: Everardo González

Producers: Roberto Garza, Inna Payán, Jean-Christophe Simon

An immersive film that follows a group of teenage Mexico City gangsters who collectively call themselves “Ernesto.”

ZINZINDURRUNKARRATZ (New York Premiere)

Director: Oskar Alegria

Producer: Oskar Alegria

Accompanied by an adorable donkey, Oskar Alegría retraces the steps of his grandfather during transhumance using his father’s Super-8 camera to collect a trove of memories from a disappearing world.

AMERICAN STORIES

STATES OF BEING IN THE UNION

BETWEEN LIFE & DEATH (New York Premiere)

Director: Nick Capote

Producers: Kimberley Ferdinando, Melissa Leardi

Who gets to decide if we live or how we die? Looking at the “right to die” debate and remembering the woman whose life-or-death injury started it all. (MSNBC Films)

CATERPILLAR (New York Premiere)

Director: Liza Mandelup

Producers: Jay Van Hoy, Matthew Cherchio, Liza Mandelup

A fascinating portrait of one man's determination to change the color of his eyes with plastic surgery.

A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE (New York Premiere)

Directors: Jeremy Coon, Steve Kozak

Producers: Jeremy Coon, Steve Kozak, Kyle Newman

In 1978, the year after *Star Wars* became an indelible cultural phenomenon, the campy "Star Wars Holiday Special" aired on television to the chagrin of George Lucas and the delight of die-hard *Star Wars* fans.

NAKED AMBITION: BUNNY YEAGER (World Premiere)

Directors: Dennis Scholl, Kareem Tabsch

Producers: Konstantia Kontaxis, Dennis Scholl, Kareem Tabsch

Bunny Yeager was a trailblazing model, designer, and photographer who popularized the bikini, invented the selfie, discovered Bettie Page, and introduced feminist agency in her sexy portraits of the '50s.

ONE WITH THE WHALE (New York Premiere)

Directors: Peter Chelkowski, Jim Wickens

Producers: Aakapak Apassingok, Nalu Apassingok, Peter Chelkowski, M. Watanabe Milmore, Yaarie Toolie-Walker, Jim Wickens

A family living on Alaska's remote St. Lawrence Island struggles to rebuild their shattered identities and find a way to live with Indigenous values in a world with little understanding of the nuances of their traditions.

TIME BOMB Y2K (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Marley McDonald, Brian Becker

Producer: Brian Becker

A time capsule of 1999 that captures the unprecedented frenzy of Y2K just as the internet begins to transform the world. (HBO Documentary Films)

UNBROKEN (NYC Premiere)

Director: Beth Lane

Producers: Doug Prochilo, Mai Amalie Bak

The remarkable story of the seven Weber siblings, who evaded capture and certain death in Nazi Germany following their mother's murder at Auschwitz.

UNSEEN (NYC Premiere)

Director: Set Hernandez

Producers: Set Hernandez, Félix Endara, Day Al-Mohamed

Pedro, a legally blind, undocumented immigrant, dreams of earning a degree in social work to provide for his family and offer healing to his community. (PBS-American Experience)

FIGHT THE POWER

STORIES OF ACTIVISM

THE COST OF INHERITANCE (World Premiere)

Director: Yoruba Richen

Producers: Mehret Mandefro, Lacey Schwartz Delgado

In this exploration of reparations, those with family histories steeped in slavery are placed at the center of the debate with an opportunity to act.

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? (NYC Premiere)

Director: Ella Glendining

Producer: Janine Marmot

While navigating daily discrimination, a filmmaker who inhabits and loves her unusual body explores what it takes to love oneself fiercely despite the pervasiveness of ableism.

NO ONE ASKED YOU (World Premiere)

Director: Ruth Leitman

Producers: Rachel Rozycki, Andrea Raby

Daily Show co-creator Lizz Winstead brings us on the road with her merry band of activists and comedians as they crisscross the U.S. to support abortion clinics and providers.

RAINBOW WARRIOR (North American Premiere)

Director: Edward McGurn

Producers: Sophie Daniel, Edward McGurn, Eva Gunz, Chris Dallas-Feeney, Katie Buchanan, Chris Dallas-Feeney

This documentary uncovers a tangled tale of nuclear weapons and geopolitical coverups when a brave group of activists took action against impending environmental collapse.

THREE PROMISES (New York Premiere)

Director: Yousef Srouji

Producer: Marielle Olentine

A son and his mother unearth a box of her videotapes of life in the West Bank in the early 2000s, confronting the pain of losing the land they called home.

WE ARE FIRE! (DRAW FOR CHANGE) (International Premiere)

Director: Karen Vázquez Guadarrama

Producer: Hanne Phlypo

Mar's feminist illustrations support her community in dealing with the emotional trauma left behind by the staggering number of femicides in Mexico.

YOURS IN FREEDOM, BILL BAIRD (World Premiere)

Director: Rebecca Cammisa

Producers: Walter Köhler, Sarah Nörenberg

The story of the pioneering activist who crusaded for reproductive freedom.

GAME FACE CINEMA

THE DRAMA OF SPORT

CANDACE PARKER: UNAPOLOGETIC (World Premiere)

Director: Joe Brewster

Producers: Giselle Rodriguez, Julie Lilleby, Paige Bethmann, Carolyn Hepburn

WNBA superstar Candace Parker chronicles her life and career from the courts of suburban Chicago to basketball immortality. (ESPN Films)

INTO THE SHAOLIN (New York Premiere)

Director: Hongyun Sun

Producer: Can Luo

The temptations of the outside world loom as Shaolin monks tour the globe with majestic Kung Fu performances.

JESSZILLA (NYC Premiere)

Director: Emily Sheskin

Producer: Ben Kainz

Fifteen-year-old boxer Jesselyn Silva is on the cusp of making the Olympic team when she and her father, Pedro, are faced with their greatest opponent yet: cancer.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (World Premiere)

Directors: Ken Rodgers, Courtland Bragg

Producers: Courtland Bragg, Nick Mascolo, Ken Rodgers, Chip Swain, Kobi Theiler

Told through never-before-seen footage from an interview filmed just before his death, NFL Hall of Famer and ordained minister Reggie White holds forth on faith in the context of his life and career. (ESPN Films)

RIDERS ON THE STORM (New York Premiere)

Directors: Jason Motlagh, Mark Oltmanns

Producers: Jason Motlagh, Mark Oltmanns

During a pivotal moment in Afghan history, a champion *buzkashi* rider must make the most important decision of his life.

RIGHT TO FIGHT (International Premiere)

Director: Georgina Cammalleri

Producers: Cassie Thornton, Tim Wardle

The extraordinary untold story of how a pioneering group of American women, from very different backgrounds, fought to break into the most macho sport of all: boxing.

UNSYNCABLE (International Premiere)

Director: Megan Wennberg

Producer: Erin Oakes

Ranging in age from a sprightly 60 to 90-plus, seniors of various backgrounds find renewed vitality through competitive synchronized swimming.

INVESTIGATIONS

EXPOSING THE TRUTH

BULL RUN (International Premiere)

Director: Ana Ramón Rubio

Producer: Juanjo Moscardó Rius

A first-person comedy about the director's experience with cryptocurrency, the obsession of trading in a rising market, and how to finance a film with digital coins.

EAT BITTER (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Pascale Appora-Gnekindy, Ningyi Sun

Producer: Mathieu Faure

By telling the story of two men of different backgrounds, this film portrays the impact of globalization on individual lives.

HOW TO HAVE AN AMERICAN BABY (New York Premiere)

Director: Leslie Tai

Producers: Leslie Tai, Jillian Schultz

An investigation into the veiled but booming economy catering to pregnant Chinese tourists who travel to the U.S. to obtain citizenship for their babies. (PBS-American Experience)

POLISH PRAYERS (North American Premiere)

Director: Hanna Nobis

Producer: Esther van Messel

A young Polish man grows up in a deeply religious and radical right-wing family in contemporary Poland. Catholicism, nationalism, and especially celibacy define his existence, but at the same time, he is curious about the world, and mostly, about the women in it.

SEARCHING FOR NIKA (North American Premiere)

Director: Stanislav Kapralov

Producers: Yan Fisher, Taras Stadnikov, Roger Corbi

In a heroic attempt to find his missing dog, a filmmaker goes back to Ukraine and joins volunteers on a mission to rescue animals left behind during Russia's brutal attacks.

WHO I AM NOT (New York Premiere)

Director: Tunde Skovran

Producer: Andrei Zinca

Born male and female within a single body, a beauty queen and a male-presenting activist break the intersex taboo in a personal and intimate exploration of truth, faith, and belonging.

PORTRAITS

PROFILES OF SINGULAR INDIVIDUALS

BYE BYE TIBERIAS (New York Premiere)

Director: Lina Soualem

Producer: Jean-Marie Nizan

A portrait of Palestinian actor Hiam Abbas that encompasses the political and cultural issues of her lifetime.

THE LADY BIRD DIARIES (New York Premiere)

Director: Dawn Porter

Producers: Dawn Porter, Kim Reynolds

A groundbreaking all-archival documentary film about Lady Bird Johnson, one of the most influential and least understood First Ladies. (Hulu)

LIV ULLMANN - A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED (North American Premiere)

Director: Dheeraj Akolkar

Producers: Hege Christensen, Kaare Hersoug

A delightful portrait of Liv Ullman brimming with intimate memories and profound reflections on her hopes, fears, grief, dreams pursued, rejections, and lessons learned.

MERCHANT IVORY (World Premiere)

Director: Stephen Soucy

Producers: Jon Hart, Stephen Soucy

A definitive presentation and tribute to the Merchant Ivory partnership, anchored by interviews with James Ivory and forty-one Merchant Ivory close collaborators detailing and celebrating their experiences of being a part of the “wandering company” helmed by legendary producer Ismail Merchant. (Cohen Media Group)

SHARI & LAMB CHOP (World Premiere)

Director: Lisa D'Apolito

Producers: Cassidy Hartmann, Nicholas Ferrall, Morris Ruskin, Douglas Warner, Lisa D'Apolito

The life and career of Shari Lewis, a multitalented ventriloquist who, along with her puppet friend Lamb Chop, charmed millions and changed the face of children's television.

THE TRIALS OF ALAN DERSHOWITZ (World Premiere)

Director: John Curtin

Producer: John Curtin

A fresh perspective on the provocative and controversial criminal defense attorney Alan Dershowitz, known for representing some of America's most notorious clients.

SONIC CINEMA

MOVIES ABOUT MUSIC

FANNY: THE OTHER MENDELSSOHN (New York Premiere)

Director: Sheila Hayman

Producer: Sheila Hayman

Born in 1800's Berlin, composer Fanny Mendelssohn's remarkable talents were eclipsed by her brother Felix. Unearthed by feminist scholars, her inspiring musical legacy gives overdue credit to the brilliant musician.

FAMOUDOU KONATE - THE KING OF DJEMBE (US Premiere)

Director: André Piruka

Producer: André Piruka

African drumming traditions may be fading, but for renowned Guinean percussionist Famoudou Konate, the djembe drum is life—and this vibrant documentary pays tribute to his rich legacy.

GARLAND JEFFREYS: THE KING OF IN BETWEEN (World Premiere)

Director: Claire Jeffreys

Producers: Claire Jeffreys, Evan M. Johnson

Explore the remarkable journey of Garland Jeffreys, a mixed-race Brooklyn native whose unconventional music defied industry norms. This documentary reveals his underappreciated talent through interviews with famous fans, and sheds light on his extraordinary life and artistry.

PAUL MULDOON: LAOITHE'S LIRIC/A LIFE IN LYRICS (New York Premiere)

Director: Alan Gilsean

Producer: Stephen Douds

One man uses his poetry and songs to share his life's journey.

PLAY WITH THE DEVIL - BECOMING ZEAL & ARDOR (North American Premiere)

Directors: Olivier Joliat, Matthias Willi

Producer: Frank Matter

In documenting the global tour of "Black Death Metal" band Zeal & Ardor, who merge American Negro work songs and heavy metal to spotlight societal ills, this insightful documentary explores lead singer Manuel Gagneux's complicated relationship to fame and authority while providing head-banging thrills.

PRETTY UGLY - THE STORY OF THE LUNACHICKS (World Premiere)

Director: Ilya Chaiken

Producer: Ilya Chaiken

In the '90s, the Lunachicks, a fierce all-female punk band, rocked NYC's underground scene, rebelling against music industry sexism to deliver high-voltage performances.

THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Fernando Trueba, Javier Mariscal

Producer: Cristina Huete

Animated with gorgeous hand-drawn lines and vivid colors, this documentary explores the origin story of bossa nova, the universally beloved Brazilian music movement. (Sony Pictures Classics)

VOICES OF CANADA

A showcase of the Canadian titles that are represented throughout the festival's sections.

Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada in New York.

Feature Films:

EAT BITTER

SOMEONE LIVES HERE

THE TRIALS OF ALAN DERSHOWITZ

UNSYNCABLE

WHO AM I NOT

Short Films:

A Bear Named Jesus

Boat People

Grape Soda in the Parking Lot

Radio Bingo

Two One Two

Zug Island

SHORTS PROGRAMS

There are 104 shorts participating in the juried Shorts Competition, in the following 20 programs:

SHORTS: ANIMAL FARM

These docs feature the dynamic relationships between humans and entertaining, sentient, magnificent animals.

Frank and His Dogs (Dir/Prod: Owen Markham)

Happy (Dir/Prod: Laura Rindlisbacher)

Not Wasting My Time (Dir-/Prod: Derek Howard)

Visible Mending (Dir: Samantha Moore/Prod: Tilley Bancroft)

Willie's Wings (Dirs: Alberto Vignati, Reina Daniels/Prod: Andrea Italia)

You Can't Shrink Love (Dir/Prod: Veena Rao)

SHORTS: ARTSCAPES

A glimpse into the artistic process behind brilliant creators across disciplines.

Forbidden Pond (Dir/Prod: Eric Jenkins-Sahlin)

Love, Jamie (Dir: Karla Murthy/Prod: Andrew Fredericks)

The Promise of Spring (Dir: Anna Andersen/Prod: Katie Rose Vaughan)

Whitney Houston in Focus (Dir/Prod: Benjamin Alfonsi/Prod: Audra McDonald)

SHORTS: CARETAKERS

A selection of tenderhearted films taking care of memories, heirlooms, and family members.

Behind the Mask (Dir/Prod: Håvard Bustnes)

Caretaker (Dir/Prod: Verónica Rose Wood)

The Echo of Her Voice (Dir/Prod: Rodrigo Guzmán Espíndola/Prods: Daniela Contreras, Nicolas Défossé)

The Medallion (Dir: Ruth Hunduma/Prods: Lily Usher, Tolu Stedford)

My Cure and Me (Dir/Prod: Alan Bradley)

SHORTS: CHANGING TIDES

This program captures the shifting currents when we have a change of heart and forge a new outlook on life.

The Cities I Live In (Dir: Rabie Mustapha/Prod: Michael Hewitt)

I See You (Dir: Adam Weingrod/Prod: Kobi Mizrahi)

Looking Forward (Dir/Prod: Steven Ascher/Prod: Jeanne Jordan)

Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped in Black) (Dirs: Matthew Thorne, Derik Lynch/Prods: Matthew Thorne, Patrick Graham)

When a Rocket Sits on the Launch Pad (Dir/Prod: Bohao Liu/Prod: Gene Gallerano)

Whiteness at Work (Dir: Peter Nelson/Prod: Evan Weselmann)

SHORTS: COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The outcomes of war go beyond the physical as these short documentaries capture the implications of modern warfare.

Between Me and the Sea (Dir/Prod: Mohsin Mohi-Ud Din/Prod: Rafe Scobey-Thal)

Boat People (Dirs: Thao Lam, Kjell Boersma/Prods: Justine Pimlott, Jelena Popović)

Dictionary of Emotions in a Time of War (Dir/Prod: Leah Loftin)

Enemy Alien (Dir: Gabriel Murphy/Prod: Andrew McMartin)

Stones (Dir: Arman Ayvazyan/Prod: Vardan Hovhannisyan)
The Syrian Cosmonaut (Dir: Charles Emir Richards/Prod: Enis Ozkul)

SHORTS: COMMUNITY

Whether by nature or necessity, we find solace and support in our communities.

74 Messages Sent & Received (Dir/Prod: Danya Abt)
Addresses (Dirs: María Luisa Santos, Carlo Nasisse/Prod: Natalia Quesada)
Empress Nicole the Great (Dir/Prod: Dara Bratt)
Everything's Fine, Potatoes in Line (Dir: Piotr Jasiński/Prod: Ondřej Šejnoha)
If Dreams Were Lightning (Dir/Prod: Ramin Bahrani/Prods: Pamela Ryan, Jason Orans, Ramin Bahrani)
Radio Bingo (Dir/Prod: Shelby Adams)

SHORTS: FAMILY MATTERS

Shorts about families we are born into, and those we choose.

A Bear Named Jesus (Dir: Terril Calder/Prods: Christa Couture, Michelle St. John)
Buttons and Dumplings (Dirs: Calvin Sang, Mei Ling Lee/Prod: Mei Ling Lee)
Grape Soda in the Parking Lot (Dirs: Megan Kyak-Monteith, Taqralik Partridge/Prod: Christa Couture, Michelle St. John)
MnM (Dir: Twiggy Pucci Garçon/Prods: Colleen Cassingham, Jess Devaney)
Parker (Dirs: Sharon Liese, Catherine Hoffman/Prods: Sharon Liese, Funmi Ogunro, Samantha Hake)
Trenton: To the Moon & Back (Dir/Prod: Josh Leong/Prods: Sam Gollob, Will Nelson, Sofia Bara)

SHORTS: HIDDEN HISTORIES

The backstories of under-recognized people and stories.

Black Godfather of Scuba (Dir: Matt Kay/Prod: Andrew Carver)
Jack & Sam (Dir/Prod: Jordan Matthew Horowitz/Prod: Andrew Carlberg)
Taking Back the Groove (Dir/Prod: Celia Aniskovich/Prod: Roddy Lindsay)
Tracing History (Dir: Jalena Keane-Lee/Prod: Reaa Puri)

SHORTS: INSIDE AND OUT

Honest vignettes of the prison industrial complex.

Breaking Silence (Dirs: Amy Bench, Annie Silverstein/Prods: Amy Bench, Monique Walton)
The Bus (Dir: Sandra Reina/Prods: Valérie Delpierre, Jaume Fargas Coll)
Ike Brown (Dir: Caleb Clowe/Prod: Matthew Veeder)
Rocko (Dirs: Emma Bergman, James Jones/Prod: Emma Bergman)
Tito (Dirs: Kervens Jimenez, Taylor McIntosh/Prods: Corbin J. Stone, Jean Roody St. Vilien, Taylor McIntosh)

SHORTS: LOVE LETTERS

Stories all about love.

And Then I Was Here (Dir/Prod: Alex Stergiou)
Blue Dots (Dir/Prod: Lorenzo Squarcia/Prods: Manuel Grieco, Simone Spampinato)
Freedom Waders: The Struggle to Integrate Chicago's Rainbow Beach (Dir/Prod: Alex S. Hinton)

Pigeons Mate for Life (Dir/Prod: Tabitha Yong)

Ted & Noel (Dir: Julia Alcamo/Prods: Dan Hodgson, Mary Pattisson)

Tidal (Dir: Katrina Lillian Sorrentino/Prods: Bryn Silverman, John Condne, Alexandra Liveris)

SHORTS: THE MEANING OF WORK

This collection of shorts unpack capitalism through the process of labor.

Chronicle of a Summer Day (Dir: Bronzeville Collective/Prods: Mike David Thomas, Kira Helm, Erica Duffy, Andrew Skalak, Kevin Cagnoletti)

Dust to Light (Dir/Prod: Erika Houle)

Fitting (Dir: Caitlin McMullan/Prod: Marissa Keating)

Fleshwork (Dir/Prod: Lydia Cornett)

The Last Carnival (Dirs/Prods: Tucker Morrison, Samuel Ott, Anthony Wilson/Prod: David Brown)

Rambo (Dirs: Matthias Joulaud, Lucien Roux/Prods: Lionel Baier, Nicolas Wadimoff)

SHORTS: MUSICAL MEDLEYS

A loaded program for lovers of instruments, musicians, and music!

Do You See Me? (Dir: Camille Gottscheck/Prod: Ailed Cazares)

Last Song From Kabul (Dir: Kevin Macdonald/Prod: Lawrence Elman)

The Orchestra Chuck Built (Dir/Prod: Christopher Stoudt/Prods: Ryan Suffern, Maryann Garger, Bob Logan, Ains Prasad)

SHORTS: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Our beloved city through the eyes of many.

The Fish Doctor (a doc about the fish doc) (Dirs/Prods: Adam Levin, Riley Patterson)

Friendly Fridges (Dir/Prod: Ilja Willems)

Kingdome (Dir/Prod: Shawn Antoine II)

Rite of Passage (Dir/Prod: Talha Jalal)

Through Sunless Ways (Dirs/Prods: Kira Dane, Katelyn Rebelo/Prods: Andrea Yu Chieh Chung, Gretta Wilson)

SHORTS: OUR CLIMATE / OUR CRISIS

The inventive solutions and devastating realities of our climate crisis on film.

Conceiving Our Future (Dir/Prod: Annie Pancak Vogt)

Frozen Harvest (Dir: Mark Fleming/Prod: Lone Spruce Creative)

I am the Nature (Dir: Taliesin Black-Brown/Prods: Ramiro Vargas Chumpí Washikiat, Helena Sardinha, Rafael Thomaseto)

Mountain Man (Dir/Prod: Arun Bhattarai)

School of Fish (Dirs/Prods: Oliver Sutro, Colin Arisman)

The Shelmecca Serpent (Dir: Laura Bermúdez/Prod: Luis Flores Alvarenga)

When the Grass Must Go (Dir: Ilja Willems/Prod: Bert Janssens)

SHORTS: THE PEOPLE VS.

Stories that command attention about those who fight for a better future for all.

Banned Book Club (Dir: Sinead Keirans/Prod: Em Shapiro, Mary-Elizabeth Esquibel)

How We Get Free (Dirs: Geeta Gandbhir, Samantha Knowles/Prods: Kathleen Lingo, Sweta Vohra, Jess Devaney)

The Menstruation Station (Dir/Prod: Miguel Luis/Prod: Nicole Olwagen)
Sanctuary (Dirs/Prods: John Haley, Julia Szromba)
Suddenly TV (Dir/Prod: Roopa Gogineni)

SHORTS: PHYSICAL PURSUITS

Athletic feats and strong bonds build this program of films on sport from across the globe.

Gloves Without Ring (Dir/Prod: Karen Sotolongo Menendez)
Kemonito: The Final Fall (Dir/Prod: Teresa de Miguel)
Outside Line (Dir/Prod: Jack Gordon)
Queen of the Sea (Dir: Kate Cox/Prod: Danielle Wright, Emory Ruegg)
The Ugandan Quidditch Movement (Dir: Ben Garfield/Prod: Kristina Budelis)

SHORTS: PROFILES

Portraits and profiles of unique individuals with filmmaking to match.

Denial (Dir/Prod: Paul Moakley/Dir: Daniel Lombroso)
Echo (Dirs: Ben Wolin, Michael Minahan/Prods: Michael Yuchen Lei, Melissa Fajardo)
Funny Not Funny (Dirs/Prods: Marc D'Agostino, Ben Feldman)
House of Tulip (Dir: Cydney Tucker/Prod: Zaferhan Yumru)
Pitch Black (Dir/Prod: Guillym Davenport)

SHORTS: SHE STORIES

Women share their stories from in front of, and behind, the camera.

A Home on Every Floor (Dir/Prod: Signe Rosenlund-Hauglid)
Bear (Dir: Morgane Frund/Prod: Volko Kamensky)
Daughter of the Sea (Dirs: Nicole Gormley, Nancy Kwon/Prods: Min Chul Shin, Sooyoung Kim, Nicole Gormley)
The Only Girl in the Orchestra (Dir/Prod: Molly O'Brien/Prod: Lisa Remington)

SHORTS: VANTAGE POINT

Films taking a different perspective or way of viewing the world.

Incident (Dir/Prod: Bill Morrison/Prod: Jamie Kalven)
Landline (Dir/Prod: Samuel Wright Smith)
Of Dreams in the Dream of Another Mirror (Dir: Yunyi Zhu/Prod: Eric Prigent)
There's Not Much We Can Do (Dir: Erica Monde/Prod: Clara Harris)
Two One Two (Dir/Prod: Shira Avni)
Zug Island (Dir/Prod: Nicolas Lachapelle/Prod: Guillaume Collin)

SHORTS: THE WISE ONES

A lovely program dedicated to our wise, wonderful elders.

Bubjan (Dir/Prod: Nicholas Mihm/Prod: Lisa Rudin)
Nǎi Nai & Wài Pó (Grandma & Grandma) (Dir/Prod: Sean Wang/Prods: Sam Davis, Malcolm Pullinger)
The Queen Vs Texas (Dir/Prod: Emil Lozada/Dir: Raemonn James)
The Silent Witness (Dirs/Prods: George Kunhardt, Teddy Kunhardt/Prods: Aleks Gezentsvey, Matthew Henderson)

DOC NYC U COMPETITION

DOC NYC U features 10 short documentaries from students across the five boroughs. Restyled as a competition for the first time this year, these two programs showcase finalists from Brooklyn College, Columbia University, Hunter College, The New School, New York Film Academy, New York University, Pratt Institute, and the School of Visual Arts.

DOC NYC U: PORTRAITS

Student documentaries that profile unique individuals and the lives they lead.

Allies Welcome (Dirs/Prods: Tavleen Tarrant, Shakeeb Asrar, Columbia University)

I Told You So (Dir/Prod: Malak AlSayyad/Prods: Amann Stewart, Loren Townsley, Columbia University)

Just Story Hour (Dir/Prod: Lu Yao, School of Visual Arts)

Second Act (Dir/Prod: Britney Bautista, New York University)

Slice of Goodness (Dir/Prod: Usman Chohan, Brooklyn College)

DOC NYC U: REBIRTH

Student documentaries that document the metamorphosis when things start anew.

A Good Death (Dirs/Prods: Boya Sun, Jean Chapiro, Columbia University)

It Smells Like Springtime (Dir/Prod: Mackie Mallison, Pratt Institute)

Land (Dir/Prod: Satoko Saito, Hunter College)

More Than Brothers (Dir/Prod: Andrea von Siebenthal, New York Film Academy)

Through a Glass Eye (Dir/Prod: Lola Granger-Jourdan, The New School)

SPONSORS

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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, contact Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen at raphaela@docnyc.net.

TICKETS AND PASSES:

Festival tickets and passes may be purchased at docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes.

In-person Screenings:

Opening (*The Contestant*), **Centerpiece** (*Uncropped*) and **Closing Night** (*South to Black Power*) **screenings:** \$30 General Public/\$25 IFC Center Members

Other festival films: \$20 General Admission/\$18 Seniors & Children/\$16 IFC Center Members, unless otherwise noted.

All screenings in the Short List: Features, Short List: Shorts, and DOC NYC U sections, as well as all Monday-Friday screenings starting before 5:00pm: \$13 General Admission/\$10 IFC Center members

Online screenings:

\$13 General Public/\$9 IFC Center Members

Passes and Ticket Packs:

All Film Pass \$995

Grants access to every film screening during the live, in-person festival November 8-16, plus films on the festival's virtual screening platform November 8-26. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours.

Online Film Pass \$250

Grants access to all the films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 8-26.

Online Shorts Pass \$49

Grants access to all short films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 8-26. On sale November 1.

Ten-Ticket Package for In-Person Screenings \$170

A package of 10 festival tickets for regular in-person screenings at a discounted price.

Five-Ticket Package for Online Screenings \$50

Ten-Ticket Package for Online Screenings \$90

A package of 5 or 10 online tickets at a special discount price.

DOC NYC PRO Day Pass \$125

Grants access to a single DOC NYC PRO day-long programming track, plus complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge for that day, including the day's Breakfast and Happy Hour.

DOC NYC PRO Multi-Day Packs:

4-Day Pack \$450

8-Day Pack \$850

Grants access to a selection of any 4 or all 8 DOC NYC PRO programming tracks and events for (1) individual from November 9-16. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge for days selected, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours.

Press is invited to apply for accreditation to DOC NYC 2023. Accreditation grants press access to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal. Contact: publicity@norget.com

ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:

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

MEDIA CONTACT:

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