



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES 2023 SHORT LISTS FOR FEATURES AND SHORTS,
WINNER'S CIRCLE SELECTIONS AND NEW SECTION, COME AS YOU ARE**

**SHORT LISTS REVEAL FEATURES AND SHORTS THAT
ARE THE YEAR'S LEADING AWARDS CONTENDERS**

**IN-PERSON FESTIVAL SCREENINGS OF ALL FILMS NOV. 8-16
IN NEW YORK CITY, WITH SELECT TITLES
CONTINUING ONLINE THROUGH NOV. 26**

NEW YORK, October 17, 2023 - **DOC NYC**, America's largest documentary festival, completed the announcement of its full lineup today by unveiling titles in the remaining four sections of its 14th Edition — **Short List: Features**, **Short List: Shorts**, **Winner's Circle** and a new section for 2023, **Come As You Are**. All films will have theatrical screenings at the festival, often with the directors in person.

With these new announcements, DOC NYC will present a total of 114 features and 129 short films in its 14th edition, including 33 world premieres and 29 U.S. premieres. The festival runs in-person November 8-16 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Village East by Angelika and continues online through November 26 with films available to viewers across the U.S.

The Short Lists sections showcase a selection of nonfiction features and shorts that the festival's programming team considers to be among the year's strongest contenders for Oscars and other awards, while Winner's Circle is a reminder of films already feted at major international film events that are worthy of additional consideration. The festival's new Come As You Are section highlights films about people striving to find their place in the world, or in their communities.

See below for the complete slates for each section.

SHORT LIST: FEATURES

The DOC NYC Short List for documentary features was launched in 2012 and has a long history of being a predictor of other awards—from critics' prizes and top-ten lists to the Oscars. Notable statistics:

- For 10 of the last 11 years, DOC NYC has screened the documentary feature that went on to win the Academy Award.
- The festival has also screened 49 of the last 55 Oscar-nominated documentary features.

- In 2022, DOC NYC screened 12 of 15 titles that were named to the subsequent Academy Award Documentary Feature Shortlist.

DOC NYC's Short List: Features selection process is overseen by Artistic Director Jaie Laplante and Director of Special Projects Thom Powers. For the fifth year, the Short List: Features will vie for juried awards in four categories: Directing, Producing, Cinematography, and Editing, with the addition of a new category in 2023 for Original Score. Last year's winners were *Descendant* (Directing), *Retrograde* (Producing), *Fire of Love* (Editing), and *All That Breathes* (Cinematography).

This year's selections for **Short List: Features** are:

20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL

Director: Mstyslav Chernov

Producers: Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson Rath, Derl McCrudden

An AP team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggles to continue its work documenting atrocities of the Russian invasion. (PBS Distribution/Frontline)

AMERICAN SYMPHONY (NYC Premiere)

Director: Matthew Heineman

Producers: Matthew Heineman, Lauren Domino, Joedan Okun

While undertaking his most ambitious project to date, musician Jon Batiste and his life partner Suleika Jaouad cope with the discovery that her cancer has returned after a decade in remission. (Netflix)

BOBI WINE: THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT

Directors: Moses Bwayo, Christopher Sharp

Producers: Christopher Sharp, John Battsek

Bobi Wine, a popular Afrobeats musician, directs his charisma to politics as he runs for office as Uganda's presidential opposition candidate, challenging longtime leader Yoweri Museveni. (National Geographic Documentary Films)

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERE HITE (NYC Premiere)

Director: Nicole Newnham

Producers: Nicole Newnham, Molly O'Brien, R.J. Cutler, Elise Pearlstein, Kimberley Ferdinando, Trevor Smith

Feminist sexologist Shere Hite, who helped change public perception toward female sexuality in the 1970s and '80s, mysteriously fell from prominence over time. This film explores why we don't know more about her groundbreaking work. (IFC Films)

THE ETERNAL MEMORY

Director: Maite Alberdi

Producers: Maite Alberdi, Juan de Dios Larraín, Pablo Larraín, Rocío Jadue

A wise and compassionate look at an elderly couple's challenges, revealing their profoundly moving love and their commitment to individual and collective remembrance, in the face of life's tempests. (MTV Documentary Films)

EVERY BODY

Director: Julie Cohen

Producers: Molly O'Brien, Tommy Nguyen

Capturing a new generation of intersex people who are living loudly and proudly, this film covers the history, science, and politics of a movement advocating against medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children. (Focus Features)

FOUR DAUGHTERS

Director: Kaouther Ben Hania

Producer: Nadim Cheikhrouha

Filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania takes a novel approach to telling the story of the Tunisian mother Olfa Hamrouni, who spoke out about her grief when two of her four daughters ran away to join the Islamic State in Libya. (Kino Lorber)

GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT

Directors: Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson

Producers: Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson, Tommy Oliver

Nikki Giovanni is a trailblazing poet who rose to be a key figure in the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and remains just as vibrant today. (HBO Documentary Films)

LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES

Directors: Jesse Shortbull, Laura Tomaselli

Producers: Benjamin Hedin, Phil Pinto

The Lakota tribe's new generations continue to stand against the U.S. government's historic failures to honor past treaties and their traditional sacred land. (IFC Films)

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

Director: Lisa Cortés

Producers: Robert Friedman, Lisa Cortés, Liz Yale Marsh, Caryn Capotosto

The Black queer origins of rock 'n' roll are revealed as the whitewashed canon of American pop music is exploded to reveal the innovator – the originator – Little Richard. (Magnolia Pictures)

THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES (U.S. Premiere)

Director / Producer: Asme El Moudir

On a handmade set recreating her Casablanca neighborhood, Moroccan filmmaker Asmae El Moudir enlists family and friends to help solve the troubling mysteries of her childhood.

THE PIGEON TUNNEL

Director: Errol Morris

Producers: Errol Morris, Dominic Crossley-Holland, Steven Hathaway, Simon Cornwell, Stephen Cornwell

Oscar-winning filmmaker Errol Morris interviews David Cornwell aka John Le Carré, keeping the visuals as lively as the conversation, creating his own cinematic imaginings of Cornwell's history along with clips from famous film and TV adaptations of Le Carré's thrillers. (Apple TV+)

SILVER DOLLAR ROAD

Director: Raoul Peck

Producers: Raoul Peck, Rémi Grellety, Blair Foster, Hébert Peck

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Raoul Peck focuses on the case of the Reels family in North Carolina to chronicle the way real estate developers work in blatant and subtle ways to divest

Black families from inherited property. (Amazon Studios)

STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING

Director: Roger Ross Williams

Producers: Alisa Payne, Roger Ross Williams, David Teague

Oscar-winning filmmaker Roger Ross Williams takes inspiration from author Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's work exploring the history of anti-Black racist ideas and their impact on the United States, examining those themes with an array of powerful film techniques. (Netflix)

WHILE WE WATCHED

Director: Vinay Shukla

Producers: Vinay Shukla, Khushboo Ranka, Luke Moody

Filmmaker Vinay Shukla gives shape to the melancholy and fear the daily news brings into our screens and lives, in India and all over the world. (BritDocs/POV)

SHORT LIST: SHORTS

The Short List: Shorts showcase of 15 titles is now in its sixth year at DOC NYC. The selection process is overseen by Artistic Director Jaie Laplante, Director of Special Projects Thom Powers, and Senior Programmer, Shorts, Samah Ali. Last year the showcase included the World Premiere of *The Elephant Whisperers*, which went on to win the Oscar. For the fifth year, a DOC NYC jury will select one of the films in the section for a Directing Award. Last year's winner was *As Far as They Can Run*.

This year's selections for **Short List: Shorts** are:

AMERICAN SANTA

Director: Avi Zev Weider

Producers: Avi Zev Weider, Alexandra Berger

This haunting documentary zooms in on Black Santas and the gravity of their work during the holiday season. (The New Yorker)

AYENDA

Director: Marie Margolius

Producer: Marie Margolius, Connor Schell

Witness the true story of an Afghani girls' soccer team who relocate from their home country all in the name of the sport. (MSNBC Films)

THE BARBER OF LITTLE ROCK

Directors: John Hoffman, Christine Turner

Producers: Christina Avalos, John Hoffman, Christine Turner

The barbershop is the heart of the Black community, and in Little Rock, Arkansas, now the starting place of a new community lending program.

BETWEEN EARTH & SKY

Director: Andrew Nadkarni

Producers: Andrew Nadkarni, Swetha Regunathan, Katie Schiller

The story of one professor's career researching the rainforest canopy, where she was hurt, and where she also healed. (POV Shorts)

BLACK GIRLS PLAY: THE STORY OF HAND GAMES

Directors / Producers: Joe Brewster, Michéle Stephenson

Learn about the impactful and joyful hand games played by Black girls from generation to generation. (ESPN Films)

CAMP COURAGE

Director: Max Lowe

Producers: Marilyn Ness, Katy Chevigny

A profile of a young girl, her grandmother, and the camp that builds confidence for children going through big changes. (Netflix)

CARPENTER

Director / Producer: Xelil Sehragerd

This meditative documentary zooms in on a Kurdish carpenter as he serves his community in an unexpected way.

THE DADS

Director / Producer: Luchina Fisher

This touching short captures fathers sharing the love of their children over the course of an afternoon of fishing and dining. (Netflix)

DECIDING VOTE

Directors: Jeremy Workman, Robert Lyons

Producers: Jeremy Workman, Robert Lyons, Melissa Jacobson

The decision to legalize abortion in the state of New York came down to one person. This is his story. (The New Yorker)

HOLY COWBOYS

Director: Varun Chopra

Producers: Anna Hashmi, Varun Chopra

A dedicated group of young Hindu men are encouraged to protect cows at any cost.

THE LAST REPAIR SHOP

Directors: Ben Proudfoot, Kris Bowers

Producers: Ben Proudfoot, Kris Bowers, Jeremy Lambert, Josh Rosenberg

One warehouse in the Los Angeles area devotes its time and energy to repairing 80,000 instruments for city schoolchildren.

NINA & IRENA

Director: Daniel Lombroso

Producer: Devon Blackwell

A grandmother shares her heart wrenching story after losing her sister in the Holocaust. (The New Yorker)

PUFFLING

Director: Jessica Bishopp

Producers: Alice Hughes, Gannesh Rajah, Ada Benjamínsdóttir, Jessica Bishopp

Young women in a remote island of Iceland help disoriented baby puffins, who easily lose their bearings.

THE TAKEOVER

Director: Anders Hammer

Producers: Anders Hammer, Charlotte Cook

Witness the transition inside Afghanistan during the Taliban's government takeover. (Field of Vision)

A TATTOO ON MY BRAIN

Directors / Producers: Kate Davis, David Heilbronner

A neurologist commits himself to researching and writing about his own Alzheimer's symptoms. (MTV Documentary Films)

WINNER'S CIRCLE

The DOC NYC Winner's Circle for documentary features, introduced in 2019, highlights films that arrive at DOC NYC with significant awards pedigrees already in place. Past films shown in Winner's Circle that all went on to further acclaim include *Writing with Fire*, *The Mole Agent*, *A House Made of Splinters*, *Bad Axe*, *Midnight Family*, and *Advocate*. To qualify for inclusion in this category, films must have won a major award at a significant international or US film festival.

This year's selections for **Winner's Circle** are:

ANGEL APPLICANT (NYC Premiere)

Director: Ken August Meyer

Producers: Ken August Meyer, Jason Roark

An art director afflicted with a rare life-threatening disease turns to the life and work of a famed artist who lived nearly 100 years ago, to find solace, hope and meaning. *Winner, SXSW Grand Jury Prize, Documentary Feature Competition*

APOLONIA, APOLONIA

Director: Lea Glob

Producer: Sidsel Lønving Siersted

Over 13 years, a Danish film student and a Parisian painter weave a complex portrait of a current generation's loves, lives, and losses. *Winner, Best Feature-Length Documentary, IDFA*

BAD PRESS (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler

Producers: Conrad Beilharz, Garrett F. Baker, Tyler Graim

When the Muscogee Nation suddenly begins censoring their free press, a rogue reporter fights to expose her government's corruption in a historic battle that will have ramifications for all Native American sovereign nations. *Winner, Special Jury Award: Freedom of Expression, U.S. Documentary, Sundance Film Festival*

BEYOND UTOPIA

Director: Madeleine Gavin

Producers: Jana Edelbaum, Rachel Cohen, Sue Mi Terry, Daewon Choi, Janna Devinsky

The reality of life in one of the most repressive totalitarian countries on Earth is revealed through two intertwining suspenseful, nail-biting stories of dangerous escape attempts from North Korea. *Winner, Audience Award, U.S. Documentary, Sundance Film Festival*

(Roadside Attractions)

IN THE REARVIEW (New York Premiere)

Director: Maciek Hamela

Producers: Maciek Hamela, Piotr Grawender

When Russia escalated its war against Ukraine in 2022, Polish director Maciek Hamela bought a van and volunteered to drive Ukrainian refugees on their quest to escape, making a quietly eloquent case to keep our eyes on the road ahead. *Winner, Grand Jury Award, International Competition, Sheffield DocFest*

KOKOMO CITY

Director: D. Smith

Producers: D. Smith, Harris Doran, Bill Butler

Profiling four Black transgender sex workers, these women are raw and hilarious as they celebrate their self-realization in the face of discrimination and violence. *Winner, Next Innovator Award, Sundance Film Festival* (Magnolia Pictures)

NAME ME LAWAND

Director: Edward Lovelace

Producers: Fleur Nieddu, Sam Arnold, Beyan Taher, Neil Andres, Marisa Clifford, Edward Lovelace

The family of a five-year-old deaf boy from Iraq go to extraordinary lengths to unlock his educational potential at Royal School for the Deaf Derby in England. *Winner, Special Jury Prize, International Feature Documentary, Hot Docs*

ROJEK (U.S. Premiere)

Director: Zaynê Akyol

Producers: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre, Sylvain Corbeil, Zaynê Akyol

An attempt to understand the Muslim fundamentalist beliefs of members of the Islamic State (ISIS), as some recount the rise and fall of ISIS through their personal stories. *Winner, Special Jury Prize, Canadian Feature Documentary, Hot Docs* (Icarus Films)

Rojek is featured in DOC NYC's 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.**

SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD (NYC Premiere)

Director: Anna Hints

Producers: Marianne Ostrat

Amidst wood, wire, smoke, and sweat, a group of Estonian women find each other and themselves. *Jury Award, Directing (World Cinema Documentary), Sundance Film Festival* (Greenwich Entertainment)

SONGS OF EARTH (NYC Premiere)

Director: Margreth Olin

Producers: Margreth Olin, Lena Faye-Lund Sandvik

A stunning cinematic experience, as a lone elderly Norwegian man shares his life journey via traditional music amid spectacular vistas of glaciers, waterfalls, and fjords. *Winner, Krakow Film Festival, Recommendation to European Film Awards, Documentary*

COME AS YOU ARE

The Come As You Are section, new for 2023, highlights films about people striving to find their place in the world, or in their communities.

The selections for **Come As You Are**:

AT THE BORDER (World Premiere)

Directors: Braulio Jatar, Anaïs Michel

Producers: Braulio Jatar, Anaïs Michel, Julia Cheng

A gritty and uncompromising perspective on what has been termed a “migrant crisis.”

HEAVEN RAIN FLOWS SWEETLY (World Premiere)

Director: Shasha Li

Producers: Shasha Li, Xin Li, Julie Mallozzi

After wildfires force her to leave her home in Oregon, a young filmmaker reconnects with the rituals and the landscapes of her maternal tribe in Himalayan China.

THE KIND STRANGER (International Premiere)

Directors: Sini Hormio, Anu Silfverberg

Producer: Ari Matikainen

Unveiling the mysterious world of ASMR influencers and the hours of dedication and discipline that go into producing the content their followers crave.

THE THREE OF US (International Premiere)

Director: Henya Brodbeker

Producer: Avigail Sperber

A young ultra-Orthodox couple is torn between a community that doesn't accept their autistic son and their desire to integrate him into society.

WHO'S BEHIND BLACK ART (World Premiere)

Director: John Campbell

Producers: John Campbell, Phillip Michael Collins, Chandler Wild, Thomas E. Moore III

In this candid exploration of creative expression, five emerging African American artists reveal their inspirations, challenges, and the complexities of succeeding in the art world.

WITNESS (International Premiere)

Directors: Yasmine Mathurin, Carol Nguyen, Amar Wala

Producers: Amar Wala, Soko Negash

A story examining the personal, political, and cultural ramifications of going viral.

Witness is featured in DOC NYC's 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.**

SPONSORS

The festival is made possible by:

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Supporting Sponsors: National Geographic Documentary Films

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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](#).

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