



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES “40 UNDER 40” HONOREES,  
DOCUMENTARY NEW LEADERS,  
AND VOICES OF CANADA WORKS-IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS**

NEW YORK, October 26, 2023 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, which kicks off this year on Wednesday, November 8, announced honorees for its initiatives that recognize the people and projects that are making an impact on the field of documentary. DOC NYC’s annual **40 Under 40** list spotlights young documentary creatives and offers unique networking opportunities at the festival. The festival’s **Documentary New Leaders** program honors individuals whose efforts in distribution, sales, festivals, and marketing bring greater inclusion and equity to the field. Finally, the festival’s **Industry Roundtables / Voices of Canada** line-up provides the opportunity for six Canadian works-in-progress to receive direct feedback from industry leaders in a series of networking meetings. These projects are in addition to 12 works-in-progress projects that were previously announced as part of the **Industry Roundtables / Live Pitch** event that will be presented as onstage pitches as part of DOC NYC PRO, a series of panels and events that runs concurrently with the festival and supports filmmakers in advancing their careers.

“DOC NYC’s philosophy of celebrating and supporting documentary work once again extends beyond the films of the year to elevate artists and professionals with career achievements that are making a marked impact on our industry,” said DOC NYC Artistic Director Jaie Laplante. “We’re also excited to highlight for NYC’s documentary industry members a number of unfolding projects that are especially promising and worthy of note.”

DOC NYC’s 14th edition takes place in theaters in New York and online November 8-16, 2023, with online screenings continuing through November 26. The full lineup of films and events, along with tickets and festival passes, are available at [docnyc.net](http://docnyc.net).

**Documentary New Leaders** is co-presented by A&E IndieFilms. **Industry Roundtables / Voices of Canada** is co-presented by Consulate General of Canada in New York and Telefilm Canada.

## **40 UNDER 40**

Now in its sixth year, the **40 Under 40** list shines a spotlight on emerging documentary talent. Past honorees who are returning to the festival with new works in 2023 include Brian Becker (*Time Bomb Y2K*), Caitlin Mae Burke (*Shaken*), Daniel Chávez-Ontiveros (*unseen*), Jessica Devaney (*How We Get Free*), Cassidy Hartmann (*Shari & Lamb Chop*), Ruchi Mital (*Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow*), Jenni Morello (*No One Asked You*), Avantika Nimbalker (*No One Asked You*), Clair Popkin (*American Symphony*), Kellen Quinn (*Shaken*), Trevor Smith (*South to Black Power* and *The Disappearance of Shere Hite*), Kareem Tabsch (*Naked Ambition: Bunny Yeager*), Christine Turner (*The Barber of Little Rock*), and Shuling Yong (*How We Get Free*).

The 40 Under 40 selection process begins with an open call for applications from filmmakers based in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In addition to directors, the list encompasses talent working in producing, editing, cinematography, and other creative roles. The 2023 class will be honored during the November festival at a private cocktail reception.

### **DOC NYC Class of 2023 “40 Under 40” honorees:**

**Rebecca Adorno Davila**  
**Zaynê Akyol**  
**Tarek Albaba**  
**Rachel Beth Anderson**  
**Isidore Bethel**  
**Nira Burstein**  
**Vanessa Carr**  
**Gian Cassini**  
**Jude Chehab**  
**Sophie Compton**  
**Rachael Dyer**  
**Abby Ellis**  
**Brenton Gieser**  
**Yoni Golijov**  
**Adrián Gutiérrez**  
**Camilla Hall**  
**Frances Henderson**  
**Alma Herrera-Pazmiño**  
**Naimah Jabali-Nash**  
**Alexis Johnson**  
**Ephraim Kirkwood**  
**Samantha Knowles**  
**Max Lowe**  
**Zac Manuel**  
**Evan Mascagni**  
**Jonna McKone**

**Hasan Oswald**  
**Joe Peeler**  
**Alex Pritz**  
**Jean Rheem**  
**Jillian Schlesinger**  
**Alex Schmider**  
**Alyse Shorland**  
**Rebecca Stern**  
**Christina Stiles**  
**Laura Tomaselli**  
**Sierra Urich**  
**Nicholas Weissman**  
**Elizabeth Wolff**  
**Inaya Graciana Yusuf**

### **DOCUMENTARY NEW LEADERS**

DOC NYC's **Documentary New Leaders** initiative honors individuals whose innovative approaches work toward a more inclusive and equitable documentary industry.

"The New Leaders program continues to attract inspiring industry pioneers and this cohort is no exception," said DOC NYC Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen. "We look forward to celebrating this incredible group in-person at the festival."

The list of 14 honorees reflect a broad range of experiences, including roles in distribution, education, community engagement, funding, social impact, organizing, and journalism. While several honorees are filmmakers, this program highlights the cohort's leadership in roles that shape industry practices and culture. Over the next year, the Documentary New Leaders will meet periodically to embark on discussions that address the issues most pivotal to their roles in the field.

### **The 2023 DOC NYC Documentary New Leaders are:**

**Jaad Asante**  
*Manager, Documentaries, Onyx Collective*

**Natalie Bullock Brown**  
*Director; Documentary Accountability Working Group*

**Jamie Dobie**  
*Non-profit Leader & Filmmaker; Chief Operating Officer, Represent Justice*

**Lailanie Gadia**  
*Operations Director, Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc)*

**Kelsey Koenig**  
*VP of Production, Impact Partners*

**Gerry Leonard**  
*Director of Filmmaker Services and Impact, Working Films*

**Anjanette Levert**  
*Documentary Filmmaker, Programmer/Curator/Coach; Professor of Documentary Film at Spelman College*

**Elise McCave**  
*Head of Film, Kickstarter*

**Kiyoko McCrae**  
*Program Director, Chicken & Egg Pictures*

**Paola Mottura**  
*Film Fund Director, Sundance Institute*

**Stephanie Palumbo**  
*Director of Film Impact and Innovation, Peace is Loud*

**Kristal Sotomayor**  
*Founder & Director/Producer, Sotomayor Productions*

**Prerana Thakurdesai**  
*Producer/Director, Bitchitra Collective*

**Sarah Rachael Wainio**  
*Filmmaker/Producer*

## **INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES**

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 **Industry Roundtables** program to facilitate face-to-face meetings between leading industry decision-makers and filmmakers with works-in-progress.

This year the program is taking on a new format with two different strands. The Industry Roundtables / Voices of Canada program will bring six Canadian film projects to NYC for a day of curated meetings and industry feedback. This initiative is co-presented by the General Consulate of Canada in New York and Telefilm. The Industry Roundtables / Live Pitch event (which was previously announced as part of the DOC NYC PRO line up) includes 12 filmmaking teams who will present on-stage live pitches about their works-in-progress to industry figures as part of the PRO conference. Both of these programs aim to curate the most promising

documentaries of the future for industry feedback and are selected from a competitive online submissions process.

“This year, we’ve carefully curated a lineup of works-in-progress that show promise through their innovative creative approach and unique vision. We’re thrilled to unveil these projects to industry professionals, facilitating connections between creative teams and those who can offer valuable insights for their journey to wider audiences,” noted Malikkah Rollins, Director of Industry and Education.

### **Industry Roundtables / Voices of Canada works-in-progress projects:**

#### **The MAD World of Harvey Kurtzman**

The life of Harvey Kurtzman—satirist, creator of *MAD Magazine*, inventor of the graphic novel—is one of the greatest untold stories in modern cultural history. *The MAD World of Harvey Kurtzman* will uncover the links between his groundbreaking work at the birth of comics and *MAD*’s creation, his twisted brush with stardom and Hugh Hefner, and the inspiration he gave to a new generation of artists, activists, comedians, and more.

Director: Bart Simpson

Producer: Ina Fichman

#### **Plastic People**

*Plastic People* is a landmark feature documentary that chronicles one woman’s mission to expose shocking new revelations about the impact of microplastics on human health.

Director: Ben Addelman, Ziya Tong

Producer: Peter Raymont, Vanessa Dyllyn

#### **Sailing Off the Edge**

When her brother Thomas’ sailboat mysteriously vanishes, filmmaker Virginia Tangvald sets out to investigate her family’s troubled past, shaped by the legend of her father Peter Tangvald, a Norwegian-born adventurer whose life was marked by freedom and tragedy.

Director: Virginia Tangvald

Producer: Isabelle Couture, Éline Hébert

#### **The Sandbox**

Your future is being written in the sand.

Director: Kenya-Jade Pinto

Producer: Shasha Nakhai, Kenya-Jade Pinto

#### **Say It Loud: How a Black Music Mecca Grew in the Frozen North**

How did Canada become an international Black music mecca? *Say it Loud* reveals, through the life of Jamaican-Canadian music legend Jay Douglas, how Caribbean immigrants came to Canada and overcame racism and indifference to create one of the most dynamic and influential underground music cultures on the planet.

Director: Graeme Mathieson

Producer: Andrew Munger

### **Standing with the Ancients**

A gripping frontline dive into the lives of land defenders urgently blockading logging roads on Vancouver Island, Canada, in a do-or-die attempt to stop old-growth logging. Documented over two years, *Standing with the Ancients* brings viewers to the intersection of activism and personal sacrifice, ecological grief and despair, and interpersonal tension that leads to the fallout of this noteworthy climate frontline.

Director: Jen Muranetz

Producer: Jen Muranetz, Sepehr Samimi

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### **SPONSORS**

The festival is made possible by:

**Leading Media Partners:** *New York Magazine*; The WNET Group

**Major Sponsors:** A&E IndieFilms; HBO Documentary Films; Netflix

**Supporting Sponsors:** National Geographic Documentary Films

**Signature Sponsors:** 11th Hour Racing; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Consulate General of Canada in New York; Frankfurt Kurnit; Hulu; NBC News Studios; National Geographic; NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment; Participant

**Signature Media Partners:** *The New Republic*; WNYC

**Event Sponsors:** Amazon MGM Studios; Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP; 30 for 30 / ESPN Films; Fox Rothschild LLP; Impact Partners; JustFilms | Ford Foundation; Kickstarter PBC; MTV Documentary Films; Odyssey Impact®; Portrait Creative Network; Prestige Custom Awards; Reavis Page Jump LLP; Screen Nova Scotia; Subject Matter; SVA - MFA Social Documentary Film; Telefilm Canada; Village East by Angelika; Wheelhouse Creative

**Friends of the Festival:** Agile Ticketing; CineSend; DCTV; Essentia; Fever Content; Posteritati; Ptex; Shiftboard

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](mailto:raphaela@docnyc.net).

### **TICKETS AND PASSES:**

Festival tickets and passes may be purchased at [docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes](http://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 \$55**

**Ten-Ticket Package for Online Screenings \$100**

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](mailto:publicity@norget.com)***

**ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:**

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

Downloadable images for 40 Under 40 honorees can be found [here](#).

Downloadable images for Documentary New Leaders can be found [here](#).

Downloadable images for Voices of Canada Industry Roundtables can be found [here](#).

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