



VISIONARIES TRIBUTE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023



"A PORTRAIT OF
UNFATHOMABLE COURAGE"

THE PLAYLIST

"**RIVETING**...
THIS IS THE BATTLE OF OUR TIMES"

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"**ROUSING**...
A DELIVERY DEVICE FOR OUTRAGE IN
A MOMENT THAT COULD USE IT"

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CHI-HUI YANG



CYNTHIA LOPEZ, JULIA REICHERT, MARTIN SCORSESE, STEVEN BOGNER

Lifetime Achievement Award

- 2014: Chris Hegedus, Albert Maysles, D.A. Pennebaker
- 2015: Jon Alpert, Barbara Kopple, Frederick Wiseman
- 2016: Jonathan Demme, Stanley Nelson
- 2017: Errol Morris, Sheila Nevins
- 2018: Orlando Bagwell, Wim Wenders
- 2019: Michael Apted, Martin Scorsese
- 2020: Sam Pollard, Jean Tsien
- 2021: Joan Churchill, Raoul Peck
- 2022: Geralyn White Dreyfous, Werner Herzog

Leading Light Award

- 2014: Dan Cogan
- 2015: Tom Quinn
- 2016: Molly Thompson
- 2017: Cara Mertes
- 2018: Tabitha Jackson
- 2019: Cynthia Lopez
- 2020: Yvonne Welbon
- 2021: Chi-hui Yang
- 2022: Sonya Childress

Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence

- 2014: Laura Poitras
- 2015: Kim Longinotto
- 2016: Dawn Porter
- 2017: Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady
- 2018: Jimmy Chin, E. Chai Vasarhelyi
- 2019: Steven Bogner, Julia Reichert
- 2020: Alexander Nanau
- 2021: Peter Nicks
- 2022: Ondi Timoner

Welcome to the tenth edition of Visionaries Tribute. We are honored to host so many outstanding documentary makers and advocates of the form in one room. We're grateful you can join us to celebrate our four extraordinary honorees.

Reaching our tenth anniversary casts our memories back to the very first year of Visionaries Tribute when one of our Lifetime Achievement honorees was Albert Maysles. That year, Albert was accompanied by **Erika Dilday** who was then the executive director of the Maysles Documentary Center. Now, we're pleased to invite Erika back to receive the Leading Light Award for her wide-ranging service to documentary filmmakers, currently in her role as executive director of American Documentary and POV.

Ten years ago we established the Robert and Anne Drew Award, soon after the passing of that dynamic couple who dedicated their lives to observational filmmaking. Their daughter-in-law Jill Drew, General Manager and Director of Drew Associates, joined us in creating this honor to recognize contemporary filmmakers whose careers deepen the artistry of observational documentary. This year, we're delighted to present the award to **Maite Alberdi** who's latest film *The Eternal Memory* appears on the DOC NYC Short List (as did her previous film *The Mole Agent*).

Speaking of Drew Associates, our Lifetime Achievement honoree **Deborah Shaffer** was an assistant editor at that company near the start of her career in the early 1970s. She went on to focus on human rights filmmaking in Central and Latin America during the 1980s. At the very first DOC NYC in 2010, she was a co-director on the film *To Be Heard*, which won the festival's Audience and Metropolis prizes. Throughout all that time, she's been an active member of New York's documentary community, supporting fellow filmmakers in myriad ways.

Finally, our Lifetime Achievement honoree **Michael Moore** has been an unparalleled force in raising the profile and box office records of documentary films since his debut with *Roger & Me* in 1989. His skill at confrontation with humor has created indelible memories in films such as *Bowling for Columbine*, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Sicko*, and *Where to Invade Next* - to name just a few. His productions have been a boot camp for countless other filmmakers who went on to their own greatness.

Visionaries Tribute kicks off our 14th DOC NYC festival showcasing documentary excellence, as well as our PRO conference for filmmakers to deepen their understanding of this ever-changing field. We hope to see you in the theaters!

Raphaela Neihausen
Executive Director

Jaie Laplante
Artistic Director

Thom Powers
Direct of Special Projects

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VISIONARIES TRIBUTE

HOST COMMITTEE

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Julia Bacha	Rachel Grady*	Karen Konicek	Dawn Porter*
Mirra Bank	Sam Green	Barbara Kopple*	Kimberly Reed
Kristine Barfod	Carla Gutierrez	Cynthia Lopez*	Gini Reticker
Jimmy Chin*	Nadia Hallgren	Shola Lynch	Yoruba Richen
Joan Churchill*	Thomas Allen Harris	Vinne Malhotra	Marcia Smith
Lauren Domino	Chris Hegedus*	Errol Morris*	Jean Tsien*
Geralyn Dreyfous*	Robin Hessman	Stanley Nelson*	E. Chai Vasarhelyi*
Heidi Ewing*	Kristi Jacobson	Sheila Nevins*	Marco Williams
Violet du Feng	Chiemi Karasawa	Jacki Ochs	Roger Ross Williams
Alex Gibney	Sonia Kennebeck	Raoul Peck*	Hao Wu
		Laura Poitras*	Chi-hui Yang*

* Denotes past Visionaries honorees

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Guardian

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LEADING LIGHT AWARD



2023 HONOREE

Erika Dilday

The Leading Light Award honors an individual making a critical contribution to documentary in a role other than as a filmmaker.

Erika Dilday is the Executive Director of American Documentary Inc. and the Executive Producer of its award-winning documentary series *POV* on PBS and *America ReFramed* on WORLD Channel. Previously, she was the CEO of Futuro Media Group and the Executive Director of Maysles Documentary Center where she oversaw community cinema, filmmaking programs and produced the documentary *In Transit*.



2023 HONOREE

Maite Alberdi

The Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence honors a mid-career filmmaker or partnership that excels in observational filmmaking. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize to the filmmakers contributed by Drew Associates, under the helm of Jill Drew.

Maite Alberdi won the Sundance World Cinema Documentary Award for her latest film, *The Eternal Memory*, a poignant look at the marriage of Chilean actress Paulina Urrutia and journalist Augusto Góngora that balances vibrant individual and collective remembrance with the longevity of an unbreakable human bond. Her previous works include *The Mole Agent*, which was nominated for an Oscar, as well as *The Grown-Ups*, *Tea Time*, and *The Lifeguard*.

Jill Drew, the general manager of Drew Associates, who established this award at DOC NYC, said, "Maite Alberdi has dazzled me with her unique approach to observational filmmaking across her career from *Tea Time* to *The Mole Agent* to *The Eternal Memory*. In her latest work, she exercises great subtlety at exploring the challenge of memory loss, while capturing a love story for the ages."

2023 HONOREE

Deborah Shaffer

Lifetime Achievement Awards are given for a distinguished output of documentaries.

Deborah Shaffer began making social issue documentaries as a member of the Newsreel collective in the 1970s. Her first feature documentary, *The Wobblies*, was recently added to the National Film Registry. Her directing credits include *Witness to War: Dr. Charlie Clements*, which won the Academy Award for Short Documentary, as well as the features *Fire From the Mountain*, *Dance of Hope*, *From the Ashes: 10 Artists*, and *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack*. She co-directed and produced *To Be Heard*, which won awards at numerous festivals, including the Audience Award and Grand Jury Prize at the inaugural DOC NYC.

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GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT

HOW WE GET FREE

SOUTH TO BLACK POWER

TIME BOMB Y2K

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

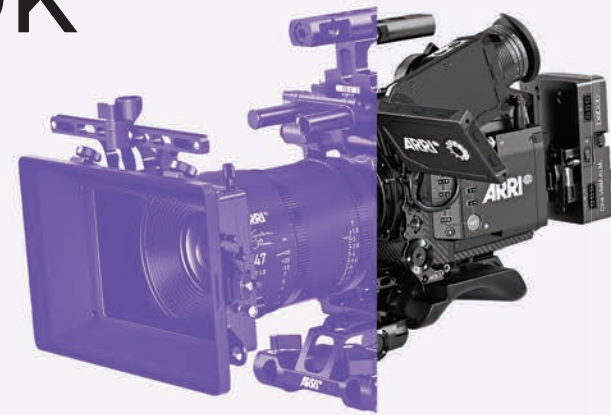


2023 HONOREE

Michael Moore

Lifetime Achievement Awards are given for a distinguished output of documentaries.

Michael Moore launched his documentary career with *Roger & Me* in 1989. He went on to break the documentary box office record with his 2002 Oscar-winning film *Bowling for Columbine* and the Palme d'Or-winning *Fahrenheit 9/11*, which remains the highest-grossing documentary of all time. His other notable films include the Oscar-nominated *Sicko*, *Capitalism: A Love Story*, *Where to Invade Next*, and *Fahrenheit 11/9*. He won the Emmy Award for his prime-time NBC series *TV Nation* and is one of America's top-selling nonfiction authors, with such books as *Stupid White Men*; *Dude, Where's My Country?*; and *Here Comes Trouble*. He is the host of the podcast *Rumble with Michael Moore*.



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TUE 5/3	7:30	12	1	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
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"A fascinating, gripping watch for the depth and candor with which it explores these women's fraught bonds."

- Farah Cheded, PASTE MAGAZINE

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CONGRATULATIONS

to our indomitable Executive Director, Erika Dilday, on your Leading Light Award!

Thank you for all that you do for our community.

*From,
your American Documentary Family*

American Documentary



KINO LORBER congratulates **DEBORAH SHAFFER** on her Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's DOC NYC Visionaries Tribute

We're proud to have her award-winning documentaries in our library





20 Days in Mariupol

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

Ukrainian journalist Mstyslav Chernov arrives at the strategically key city of Mariupol, Ukraine just as Russian forces begin assaulting the city on the first day of their full-scale invasion. Sending dispatches to AP, Chernov and his team bear witness as the beautiful city is ravaged with bombings, disintegration, and death one devastating day at a time. Refusing to leave until the last possible moment, Chernov and his team capture defining images that galvanize the West to rally to his country's defense. *Courtesy of PBS Distribution/Frontline (USA, 94 MIN)*



American Symphony

Director: Matthew Heineman
Producers: Matthew Heineman, Lauren Domino, Joedan Okun

Musician Jon Batiste was riding high in 2022 with 11 Grammy nominations and a planned event at Carnegie Hall to present a new composition called "American Symphony." But the year grows more complex when his life partner Suleika Jaouad, a writer and musician, learns that her cancer has returned after a decade in remission. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Matthew Heineman (*Cartel Land*) follows the couple as they experience the best and worst of what life has to offer. *Courtesy of Netflix (USA, 103 MIN)*



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. The film unfolds like a thriller as Wine faces a brutal pushback. "It's a gripping piece of film-making: a propulsive, kinetic account of a grassroots campaign captured at what would seem to be considerable personal risk to both the subject and directors" (*The Guardian*). *Courtesy of National Geographic Documentary Films (UGANDA/UK, 118 MIN)*



The Disappearance of Shere Hite

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

Feminist sexologist Shere Hite helped change public perception toward masturbation, clitoral orgasm, and more, with her groundbreaking research in the 1970s and '80s. Her books rank among the biggest best-selling nonfiction titles of all time. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Nicole Newnham (*Crip Camp*) explores her rise and fall from prominence through a trove of archival footage, and enlists Dakota Johnson to give voice to Hite. *Courtesy of IFC Films*



The Eternal Memory

Director / Producer: Maite Alberdi

Journalist Augusto Góngora and actress Paulina Urrutia form the unforgettable couple at the heart of this film about love, politics, and loss. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Maite Alberdi (*The Mole Agent*) profiles the pair as Góngora copes with Alzheimer's disease and Urrutia adapts to this new phase of their relationship with resilience. "Alberdi's beautiful meditation has the viewer's anatomy in its sights: touching the heart, activating the mind, working its way into our bones" (*The Los Angeles Times*). *Courtesy of MTV Documentary Films (CHILE, 84 MIN)*



Every Body

Director: Julie Cohen
Producers: Molly O'Brien, Tommy Nguyen

The term "intersex" covers a broad range of people who are born with reproductive anatomy that doesn't easily fit the categories of male or female. Often their stories have been shrouded in mystery and shame by the medical establishment and media. Oscar-nominated filmmaker Julie Cohen (*RBG*) captures a new generation of intersex people who are living loudly and proudly. The film covers the history, science, and politics of a movement advocating against medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children. *Courtesy of Focus Features (USA, 92 MIN)*



Four Daughters

Director: Kaouther Ben Hania
Producer: Nadim Cheikhrouha

The Tunisian mother Olfa Hamrouni gained prominence in 2016 when two of her four daughters ran away to join the Islamic State in Libya. She grew outspoken in the hope of preventing other mothers from suffering her loss. Now filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania takes a novel approach to telling this story by casting two actors to portray the missing daughters alongside Hamrouni and her other daughters. "Four Daughters is an enthralling narrative about memory" (*Variety*). *Courtesy of Kino Lorber (FRANCE/SAUDI ARABIA/GERMANY/CYPRUS, 107 MIN)*



Little Richard: I Am Everything

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

Lisa Cortés' Sundance opening night documentary tells the story of the queer Black origins of rock 'n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman. Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, the film unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. In interviews with family, musicians, and cutting-edge Black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Richard created an art form for ultimate self-expression, yet what he gave to the world he was never able to give to himself. *Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures (USA, 98 MIN)*



Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Story

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. Filmmakers Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson capture her artistry and spiky personality in this warm portrait. "She is a vibrant, prickly, unpredictable presence in both private and public life, and hearing her read her own poetry is even better than reading it on the page" (*Art Forum*). *Courtesy of HBO Documentary Films (USA, 102 MIN)*



The Mother of All Lies

Director / Producer: Asmae El Moudir

A poetic, riveting, and cathartic exploration of the lies and misrememberings of director Asmae El Moudir's family, surrounding the Casablanca Bread Riots of 1981. The period of repression known in Morocco as the "Years of Lead" is hardly ever discussed. Narratives of trauma, loss, and love are recovered here through exquisite re-enactments played by handmade figurines, sculpted by El Moudir's father and dressed by her mother, placed in a scale model of her neighborhood. *(MOROCCO, EGYPT, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, 96 MIN)*



Lakota Nation vs. the United States

Directors: Jesse Shortbull, Laura Tomaselli
Producers: Benjamin Hedin, Phil Pinto

One of the greatest injustices ever committed on North American soil is examined in sweeping historical detail by filmmakers Jesse Shortbull and Laura Tomaselli. As American settlers moved west, the U.S. government signed treaty after treaty with the Lakota and other Indigenous tribes, only to continually break their legal and moral commitments with complete impunity. As traditional Lakota lands shrink under impingement, exploitation, and genocide, a new generation takes a stand against their oppressors. *Courtesy of IFC Films (USA, 120 MIN)*



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, who describes this as the "definitive" interview before his death. Crucial to the narrative is Cornwell's relationship to his father Ronnie, a con artist who was endlessly on the run from the mob or the police. Morris keeps 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. *Courtesy of AppleTV+ (UK, 94 MIN)*

SHORT LIST: FEATURES



Silver Dollar Road

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

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Raoul Peck (*I Am Not Your Negro*) chronicles the way real estate developers work in blatant and subtle ways to divest Black families from inherited property. He focuses on the case of the Reels family in North Carolina who resisted intimidation tactics and dubious legal maneuvers over several decades. The film draws upon the in-depth reporting of Lizzie Presser, published by ProPublica and *The New Yorker*. Courtesy of Amazon Studios (USA, 100 MIN)



Stamped from the Beginning

Director: Roger Ross Williams
Producers: Alisa Payne, Roger Ross Williams, David Teague

In his book *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, author Dr. Ibram X. Kendi explored the history of anti-Black racist ideas and their impact on the United States. Oscar-winning filmmaker Roger Ross Williams takes inspiration from Kendi's work to explore those themes with an array of powerful film techniques. Music and visual sampling are injected to create vivid storytelling with a hip-hop sensibility. Courtesy of Netflix (USA, 94 MIN)



While We Watched

Director: Vinay Chukla
Producers: Vinay Shukla, Khusboo Ranka, Luke Moody

Ravish Kumar is an award-winning journalist hosting one of India's leading prime-time news shows. His courage and objectivity have remained unswayed by government changes. As we witness the financial, organizational and emotional risks journalists navigate, the challenges Kumar faces resonate far beyond India. Courtesy of BritDocs/POV (INDIA/UK, 94 MIN)



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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. *Courtesy of The New Yorker* (USA, 24 MIN)



Ayenda

Director / Producer: Marie Margolius

Witness the true story of an Afghani girls soccer team who relocate from their home country all in the name of the sport. *Courtesy of MSNBC* (USA, 39 MIN)



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, the starting place of a new community lending program. (USA, 35 MIN)



Between Earth and Sky

Director: Andrew Nadkarni | Producers: Andrew Nadkarni, Swetha Regunathan, Katie Schiller

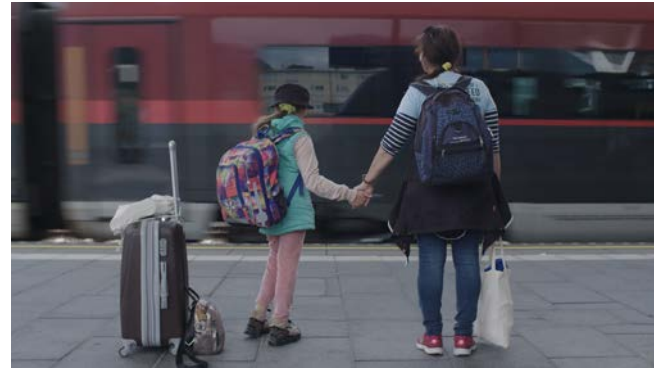
The story of one professor's career researching the rainforest canopy, where she was hurt, and where she also healed. *Courtesy of POV Shorts* (USA, 25 MIN)



Black Girls Play: The Story of Hand Games

Directors / Producers: Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson

Learn about the impactful and joyful hand games played by Black girls from generation to generation. *Courtesy of ESPN Films (USA, 18 MIN)*



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. *Courtesy of Netflix (SLOVAKIA, UKRAINE, 33 MIN)*



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. *Courtesy of The New Yorker (USA, 20 MIN)*



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. *(USA/ INDIA, 24 MIN)*



Carpenter

Director: Xelil Sehragerd
Producers: Xelil Sehragerd, New York Studio

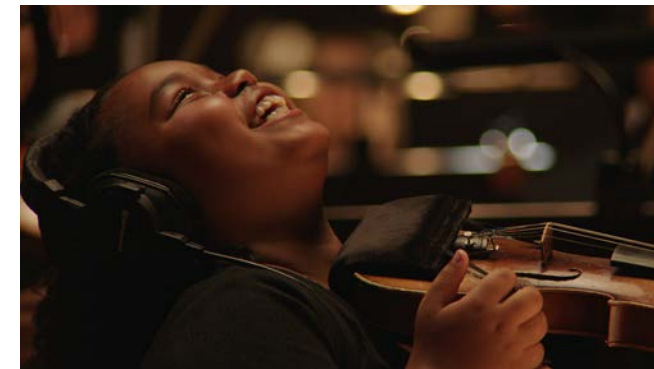
In this meditative documentary we meet a Kurdish carpenter as he serves his community in an unexpected way. *Courtesy of Rêta Film Distribution (IRAN/USA, 14 MIN)*



The Dads

Director / Producer: Luchina Fisher

Six fathers of diverse backgrounds gather for a weekend of fishing, and sharing ideas of how to better support their beloved trans children. *Courtesy of Netflix (USA, 10 MIN)*



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 their time and energy to repairing 80,000 instruments for city schoolchildren. *(USA, 39 MIN)*



Nina & Irena

Director: Daniel Lombroso
Producer: Devon Blackwell

As her 90th birthday approaches, Nina divulges the story behind her sister's disappearance during the Holocaust. *Courtesy of The New Yorker (USA, 22 MIN)*

SHORT LIST: SHORTS



Puffling

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

Young women on a remote island off Iceland help lost baby puffins, who easily lose their bearings. *Courtesy of The New Yorker* (UK / ICELAND, 20 MIN)



The Takeover

Director: Anders Sømme Hammer
Producers: Anders Sømme Hammer, Charlotte Cook

Witness the transition inside Afghanistan during the Taliban's government takeover. *Courtesy of Field of Vision* (USA, 35 MIN)



A Tattoo on My Brain

Directors / Producers: David Heilbroner, Kate Davis

For his entire career neurologist Daniel Gibbs found the poor prognosis for Alzheimer's patients daunting. Now, with his own diagnosis, he commits himself to researching and writing about his symptoms. *Courtesy of MTV Documentary Films* (USA, 32 MIN)

FOCUS FEATURES AND NBC NEWS STUDIOS PROUDLY CONGRATULATE ALL THE FILMS ON THE DOC NYC SHORT LIST



“★★★★
**A RIVETING, UPLIFTING
 LOOK AT THE INTERSEX
 COMMUNITY**”
 SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“**DIRECTOR JULIE COHEN'S
 WORK IS SENSITIVE
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 THE GUARDIAN

“Deserves to become one of the documentary events of the year.”
 VARIETY

“Restores a forgotten trailblazer to her rightful place in history.”
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Angel Applicant

Director: Ken August Meyer
Producers: Ken August Meyer, Jason Roark
NYC Premiere When talented art director Ken August Meyer is diagnosed with systemic scleroderma, a rare life-threatening disease, he struggles to cope with the disease's ravages on his body, and the unanswerable question: why me? Receiving no answer from the silent universe, Meyer turns to a study of Paul Klee, a Swiss-German painter of the 1930s who is believed to have suffered from the same disease. In the life and work of Klee, Meyer finds a spiritual companion to guide his journey to hope and meaning. (USA, 74 MIN)

Winner, SXSW Grand Jury Prize, Documentary Feature Competition



Apolonia, Apolonia

Director: Lea Glob
Producer: Sidsel Lønvig Siersted
 For a class assignment in 2009, Danish film student Lea Glob began documenting a young bohemian painter from France. The assignment blossomed into something deeper that spanned 13 years in the life of Apolonia Sokol and her circle of artists, activists, curators, lovers, and more. From Paris to New York and Los Angeles and back again, Lea finds in Apolonia a story of an entire generation of hopes and dreams. - *Jaie Laplante* (DENMARK/POLAND, 116 MIN)

Best Feature-Length Documentary, IDFA- International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam



In the Rearview

Director: Maciek Hamela
Producers: Maciek Hamela, Piotr Grawender
New York Premiere When Russia escalated its war against Ukraine in 2022, Polish director Maciek Hamela bought a van and volunteered to drive Ukrainian refugees – mostly women and children – on their quest to escape. From his passenger seat we meet the vanloads of people forced to leave everything behind. Today, as the war stretches on, it's inevitable for outsiders to feel fatigue, but this poignant film makes a quietly eloquent case to keep our eyes on the road ahead. (POLAND/France/UKRAINE, 84 MIN)

Winner, Grand Jury Award, International Competition, Sheffield DocFest 2023



Kokomo City

Director: D. Smith
Producers: D. Smith, Harris Doran, Bill Butler
 From the film's opening monologue about a sex worker wrestling with a client over a gun, Kokomo City is riveting. Filmmaker D. Smith makes a stellar debut as director, cinematographer, editor, and composer as she profiles four Black transgender sex workers in New York City and Atlanta. The women are raw and hilarious as they celebrate their self-realization in the face of discrimination and violence. (USA, 73 MIN)

Winner, Next Innovator Award, Sundance Film Festival 2023



Bad Press

Directors: Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler
Producers: Conrad Beilharz, Garrett F. Baker, Tyler Graim
NYC Premiere The Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma has a hard-hitting news outlet, Mvskoke Media, but reporter Angel Ellis has watched with concern as free press within her community becomes increasingly fragile. When she strives to expose corruption in her government, she runs headlong into censorship and threats, in a battle that has wide-ranging implications. (USA, 98 MIN)

Winner, Special Jury Award: Freedom of Expression, U.S. Documentary, 2023 Sundance Film Festival



Beyond Utopia

Director: Madeleine Gavin
Producers: Jana Edelbaum, Rachel Cohen, Sue Mi Terry
 Intertwining two nail-biting stories of dangerous escape attempts from North Korea, *Beyond Utopia* shows us the reality of life in one of the most repressive totalitarian countries on Earth. Filmmaker Madeleine Gavin takes us on a harrowing journey, crosscutting between jaw-dropping cellphone video, and anguished cellphone audio, as she examines the high-stakes operation of an underground network that is the only hope of Koreans desperate to escape persecution and reunite with family. (USA, 119 MIN)

Winner, Audience Award, U.S. Documentary, 2023 Sundance Film Festival



Name Me Lawand

Director: Edward Lovelace
Producers: Fleur Nieddu, Sam Arnold, Beyan Taher, Neil Andres, Marisa Clifford, Edward Lovelace
 Lawand is a deaf 5-year-old boy from Iraq whose family goes to great lengths to move to England and enroll him at the Royal School for the Deaf Derby, where he learns British Sign Language (BSL) and begins to blossom. But will the government allow Lawand to stay? Filmmaker Edward Lovelace combines a roaming camera with a transcendent score and sound design to envelope viewers in an interior world largely absent of spoken language. (UK, 82 MIN)

Winner, Special Jury Prize, International Feature Documentary, Hot Docs

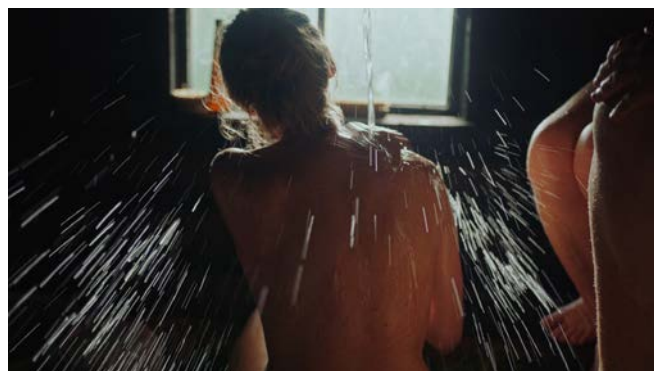


Rojek

Director: Zaynê Akyol
Producers: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre, Sylvain Corbeil, Zaynê Akyol
U.S. Premiere Kurdish-Canadian filmmaker Zaynê Akyol interviews some members of the Islamic State in Syrian Kurdistan, as well as some of their wives, in the aftermath of the defeat of ISIS. "This absorbing and admirably even-handed documentary looks the beast in the eye to weigh the context, cost, and consequences of fundamentalism." (POV magazine) (CANADA, 127 MIN)

Winner, Special Jury Prize, Canadian Feature Documentary, Hot Docs

WINNER'S CIRCLE



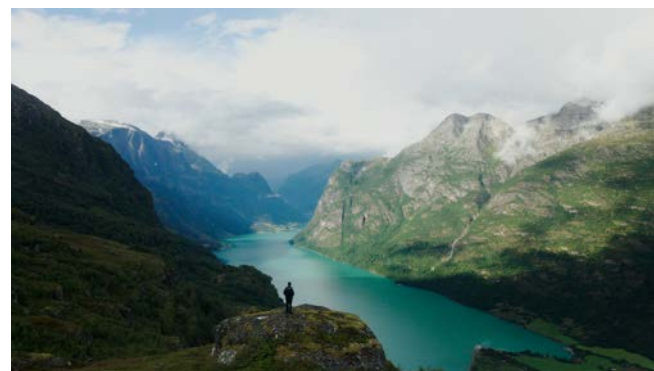
Smoke Sauna Sisterhood

Director: Anna Hints

Producer: Marianne Ostrat

NYC Premiere In a smoke sauna in Estonia, as the hot-damp air hangs heavy, a group of Voro women gather. Their sweat, tears, and laughter mingle, and in the ethereal in betweenness of light and darkness, they find a way to shed the toil and shame that sticks to their bodies. Anna Hints' debut feature has garnered awards all over the world, including Sundance's Documentary directing award. (ESTONIA, 89 MIN)

Jury Award, Directing (World Cinema Documentary), Sundance Film Festival 2023



Songs of Earth

Director: Margreth Olin

Producers: Margreth Olin, Lena Faye-Lund Sandvik

NYC Premiere With the film's first image of a lone elderly man trekking through an untouched snowy landscape, we sense that director Margreth Olin is taking us somewhere special. The man is her father Jørgen who shares his journey to stunning vistas of glaciers, waterfalls, and fjords. The film's artistry has won the support of executive producers Wim Wenders and Liv Ullman. It's a stunning cinematic experience that's unlike any other documentary this year. (USA/THE NETHERLANDS, 84 MIN, ENGLISH)

Winner, Krakow Film Festival 2023, Recommendation to European Film Awards, Documentary

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DECIDING VOTE

A film by Jeremy Workman and Robert Lyons



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-Moveable Fest

"Powerful. Inspiring."
-Film Festival Today

"Straight out of a Capra film."
-RogerEbert.com

"One of the most important films of 2023 and one of the most moving as well."
-Unseen Films

"A simply extraordinary short doc."
-The Independent Critic

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE FILMS ON THE DOC NYC SHORTLIST



We've Ended up in Some Pretty Interesting (and Talented) Hands

Over the years, the distinctive crystal cube awards we provide to DOC NYC have landed in some interesting places. Like the hands of industry icons such as Martin Scorsese and Sam Pollard. And in those of less familiar filmmakers like Tanaz Eshaghian, Cecilia Aldarondo, and Steven Bognar.

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FEATURES



AMERICAN SYMPHONY

Directed by Matthew Heineman



STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING

Directed by Roger Ross Williams



THE DADS

Directed by Luchina Fisher



CAMP COURAGE

Directed by Max Lowe

