



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES 2025 SHORT LISTS FOR FEATURES AND SHORTS,
WINNER'S CIRCLE SELECTIONS, AND INTRODUCES SELECTS ENCORE**

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

**IN-PERSON SCREENINGS OF ALL FILMS NOV. 12-20,
WITH SELECT TITLES CONTINUING ONLINE THROUGH NOV. 30**

NEW YORK, October 14, 2025 - **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 16th Edition — **Short List: Features**, **Short List: Shorts**, **Winner's Circle**, and the new **Selects Encore**. 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 116 features (including 30 World premieres and 34 U.S. premieres) and 113 short films in its 16th edition. The festival runs in person November 12-20 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre, and Village East by Angelika and continues online through November 30 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 prizes, while Winner's Circle is a celebration of films already awarded at major international film events that are worthy of additional consideration. Selects Encore showcases significant titles from DOC NYC's year-round Selects screening series—films that continue to be part of our awards season conversations.

DOC NYC's 2025 Short List screenings will include two New York City premieres: **Sara Khaki** and **Mohammadreza Eyni's *Cutting Through Rocks***, winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at this year's Sundance Film Festival, and **David Borenstein's *Mr. Nobody Against Putin***, a Sundance award winner recently chosen to represent Denmark in the Best International Film category at the 98th Academy Awards.

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. For 13 of the last 14 years, DOC NYC has screened the documentary feature that went on to win the Academy Award, and the festival has screened 59 of the last 70 Oscar-nominated documentary features. DOC NYC’s Short List: Features selection committee is overseen by Artistic Director **Jaie Laplante** and Director of Special Projects **Thom Powers**.

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

2000 METERS TO ANDRIIVKA

Director: Mstyslav Chernov

Producers: Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath

After taking us through the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in his Oscar-winning *20 Days in Mariupol*, Mstyslav Chernov and his creative team give us a perspective of the war more than a year on.

APOCALYPSE IN THE TROPICS

Director: Petra Costa

Producers: Petra Costa, Alessandra Orofino

Christian fundamentalism has seized political discourse in Brazil, and this clear-eyed, deeply troubling, and internationally resonant distillation examines the implications.

CO-EXISTENCE, MY ASS!

Director: Amber Fares

Producers: Rachel Leah Jones, Amber Fares

Disillusioned with politics, Noam Shuster Eliassi pivots to the world of stand-up comedy as a means of communicating her “radical” message that Palestinians and Israelis deserve equal human rights.

COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT

Director: Ryan White

Producers: Ryan White, Jessica Hargrave, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen

A poignant and unexpectedly funny love story about poets Andrea Gibson and Megan Falley facing an incurable cancer diagnosis with joy, wit, and an unshakable partnership.

COVER-UP

Directors: Laura Poitras, Mark Obenhaus

Producers: Yoni Golijov, Laura Poitras, Mark Obenhaus, Olivia Streisand

A chronicle of Seymour Hersh's groundbreaking investigative journalism, exposing systemic deception within US military and intelligence agencies, blending personal narrative with an examination of institutional accountability.

CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS* (NYC Premiere)**Directors/Producers: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni**

In rural Iran, a trailblazing councilwoman empowers girls through motorcycles and activism—but when her motives are questioned, her fight against patriarchy becomes a deeply personal reckoning.

HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY**Director: Sam Feder****Producers: Amy Scholder, Sam Feder, Paola Mendoza**

As a transphobic firestorm sweeps American culture and legislatures, ACLU lawyer Chase Strangio becomes the first trans man to argue a case before the Supreme Court.

MISTRESS DISPELLER**Director: Elizabeth Lo****Producers: Emma D. Miller, Elizabeth Lo, Maggie Li**

Desperate to save her marriage, a woman in China hires a professional to go undercover and break up her husband's affair.

MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN (NYC Premiere)**Directors: David Borenstein, Pasha Talankin****Producer: Helle Faber**

Amid Russia's wartime propaganda, a teacher secretly films the militarization of education, risking everything to expose the state's manipulation of youth—and the quiet courage of those who defy it.

MY MOM JAYNE: A FILM BY MARISKA HARGITAY**Director: Mariska Hargitay****Producers: Mariska Hargitay, Trish Adlesic**

Mariska Hargitay embarks on a deeply personal journey to uncover the real Jayne Mansfield—her iconic mother—through rare footage, intimate interviews, and a search for lost memories.

ORWELL: 2+2=5**Director: Raoul Peck****Producers: Alex Gibney, Raoul Peck, George Chignell, Nick Shumaker**

A stirring depiction of the dangers of power and the fragility of so-called civilized society, told through the vision of George Orwell (1984), who just might hold the key to the world's future.

THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR**Director: Geeta Gandbhir****Producers: Alisa Payne, Geeta Gandbhir, Nikon Kwantu, Sam Bisbee**

Raw police bodycam footage provides a shocking, clear-eyed chronicle of a neighborhood dispute's tragic escalation in Florida, examining the deadly consequences of "stand your ground" laws and systemic racial tensions.

PREDATORS

Director: David Osit

Producers: Jamie Gonçalves, Kellen Quinn, David Osit

Nearly 20 years after the NBC Dateline show "To Catch a Predator" went off the air in scandal, filmmaker David Osit contemplates the complicity of both host and viewer in our "society of the spectacle."

PUT YOUR SOUL ON YOUR HAND AND WALK

Director: Sepideh Farsi

Producers: Javad Djavahery, Annie Ohayon-Dekel

A powerful act of witness and remembrance, this urgent, deeply personal documentary unfolds through video calls between filmmaker Sepideh Farsi and 25-year-old Palestinian photojournalist and poet Fatma Hassona.

THE TALE OF SILYAN

Director: Tamara Kotevska

Producers: Tamara Kotevska, Jean Dakar, Anna Hashmi, Jordanco Petkovski

A magical Macedonian folktale comes to life when an unlikely savior rescues a wounded white stork, transforming both of their lives for the better.

SHORT LIST: SHORTS

The Short List: Shorts showcase of 15 titles is now in its eighth year at DOC NYC. The selection process is overseen by Artistic Director **Jaie Laplante**, Director of Special Projects **Thom Powers**, and consultant **Samah Ali**. In 2024, the showcase included *The Only Girl in the Orchestra*, which went on to win the Oscar.

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

ALL THE EMPTY ROOMS

Director: Joshua Seftel

Producers: Joshua Seftel, Conall Jones, James Costa, Trevor Burgess

A longtime TV journalist teams up with a photographer to document empty bedrooms of children lost to gun violence, revealing spaces where grief speaks louder than statistics and memory refuses to fade.

ALL THE WALLS CAME DOWN

Director: Ondi Timoner

Producers: Ondi Timoner, Eli O. Timoner, Maggie Contreras

After losing her home in the 2025 Eaton Fire, Ondi Timoner turns the camera on herself and her neighbors, revealing profound racial and economic inequities exposed by disaster descending on Altadena, California.

AM I THE SKINNIEST PERSON YOU'VE EVER SEEN?*

Director: Eisha Marjara

Producers: Joe Balass, Ariel Nasr

Two sisters' pact to go on a diet together lit the spark for one sibling's eating disorder.

ARMED ONLY WITH A CAMERA: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF BRENT RENAUD

Directors: Brent Renaud, Craig Renaud

Producers: Juan Arredondo, Christof Putzel

After journalist Brent Renaud is killed in Ukraine, his brother completes his final report—shaping a haunting tribute to frontline storytellers who risk everything to illuminate the human cost of war.

CHILDREN NO MORE: WERE AND ARE GONE

Director: Hilla Medalia

Producers: Sheila Nevins, Yael Melamede, Hilla Medalia

In Tel Aviv, silent vigils mourn Gaza's children—absent, yet achingly present in large-scale photographs. Defying public scorn to confront a war's toll, the activists' quiet protests echo louder than words.

THE DEVIL IS BUSY

Directors: Christalyn Hampton, Geeta Gandbhir

Producers: Rose Arce, Christalyn Hampton, Amber Fares

At an Atlanta abortion clinic besieged by protesters, the director of operations, Tracy, takes on risks to safeguard staff and patients.

LAST DAYS ON LAKE TRINITY

Director/Producer: Charlotte Cooley

Faced with their beloved South Florida trailer park's imminent closure, three single, older women band together to fight their eviction and save their community while confronting the specter of homelessness.

MAYBE IT'S JUST THE RAIN

Director: Reina Bonta

Producers: Mel Mah, Frankie Rubio

Through home videos and voicemails, a young Filipino-American soccer player relives her team's historic World Cup win—culminating in a return to her roots and a journey that is both personal and profound.

OH YEAH!

Director/Producer: Nick Canfield

From Swiss avant-garde roots to American pop culture, two artists crafted a song that became a cultural touchstone. Exploring its legacy through archival footage and interviews reveals its enduring influence.

QOTZUÑI: PEOPLE OF THE LAKE

Directors/Producers: Gastón Zilberman, Michael Salama

Bolivia's Lake Poopó has evaporated, and as Qotzuñis, People of the Lake, the Uru-Murato community faces the cultural and economic consequences.

THE REALITY OF HOPE

Director: Joe Hunting

Producers: Joe Hunting, Max Willson

From digital dreamscapes to real-world sacrifice, a VR friendship becomes a lifeline when a New Yorker journeys to Sweden to donate a kidney—revealing tenderness within a vibrant online world.

SONGS OF BLACK FOLK

Directors: Justin Emeka, Haley Watson

Producer: Haley Watson

Under Ramón Bryant Braxton's direction, Black artists of all ages unite in a powerful Juneteenth celebration, bridging generations through music that honors history, resilience, and the enduring spirit of community.

TESSITURA

Directors/Producers: Lydia Cornett, Brit Fryer

Transgender opera singers navigate and reshape the rigid boundaries of their art, intertwining personal stories with history to challenge tradition and reveal the evolutionary fluidity of voice and gender.

TIGER

Director: Loren Waters

Producers: Loren Waters, Dana Tiger

Haunted by the loss of her brother and father, a Muscogee Creek artist battles grief and disease to rebuild her family's iconic T-shirt business and reclaim an artistic heritage.

WE WERE THE SCENERY*

Director: Christopher Radcliff

Producers: Cathy Linh Che, Jess X. Snow

As war survivors relive trauma onscreen, their home movies quietly reclaim a lost South Vietnam—challenging a mythology that made them extras in their own history.

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*, *Hollywoodgate*, *In the Rearview*, *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:

BELOW THE CLOUDS

Director: Gianfranco Rosi

Producers: Donatella Palermo, Gianfranco Rosi, Paolo Del Brocco

Under Naples' skies and Vesuvius' shadow, voices rise in a black-and-white tableau - everyday lives and history unearthed, memory and ruin fuse into a haunting meditation on what remains unseen. *Winner, Special Jury Prize, Venice International Film Festival*

HOLDING LIAT

Director: Brandon Kramer

Producers: Darren Aronofsky, Lance Kramer, Yoni Brook, Ari Handel, Justin A. Gonçalves

An intimate following of a family's fight for their abducted loved one in Israel, revealing the fragile threads of hope and grief amid the devastation of geopolitical violence. *Winner, Berlinale Documentary Award, Berlin International Film Festival*

THE LIBRARIANS

Director: Kim A. Snyder

Producer: Kim A. Snyder, Janique L. Robillard, Maria Cuomo Cole, Jana Edelbaum

In our politically polarized era, librarians across America have found their profession under siege as an unprecedented wave of book banning hits Texas, Florida, and beyond. *Winner, Best Documentary Feature, Dallas International Film Festival*

LIFE AFTER

Director: Reid Davenport

Producer: Colleen Cassingham

A gripping investigative documentary exposing the tangled web of moral dilemmas, ableism, and profit motives surrounding assisted dying. *Winner, U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award, Sundance Film Festival*

SECRET MALL APARTMENT

Director: Jeremy Workman

Producers: Jeremy Workman, Matthew Spain

In 2003, eight young Rhode Island artists created a secret apartment in a hidden space inside a mall. Their act of defiance against gentrification becomes a bold expression of ingenious creativity. *Winner, Grand Jury Prize: Documentary, Independent Film Festival Boston*

SEEDS

Director: Brittany Shyne

Producers: Danielle Varga, Sabrina Gordon

Following Black generational farmers in the American South, *Seeds* weaves intimate moments into a poetic tribute to legacy, land, and the enduring ties that bind family and community. *Winner, U.S. Grand Jury Prize: Documentary, Sundance Film Festival*

SELECTS ENCORE

Selects Encore, new for 2025, showcases a selection of films that screened at DOC NYC Selects, the festival's ongoing screening series extension that runs annually from late winter through summer. The films chosen for Selects Encore represent works that continue to be present in the season's awards conversations.

This year's selections for **Selects Encore** are:

IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY

Director: Amy Berg

Producers: Ryan Heller, Christine Connor, Mandy Chang, Matthew Roozen, Jennie Bedusa, Amy Berg

An exploration of loved ones' perspectives and personal archives of Jeff Buckley, whose ethereal voice and songs have riveted audiences and emerging musicians for decades.

MONK IN PIECES

Directors: Billy Shebar, David C. Roberts

Producers: Billy Shebar, David C. Roberts, Susan Margolin

A cinematic rendition of NYC-based artist Meredith Monk's work and life, mirroring her artistic style and featuring interviews with Björk and David Byrne.

ONE TO ONE: JOHN & YOKO

Directors: Kevin Macdonald, Sam Rice-Edwards

Producer: Peter Worsley

An intimate and revelatory look at John Lennon and Yoko Ono's life in Greenwich Village in the early 1970s, including never-before-seen material and newly restored footage of the couple's only full-length concert.

SUBURBAN FURY

Director: Robinson Devor

Producers: Robinson Devor, Jason Reid, Zachariah Sebastian

In recounting the strange case of Sara Jane Moore and US President Gerald Ford, a tightrope of tension—between the ideals of America and the realities we are living through—becomes a stranglehold.

* *Cutting Through Rocks*, *Am I The Skinniest Person You've Ever Seen?*, and *We Were the Scenery* are also featured in DOC NYC's VOICES OF CANADA, a showcase of 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:

Leading Media Partner: THIRTEEN

Major Sponsors: Apple TV+; HBO Documentary Films

Major Media Partner: Variety

Supporting Sponsors: National Geographic Documentary Films; Netflix

Supporting Media Partner: IndieWire

Signature Sponsors: AJH Films; Amazon MGM Studios; Consulate General of Canada in New York; Frankfurt Kurnit; Hulu; National Geographic; NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment

Event Sponsors: Andscape; Art21; Chicken & Egg Films; ESPN Films' 30 for 30; Firelight Media; Fujifilm; Getty Images; Gigantic Studios; Impact Partners; JustFilms | Ford Foundation; Monkeypaw Productions; Naxos of America; NBCUniversal; Peacock; Peabody Awards; Prestige Custom Awards; Reavis Page Jump LLP; Subject Matter; Village East by Angelika; Wheelhouse Creative; WNYC

Friends of the Festival: 3rd Impression; AgileTix; CineSend; Creatively Speaking @ The Institute on Race, Power & Political Economy - The New School; DCTV; Hollywood Radio & Television Society; Kickstarter; The Lost Shtetl Museum; Posteritati; Ptex Group; Shiftboard; South Asian House; Think Tank Photo; Village East by Angelika

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

In-person Screenings:

Opening Night (*Whistle*), **Closing Night** (*Ask E. Jean*), and **Centerpiece screenings** (*The Merchants of Joy* and *Steal This Story, Please!*) \$30 General Public / \$25 IFC Center Members

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

All screenings in the Short List: Features, Short List: Shorts, Winner's Circle and Selects Encores sections, as well as all Monday-Friday screenings starting before 5:45pm: \$13 General Public / \$10 IFC Center members

Online screenings:

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

Passes and Ticket Packs:

All Film Pass \$995 (Early bird discount price of \$699 available through October 17)
Grants access to every film screening during the live, in-person festival November 12-20, plus films on the festival's virtual screening platform November 12-30. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge, including daily breakfasts and happy hours.

Online Film Pass \$250 (Early bird discount price of \$199 available through October 17)
Grants access to all the films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 12-30.

Online Shorts Pass \$49

Grants access to all short films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 12-30. 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.

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 one person from November 13-20. 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 2025. Accreditation grants press access to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal. Contact:

docnyc@frankpublicity.com

ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:

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

MEDIA CONTACTS:**FRANK PR****docnyc@frankpublicity.com**