

**"ONE OF THE CITY'S GRANDEST
FILM EVENTS."**

- WALL STREET JOURNAL



**THE FESTIVAL
FOR DOCUMENTARIES
NOV 12-30, 2025
IN THEATERS AND ONLINE**

**IFC CENTER, VILLAGE EAST,
SVA THEATRE & ONLINE NATIONWIDE**

DOCNYC.NET



@DOCNYCFEST

CELEBRATES THE PREMIERES OF

THE A LIST:
15 STORIES FROM ASIAN
AND PACIFIC DIASPORAS
DIRECTED BY EUGENE YI

HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT
DIRECTED BY PENNY LANE

SIREN:
THE VOICES OF SHELLEY BEATTIE
DIRECTED BY IRENE TAYLOR

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS
DIRECTED BY
ZACKARY CANEPARI & JESSICA DIMMOCK



THE FESTIVAL FOR DOCUMENTARIES

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT

November 12, 2025

Dear DOC NYC Attendees,

On behalf of the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, I am honored to welcome you to DOC NYC 2025, America's largest documentary film festival.

I'm proud to serve as Commissioner of this office, which works to support our city's creative industries, including its world-renowned documentary filmmaking community.

Since its inception in 2010, DOC NYC has helped establish New York City as an epicenter for the documentary genre and a global entertainment and production hub. Today, as the entire Film/TV industry works to adjust to changing viewer habits, we will look to the content featured at this film festival to do what it always does, which is provide much-needed sources of entertainment, joy and connection.

To the filmmakers who chose NYC as a backdrop, and even as characters, in your films, we thank you. When global audiences see our city's iconic locations on their screens, it makes them want to visit, work and live here. Your films help drive that ambition.

The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) is proud to support DOC NYC as part of our efforts to drive NYC's film and television industry and make it accessible to all. Our office is working hard to make filming easier in NYC, expand NYC's production studio infrastructure, and develop a diverse local talent pool through our "Made in NY" workforce training programs.

To learn more about MOME's programs and services for New York City's creative community, please visit nyc.gov/MOME and follow us on Twitter and Facebook at [@madeinny](https://twitter.com/madeinny) and on Instagram [@madein_ny](https://www.instagram.com/madein_ny).

Congratulations to Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen and Artistic Director Jaie Laplante, and their teams, on this year's festival.

Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Pat Swinney Kaufman

Commissioner
NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

NYC.GOV/MOME



Welcome to the 16th edition of DOC NYC!

In this period of rapid change, DOC NYC is proud to present a collection of films that speak to urgent global, national, and personal matters. What binds the filmmakers of this year's official selection is their illuminations of shared humanity. We are honored to continue connecting superb documentary art and artists with an appreciative public in New York City and across the US in our online festival.

We are proud to present 31 world premieres and 33 US premieres among the more than 115 feature films showcased in this year's edition. Combined with our carefully curated selection of short films, and screenings held in conjunction with our fabulous partners, DOC NYC is presenting nearly 230 individual works in this year's program.

DOC NYC also has a history of predicting Oscar nominees and winners in our Short List: Features, Short List: Shorts, and Winner's Circle sections. New this year is Selects Encore, a selection of films that screened at DOC NYC Selects, the festival's ongoing screening series that runs annually from late winter to summer.

We are once again partnering with Subject Matter, who will award a \$25,000 grant to support one social-issue documentary's marketing and impact campaigns, alongside a \$25,000 grant to a nonprofit working on the issue featured in the film.

At DOC NYC, the spirit of accessibility continues to guide us. Our hybrid format remains a cornerstone—ensuring that the singular visions of our filmmakers travel throughout and far beyond the city, reaching audiences across the country through our robust online platform.

As with the making of any film, the production of this festival is a mosaic of collective artistry. From our devoted programming teams—curating films, industry events, and educational offerings—to the unsung heroes behind the scenes in operations, ticketing, partnerships, communications, and projection, this festival is the result of hands and hearts working in harmony. Each contribution is a crucial stroke on the larger canvas of DOC NYC.

We extend deep gratitude to our sponsors and community partners, whose support empowers our mission to champion nonfiction storytelling. And above all, to the filmmakers—the directors, producers, cinematographers, editors, and crews—thank you. Your courage to observe, to reflect, and to share truth through your lens is the very reason we gather each year. It is an honor to present your work at the 2025 edition of DOC NYC.

Raphaela Neihausen
Executive Director

Jaie Laplante
Artistic Director

8 TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FESTIVAL

1 Go Deep into Docs with an All Film Pass

Binge on all the festival films screening in person and online with an All Film Pass. (See page 88)

2 Watch a World Premiere

Share the excitement at one of the 31 films making their world premieres with directors in person.

3 Save \$ with a Ticket Package

Watch more and save more with a discounted ticket package. (See page 88)

4 Explore the Short Lists

Each year, we showcase 15 of the year's best feature and short documentaries, many of which make it to the Academy Awards. (See pages 54-67)

5 Experience DOC NYC PRO

Learn the ins and outs of documentary filmmaking at our 8-day conference for filmmakers and industry professionals at all stages of their careers. (See page 85)

6 Discover Shorts

Laugh, cry, and make discoveries at our thought-provoking Shorts Programs (See pp. 69-78). For true shorts lovers, an online Shorts Pass is available for only \$49.

7 Try the Rush Line

Even when advance seats are sold out, there are almost always last-minute tickets released to the Rush Line. (See page 93)

8 Catch Up Online

Can't make an in-person screening? We've got you covered: nearly all DOC NYC films screen online for a limited window after their festival debut. Streaming dates are listed with the film descriptions in the catalog and on docnyc.net!

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Scott Shooman, Brandon Harmer, Jess De Leo, Askash Patel, Matthew Pollack, Samara Pfeiffer, Brendan Schelhorn, Leiry Rodriguez-Marine, Lilly Wu, Ryan Moore, Leonel Rosales & the rest of the AMC Networks/Independent Film Company team.

All the staff at IFC Center; IFC Center's members; DOC NYC Festival Crew; Bez, Eli, Percival & Vespertine!

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FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL



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Whistle

Director: Christopher Nelius
Producers: Camilla Mazzaferro, Louise Smith, Luke Mazzaferro, Al Hicks, Casey Ventura

WED NOV 12, 7:15PM | SVA
ONLINE | NOV 13-30

US Premiere This year's opening night film invites us into a world where sensitive, passionate people gather not just to participate in a public competition but to be seen, to connect, and to honor a shared craft. At the Masters of Musical Whistling festival in Hollywood, founder and force-of-nature Carole Anne Kaufman (aka the Whistling Diva) devotes herself to creating an inclusive, international stage for a typically amateur art form that's nevertheless deeply meaningful for its performers.

Filmmaker Christopher Nelius and his team hone in on a lively group of individuals who arrive in full possession of their quirks and hopes. As the festival's rehearsals and stages of competition progress, Nelius captures familiar rhythms—camaraderie, playful competitiveness, and tender gestures of support—revealing a community bound less by the pursuit of victory than by simply being there for each other. *Whistle* reminds us that there is a space for everyone in this world—for connection, care, and mutual support. – *Jaie Laplante* (AUSTRALIA, 84 MIN)



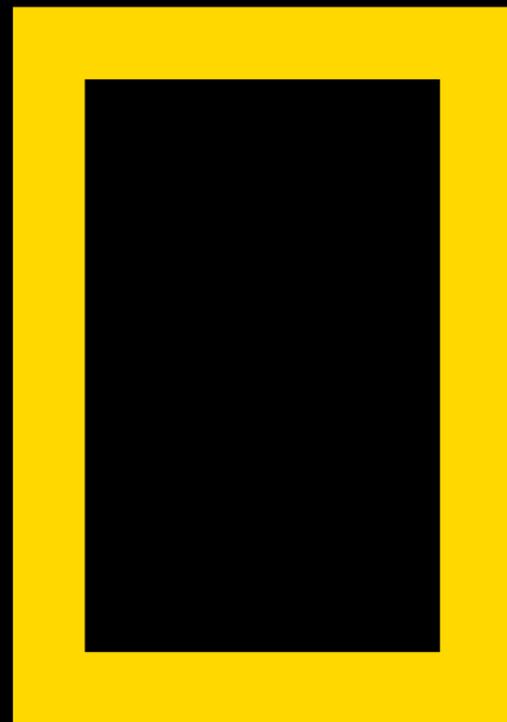
Ask E. Jean

Director/Producer: Ivy Meeropol
Producers: Laura Bickford, Annabelle Dunne

THU NOV 20, 6:30PM | SVA

NYC Premiere Over a five-decade career, the journalist, author, and talk show host E. Jean Carroll has been revered for her brass-tacks style. In 2019, galvanized by the #MeToo movement, Carroll went public with something she had buried for years: She had been sexually assaulted by Donald Trump. When the president accused her of lying, Carroll fought back with two lawsuits.

In documenting Carroll's story, filmmaker Ivy Meeropol juxtaposes the advice Carroll gave—encouraging women to stand up for themselves, to press charges, to never remain silent—with what she did not do herself at the time. *Ask E. Jean* examines the societal hurdles women face when confronting predatory men and their lies, highlighting the power of truth to combat gaslighting. – *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 91 MIN)



PROUD SUPPORTER OF
DOC NYC



The Merchants of Joy

Director/Producer: Celia Aniskovich
Producers: Zoe Vock, Arthur Spector, Joshua Davis, Joshua Berman

FRI NOV 14, 6:30PM | SVA

World Premiere For the five families that control NYC's Christmas tree trade, the most wonderful time of the year starts months before the first fir tree displays hit busy sidewalks in the five boroughs. There is the competition for sources and locations—not to mention strategizing to stretch the proceeds of five scant weeks into a living for the rest of the year. Celia Aniskovich's delightful peek behind the curtain of a holiday tradition captures a truly singular cast of characters, among them NYC's seasonal stand workers, who add extra spice to every sale.

- *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 90 MIN)



Steal This Story, Please!

Directors/Producers: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin
Producers: Karen Ranucci, Diana Cohn, Caren Spruch

THU NOV 13, 6:15PM | SVA

NYC Premiere Amy Goodman "believes that journalism put to its highest use can be the greatest force for good that the world has ever seen," says her former colleague Dave Isay in *Steal This Story, Please!* It's the reason that Goodman and her signature show *Democracy Now!* (celebrating its 30th year in 2026) are revered for integrity and dauntlessness. DOC NYC alumni Tia Lessin and Carl Deal literally chase after Goodman as she pursues the stories that Western corporate media increasingly finds inconvenient to cover. Along the way, they reveal the personal side to her iconic persona, confirming depths of empathy behind the scenes that balloon our appreciation of the force that is Goodman.

- *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 101 MIN)



BENITA

Director/Producer: Alan Berliner

FRI NOV 14, 7:00PM | IFC
SUN NOV 16, 11:30AM | VE

World Premiere NYC experimental documentary filmmaker Benita Raphan died by suicide during the loneliness of the COVID-19 shutdowns. DOC NYC 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Alan Berliner, who was her friend and creative advisor, creates a kind of posthumous collaboration with Benita on her final project, using as many of her images, sounds, and words as possible. *BENITA* is a deep dive into the many complexities of artists' lives, from the whimsical to core existential questions, and lessons we can learn about the intersection of mental health and creativity. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 82 MIN)



Mad Hot Ballroom: 20th Anniversary Celebration

Director/Producer: Marilyn Agrelo
Producer: Amy Sewell

SAT NOV 15, 4:15PM | VE
THU NOV 20, 1:15PM | IFC

Twenty years after it first charmed its way into audiences' hearts, DOC NYC presents a retrospective screening of Marilyn Agrelo and Amy Sewell's classic about NYC public school fifth-graders competing in the extracurricular world of ballroom dancing. The filmmakers followed students from a school in each of Bensonhurst, Tribeca, and Washington Heights as they learned about ambition, discipline, respect, and perspective—all to the beats of merengue, rumba, tango, and other rhythms. The film exists as a snapshot of a tolerant and respectful time, with expressions of such values seemingly in much shorter supply today. Some of the students featured in the film, now in their 30s, are expected to attend alongside some of their former teachers. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 105 MIN)



Black Is Beautiful: The Kwame Brathwaite Story

Director: Yemi Bamiro
Producers: Joanna Boateng, Lizzie Gillett, Ian Bonhôte, Andrew Calof

THU NOV 13, 9:15PM | SVA
MON NOV 17, 7:45PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

North American Premiere Photographer Kwame Brathwaite, who used his art as activism, captured the joy of Black American life, documenting jazz musicians, celebrities, everyday Harlem scenes, and more—while popularizing the phrase “Black is Beautiful,” amplifying the movement that redefined Black pride. Through interviews with his family and celebrities like Jesse Williams, Gabrielle Union, and Alicia Keys, the film honors this unsung, prolific artist's profound contribution to photography and culture. - *Karen McMullen* (UK/USA, 99 MIN)



The Trial of Alec Baldwin

Director/Producer: Rory Kennedy
Producers: Mark Bailey, Julia Marchesi

THU NOV 13, 6:45PM | SVA
FRI NOV 14, 4:00PM | VE

World Premiere A provocative examination of celebrity haters, public vitriol, and the toxic price of fame. DOC NYC alumna Rory Kennedy depicts how the tragic accidental death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of *Rust* in 2021 hatched a distressing cottage industry of career-furthering paparazzi and prosecutors maneuvering for payoffs and power. Talented and adored, yet also flawed and prone to explosions of anger, NYC-based Hollywood star Alec Baldwin becomes a lightning rod of envy and online hate as he fights to protect himself and his family from our culture's revolting empathy gaps.

Rory Kennedy's sober assessment never lets you forget the Hutchins family's tragedy while walking us through a riveting final act detailing the shocking revelations of Baldwin's trial in New Mexico. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 111 MIN)



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SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



We Met at Grossinger's

Director/Producer: Paula Eiselt
Producers: Robert Friedman, Bennett Elliott

THU NOV 13, 6:30PM | IFC
SUN NOV 16, 7:00PM | VE

World Premiere *We Met at Grossinger's* is a dazzling excavation of cultural memory and mythology. Throughout decades of prejudice stifling the integration of Jewish immigrants in America, the Borscht Belt in the Catskills provided an oasis of belonging, and Grossinger's Resort and Hotel was the crown jewel. The real-life inspiration for the setting of the 1987 classic film *Dirty Dancing*, Grossinger's provided both a physical and mental getaway where Jews—and others from marginalized communities—needing a break from NYC could relax. The resort's growing reputation attracted a wide variety of comedians, athletes, and political figures, including Jackie Robinson and Eleanor Roosevelt.

DOC NYC alumna Paula Eiselt resurrects this vanished world with an immersive warmth, providing a timely reminder of the historic richness of Jewish culture and its immeasurable contributions to American life. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 104 MIN)

With radical tenderness

CHICKEN & EGG FILMS

WIP Showcase

Thu, Nov 13, at 10am

Part of DOC NYC PRO's Pitch Day 1



We champion women and gender-expansive documentary filmmakers around the globe with funding, mentorship, and access so they can tell stories that ignite change.



Proud Supporters of DOC NYC

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Mata Hari

Directors/Producers: Joe Beshenkovsky, James A. Smith

FRI NOV 14, 6:30PM | VE
MON NOV 17, 3:45PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 15-30

North American Premiere In 1977, television star David Carradine cast his estranged daughter Calista in *Mata Hari* with the ambitious intent to film over 15 years as she grew up. Following his death in 2009, David's film remained unfinished, but he left behind a remarkable trove of footage. With Calista and David's relationship increasingly strained throughout the process, this exploration of his bold vision highlights the struggle of navigating familial bonds while in pursuit of creative expression. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 93 MIN)



Sons of Detroit

Director: Jeremy Xido
Producers: Amanda Burr

THU NOV 13, 7:00PM | VE
FRI NOV 14, 1:15PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

World Premiere Detroit has often been framed in a negative light, saddled with proclamations of crime and urban decay, but that isn't the city that filmmaker Jeremy Xido calls home. After his family moved to the city during his youth, an African American family "adopted" Xido and his parents as part of their clan. In this emotionally rich personal tale, Xido reconnects with an estranged "cousin" as he reckons with the social forces that pulled them apart. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 97 MIN)



Santacon

Director/Producer: Seth Porges
Producers: Michael Garber, Jake DeNicola

THU NOV 13, 6:45PM | VE
SAT NOV 15, 9:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

World Premiere The sight of rogue Santas gallivanting through the streets has become an NYC winter staple. While the revelry can feel like just a drunken lark, the origins of the festivities lie in something far more absurd. Born in the Bay Area from the same minds as Burning Man, Santacon grew from zany capitalist commentary to a seasonal sensation. Featuring interviews with its creators, these Santa shenanigans give an irreverent twist to the Christmas season. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 87 MIN)



Thoughts & Prayers

Directors/Producers: Zackary Canepari, Jessica Dimmock
Producers: Claire Read, Gary Kout

WED NOV 12, 6:30PM | SVA
THU NOV 13, 4:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 13-14

World Premiere In today's America, children are taught how to prepare for school shootings through elaborate drills. As children continue to be gunned down in the country, this smart and heartbreaking film takes an acerbic and caustic tone, perhaps aptly fitting the mood of civilians disgusted with politicians who do nothing to change the country's gun laws. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 85 MIN)



Traces of Home

Director: Colette Ghunim
Producers: Sara Maamouri, Dan Rybicky, Capella Fahoome

FRI NOV 14, 7:15PM | VE
SAT NOV 15, 4:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 15-30

World Premiere Delving into the past and not shying away from the dug-up pain, a young filmmaker speaks to her Mexican mother and Palestinian father about their trying journeys into the United States. In a society with rhetoric increasingly vilifying Mexicans and Palestinians, the filmmaker picks up her camera in a bid to address the grief at the center of the generational trauma that has underscored her relationship with her family. A meditation of loss and grief relieved, ultimately, through reconciliation. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 89 MIN)



Wayumi

Director/Producer: Andrew Balcof
Producers: David Good, Elius Kim

SAT NOV 15, 5:30PM | VE
MON NOV 17, 4:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 16-30

World Premiere A moving story of a son reconnecting with his Indigenous mother, who left him as a child to return to her tribe in the Amazon. As an adult, he seeks to rebuild their bond across distance, culture, language, and time. The story revolves around several hurdles they encounter, many of which are bureaucratic, trying to get her to the US. The heart of the film, though, lies in the tender relationship between mother and son. - *Murtada Elfadl* (USA, 80 MIN)



The Voyage Out

Director/Producer: Barlow Jacobs
Producer: Keetin Mayakara

SAT NOV 15, 6:00PM | IFC
SUN NOV 16, 11:45AM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 16-30

World Premiere Guided by professional hunter Marc Warnke and survival expert Callie Russell, struggling tech entrepreneur Mansal Denton sets out on an eight-day remote wilderness expedition in search of elk, along with answers to some of life's biggest questions. Shot on gorgeous 16mm, this introspective film follows our complex trio as the trials of the journey surface their foremost wounds, forcing them to grapple with the profound mysteries of mortality. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 99 MIN)



Y Vân: The Lost Sounds of Saigon

Directors: Khoa Ha, Victor Velle
Producer: Douglas Emerson

SUN NOV 16, 4:25PM | VE
TUE NOV 18, 9:20PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 17-30

World Premiere Growing up in the US, filmmaker Khoa Ha always knew her grandfather was a famous musician in her native Vietnam. What she didn't realize was the magnitude of his popularity or the mystique that surrounded his real background. In excavating the story of the musician Y Vân, she not only discovers the man behind the persona but also unearths a part of Vietnamese music history that was lost to time. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA/VIETNAM, 93 MIN)



9-Month Contract

Director: Ketevan Vashagashvili
Producers: Anna Khazaradze,
 Nino Chichua

SUN NOV 16, 2:15PM | VE
TUE NOV 18, 1:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 17-30

US Premiere The premise is shattering enough: A mother in Georgia becomes a surrogate to provide for her young daughter. Yet filmmaker Ketevan Vashagashvili's intimate portrait derives its strength from the perceptive ways she captures the relationship between the two women. What starts as a means to make money evolves into a personal crisis, challenging the limits of familial devotion. This is an unflinching yet tender exploration of resilience and love through unimaginable circumstances. – *Murtada Elfadl* (GEORGIA/BULGARIA/GERMANY, 77 MIN)



El Canto de Las Manos

Director/Producer: María Valverde
Producers: Cristina Oliva, Martí Font Isern, Gustavo Dudamel

THU NOV 20, 6:30PM | IFC
FRI NOV 7, 7:30PM | DAVID GEFEN HALL
ONLINE | NOV 12-30

US Premiere Renowned conductor Gustavo Dudamel partners with Coro de Manos Blancas, a choir of deaf performers in Venezuela, to stage Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*. As the choir prepares for their innovative performance, the film follows them through auditions, rehearsals, and personal stories of resilience in the face of anti-deaf discrimination. With music expressed through sign language, this film delivers a moving portrait of an often-overlooked community, celebrating the transformative power of art and self-expression. – *Karen McMullen* (USA/SPAIN, 91 MIN)



Aurora

Director: João Vieira Torres
Producer: Marina Meliande

FRI NOV 14, 6:15PM | VE
MON NOV 17, 1:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 15-30

North American Premiere Vivid dreams and ghostly visits from Brazilian director João Vieira Torres' grandmother compel him to explore the stories of the women in his family, many of whom were victims of violence. With intimate family conversations, haunting photos, and his coming-of-age story, João traces his journey to uncover a tragic legacy. In the process, he weaves a poignant, powerful narrative of generational trauma and the triumph of love in the face of Brazil's racism and sexism. – *Karen McMullen* (BRAZIL/FRANCE/PORTUGAL, 132 MIN)



I, Poppy

Director/Producer: Vivek Chaudhary
Producer: Xavier Rocher

SUN NOV 16, 6:50PM | VE
TUE NOV 18, 2:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 17-30

US Premiere A complex power structure of casteism, oppression, and corruption governs the lives of Dalit poppy farmers. Vardibhai, older and traumatized by casteist abuse, believes the way out is through hard work and resilience. Her son Mangilal chooses the political route to organize and agitate toward a resistance. The Hot Docs Best International Feature Documentary award-winning film shows the limitations of both approaches within a system that is inherently broken and biased. – *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (INDIA/FRANCE, 82 MIN)



Imago

Director: Déni Oumar Pitsaev
Producers: Alexandra Mélot, Anne-Laure Guégan, Géraldine Sprimont

WED NOV 19, 6:45PM | VE
THU NOV 20, 4:30PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 20-30

US Premiere Visiting a Chechen community that escaped the unrelenting wars of their homeland and settled in nearby Georgia, Paris-based filmmaker Déni Oumar Pitsaev ponders pressure from his divorced parents about returning to live among his own people and raise a family. While the pull of roots is undeniable, Déni wonders whether his Muslim family and neighbors will value his artistic dreams and untraditional view of gender roles—and what might give his life the most meaning. - *Jaie Laplante* (FRANCE/BELGIUM, 109 MIN)



Loss Adjustment

Director: Miguel Calderón
Producer: Andrea Paasch

FRI NOV 14, 9:35PM | VE
MON NOV 17, 4:15PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 15-30

US Premiere Pedro, a claims adjuster navigating Mexico's corrupt insurance industry, spends his days probing tragedies while resisting pressure to manipulate the truth. Seeking escape, he turns to contemporary art and theater, befriending artist Miguel Calderón, only to confront a parallel world of vanity and deceit. Blurring observation, reenactment, and performance, the film intertwines insurance and art as twin arenas of predation. Calderón's dark humor and biting critique satirize power, corruption, and the fragile search for meaning. - *Ruth Somalo* (MEXICO/URUGUAY, 74 MIN)



The Lama's Son

Director: Kesang Tseten
Producer: Loel Guinness

SUN NOV 16, 2:05PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 17-30

North American Premiere In the tradition of the Tibetan religion Bon, a lama's son inherits his title. In Lubra in northern Nepal, where a large population of Bon followers reside, an aging lama awaits his son's return from the US—and fears the extinction of his culture. In a fast-globalizing world that demands assimilation, a community struggles to hold on to its distinctive customs. Simultaneously, a filmmaker observes the decline of traditions that defined his formative years. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (SWITZERLAND/NEPAL, 73 MIN)



Zelensky

Directors: Yves Jeuland, Lisa Vapné
Producer: Guilaine Chenu

SAT NOV 15, 2:45PM | IFC
MON NOV 17, 1:15PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 16-30

US Premiere Take a trip beyond headlines and meet the hyperactive boy who would go on to be a TV mogul and actor, all before becoming the president of Ukraine and the subject of global attention in leading the country's defense against Russian aggression. With interviews with those who knew Volodymyr Zelensky before he became one of the most famous men in the world, the documentary combines interviews and archival material to show us the Zelensky we don't know. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (FRANCE, 133 MIN)



The Foul-Mouthed Granny

Director/Producer: Seung-pyo Hong

THU NOV 20, 6:45PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 21-30

World Premiere An ode to the enduring love and raw humor between a sharp-tongued, famous Korean cook and her devoted youngest son. Told from his autobiographical perspective, the film moves fluidly across time, weaving memories, caregiving rituals, funeral rites, and art into a lyrical meditation on grief. With tenderness and wit, it reveals how loss transforms into creativity and how intergenerational bonds persist beyond death. - *Ruth Somalo* (SOUTH KOREA, 90 MIN)



Omega Wants to Dance

Director/Producer: Ramon Tort

THU NOV 13, 7:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

North American Premiere In a future where humans no longer exist, an AI system reflects on dance as the essence of consciousness, spontaneity, and identity. Philosophers, historians, artists, and Nobel laureates trace dance across ritual, flamenco, butoh, rave culture, and historical dance epidemics. Eclectic archives, experimental interludes, and candid testimonies weave a vibrant essay on movement as joy, ritual, and survival. At once speculative sci-fi and grounded documentary, the film creates a dazzling meditation on humanity's eternal urge to dance. - *Ruth Somalo* (SPAIN, 92 MIN)



Lost For Words

Director/Producer: Hannah Papacek Harper
Producer: John Archer

WED NOV 19, 6:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 20-30

US Premiere With words like "acorn" and "otter" vanishing from a dictionary, Lost for Words begins a lyrical meditation on language, care, and the more-than-human world. Through poetry and acts of conservation like rewilding and path-building, the film asks how naming fosters knowing, caring, and change. With painterly cinematography and evocative soundscapes, this essayistic work frames the biodiversity crisis as a failure of imagination, offering not despair but tenderness, hope, and a radical call to care. - *Ruth Somalo* (FRANCE/UK, 93 MIN)



Shifting Baselines

Director: Julien Elie
Producer: Andreas Mendritzki

SAT NOV 15, 9:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 16-30

NYC Premiere Many of those who called Boca Chica home don't anymore. When Elon Musk's SpaceX decided to build its 50-story rocket in the Texas town, it forced people away. Birds have been stopped in flight, and people who remained can no longer access the beaches they grew up visiting. Julien Elie's dystopic sci-fi documentary is a warning for what happens when greed and ego seem to have no visible boundaries. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (CANADA, 100 MIN)



Unanimal

Directors: Tuva Bjork, Sally Jacobson
Producers: Victor Ede, Melissa Lindgren, Tobias Janson

**SUN NOV 16, 7:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30**

North American Premiere Beautifully composed and subtly unsettling, *Unanimal* interrogates the entangled, often contradictory relationship between humans and animals. Narrated with calm detachment by Isabella Rossellini, the essay film offers a critical yet poetic historical lens on the evolution of our cohabitation with nonhuman life. It creates space for viewers to question the ways we project meaning onto animals, and how our frameworks of science, entertainment, and affection shape their lives—and ours. - *Ruth Somalo* (FRANCE/SWEDEN, 72 MIN)



Artists in Residence

Director: Katie Jacobs
Producer: Henry Hayes

**FRI NOV 14, 5:30PM | VE
 THU NOV 20, 7:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 15-30**

World Premiere Purchasing a house together in 1950s NYC, three female artists defied societal norms and prioritized their art over traditional roles as wives and mothers. Through interviews with the women, now in their 70s and 80s, as well as their grown children, the film explores the emotional complexities of being an artist and a parent. A heartfelt celebration of independence, creativity, and the enduring strength of women artists. - *Karen McMullen* (USA, 93 MIN)

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Consulate General of Canada in New York congratulates the Voices of Canada films selected for DOC NYC 2025

FÉLICITATIONS!

Le Consulat général du Canada à New York félicite les films sélectionnés pour Voices of Canada pour DOC NYC 2025



A Thousand Colors Nadia Louis-Desmarchais
Matabeleland Naysha Kalandara
Paul Denis Côté
Shifting Baselines Julien Elie
True North Michèle Stephenson
What We Inherit Kacim Steets Azouz
The Toni Cade Bambara School of Organizing Louis Massiah, Monica Henriquez
The Eyes of Ghana Ben Proudfoot



A View From Home Mingzhe Zhou
Bruce's Angels Özgün Gündüz
The Pink Pill: Sex, Drugs & Who Has Control Aisling Chin-Yee
That Which Is Heard Ken Pham
The Man in the Rectangle Ali Heraize
Am I the skinniest person you've ever seen? Eisha Marjara
Cutting Through Rocks Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni



We were the scenery Christopher Radcliff



Two Kinds of People Evan Luchkow



King Hamlet

Director: Elvira Lind
Producers: Sara Stockmann, Sofia Sondervan

**FRI NOV 14, 7:15PM | SVA
 ONLINE | NOV 15-30**

NYC Premiere While preparing to play Hamlet in an intense NYC production, actor Oscar Isaac learns that his mother has fallen ill with an aggressive cancer—at the same time he and partner, filmmaker Elvira Lind, are imminently expecting their firstborn. As Elvira's camera quietly captures Oscar at rehearsal, at home, and with extended family, her observations become a meditation on love, grief, and the porous boundary between performance and private life—as Oscar shapes his very personal take on the legendary Prince of Denmark. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA/DENMARK, 86 MIN)



Museum of the Night

Director/Producer: Fermín Eloy Acosta
Producers: Ramiro Pavón, Pablo Ingercher

MON NOV 17, 6:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 18-30

North American Premiere For archivists, the world of avant-garde theater and cinema in early 1970s NYC is a rich cauldron of no-safety-net experimentation and creativity—the time of legends such as Jack Smith, Jonas Mekas, and David Johansen—and Theater of the Ridiculous. The latter was particularly well-documented by the Argentine photographer Leandro Katz. Now very late in life and living in Buenos Aires, Katz shares the fascinating specter of a past intertwined with sexuality, art, and death. - *Jaie Laplante* (ARGENTINA, 88 MIN)



The Nutcracker at Wethersfield

Director/Producer: Anne Sundberg
Producer: Julie Seureau

SUN NOV 16, 2:00PM | IFC
THU NOV 20, 7:00PM | SVA
ONLINE | NOV 17-18

World Premiere When COVID-19 quarantine restrictions force the 2020 cancellation of Lincoln Center's annual holiday production of *The Nutcracker* for the first time since 1964, a group of unemployed New York City Ballet dancers find an unexpected haven at a fairy-tale estate in the Hudson Valley. With an original staging for a masked and largely outdoor audience, the dancers channel the spirit of the classic score into a beacon of wonder during a dark time. In documenting, DOC NYC alumna Anne Sundberg grasps the vital core of the production: how to find hope to persevere, then and now. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 80 MIN)



My Sunnyside

Director: Matylda Kawka
Producers: Alicja Gancarz, Anna Wereda

SAT NOV 15, 7:00PM | VE
WED NOV 19, 8:50PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 16-30

North American Premiere Jo, a trans man, meets Allie, a trans woman—and sparks fly. As the relationship of these two New Yorkers evolves through busy careers, raising children, and their ongoing gender transitions, the couple makes plans to get married—"the most traditional progressive wedding" ever, proclaims their presiding minister. Having come so far as individuals, finding love to create a new foundation of family is a national testimonial in a time of rising transphobia. - *Jaie Laplante* (POLAND/USA, 90 MIN)



Street Smart: Lessons from a TV Icon

Director/Producer: Ernie Bustamante
Producers: Maor Azran, Steven Canals

SUN NOV 16, 2:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 17-30

NYC Premiere Sonia Manzano, best known as "Maria" on *Sesame Street*, shares her inspiring journey from childhood in the Bronx to becoming a trailblazing television icon. Through her own words, and with appearances by Stephen Schwartz, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and more, *STREET SMART* celebrates Manzano's groundbreaking work as an actress and Emmy-winning writer while exploring life after *Sesame Street*. This uplifting portrait honors a beloved Latina role model who made an impressive and indelible mark on children's television. - *Karen McMullen* (USA, 85 MIN)

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The A List: 15 Stories from Asian and Pacific Diasporas

Director/Producer: Eugene Yi
Producers: Jada Yuan, Chad Thompson
World Premiere Sandra Oh, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Kumail Nanjiani, Amanda Nguyen, Connie Chung, and beyond: their worlds may be disparate, but they've all, in their unique ways, navigated what it means to be Asian in relation to their American identities. While their success has been fraught with racism, they share their stories of losses and wins—to record and bear witness to the struggles, but also to inspire those who come after them. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 84 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 7:00PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 18-19

WED NOV 19, 4:00PM | VE



Arrest the Midwife

Director/Producer: Elaine Epstein
Producer: Robin Hessman
NYC Premiere Amid a looming maternal health crisis and vanishing reproductive freedom, the government interferes in the traditional practice of midwifery in a rural Mennonite community. When three midwives are arrested, the usually sequestered women decide to reclaim their rights by challenging the state's decision. A little-known resistance filmed with extraordinary access to a reticent community tells us how the erosion of women's rights is ever-pervasive, and the only way out is through intersectionality. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 79 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 6:30PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 19-30

THU NOV 20, 4:00PM | IFC



Creede U.S.A.

Director/Producer: Kahane Corn Cooperman
Producer: Innbo Shim
NYC Premiere A colorful historic mining town of 300 people tucked away in the mountains of Colorado may seem remote, but Creede is in no way immune to the culture clashes raging through the country. Everyday spaces become sites of tension, and neighborly relations grow fraught. Yet this wonderful film, and the people of Creede themselves, remind us that common ground is still possible to find in American society. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 96 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 7:00PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 18-30



Love, Joy & Power: Tools for Liberation

Director/Producer: Daresha Kyi
Producer: Trevite Willis
NYC Premiere The dynamic co-founders of Black Voters Matter, Cliff Albright, April England Albright, and LaTosha Brown, travel across the country in their beloved "Blackest bus in America" to mobilize Black communities ahead of the 2020 election. Undeterred by COVID-19 and voter suppression tactics, they empower grassroots activists with passion, courage, and heart. Punctuated by heart-wrenching incidents of racially-based violence, this energetic and inspiring documentary celebrates the power of community, culture, and relentless determination in the fight for democracy. - *Karen McMullen* (USA, 98 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 5:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 20-30



Beyond

Directors/Producers: Asia Johnson, Michael Kleiman
World Premiere The men behind the prison walls of Sing Sing Correctional Facility find a much-needed outlet in Beyond the Block, a TED-style public speaking symposium. Conceived and developed by an incarcerated planning committee, the event allows participants to explore their humanity in otherwise adverse circumstances. *Beyond* follows the presenters, from auditions to triumphant moments on stage, as they express their truths in front of an audience of policy-makers, prison officials, and loved ones. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 89 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 7:00PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 16-30

TUE NOV 18, 4:00PM | IFC



The Big Cheese

Director/Producer: Sara Joe Wolansky
Producer: James A. Smith
World Premiere In the high-pressure world of international cheesemongering, Adam Moskowitz aims to send the first American to claim the top prize at the Mondial du Fromage competition in France. While the European model for this "sommelier of cheese" profession eclipses its stateside counterpart in societal support, Moskowitz—and his alter-ego, Mr. Moo—believe scrappy American ingenuity can take the wheel. Sara Joe Wolansky's supremely witty and entertaining directorial debut is an instant artisanal classic. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 87 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 7:15PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 14-30

FRI NOV 14, 1:00PM | VE



Saving Etting Street

Directors/Producers: Dena Fisher, Amy Scott
World Premiere Shelly, a brash, no-nonsense carpenter, is on a mission to empower Black women to reclaim their futures, one home at a time. Through her innovative program, participants learn construction skills and financial literacy to renovate and purchase abandoned row houses in Baltimore. As dilapidated quarters become dream homes, the women's personal journeys and stories of determination and community offer a powerful blueprint for breaking cycles of poverty and revitalizing neighborhoods from within. - *Karen McMullen* (USA, 67 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 5:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30

TUE NOV 18, 9:15AM | VE



Third Act

Director/Producer: Tadashi Nakamura
Producer: Eurie Chung
NYC Premiere Tadashi Nakamura's film about his father, pioneering filmmaker Robert A. Nakamura, is both historically resonant and rooted in personal experience. In charting his father's legacy as a filmmaker and activist, the younger Nakamura confronts his struggles with identity. More than a biopic of a great man, this is a story of a resilient family whose members, despite all the hardships they have endured, recognize they are lucky to have accomplished so much—and luckier to be together. - *Murtada Elfadl* (USA, 91 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 6:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30

AMERICAN STORIES



What We Inherit

Director: Kacim Steets Azouz
Producer: Frederic Bohbot

World Premiere In a political landscape marked by racialized power structures, an Algerian-American filmmaker raised in Canada decides to turn the lens on his family. His ancestors, he discovered, did great things—and owned slaves. *What We Inherit* unpacks this complicated legacy and directly engages with descendants of the people held captive by the filmmaker's ancestors. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (CANADA, 97 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 12:15PM | IFC **SUN NOV 16, 12:15PM | IFC**
ONLINE | NOV 15-30

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BIG BLUE



The Garden of Maria

Director: Jade Rainho
Producer: Julia Bock, Simone Elias

World Premiere On the margins of Latin America's largest city, Guarani Mbya elder Maria reclaims a devastated landscape and turns it into a flourishing garden. Through reforestation, medicinal rituals, and fierce advocacy for land rights, she becomes both a guardian of the Atlantic Forest and a vessel of her community's wisdom. With lyrical intimacy, the film immerses us in Maria's world, where resistance, ecology, and spirituality offer a blueprint for survival and renewal. - *Ruth Somalo* (BRAZIL, 72 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 4:15PM | VE **ONLINE | NOV 16-30**



The Keeper

Director/Producer: Jon Bowermaster
Producer: Carolyn Marks Blackwood

NYC Premiere For 25 years, charismatic river steward John Lipscomb has patrolled the Hudson in his wooden boat, covering more than 80,000 miles on "America's first river." Fighting industrial waste, sewage, and negligence, Lipscomb has become both the river's watchdog and poet laureate, bearing witness to its wounds and recoveries. Sweeping imagery and intimate reflection honor a life devoted to ecological justice while capturing the moment Lipscomb prepares to pass the torch to a new generation. - *Ruth Somalo* (UK/USA, 80 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 5:30PM | VE **TUE NOV 18, 3:45PM | VE**
ONLINE | NOV 18-30

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Our Land

Director: Orban Wallace
Producers: Becca Wolff, Charlie Phillips, Leo Smith

International Premiere An invigorating examination of the growing movement for the right to roam in the UK and beyond. Perspectives of activists, landowners, and walkers reclaiming access to the countryside reveal how globally relevant questions of land ownership are bound to histories of colonialism, class, and power. With energy and clarity, the film captures a pivotal struggle over who nature belongs to and what it means to truly share land. - *Ruth Somalo* (UK, 91 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 6:30PM | VE **SUN NOV 16, 6:30PM | VE**
ONLINE | NOV 16-30



Plan C for Civilization

Director/Producer: Ben Kalina
Producer: Jamila Paksima

World Premiere Physicist David Keith, a leading and controversial figure in solar geoengineering, seeks to test his planetary-cooling technology after decades of research and theorization. His journey unfolds amid fierce debates over the ethical, political, and environmental implications of reflecting sunlight to slow global warming. Activists warn that the technology could delay fossil fuel reductions or be misused geopolitically. The documentary offers a gripping, real-time look at science shaped by public discourse, ethics, and institutional power. - *Ruth Somalo* (USA, 108 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 6:30PM | VE **SAT NOV 15, 1:00PM | VE**
ONLINE | NOV 14-30



Always

Director: Deming Chen
Producer: Hansen Lin
NYC Premiere Gorgeously rendered through picturesque cinematography, *Always* offers a meditative portrait of an adolescent wannabe poet in rural China. Director-cinematographer Deming Chen follows the protagonist from ages 9 to 13, capturing family life, both its hardship and resilience, without sentimentality. Poetry lives in both intertitles and luminous images of land, labor, and people. Expansive and patient, touching on poignant themes of abandonment and perseverance, *Always* establishes Chen as a striking new voice in documentary. - *Murtada Elfadl* (USA/FRANCE/CHINA/TAIWAN, 86 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 4:00PM | VE SUN NOV 16, 11:10AM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 14-30



The Dating Game

Director/Producer: Violet Du Feng
Producers: Joanna Natasegara, James Costa, Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas
NYC Premiere A dystopic aftermath of China's one-child policy is a lopsided gender ratio. In a society with more men than women, a male loneliness epidemic looms as men struggle to find wives in a cutthroat dating market. As women find love in AI boyfriends, men—often of lower social class—hire dating coaches who, through their parroting of patriarchal cliches, may just be making things a lot worse. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA/UK/NORWAY, 88 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 9:10PM | VE MON NOV 17, 1:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 14-30



Siren: The Voices of Shelley Beattie

Director/Producer: Irene Taylor
Producers: Lauren Mueller, Marlee Matlin
World Premiere Bodybuilder. Athlete. Gladiator. Shelley Beattie was a proud deaf woman and a graceful powerhouse whose impressive physique often obscured her human struggles. Reaching the height of her fame on *American Gladiators* as Siren, Beattie's professional success masked her mental health battles from her family, friends, and partners. Director Irene Taylor joins forces with Hollywood veteran Marlee Matlin to guide the viewer through an exploration of Beattie's life in this touching biography. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 102 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 7:15PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 19-20



A Thousand Colors

Director: Nadia Louis-Desmarchais
Producer: Paola Arriagada-Nunez
World Premiere Filmmaker Nadia Louis-Desmarchais tries to untangle the complex knot of race and identity that lies at the center of her life. As the daughter of a Haitian mother, adopted by a white family in Quebec, she uses her camera to illustrate an identity that is as intricate and beautiful as she is. Within a world that divides people into Black and white, Louis-Desmarchais discovers a spectrum to which she can belong. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (CANADA, 100 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 6:15PM | VE SAT NOV 15, 8:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 14-30



The Gas Station Attendant

Director/Producer: Karla Murthy
Producer: Rajal Pitroda
NYC Premiere Collaging together home videos and phone conversations with her late father, filmmaker Karla Murthy creates a portrait of an immigrant who left everything familiar in pursuit of the American Dream. It is also a singular story of a specific kind of love, distinctive in its special joys and grief. A personal memorial but also a reminder of the resolve and love immigrants bring into this country—especially poignant at a time of divisive America First-ism. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (USA, 83 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 7:15PM | IFC THU NOV 20, 2:00PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 20-30



Paul

Director/Producer: Denis Côté
Producers: Hany Ouichou, Karine Bélanger
US Premiere An enigmatic portrait of an unconventional life lived with precision and vulnerability. Paul, who calls himself a "simp," navigates mental health struggles through domestic service for dominant mistresses, finding purpose in cleaning as ritual and discipline. Online, his "Cleaning to Save My Life" philosophy transforms into a performance of self and a lifeline to others. With sensitive, unobtrusive cinematography, the film explores intimacy, stigma, and the enigmatic ways people construct meaning and resilience. - *Ruth Somalo* (CANADA, 87 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 6:45PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 18-30



The Age of Water

Directors: Alfredo Alcántara, Isabel Alcántara Atalaya
Producers: Michèle Stephenson, Joe Brewster, Lindsay Perna
NYC Premiere Set in Mexico's heartland, this urgent investigative documentary follows a group of women who uncover radioactive contamination in their water after three young girls die of leukemia. These mothers-turned-activists link the crisis to the corporate extraction of ancient rocks. Facing government denial and community resistance, they fight for accountability. Blending expert insight with local history and mythology, *The Age of Water* exposes a growing global issue, making clear that water contamination knows no borders. - *Murtada Elfadl* (MEXICO/USA, 72 MIN)

THU NOV 20, 7:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 21-30



Free Leonard Peltier

Directors: Jesse Short Bull, David France
Producers: David France, Jhane Myers, Paul McGuire, Bird Runningwater
NYC Premiere In the midst of the American Indian Movement in the 1970s, two federal agents are killed on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Auto mechanic-turned-activist Leonard Peltier finds himself behind bars for the crime via a disputed conviction, serving two life sentences under the questionable machinations of the justice system. Peltier fights to maintain his innocence for decades, while his community soldiers forward, enduring a half-century quest for his freedom. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 117 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 1:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30



The Six Billion Dollar Man

Director/Producer: Eugene Jarecki
Producer: Kathleen Fournier
NYC Premiere An unvarnished chronicle of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's yearslong fight for journalistic freedom. Pulling no punches, the film frames Assange as a martyr, imprisoned and surveilled for daring to expose the transgressions of scheming governments, oligarchs, and ideologues. Featuring CCTV footage from his arduous confinement, this sweeping collage brings together the facts of the Assange saga in a timely and pointed statement against a world where the powerful manipulate the masses. - *Ruth Somalo* (USA/GERMANY, 129 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 6:45PM | IFC TUE NOV 18, 1:15PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30



True North

Director: Michèle Stephenson
Producer: Leslie Norville
NYC Premiere The story of a student uprising on a Montreal university campus sheds light on the often-overlooked history of anti-Black racism in Canada. Through vivid archival footage and firsthand accounts from former student protestors, now in their 80s, the film reveals the experiences of Black Canadians who, alongside West Indians who migrated north seeking opportunity and refuge, encountered systemic discrimination. Expertly crafted with a stirring score, this emotionally resonant film illuminates a poorly known pivotal moment in Canadian history. - *Karen McMullen* (USA/CANADA, 96 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 1:45PM | VE WED NOV 19, 4:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30



Misan Harriman: Shoot the People

Director: Andy Mundy-Castle
Producer: Wyn Baptiste
North American Premiere Nigerian-born British image-maker Misan Harriman has garnered accolades for his powerful photographs of grassroots protests against climate change inaction, Gaza atrocities, George Floyd's murder, and more. Yet even as his images provoke palpable reactions, as a self-described person of privilege, Harriman shares his doubts about his work's effectiveness in discussion with such human rights leaders as Rep. Ilhan Omar and Martin Luther King III. Urgent and compelling, Harriman's compassion and questioning are needed more than ever. - *Jaie Laplante* (UK, 86 MIN)

THU NOV 20, 6:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 21-30



No Mercy

Director: Isa Willinger
Producers: Alex Tondowski, Ira Tondowski, Sabine Gruber, Peter Drössler
North American Premiere Director Isa Willinger asks herself whether women's filmmaking is characterized by a particular harshness. Inspired by Ukrainian director Kira Muratova, this bold essay film interrogates power, violence, and representation. Blending history, criticism, and manifesto, *No Mercy* foregrounds a lineage too often overlooked while celebrating the radical voices reshaping cinema. With contributions from Céline Sciamma, Virginie Despentes, Nina Menkes, Catherine Breillat, Apolline Traoré, Joey Soloway, and more, the film is unapologetic, unflinching, and, fittingly, without mercy. - *Ruth Somalo* (GERMANY/AUSTRIA, 105 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 5:30PM | VE FRI NOV 14, 6:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 14-30

CHECK WWW.DOCNYC.NET FOR UPDATES ON ATTENDING FILMMAKERS



WTO/99

Director/Producer: Ian Bell
Producers: Laura Tatham, Alex Megaro
NYC Premiere In 1999, a World Trade Organization conference in Seattle is met with 40,000 protesters rallying against the advancement of globalization. An ideological melange of activists with a variety of agendas, including anarchists, pro-labor organizations, and environmentalists, disrupts the trade talks with the hope of bringing attention to the societal dangers of ever-increasing deregulation. This immersive archival piece provides a glimpse into a recent past that strikingly evokes modern tensions. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 100 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 9:00PM | VE MON NOV 17, 1:00PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 15-30

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GAME FACE CINEMA



3,000km by Bike

Director: Ivan Vescovo
Producer: Martin Loewenthal
North American Premiere BMX champion and 2018 Youth Olympic medalist Iñaki Mazza retired from his sport during a period of personal crisis. Years later, he returns to his bike, emboldened by a new quest, and reunites with his partner after their stint at a rehabilitation center in Tierra del Fuego. Mazza sets out on a 3,000-kilometer trek in a cinematic portrait that blends formats, pairing underground BMX footage with beautifully expansive vistas at the end of the world. - *Brandon Harrison* (ARGENTINA, 88 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 7:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 20-30



The Balloonists

Director: John Dower
Producers: Teddy Leifer, Guy Horlock
NYC Premiere After a number of false starts, Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard and his British navigator and co-pilot Brian Jones embark to circumnavigate the globe in a hot air balloon. Traversing adverse conditions and politically fraught airspace, the duo surges onward through the sky as they battle the elements and the ever-looming threat of disaster. This globe-trotting tale, featuring breathtaking archival footage, is a compelling look at one of the few modern feats of exploration. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA/AUSTRIA/UK, 86 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 7:15PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 19-30

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Kings of Venice

Directors/Producers: Sveinn Ingimundarson, S.D. Saltarelli
World Premiere With the rise of pickleball as the trendiest sport on the block, committed members of Venice Beach's long-standing paddle tennis community fight to maintain their status. When the pickleballers threaten to push them off the beach, Scott Freedman, the self-proclaimed Paddle Tennis GOAT, makes a gambit to save the game he loves by hosting a tournament with an enticing grand prize. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 95 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 7:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30 SUN NOV 16, 11:15AM | VE



Reggae Girlz

Directors: Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Trish Dalton
Producers: Philipp Manderla, Laura Smith
World Premiere As the clock counts down to the 2023 Women's World Cup, the Reggae Girlz, the Jamaican soccer team, face uphill battles for recognition, respect, and resources. Suffering from financial struggles and institutional neglect, the team boldly confronts the soccer federation, finding surprising allies at home and abroad. With stunning Jamaican landscapes and a vibrant reggae soundtrack, this uplifting underdog story is a joyful celebration of perseverance, pride, and the power of women in sport. - *Karen McMullen* (AUSTRIA/UK, 85 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 8:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 15-30 MON NOV 17, 9:00PM | VE



Everyone Is Lying to You for Money

Director/Producer: Ben McKenzie
Producer: Giorgio Angelini
NYC Premiere With any and all things crypto being pushed by celebrities, influencers, and politicians alike, actor-turned-author and director Ben McKenzie decides to investigate. Leveraging his celebrity status to gain access to eager prospectors, McKenzie finds himself unraveling the loosely regulated world of cryptocurrency. This skeptical but evenhanded take on the present and future of what we consider money gives a firsthand account of the chaotic financial frontier of our time. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 90 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 4:15PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30

TUE NOV 18, 9:30PM | VE



I Dreamed His Name

Director/Producer: Ángela Carabalí
Producer: Sandra Tabares-Duque
NYC Premiere When her father, a farmer and activist, disappeared in 1992, filmmaker Ángela Carabalí was just 7 years old. Decades later, a dream in which he asks Ángela to find him sparks a journey of remembrance and reckoning. Blending family testimony, archival images, and Indigenous rituals, Carabalí confronts the silence of Colombia's armed conflict. Her poetic film becomes both an inquiry into political violence and a tender act of mourning, resilience, and intergenerational healing. - *Ruth Somalo* (COLOMBIA, 86 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 7:00PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 19-30



The Secrets We Bury

Director: Patricia E. Gillespie
Co-Producer: Jessica Horowitz
NYC Premiere After their father disappeared on Long Island in the 1960s, Mike Carroll and his siblings grew up believing he had walked out on the family. Mike's lingering suspicions and possibly psychosomatic issues eventually lead to an agonizing discovery. With meticulous editing and a bold, almost subversive use of archival footage, director Patricia E. Gillespie evokes the deep hurt of secrets and how they can gnaw away at us on a subterranean level. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 84 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 6:30PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 20-21

THU NOV 20, 4:30PM | VE



The Stringer

Director: Bao Nguyen
Producers: Fiona Turner, Terri Lichstein
NYC Premiere Mass media brought the unvarnished violence of the Vietnam War into homes across the globe. No singular photo was as devastatingly impactful as the harrowing image of Phan Thi Kim Phuc, known as Napalm Girl. Photographer Nick Ut received a Pulitzer Prize, but did he actually take the photo, or was it a local stringer for hire? This investigation, 50 years in the making, examines the role news organizations play in accepted cultural narratives. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 101 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 9:15PM | VE
 FRI NOV 14, 3:30PM | VE



Nuns vs. The Vatican

Director: Lorena Luciano
Producer: Filippo Piscopo
US Premiere In the shadows of the Catholic church, nuns and women have long endured abuse at the hands of priests—insidious and tactful grooming, silenced by confession, and hidden through systemic cover-ups. This investigative documentary uncovers both the harrowing details and the institutional indifference, from luxury retreats for accused clergy to the celebrated muralist Marko Rupnik. At its core are the brave women whose testimonies challenge the very foundations of faith and power, insisting on truth and accountability. - *Ruth Somalo* (USA, 91 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 1:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 16-30

THU NOV 20, 2:00PM | IFC



The Pink Pill: Sex, Drugs & Who Has Control

Director: Aisling Chin-Yee
Producer: Julie Bristow
World Premiere Following advocates pushing for FDA approval of a pill demonstrated to boost female desire, this engaging documentary explores stark inequalities regarding women's sexual health. The film exposes how medical education and healthcare institutions systematically ignore women's sexual needs while normalizing dozens of drugs for male erectile dysfunction. Witty, urgent, and illuminating, *The Pink Pill* interrogates the double standards in science, medicine, and society that shape how female desire is understood and often dismissed. - *Ruth Somalo* (CANADA, 88 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 6:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 16-30

TUE NOV 18, 6:30PM | VE

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Bull's Heart

Director: Eva Stefani
Producer: Vassilis Panagiotakopoulos
North American Premiere Director Eva Stefani immerses viewers in the creative universe of visionary Greek director and choreographer Dimitris Papaioannou, celebrated worldwide for his surreal, dreamlike stage productions. The documentary follows Papaioannou and his company as they shape a hauntingly poetic performance, conjuring images that feel drawn from the subconscious. Intimate, fierce, and elegant, the film mirrors the theatrical magic it documents, offering a rare glimpse into the collaborative process of one of contemporary performance's most original imagists. - *Ruth Somalo* (GREECE, 79 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 9:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30



Cast of Shadows

Director/Producer: Sami van Ingen
US Premiere Director Sami Van Ingen revisits the making of his great-grandfather Robert Flaherty's famed films, showcasing the overlooked creative force of Frances Flaherty, whose vision and labor underpinned her husband's works. Through letters, documents, and dual narration, the film reveals the family's complex emotional dynamics and the hidden histories behind the romanticized colonial fantasies they created together. A film that reconsiders how cinema's origins were shaped by both erasure and unsung female authorship. - *Ruth Somalo* (FINLAND, 121 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 9:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30



PARA VIVIR: The Implacable Times of Pablo Milanés

Director/Producer: Fabien Pisani
Producers: Carlos Sosa, Laura Imperiale
North American Premiere This rich, music-filled portrait of Afro-Cuban icon Pablo Milanés traces his extraordinary life from child prodigy to beloved musician and activist. Framed by tender scenes of an aging Pablo in Madrid with his sprawling family, *PARA VIVIR* journeys through Cuba's political and cultural evolution alongside his legendary career. With intimate stories from music legends and loved ones, rare archival footage, and unforgettable songs, this film celebrates a fearless artist who sang truth to power beautifully. - *Karen McMullen* (MEXICO/SPAIN/USA, 106 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 4:15PM | VE WED NOV 19, 1:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30



PRETTY DIRTY: The Life and Time of Marilyn Minter

Directors/Producers: Jennifer Ash Rudick, Amanda M. Benchley
Producer: Debi Wisch
NYC Premiere A vibrant portrait of Marilyn Minter, the trailblazing feminist whose glamorous, provocative, and unapologetically sexual work has redefined contemporary art's boundaries for nearly five decades. Moving between biography, studio practice, and cultural history, the film traces her rise in New York's art world, the controversies she sparked within feminist discourse, and the enduring influence of her lush, subversive images. Fast-paced, stylish, and full of celebrity cameos, it celebrates an artist who insists on pleasure as power. - *Ruth Somalo* (USA, 80 MIN)

THU NOV 20, 7:15PM | IFC THU NOV 20, 9:30PM | IFC
 ONLINE | NOV 21-30



The Eyes of Ghana

Director/Producer: Ben Proudfoot
Producers: Nana Adwoa Frimpong, Moses Bwayo, Anita Afonu, Brandon Somerhalder, Ethan Lewis, Vinnie Malhotra
NYC Premiere During the waning years of British rule, Chris Hesse is tasked with becoming Ghanaian leader Kwame Nkrumah's personal cinematographer. Once a young filmmaker entrusted with recording the tumultuous march to sovereignty, the 93-year-old looks to pass his legacy, and a hidden, precious archive, to a new generation. Executive produced by Barack and Michelle Obama, the film showcases a fascinating chapter in Ghana's history and is a love letter to the nation's cinema. - *Brandon Harrison* (USA, 90 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 9:20PM | IFC SUN NOV 16, 11:35AM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 15-30



Farruquito: A Flamenco Dynasty

Directors/Producers: Santi Aguado, Reuben Atlas
Producers: Ami Minars, José Velasco, Sara Fernández-Velasco
North American Premiere For years, the great dancer Farruquito and his family—grandfather, uncle, mother, brothers, and children—have elevated the art of flamenco with staggering operatic passion. Santi Aguado and Reuben Atlas engagingly portray the arc of blood ties, loves, and tragedies that have shaped decades of international triumphs—including a special affinity for NYC, where Farruquito made his professional debut at the age of 6. Welcome home, Farruquito! - *Jaie Laplante* (SPAIN/USA, 89 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 4:20PM | VE TUE NOV 18, 4:30PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 17-30

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TCB: The Toni Cade Bambara School of Organizing

Directors: Louis Massiah, Monica Henriquez
Producer: Louis Massiah
NYC Premiere *The Toni Cade Bambara School of Organizing* celebrates the life of the dynamic author, editor, and activist. From her Harlem roots to her role as a self-described "culture worker," Toni's wit and fierce commitment to change come alive through rare footage and the voices of those who knew her best, including Toni Morrison and filmmaker Haile Gerima. Set to a cool jazz score, this stylish documentary honors an unsung icon whose legacy still resonates today. - *Karen McMullen* (USA/UK/France/CANADA/SENEGAL, 105 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 6:45PM | VE THU NOV 20, 3:45PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 19-30



Flophouse America

Director: Monica Strømdahl
Producers: Beathe Hofseth, Siri Natvik
North American Premiere Monica Strømdahl portrays the harsh realities of people living in run-down motels known as flophouses. The film evolved from a photo project after Strømdahl met Mikal, an early adolescent living in close quarters with his sparring parents. *Flophouse America* uses unembellished digital photography to capture raw, authentic moments and exposes the struggles of those who failed to achieve the American dream. An unflinching, necessary look at how poverty and alcoholism can shape a young life. - *Murtada Elfadl* (NORWAY/NETHERLANDS/USA, 78 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 4:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 17-30



The Last Ambassador

Director/Producer: Natalie Halla
Producers: Peter Drössler, Arash T. Riahi, Sabine Gruber
US Premiere A poignant and powerful story following Afghanistan's female ambassador to Austria as she faces a life-altering decision in the wake of the Taliban's return to power. Refusing to represent an oppressive regime, she bravely confronts the very forces that tore her country apart. Through her defiance, Manizha Bakhtari becomes a voice for Afghanistan's women whose rights have been taken away. *The Last Ambassador* is a stirring and emotionally charged story of resistance. - *Murtada Elfadl* (AUSTRIA, 79 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 5:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 15-30



Matabeleland

Director: Nyasha Kadandara
Producer: Sam Soko
North American Premiere Haunted by his father's unresolved death during the 1983 Matabeleland massacres, a Zimbabwean immigrant in Botswana believes his family is cursed. Burdened by generational trauma and historical violence, the man struggles to build a future, despite having love in his life. While trying to properly bury his father, he must confront his long-avoided pain. This powerful exploration of grief and memory is an intimate portrait of one man's journey toward healing and spiritual reconciliation. - *Murtada Elfadl* (ZIMBABWE/KENYA/CANADA, 75 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 8:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 20-30



Palestine Comedy Club

Director: Alaa Aliabdallah
Producer: Charlotte Knowles
International Premiere A groundbreaking comedy troupe takes the stage in Palestine, where laughter embodies survival and defiance. Following six comedians from Jenin, Hebron, Ramallah, the Golan Heights, and beyond, the film captures intimate family moments, raw rehearsals, and daring performances amid the suffocating grip of occupation and escalating violence. Especially amid unprecedented attempts to erase Palestinian culture, comedy is not just art, but an act of political resistance and a way to insist on Palestinian humanity. - *Ruth Somalo* (UK, 93 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 8:15PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 14-30 FRI NOV 14, 3:45PM | VE



The Lions by the River Tigris

Director: Zaradasht Ahmed
Producer: Thorvald Nilsen
North American Premiere In the aftermath of Mosul's destruction by ISIS, Bashar Salih and his family sift through the ruins of their ancestral home, salvaging fragments of life, culture, and memory. As they dig through debris, confront looters, and debate selling architectural relics to a passionate collector, the film meditates on the tension between rebuilding and accepting irretrievable loss. A quietly powerful portrait of resilience, it explores the personal and societal cost of war, memory, and cultural survival. - *Ruth Somalo* (NORWAY/NETHERLANDS/IRAQ, 92 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 1:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30



Lowland Kids

Director: Sandra Winther
Producers: Darren Aronofsky, Lauren Avinoam, Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjær, William Crouse, Lizzie Gillett, Brendan Naylor
US Premiere Set on Louisiana's rapidly vanishing Isle de Jean Charles, this quietly powerful documentary captures the lives of two teenagers and their uncle as they navigate the slow erosion of their home. Faced with forced resettlement by the US government, their story unfolds through intimate, observational filmmaking that renders their daily lives with empathy and unbridled honesty. As the land disappears beneath their feet, the film offers a timely, human portrait of climate displacement. - *Murtada Elfadl* (US/UK/DENMARK, 94 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 8:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30 SUN NOV 16, 4:00PM | VE

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A Place of Absence

Director/Producer: Marialuisa Ernst
World Premiere Shedding light on the familial burden of the migrant crisis, *A Place of Absence* charts the physical and emotional journey of Central American mothers on a bus caravan as they desperately search for their disappeared children, clinging to hope against overwhelming odds. Interwoven with the filmmaker's story of her beloved uncle's disappearance, this film offers a poignant look at migration, loss, and the enduring bonds of family. - *Karen McMullen* (USA/BOLIVIA, 88 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 4:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30 MON NOV 17, 4:30PM | VE



A Free Daughter of Free Kyrgyzstan

Director/Producer: Leigh Iacobucci
World Premiere Zere Asylbek was 19 when she released a music video demanding respect for women in the largely conservative Kyrgyzstan. It was intentionally provocative, and Asylbek achieved what she set out to do: jolting the society into paying attention to the evils of the country's deeply patriarchal and misogynist culture. Six years on, the death threats keep coming as Asylbek's ever-steely resolve to usher in change only grows stronger. - *Bedatri D. Choudhury* (SWITZERLAND, 65 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 6:45PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 16-30 **MON NOV 17, 9:10PM | VE**



FUGS FILM!

Director/Producer: Chuck Smith
Co-Producers: Ed Sanders, Ken Weaver
World Premiere DOC NYC alumnus Chuck Smith revels in 1960s sounds and the spirit of counterculture with this politically pointed look back at the volatile energy of protest and creation behind the avant-garde NYC band The Fugs (say it out loud!). Even as band members Ed Sanders, Ken Weaver, and Tuli Kupferberg found that fighting the good fight eventually proved unsustainable, today they are—along with present-day commentators like Penny Arcade, Jeffrey Lewis, Lenny Kaye, and Aline and R. Crumb—just as individualistic and feisty. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 84 MIN)

WED NOV 12, 7:15PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 13-30 **FRI NOV 14, 9:15PM | VE**



Happy and You Know It

Director: Penny Lane
Producers: Gabriel Sedgwick, Julia Lewis
World Premiere Filmmaker Penny Lane brings her inimitably quirky outlook to the art and business of children's music, an industry generally skipped over by those above the age of 10. Way beyond the grating basicness of "Baby Shark," Lane profiles performers invested in creating the tastes of kids—artists wanting to shape what children will understand to care about. Among the standouts is former grunge rocker Chris Ballew, who notes amusingly that kids are like the "greatest drunk people ever" for their wild abandon at his concerts. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 78 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 12:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 16-17 **SUN NOV 16, 12:35 | IFC**



If These Walls Could Rock

Directors/Producers: Tyler Measom, Craig A. Williams
Producers: Robert Friedman, Mike Powers
World Premiere The Sunset Marquis is the legendary go-to for rock 'n' roll royalty to cool their heels in Los Angeles, especially in the sex, drugs, and bad behavior heyday of the 1970s and '80s. Pure gold is mined out of recollections from Ringo Starr, Slash, Cyndi Lauper, Sharon Osbourne, Sheryl Crow, Dave Grohl, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Bob Thornton, and many more. Simmering beneath the surface lies a familial drama between founder George Rosenthal and son Mark, each with differing visions of the iconic cultural landmark. - *Jaie Laplante* (USA, 93 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 7:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 15-30 **SAT NOV 15, 9:45PM | IFC**



Half Moon

Director: Frank Scheffer
Producers: Niek Koppen, Jan de Ruiter
US Premiere Following acclaimed Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh as he travels from Beirut to Amsterdam to NYC, *Half Moon* examines the role of art in times of crisis. As Syria's devastating displacement looms in the background, Kinan collaborates with fellow musicians and mentors, reflecting on exile, identity, and music theory. Featuring stunning performances and intimate moments with his family, this moving portrait captures the resilience of creativity in the face of loss and upheaval. - *Karen McMullen* (NETHERLANDS, 92 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 7:15PM | VE **ONLINE | NOV 17-30**

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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*, *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.

WINNER'S CIRCLE



The Librarians

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

In our politically polarized era, librarians across the US have found their profession under siege as an unprecedented wave of book banning hits Texas, Florida, and beyond. As the crisis escalates, they join forces as unlikely defenders on the frontlines of democracy. Flanked by students and concerned community members, the librarians join ranks to fight a new threat that draws global parallels, contextualizing the dangerous markings of fascism in a chilling cautionary tale. (USA, 92 MIN)

Winner, Best Documentary Feature, Dallas International Film Festival

FRI NOV 14, 3:15PM | VE



Life After

Director: Reid Davenport
Producer: Colleen Cassingham

Award-winning filmmaker Reid Davenport confronts the 1980s case of Elizabeth Bouvia, a woman with cerebral palsy who unsuccessfully fought for institutional assistance in ending her life. Forty years later, assisted dying is more commonplace in countries like Canada, yet it remains controversial. "You cannot address human suffering by killing people, even if people come forward voluntarily," says a disability rights advocate in the film. Davenport, who has cerebral palsy himself, seeks to recover Bouvia's voice, lost to time, and amplify contemporary ones fighting for justice and dignity for the disability community. (USA, 99 MIN)

Winner, US Documentary Special Jury Award, Sundance Film Festival

TUE NOV 18, 1:15PM | IFC



Below the Clouds

Director/Producer: Gianfranco Rosi
Producers: Donatella Palermo, Paolo Del Brocco

Shot over three years in luminous black and white, Gianfranco Rosi's new film unfolds across Naples, a city perched between Vesuvius and the sea, with tremors in the ground, echoes of ancient ruins, and everyday lives steeped in memory and unrest. In shadowed classrooms, makeshift after-school centers; in fire station switchboards, anxious voices; beneath the earth, tomb-robbers, gods, and ghosts. It's a mosaic of time and history, of ordinary people holding onto meaning under a sky perpetually weighed by clouds. (ITALY, 115 MIN)

Winner, Special Jury Prize, Venice International Film Festival

SUN NOV 16, 2:50PM | IFC



Holding Liat

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

An American family watches the horror of the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attacks unfold—only to be plunged into a nightmare when they learn their daughter, sister, and mother, Liat Beiniv Atzili, was abducted from her kibbutz, and her husband, Aviv, was killed. Led by her father, Yehuda, the family mounts a tireless campaign for her release. This intimate documentary lays bare their raw grief and unyielding hope—a profound testament to love, endurance, and the human cost of geopolitical violence. (USA, 97 MIN)

Winner, Berlinale Documentary Award, Berlin International Film Festival

SUN NOV 16, 1:20PM | VE



Secret Mall Apartment

Director/Producer: Jeremy Workman
Producer: Matthew Spain

Having lost their studio loft spaces to corporate developers of the Providence Place Mall, a group of Rhode Island artists plots revenge by inhabiting a secret, unused space inside the mall's design. Over the next four years, the artists created a combined living space, studio, art installation, and communal center—and recorded their work on video. Jeremy Workman's latest joint is a madcap rollercoaster of wonder and one of 2025's most memorable rides. (USA, 92 MIN)

Winner, Grand Jury Prize: Documentary, Independent Film Festival Boston

FRI NOV 14, 12:15PM | VE



Seeds

Director: Brittany Shyne
Producers: Danielle Varga, Sabrina Gordon

In her stunning directorial debut, Brittany Shyne offers a lyrical and intimate portrait of Black generational farmers in the American South. *Seeds* delicately captures the fragility of legacy and the profound importance of land ownership. Through rich black-and-white cinematography, Shyne transforms everyday moments—wind in the hair, candy from grandma's purse, quiet car-window conversations—into poetic vignettes that honor family bonds and resilience rooted deeply in soil and memory. (USA, 123 MIN)

Winner, US Grand Jury Prize: Documentary, Sundance Film Festival

FRI NOV 14, 8:50PM | IFC



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SELECTS ENCORE



It's Never Over, Jeff Buckley

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

Like many fans of Jeff Buckley, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Amy Berg has long been fascinated by the enigmatic California singer, who tragically died at the age of 30. Buckley's ethereal voice and songs have endured, riveting new audiences and musicians for decades. Bringing her questing curiosity to Buckley's personal archives—much of it never seen by the public—and to conversations with Buckley's loved ones, Berg spotlights the heart and mind of a young creative soul who was finding his way in the world. (USA, 106 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 11:15AM | IFC



Monk in Pieces

Directors/Producers: Billy Shebar, David C. Roberts
Producer: Susan Margolin

The transcendent composer and interdisciplinary artist Meredith Monk has been creating and performing for six decades. Pioneering new vocabularies of sound and imagery as she broke through in the 1960s and '70s downtown NYC arts scene, Monk's talent is appreciated in this mosaic telling, inspired by her own style. Featuring interviews with the likes of Björk and David Byrne, *Monk in Pieces* is the beautiful, cinematic rendition of her work and life that she richly deserves. (USA/GERMANY/France, 94 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 3:45PM | VE



One to One: John & Yoko

Directors: Kevin Macdonald, Sam Rice-Edwards
Producer: Peter Worsley

Who speaks—or sings—for America? In 1972, John Lennon and Yoko Ono had adopted NYC as their new home base and were busy absorbing the wildly contradictory mores of a fracturing American society, when Lennon gave the only full-length show he would ever play after the breakup of The Beatles, the One to One benefit concert at Madison Square Garden. (UK, 100 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 9:25PM | VE



Suburban Fury

Director/Producer: Robinson Devor
Producers: Jason Reid, Zachariah Sebastian

In the early 1970s, the FBI recruited Sara Jane Moore, a conservative mother from the San Francisco suburbs, to infiltrate leftist organizations—but her deeply radicalizing politics complicated her role. Moore takes us back through her recollections and perspectives leading up to the moment where she attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford, and an eerie sense of déjà vu takes hold as the tightrope of tension—between the ideals of the US and the realities we are living through—becomes a stranglehold. (USA, 120 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 1:45PM | IFC



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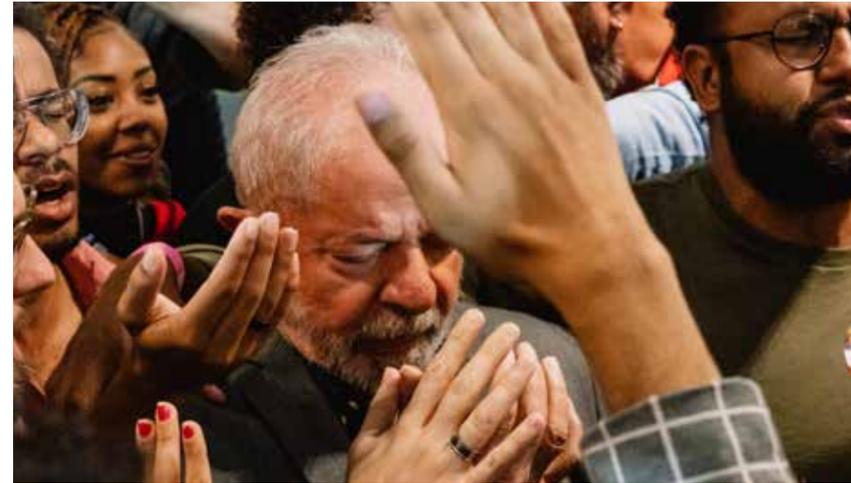
SHORT LIST: FEATURES

Each year, DOC NYC's programming team picks 15 films for our Short List for Features, representing the best of the year.

These films are distinguished by festival honors, critical accolades, audience enthusiasm, and committed distribution. A strong prognosticator for awards season, the Short List has brought dozens of Oscar nominees and winners to DOC NYC audiences.

Short List: Features screenings have a reduced ticket price of \$13 (\$11 IFC Center members). Most in-person screenings include Q&As with the filmmakers, so don't miss this chance to catch them. Visit docnyc.net for the latest updates.

SHORT LIST: FEATURES



Apocalypse in the Tropics

Director/Producer: Petra Costa
Producer: Alessandra Orofino

THU NOV 13, 2:00PM | IFC

Following up on her Oscar-nominated *The Edge of Democracy*, about the institutional corruption and populist mistrust plaguing Brazil's democracy almost since its 1980s restoration, Costa explores the Christian fundamentalism seizing the nation's political discourse. With stunning access to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, and others, Costa distills the recent chaos of Brazil's politics into a clear-eyed, deeply troublesome, and internationally resonant vision of brazen and unseen forces at work on a vulnerable population. (USA/BRAZIL/UK, 110 MIN)



2000 Meters to Andriivka

Director/Producer: Mstyslav Chernov
Producers: Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath

FRI NOV 14, 11:20AM | IFC

After taking us through the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the Oscar-winning *20 Days in Mariupol*, Mstyslav Chernov and his creative team give a perspective of the war more than a year on. Amid the failing counteroffensive, journalists follow a Ukrainian platoon on their mission to traverse one mile of heavily fortified forest and liberate a strategic village from Russian occupation. But the farther they advance through their destroyed homeland, the more they realize that this war may never end. (UKRAINE/USA, 104 MIN)



Coexistence, My Ass!

Director/Producer: Amber Fares
Producer: Rachel Leah-Jones

FRI NOV 14, 12:30PM | VE

Disillusioned with politics, charismatic and engaging Noam Shuster Eliassi pivots to the world of stand-up comedy to communicate her "radical" message that Palestinians and Israelis deserve human rights equally. Amber Fares' fascinating film, alternating between hilarity and bone-shaking gravity, intersperses clips from Noam's funny stage performances with observational scenes of interactions with her parents and her Palestinian best friend—as Noam contends with a media environment and society attempting to pigeonhole her. (FRANCE/USA, 95 MIN)



Come See Me in the Good Light

Director/Producer: Ryan White
Producers: Jessica Hargrave, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen

THU NOV 13, 9:00PM | VE

A luminous and unflinching portrait of poet Andrea Gibson, following their journey after receiving a devastating cancer diagnosis. The emotional landscape of Maria, Andrea's wife and caregiver, unfolds with quiet intensity as she balances her fierce love and the struggle to care for herself. In a moment of grace, Andrea receives hopeful news—and returns to the stage for what may be a final performance. A deeply affecting, unexpectedly joyful meditation on mortality, partnership, and the healing power of art. (USA, 105 MIN)



Cutting Through Rocks

Directors/Producers: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni

THU NOV 13, 3:45PM | IFC

NYC Premiere Winner of the 2025 Sundance World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize, *Cutting Through Rocks* is a stirring portrait of courage and conviction. In a remote Iranian village, Sara Shahverdi becomes the first elected councilwoman—with bold dreams of teaching teenage girls to ride motorcycles and halting child marriages. But when accusations question her motives, Sara finds her identity under siege. With intimacy, the film follows her fierce resolve to reshape tradition and reclaim agency. (IRAN/NETHERLANDS/GERMANY/QATAR/CHILE/CANADA, 95 MIN)



Cover-Up

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

FRI NOV 14, 9:30PM | VE

Directed by Laura Poitras (*Citizenfour*) and Mark Obenhaus (*Steep*), *Cover-Up* offers an unflinching look at the career of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh. Through a meticulous examination of Hersh's investigative work—spanning the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and beyond—the film explores systemic deceptions perpetuated by the US military and intelligence agencies. Featuring Hersh's reflections and a wealth of archival materials, *Cover-Up* serves as both personal memoir and critical analysis of institutional accountability. (USA, 117 MIN)



Heightened Scrutiny

Director/Producer: Sam Feder
Producers: Amy Scholder, Paola Mendoza

THU NOV 20, 4:00PM | VE
 ONLINE | NOV 21-30

In 2024, ACLU lawyer Chase Strangio becomes the first transgender man to argue a case before the Supreme Court. Engaging with complexity, filmmaker Sam Feder does not shy away from criticizing traditional liberal-center publications like *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*, whose continuously interrogative coverage of trans experiences has helped embolden 23 right-leaning state legislatures to enact new gender-affirming care bans. Informative, infuriating, and scary, *Heightened Scrutiny* progresses through a period of historic Republican spending on transphobic election ads—and the tragic implications for the trans community. (USA, 89 MIN)



Mistress Dispeller

Director/Producer: Elizabeth Lo
Producers: Emma D. Miller, Maggie Li

THU NOV 13, 9:20PM | VE

In China, Mrs. Li thought her personal life was on solid emotional ground, only to discover that her husband was having an affair with a younger woman. Unmoored, she hires an agency to help save her marriage without her husband's knowledge. Unfolding like a novel, *Mistress Dispeller* provides intimate details with remarkable candor; the filmmaker's conscientious and arduous process of gaining consent from all participants is among the film's astonishing details. (CHINA/USA, 94 MIN)



My Mom Jayne: A Film by Mariska Hargitay

Director/Producer: Mariska Hargitay
Producer: Trish Adlesic

SAT NOV 15, 12:45PM | VE

At just three years old, Mariska Hargitay survived a car accident that claimed the life of her mother, Hollywood icon Jayne Mansfield. Intimately and poignantly, Hargitay sets out to consider the woman behind the legend. Through emotional interviews and never-before-seen home movies and photos, *My Mom Jayne* reveals a side of Mansfield rarely glimpsed by the public—a mother, a friend, an artist—and a daughter's moving search for connection, truth, and healing. (USA, 105 MIN)



Mr. Nobody Against Putin

Directors: David Borenstein, Pasha Talankin
Producer: Helle Faber

THU NOV 13, 9:40PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

NYC Premiere In a remote Russian mining town, a primary school teacher covertly documents the state's transformation of classrooms into recruitment grounds for war. Tasked with filming "patriotic education" sessions, he turns the lens on the indoctrination of youth, capturing moments of coerced loyalty and silent dissent. This intimate documentary offers a rare, unfiltered glimpse into the erosion of truth and the resilience of those who dare to resist, even at great personal cost. (DENMARK/CZECHIA, 90 MIN)



Orwell: 2+2=5

Director/Producer: Raoul Peck
Producers: Alex Gibney, Geroge Chignell, Nick Shumaker

FRI NOV 14, 12:30PM | IFC

One of the most radical and visionary authors of the 20th Century, George Orwell's 1940s novels, such as *1984* and *Animal Farm*, foretold a chilling, all-too-believable authoritarian future. Acclaimed director Raoul Peck (*I Am Not Your Negro*), working with the Orwell Estate, seamlessly interweaves historical clips, Orwell's diary entries, cinematic references, and dynamic modern footage to craft both a definitive portrait of the writer and an entirely fresh take on his remarkably prophetic works. (FRANCE/USA, 119 MIN)



The Perfect Neighbor

Director/Producer: Geeta Gandbhir
Producers: Alisa Payne, Nikon Kwantu, Sam Bisbee

THU NOV 13, 3:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

Nearly 20 years after going off the air in scandal, NBC Dateline's *To Catch a Predator* lured child predators to a TV set, before exposing and arresting them, as millions watched from their sofas. Masquerading as public service, the show became a hit—but today it is reviled as ugly exploitation for cynical spectacle, despite a myriad of contemporary copycats proliferating on YouTube. Filmmaker David Osit contemplates the show's impact on victims, the predation of exploitative TV, and viewer complicity in all levels of our "society of the spectacle." (USA, 97 MIN)



Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk

Director: Sepideh Farsi
Producers: Javad Djavahery, Annie Ohayon-Dekel

THU NOV 13, 12:45PM | VE

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. Their connection bridges both geography and grief, offering a rare, unfiltered window into daily life inside Gaza. Hassona's grace, resilience, and luminous spirit ground the film in a quiet strength. Tragically, an Israeli missile strike killed Hassona and her family just one day after the film's selection by the Cannes Film Festival. What remains is a poetic collaboration turned posthumous elegy—and a vital testament to the lives and stories that refuse to be silenced. (FRANCE/PALESTINE, 112 MIN)



Predators

Director/Producer: David Osit
Producers: Jamie Gonçalves, Kellen Quinn

THU NOV 13, 1:45PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-30

Nearly 20 years after going off the air in scandal, NBC Dateline's *To Catch a Predator* lured child predators to a TV set, before exposing and arresting them, as millions watched from their sofas. Masquerading as public service, the show became a hit—but today it is reviled as ugly exploitation for cynical spectacle, despite a myriad of contemporary copycats proliferating on YouTube. Filmmaker David Osit contemplates the show's impact on victims, the predation of exploitative TV, and viewer complicity in all levels of our "society of the spectacle." (USA, 96 MIN)



The Tale of Silyan

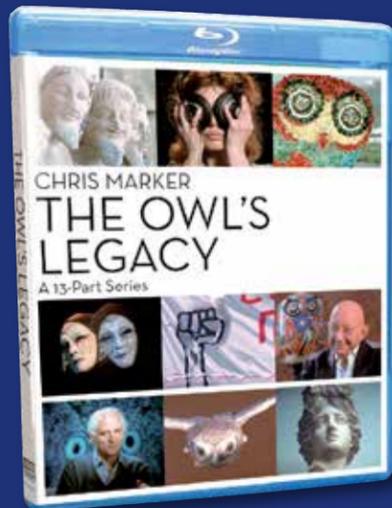
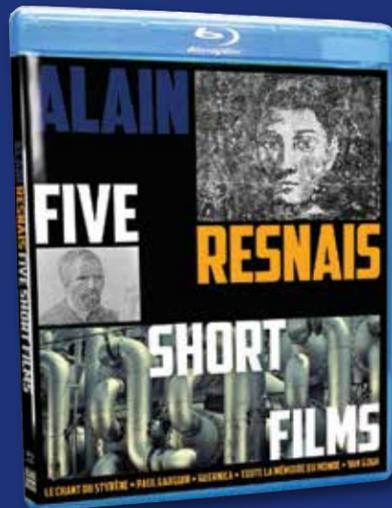
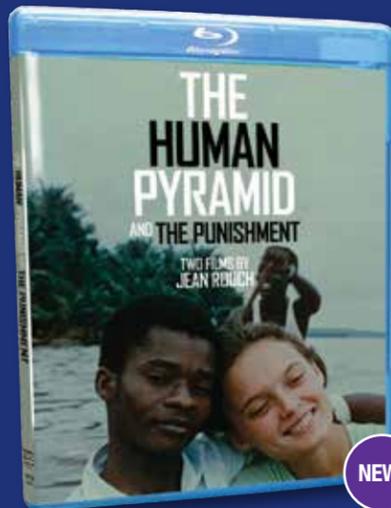
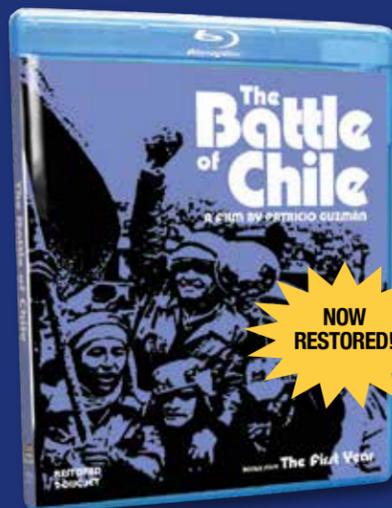
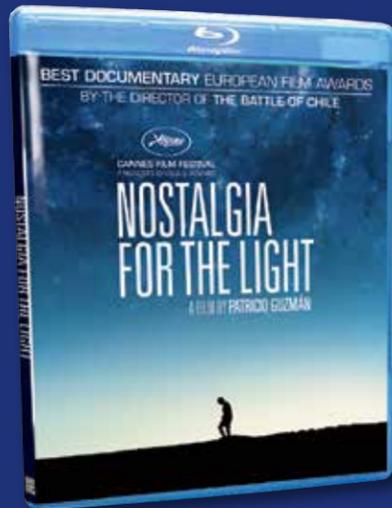
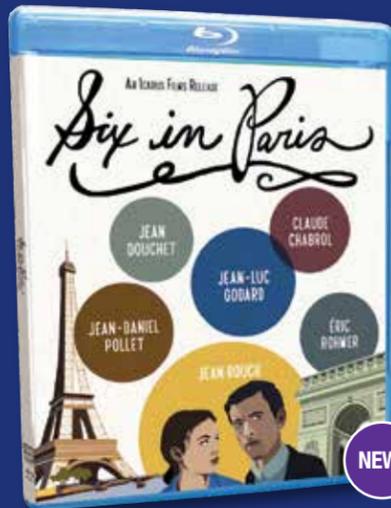
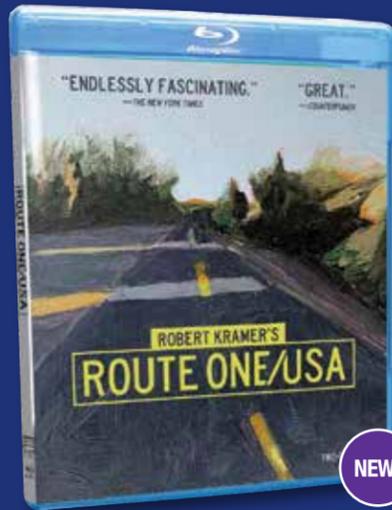
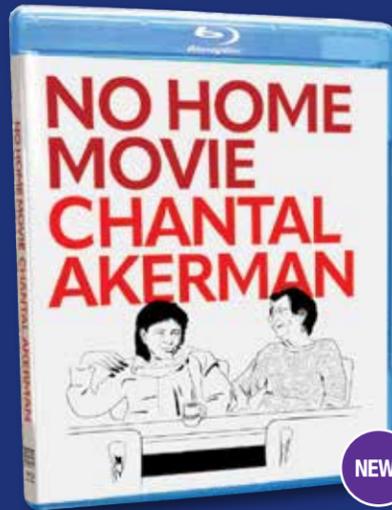
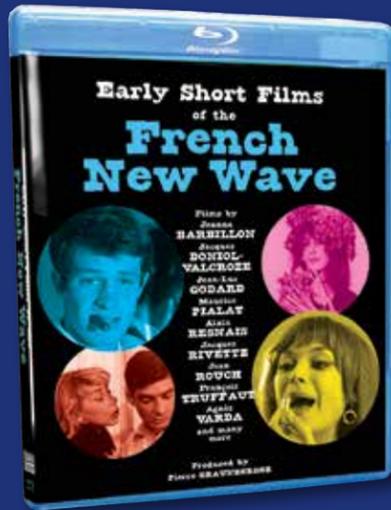
Director/Producer: Tamara Kotevska
Producers: Jean Dakar, Anna Hashmi, Jordanco Petkovski

THU NOV 13, 9:30PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 14-27

In rural North Macedonia, when a farmer's family departs for opportunity abroad and government policies render his land unsellable, he takes work in a landfill. There he rescues an injured white stork, forming an unlikely bond. Interwoven with a local folktale of transformation and loss, the lyrical film becomes a meditation on migration, aging, nature, and the ways kindness can persist in the hollow spaces left by change. (NORTH MACEDONIA, 81 MIN)

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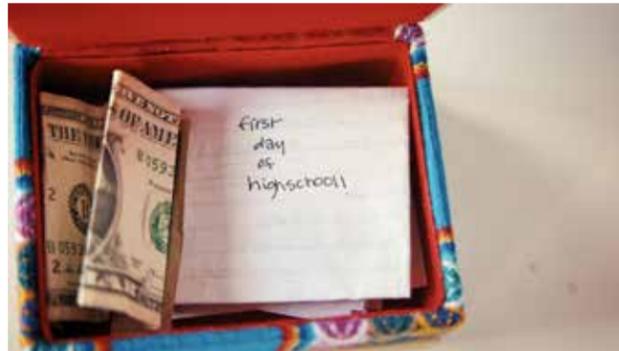
SHORT LIST: SHORTS

Short List: Shorts showcases some of the year's finest nonfiction short work, grouped together in thematic programs with a reduced in-person ticket price of \$13.

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Filmmakers in person for most screenings; check docnyc.net for the latest information.

SHORT LIST: SHORTS



All the Empty Rooms

Director/Producer: Joshua Seftel

Producers: 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. (USA, 33 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 3:30PM | IFC

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Family Albums



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. (USA, 33 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 3:30PM | IFC

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Family Albums



Children No More: Were and Are Gone

Director/Producer: Hilla Medalia

Producers: Sheila Nevins, Yael Melamede

NYC Premiere 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. (ISRAEL/USA, 36 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 11:00AM | IFC

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Speaking Up



All the Walls Came Down

Director/Producer: Ondi Timoner

Producers: 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. (USA, 38 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 4:45PM | IFC

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Records of Then and Now



Am I the Skinniest Person You've Ever Seen?

Director: Eisha Marjara

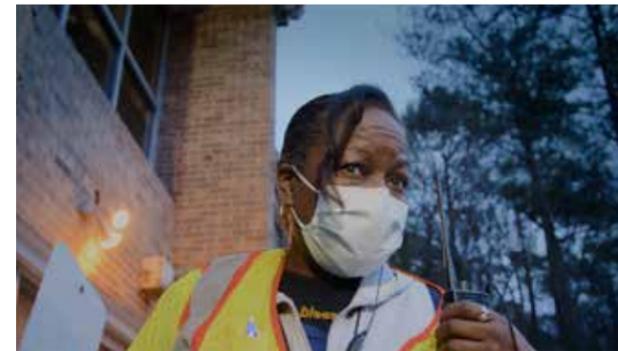
Producers: Joe Balass, Ariel Nasr

Two sisters' pact to go on a diet together lit the spark for one sibling's eating disorder. (CANADA, 24 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 2:00PM | VE

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Women Are the Strength



The Devil Is Busy

Directors: Christalyn Hampton, Geeta Gandhir

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. (USA, 31 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 2:00PM | VE

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Women Are the Strength



Last Days on Lake Trinity

Director/Producer: Charlotte Cooley

NYC Premiere 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. (USA, 29 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 2:00PM | VE

ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Women Are the Strength



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. (USA/PHILIPPINES, 16 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 2:00PM | VE **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Women Are the Strength



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. (USA, 17 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 4:45PM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Records of Then and Now



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. (USA, 26 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 11:00AM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Speaking Up



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. (USA, 18 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 4:45PM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Records of Then and Now



Qotzuñi: People of the Lake

Directors/Producers: Gastón Zilberman, Michael Salama
 The Uru communities of Bolivia have lived on Lake Poopó for generations. Faced with its disappearance, they must grapple with what it means to be Qotzuñi, or People of the Lake, when it ceases to exist. (ARGENTINA/BOLIVIA/USA, 13 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 4:45PM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Records of Then and Now



The Reality of Hope

Director/Producer: Joe Hunting
Producer: 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. (UK, 30 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 11:00AM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Speaking Up



Tiger

Director/Producer: Loren Waters
Producer: 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. (USA, 13 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 3:30PM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Family Albums



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. (USA/CANADA, 15 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 3:30PM | IFC **ONLINE | NOV 12-30**
 Screening as part of the Short List: Shorts program Family Albums

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SHORTS PROGRAMS



PANORAMIC VIEW: Portrait of the Artist Francine Tint

Shorts: Artscapes

Five cinematic journeys into the lives and minds of artists, each offering a distinct lens through their unique creative process. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 73 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 1:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30 WED NOV 19, 9:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Making Love to a Ghost

Directors: Rosie Litterick, Raj Chaudhuri
Producer: Rosie Litterick

US Premiere A gruff London car mechanic discovers the hauntingly beautiful theremin, leading him on an unexpected journey to find his musical passion and proving it's never too late to change lanes. - AR (UK, 13 MIN)

All the Queens Houses

Director/Producer: Sean Mowry
Producer: John Vallacchi

World Premiere A photographic exploration of Queens' unconventional architecture reveals the borough's beauty through the eyes of an architect while uncovering the deeper history behind its strange and spectacular designs. - AR (USA, 10 MIN)

George V.

Directors/Producers: Dennis Scholl, Dia Kontaxis
Producer: Ed Talavera

NYC Premiere After a Ukrainian immigrant's late-in-life artistic career flourishes in 1970s South Beach, Miami, a young friend battles to preserve his work, culminating in significant posthumous acclaim. - AR (USA, 13 MIN)

A Color I Named Blue

Director/Producer: Sybilla Patrizia
Producer: Mai Hosomura

NYC Premiere Haunted by a color he can't replicate, an indigo dyer teams up with a colorblind apprentice on a mission to create the perfect shade. - AR (JAPAN, 16 MIN)

PANORAMIC VIEW: Portrait of the Artist Francine Tint

Director/Producer: Pola Rapaport
Producer: Wolfgang Held

NYC Premiere Abstract artist Francine Tint reflects on her successful art career, which defied the expectations imposed by the male-dominated industry of the '70s and '80s. - DD (USA, 21 MIN)



Classroom 4

Shorts: Becoming

Bearing witness to growing up and into one's true self. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 67 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 4:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30 THU NOV 20, 5:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 12-30

The Fault Line

Director/Producer: Brydie O'Connor
Producer: Sean Weiner

NYC Premiere A queer filmmaker confronts her mother's rigid expectations using personal archives and directing an actress to re-create their past in an attempt to understand—and ultimately reshape—their fractured relationship. - AR (USA, 14 MIN)

Big Bass

Director: Drew Dickler
Producers: Nikki F. Heyman, Jennie Kamin, David Sherwin

NYC Premiere A filmmaker investigates a surreal childhood memory—involving a gym teacher and a large plastic fish—to discover a hidden ally in her growing awareness as a queer woman. - AR (USA, 14 MIN)

Classroom 4

Director/Producer: Eden Wurmfeld
Producer: Yael Bridge

NYC Premiere A professor leads a history class for a group of incarcerated and non-incarcerated students, revealing the traumatic effects of America's mass incarceration system while bridging a divide between worlds. - AR (USA, 39 MIN)

Film descriptions by shorts programmers Karen McMullen (KM), Murtada Elfadl (ME), Dewitt Davis (DD), and Anita Raswant (AR).



Boobs

Shorts: Body & Soul

Stories of resilience and strength, where possibilities lie beyond the confines of the human form.

(TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 83 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 9:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Embracing Instability

Director/Producer: Nathan Willis
Producer: Chase Haislip

NYC Premiere A filmmaker documents his early-onset Parkinson's diagnosis using image, memory, and texture to navigate illness, identity, and acceptance. - ME (USA, 4 MIN)

Boobs

Director: Nicola Leddy
Producers: Anna Rodgers, Zlata Filipovic

NYC Premiere An Irish artist, confronting her body image struggles, sets out to paint 100 portraits of breasts, using her art to reframe narratives around women's bodies in a historically conservative country. - AR (IRELAND, 16 MIN)

One Handed Fighter

Director: Matthew Meredith
Producer: Leah de Leon

NYC Premiere A jiu-jitsu fighter and coach with one hand strives to harbor his dream of having his own school in the face of significant challenges. - DD (PHILIPPINES/USA, 20 MIN)

Murmurations

Director: Xavier Marrades
Producers: Jerome Thelia, Mark Stafford

North American Premiere Fragmented images of love, activism, and ancestral resilience intertwine with poignant voice messages between the filmmaker and his lover in Brazil, forming a lyrical reflection on memory and survival. - ME (SPAIN, 21 MIN)

Bloodlines, Mississippi

Director: Crystal Kayiza
Producers: Harri Grace, Paul King

NYC Premiere A quietly moving portrait of a compassionate doctor fighting to reduce diabetes-related amputations in the Mississippi Delta, revealing systemic injustice and community resilience. - ME (SWEDEN/UK, 22 MIN)



Embodying Pasolini: Law of Attraction

Shorts: Creators

Visionaries using their creativity to provoke, educate, and entertain. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 78 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 4:45PM | IFC MON NOV 17, 2:15PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Embodying Pasolini: Law of Attraction

Director/Producer: Jack (Chia-Cheng) Hsu
NYC Premiere Delicate observation and testimony from Tilda Swinton and fashion historian Olivier Saillard capture the revival of costumes from Pier Paolo Pasolini's movies as reflections on cinema, memory, and art history. - ME (TAIWAN, 10 MIN)

Rolling Film, Rocking History: Al Maysles Captures the Beatles

Director/Producer: Bart Weiss
Producer: Andy Streitfeld
NYC Premiere Acclaimed documentarian Al Maysles reflects on filming the Beatles during their first visit to the United States. - DD (USA, 10 MIN)

La Orquesta

Directors/Producers: Monica Villavicencio, Stephanie Liu
NYC Premiere A tenacious Atlanta music teacher creates the first youth orchestra for undocumented and mixed-status families, providing a place to find community, beauty, and hope in the face of increasing adversity. - AR (USA, 21 MIN)

Women Laughing

Directors: Kathleen Hughes, Liza Donnelly
Producers: Judith Mizrachy, Liza Donnelly, Nathalie Seaver
NYC Premiere Liza Donnelly gathers a witty crew of fellow New Yorker women cartoonists to swap doodles, discuss their passion and process, and share a peek into the iconic magazine's history. - KM (USA, 37 MIN)



Arepas En Bici

Shorts: Cross Country

Portraits of challenge and triumph from communities across America, revealing diverse threads of everyday life.

(TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 84 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 9:30PM | VE WED NOV 19, 2:00PM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Arepas En Bici

Directors/Producers: Jonah Moshhammer, Brennan McGee
Producer: Connor Haines
NYC Premiere Chef Victor Aguilera cycles across San Francisco, weaving through memories of his immigration and dreams of sharing traditional Venezuelan cuisine. - DD (USA, 14 MIN)

Blood Friends

Directors/Producers: Hayley Ulmer, Sam McCoy
World Premiere Sharing a common sperm donor but not a common history, a group of dozens of siblings create a unique annual reunion to explore the dynamics of non-family blood relations. - KM (USA, 19 MIN)

Appalheads

Director: Scott Faris
Producers: Anna Richardson White, Meg Griffiths
NYC Premiere A daughter returns to Appalachia decades after leaving to confront the complicated legacy of her father, the founder of a groundbreaking film collective, and examine her enduring connection to home. - AR (USA, 17 MIN)

Trapped

Directors: Mads Engel, Joe Purtell
Producer: Nina Riggio
NYC Premiere Venus fly trap poachers face felony charges for trying to make a living, while huge real-estate developers go unpunished. - DD (USA, 12 MIN)

Teaching America

Director/Producer: Anurima Bhargava
Producer: Alisa Payne
NYC Premiere The transformative journeys of Arkansas teachers and students pioneering the first nationwide AP African-American Studies class amid a fierce national debate. - ME (USA, 22 MIN)



Voices from the Abyss

Shorts: Different Drummers

Celebrating mavericks and makers boldly pursuing their unique paths. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 84 MIN)

THU NOV 13, 9:20PM | IFC SAT NOV 15, 11:30 AM | IFC
ONLINE | NOV 12-30

The Chimney Sweeper

Director/Producer: Jack Raese
World Premiere A whimsical, personal look-back at the life choices of an eighth-generation nutcracker workshop owner, a descendant of the original inventor. - DD (USA, 9 MIN)

From Rodeo to Polo: The First HBCU Polo Team

Director/Producer: Kendi King
NYC Premiere A scrappy team of pioneering, rodeo-riding cowboys at Morehouse College strives to become polo stars as they launch the first-ever HBCU polo team. - AR (USA, 18 MIN)

Burcu's Angels

Director/Producer: Özgün Gündüz
US Premiere Queer Turkish elder Burcu Özdemir's radiant spirit transforms a vintage shop in Vancouver into a sanctuary of belonging, creativity, and quiet resistance for generations of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. - ME (CANADA, 19 MIN)

Casa Amadeo

Director/Producer: Ariana Marie Luque
World Premiere Salsa pioneer Miguelito Amadeo keeps the spirit of music and community alive in his Bronx record shop, even in the face of an uncertain future. - KM (USA, 15 MIN)

Voices from the Abyss

Director: Irving Serrano, Victor Rejón
Producer: Ramon Llaven
NYC Premiere A powerful portrait of Acapulco's cliff divers, revealing the danger and discipline behind their daily work—and the personal and economic pressures that drive each leap from the rocks. - ME (MEXICO, 23 MIN)



Listen

Shorts: Generations

Histories, rituals, and links that bind families and communities together across the ages. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 89 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 8:00PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Death Education

Director/Producer: Yuxuan Ethan Wu
NYC Premiere A unique and macabre premise, teaching young students how to understand death, unfolds into a surprisingly moving, humane, and poignant story. – *ME* (CHINA, 13 MIN)

Listen

Director: Malakye Zaayin Tsosie
 Producer: Kaitlyn Sanchez
North American Premiere A filmmaker seeks to reconnect with his roots through his fading ancestral language and discovers hope and resilience within his community, led by a small Navajo radio station. – *KM* (USA, 15 MIN)

What Does the Mud Whisper?

Director: Dea Tcholakava
 Producer: Irina Gelashvili
NYC Premiere A beautifully observed portrait of childhood and family from a visual storyteller confident in the quiet power of image, gesture, and atmosphere. – *ME* (GEORGIA, 18 MIN)

The Time My Grandmother Was Held Hostage by Bank Robbers

Director/Producer: Rosella Tursi
 Producer: Christine Champagne
World Premiere Filmmaker Rosella Tursi humorously investigates the family legend of when her grandmother was held hostage by bank robbers. – *DD* (USA, 25 MIN)

The Boys and the Bees

Director/Producer: Arielle Knight
NYC Premiere On an idyllic farm in rural Georgia, beekeeping parents tenderly share their knowledge of life, love, and nature with their young sons while restoring their homestead. – *DD* (USA, 18 MIN)



The Long Walk: The Story of the Bharat Jodo Yatra

Shorts: Get Up, Stand Up

Fighting the power, one good story at a time. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 83 MIN)

TUE NOV 18 8:45PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30 WED NOV 19, 4:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Also Resisters

Director/Producer: Christina D. Bartson
NYC Premiere Archival Vietnam War images accompany a guiding 1968 essay to explore the deep connections between militarism at home and abroad—and those who resisted it across generations and borders. – *AR* (USA, 13 MIN)

Survival Without Rent

Director: Katie Heiserman, Elana Meyers
 Producer: Zazie Ray-Trapido
NYC Premiere With the city's finances in free fall, and with no support from the state or national government, activist squatters organize and create a vibrant community in 1980s NYC. – *DD* (USA, 21 MIN)

The Good Fight: Armen vs. Giuliani

Director/Producer: Amelia Hanibelsz
 Producer: Ilana Diamant
World Premiere Civil rights lawyer Armen Merjian takes on NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani over housing rights for people living with HIV. – *DD* (USA, 16 MIN)

The Long Walk: The Story of the Bharat Jodo Yatra

Director/Producer: Shruti Ganguly
 Producers: Sumir Ganguly, Prashant Chari, Savio Joseph
NYC Premiere An exploration of a massive protest march across India, why this historic event was largely ignored by the media, and its significance for the survival of the country's secular democracy. – *AR* (INDIA/USA, 33 MIN)



Underground Sounds: The New Thousand Story

Shorts: Gotham

New York City shorts that exemplify the grit, grace, and groove of our great city. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 89 MIN)

WED NOV 12, 9:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30 WED NOV 19, 9:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Always Tracy

Director/Producer: Meron Tebeje
World Premiere After killing her abusive husband in self-defense, Tracy McCarter must fight for her freedom against a justice system that fails to protect victims of domestic violence. – *AR* (USA, 20 MIN)

The New Yorker Theater: A Talbot Legacy

Director/Producer: Sergio Maza
 Producers: Maria Politano, Cara Yeates
NYC Premiere In a slice of NYC history, Dan and Toby Talbot transform a struggling Upper West Side theater into a landmark arthouse cinema, showing how passion can shape community and leave a lasting legacy. – *ME* (USA/ARGENTINA, 26 MIN)

The Petal Pusher

Director/Producer: David Abel
 Producer: Mark Chesak
World Premiere Family owners of the Petal Pusher flower shop, part of Penn Station's subterranean commerce community since the 1970s, reflect as the store is forced to close due to rising rents. – *DD* (USA, 15 MIN)

Underground Sounds: The New Thousand Story

Director: Emma Keatley
 Producer: Owen Kepshire
World Premiere Street performers Adrian Jusdanis and Alan Zavodsky draw crowds with their dynamic sound and high energy. – *DD* (USA, 28 MIN)



Hold Me Close

Shorts: Heartbeats

Celebrating affairs of the heart and love in all its wondrous forms. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 79 MIN)

MON NOV 17, 6:15PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Two Kinds of People

Director: Evan Luchkow
International Premiere A couple revisits Super 8 footage of a formative road trip, exploring the beauty, fear, and vulnerability of falling in love amid Western Canada's vast landscapes. – *DD* (CANADA, 5 MIN)

Hold Me Close

Directors/Producers: Aurora Brachman, LaTajh Simmons-Weaver
NYC Premiere In an intimate portrait of Black queer love, a couple chronicle their affection and partnership through daily audio diaries and elegant tableaux of their shared domestic life. – *AR* (USA, 19 MIN)

I Wanted To Hear Your Voice

Director: James Pellerito
 Producer: David Barba
NYC Premiere The quiet care of a loved one with dementia and the remembrance of what once was. – *DD* (USA, 12 MIN)

Murewa

Director: Ché Scott-Heron Newton
 Producer: Matt Houghton
NYC Premiere In this poignant reflection of boyhood, the diverging paths of two young friends offer a realistic testament to how economic and social circumstances can shape a life. – *ME* (UK, 14 MIN)

Sunset and the Mockingbird

Director/Producer: Jyllian Gunther
 Producer: Kali Holloway
NYC Premiere As a jazz legend's memory fades, his soulmate discovers their timeless connection lives on through the music that shaped their love, transforming his songs into an enduring bond. – *AR* (USA, 29 MIN)



Free Joan Little

Shorts: Hidden Histories

Untold histories of people and communities whose unknown stories exemplify resilience, self-determination, and courage. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 96 MIN)

WED NOV 12, 8:30PM | IFC THU NOV 13, 1:00PM | VE
ONLINE | NOV 12-30

A Picture of My Father

Directors/Producers: Jon Miller, Zach Russo
NYC Premiere Estranged from her imprisoned father, John MacKenzie, Danielle learns how he profoundly shaped the lives of countless fellow inmates following his death. – DD (USA, 22 MIN)

Sakhee: A Portrait of the Kinner Community in Hinterland India

Director/Producer: Udit Nijhawan
NYC Premiere Against the backdrop of Holi festivities, an intimate portrait of Mohini, a transgender woman whose life reveals the tension between reverence and rejection in small-town India. – ME (INDIA/USA, 12 MIN)

Being Seen Makes Us Happy

Directors: Charlotte Levin, Ava Newman
Producers: Ava Newman, Cheryl Dunn
World Premiere The vibrant world of female graffiti artists in NYC, where bold women have used their art to reclaim public spaces, assert their voices, and defy a male-dominated subculture. – AR (USA, 26 MIN)

Free Joan Little

Director: Yoruba Richen
Producers: Christalyn Hampton, Bonnie Bertram
World Premiere A chronicle of a woman's courageous fight for survival, whose 1975 acquittal challenged injustice and inspired a nation to confront sexual violence and racism. – DD (USA, 36 MIN)



Destined to Be Queen

Shorts: Let's Play

There's more to these sports and hobbies than just fun and games. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 71 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 2:00PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

It's Our Ball

Director: David Morrison
Producers: Judy T. Marcelline, Penny Edmiston
NYC Premiere Three middle-aged women find purpose, confidence, and community on the basketball court, proving age can be an asset and the game a path to self-acceptance. – AR (USA, 11 MIN)

We Beg to Differ

Director/Producer: Ruairi Bradley
Producer: Thomas Purdy
NYC Premiere In Ireland's underground diffing scene, a tight-knit community finds refuge in their shared passion while navigating personal struggles on and off the road. – DD (IRELAND/UK, 12 MIN)

Alice

Director: Gabriel Novis
Producers: Mayra Faour Auad, Gabrielle Auad
US Premiere A transgender surfer and artist from Brazil boldly claims space in a society still marked by violence and prejudice. – ME (BRAZIL/USA, 17 MIN)

Destined to Be Queen

Director/Producer: Olivia Zimmerman
Producers: Alex Laviola, Jonathas Nazareth
World Premiere Brianna Alers began boxing at age 11 to overcome schoolyard bullying. Seven years later, she's still training—now with her sights set on the US Junior Olympics. – DD (USA, 12 MIN)

Barra Brava

Directors: RJ Sanchez, Eduardo Giralt Brun, Pedro Valtierra Anza
Producers: Doug Riggs, RJ Sanchez, Stuart McIntyre, Alli Maxwell, David Kohan
World Premiere Raw emotion, passionate loyalty, and defiant tribalism of Colombia's most devoted soccer fans, captured on grainy and gorgeous 16mm film. – ME (USA/MEXICO, 19 MIN)



Seventeen

Shorts: Look Up

Look up to the horizon...or just above your head. What do you see in your future? (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 83 MIN)

TUE NOV 18 4:45PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Grit

Director: Vanina Feldsztein, Johannes Kroemer
Producer: Johannes Kroemer
NYC Premiere A heartfelt and hopeful exploration of aging with dignity through graceful testimonials. Incisive intimacy shows the joy and strength found in embracing life's later chapters. – ME (USA, 14 MIN)

The Fanciers

Director/Producer: Theo McInnes
Producer: Harry Zundel
International Premiere Three pigeon racers, known as fanciers, reflect on their lives, their love of the sport, their pigeons, and the future of the hobby. – DD (UK, 15 MIN)

Flying Like A Bird

Director/Producer: Hanyun Zhang
Producer: Yi (Chris) Yuan
World Premiere In a remote Tibetan monastery, a young monk's love for basketball and Michael Jordan sparks viral fame and quiet rebellion as he questions the weight of tradition and expectation. – ME (CHINA, 13 MIN)

Lift Lady

Director: Marcin Modzelewski
Producers: Jerzy Kapuściński, Ewa Jastrzębska, Magdalena Tomanek
NYC Premiere An artfully crafted and quietly striking chronicle of Mzia, a former sniper turned residential elevator operator, offers a tragicomic glimpse into modern Georgia through the rhythms of one extraordinary-ordinary life. – ME (POLAND, 25 MIN)

Seventeen

Director/Producer: Ajuán Isaac-George
International Premiere The community and friendship of Black British teen roller skaters speak to joy, freedom, and the quiet ache of growing up too soon. – ME (UK, 16 MIN)



The Spiritual Advisor

Shorts: On the Other Side

Perseverance in the face of uncertain futures—and what awaits on the other side. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 89 MIN)

SUN NOV 16, 5:30PM | IFC MON NOV 17, 8:35PM | IFC
WED NOV 19, 9:20 PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Other Life

Directors: Tom Tennant, Theo Tennant
Producer: Alice Hughes
US Premiere Best friends Mike and Emlyn journey through South Wales, documenting UFO sightings and extraordinary encounters with the unexplainable for their podcast. – DD (UK, 16 MIN)

That Which Is Heard

Director: Ken Pham
Producer: Kirthiga Rajanayagam
World Premiere With the support of her fellow thespians, an actress navigates the mental and physical challenges of performing after enduring a traumatic event. – KM (CANADA, 21 MIN)

The Spiritual Advisor

Director: Joel Fendelman
Producer: James Chase Sanchez
World Premiere In September 2024, spiritual advisor Jeff Hood travels to Oklahoma to fight for the stay of an incarcerated man's execution—and to provide spiritual guidance if the state carries it out. – DD (USA, 23 MIN)

Island Willing

Director/Producer: Cece King
Producer: Elsa Hana Chung, Camilla Marchese González
NYC Premiere Faced with new conservation policies that threaten their way of life, a family living on a remote Chilean island fights to preserve a unique culture of environmental stewardship. – AR (USA, 29 MIN)



The Memories of Others

Shorts: A Place Like This

Exploring the places we live in—and that live in us. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 85 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 4:30PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 12-30

In Seascale

Director: Bofei Wan
 Producer: Siyun Wang
World Premiere A young mother sets her fears aside to move her family to a former resort town adjacent to an old nuclear facility. – AR (UK/CHINA, 7 MIN)

Farfour: A War Diary from Gaza

Directors: Ahmed Deeb, Moaz Hosni
 Producer: Ahmed Deeb
World Premiere Amid Gaza's devastation, an intimate portrait follows a man and his cat, offering a quiet, human glimpse into survival, companionship, and the personal cost of collective violence. – ME (PALESTINE/TURKEY, 14 MIN)

Save Flat Top

Director: Bia Jurema
 Producer: Sydney Wolstein
US Premiere Facing gentrification in LA's oldest neighborhood, the immigrant and Indigenous community of Lincoln Heights must unite to save Flat Top, a sacred piece of undeveloped land, from a corporate takeover. – AR (USA, 11 MIN)

Inhabitants

Directors: Charline Lefrançois, Florian Geisseler
 Producer: Michael Karrer
North American Premiere At a vast apartment complex near the Rhône River in Switzerland, residents and nearby forest birds influence and inspire each other, revealing a complex and unique bond with nature. – DD (SWITZERLAND, 15 MIN)

Sunset Over America

Director: Matías Rojas Valencia
 Producers: Françoise Nieto-Fong, Tomas Gerlach Mora
US Premiere The danger and the tedium of a young Venezuelan migrant's constant movement to avoid detection. An empathetic, restrained, and breathtaking exploration of statelessness, from physical tolls to uncertain futures. – ME (COLOMBIA/CHILE, 18 MIN)

The Memories of Others

Directors/Producers: Pauline Vermare, Marc Lesser
NYC Premiere Japanese photographer Akihiko Okamura gathers extraordinary images of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, showing a unique connection with the people and the time. – DD (USA/IRELAND/JAPAN, 20 MIN)



This Side of Salina

Shorts: She Stories

Stories of intimacy, strength, and self-determination made by and about women. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 67 MIN)

FRI NOV 14, 4:15PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

The First Times

Directors: Giulia Cosentino, Perla Sardella
 Producers: Margot Mecca, Matteo Tortone
US Premiere Two women in their 70s revisit their time at boarding school through a series of letters, questioning whether they chose the lives they wanted or settled for those presented to them. – AR (ITALY/SPAIN, 16 MIN)

This Side of Salina

Director/Producer: Lynne Sachs
NYC Premiere Four young women in Syracuse reflect on their lives, love, and community, using dance and conversation to explore everything from youthful regrets to raising a daughter. – AR (USA, 12 MIN)

That Night

Director/Producer: Hoda Sobhani
 Producer: Elle Toussi
World Premiere Told through striking animation, one woman's powerful account of surviving a fire in Tehran's Evin prison captures resistance; an urgent, creative act rooted in the Iranian Woman! Life! Freedom! movement. – ME (USA, 11 MIN)

Chilapa Girl

Director/Producer: Juana Lotero López
 Producer: Daniel Sánchez
North American Premiere Yulieth, a rebellious girl in a Colombian fishing village, navigates adolescence, identity, and machismo in a beautiful yet harsh coastal community. – AR (COLOMBIA, 17 MIN)

Swim Sistas

Director: Catherine Joy White
 Producers: Anais Ferrato, Oriane Pick
NYC Premiere Three Black women, including Great Britain's first Black female Olympian, explore their healing and historical relationship to the water through swimming. – AR (UK, 11 MIN)



Vs. Goliath: Cancer Alley

Shorts: Truth to Power

Women of a certain age fearlessly confront corporate polluters poisoning our land and water with toxins. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 78 MIN)

WED NOV 12, 6:15 PM | IFC THU NOV 20, 1:00PM | VE ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Sallie's Ashes

Director/Producer: Brennan Robideaux
 Producers: Daniel Junge, Allison Bohl DeHart
NYC Premiere A small yet determined group of Alabama grandmothers organizes a grassroots movement to challenge the state's largest power company's environmental abuses. – DD (USA, 40 MIN)

Vs. Goliath: Cancer Alley

Directors: Sam Eilertsen, Nate Birnbaum
 Producers: Pulkit Datta, Maggie Lemere, Nate Birnbaum
NYC Premiere When a chemical company opens a new plastics factory that threatens to pollute the area, a Louisiana grandmother and educator-turned-activist leads members of her parish to fight back. – DD (USA, 38 MIN)



Divers

Shorts: Vantage Point

Uncommon stories from unique perspectives. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 84 MIN)

TUE NOV 18, 9:30PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Divers

Director/Producer: Geordie Wood
NYC Premiere The breathless anticipation, mental strength, and elegant physicality in the moment before a high dive. – KM (USA, 7 MIN)

Where Do Birds Go When It Rains

Director/Producer: Juan Sebastian Sisa
US Premiere Haunting imagery and echoes of a violent past interweave an exploration of the filmmaker's gradual loss of sight. An affirmation of healing amid loss that blurs personal narrative with disquieting history. – ME (COLOMBIA, 17 MIN)

A View from Home

Director/Producer: Mingzhe Zhou
 Producer: Yiqian Zhang
US Premiere A warm, humorous, and tender look at the daily happenings in a downtown Toronto park—reflecting on belonging, memory, and the beautiful theater of everyday life. – ME (CANADA, 15 MIN)

Wainitai: Finding Yourself

Director: Pablo García Vizcarra
 Producer: Ariana Galvez Sanchez
North American Premiere A young Indigenous woman's struggle against restrictive traditions, charted through her perspective, offers a nuanced portrait of resilience and self-determination. – ME (SPAIN, 20 MIN)

Who Was Here?

Director/Producer: Evi Stamou
US Premiere In a unique melding of memory, language, and technology, a young Greek woman seeks to fill in the gaps in her family history using an innovative AI program. – KM (GREECE, 25 MIN)



Exodus

Shorts: We Belong Together

Finding strength in community and friendship. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 81 MIN)

WED NOV 19, 4:00PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

La Liga

Directors: MacPherson Christopher, Paul Rosenfeld
Producer: Tik Root

NYC Premiere In rural Vermont, soccer brings together immigrant dairy farmworkers, who forge a community and unite to advocate for better working conditions. – *DD* (USA, 25 MIN)

The Confidantes

Director/Producer: Robin Chen

North American Premiere Two elderly women in a senior care community forge a profound bond of care and companionship, creating a quiet resistance to the loneliness of aging. – *AR* (CHINA/USA, 21 MIN)

Exodus

Director/Producer: Nimco Sheikhaden
Producer: Sara Chishti

NYC Premiere Two women, released after decades in prison, fight to rebuild their lives, restore their humanity, and reclaim their place in a world that left them behind. – *AR* (USA, 35 MIN)



Images from Tuvalu

Shorts: What's Next

Uncertain futures and shifting horizons—asking, ‘What now, and what’s next?’ (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 83 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 8:45PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

The Return

Director/Producer: Jeremy S. Levine
Producers: Andrew Phillips, Poh Si Teng, Trudy Mercadal, Carson Stiles, Kely Maloney

NYC Premiere Once torn apart by the US border, a father and son in Guatemala struggle to rebuild their lives and reclaim their dreams. – *KM* (USA/QATAR, 22 MIN)

Down North

Directors: David Dominguez, Paul Overstrom
Producer: Amanda McDonnell

NYC Premiere Formerly incarcerated individuals in Philadelphia forge life-changing bonds over pizza, rebuilding their lives and supporting families with hope and resilience. A warm and authentic affirmation of possibility and new beginnings. – *ME* (USA, 11 MIN)

Images from Tuvalu

Director: Dylan Werkman
Producers: Janneke Doolaard, Harmen Jalvingh
North American Premiere A Polynesian community struggles to survive rising sea levels while Europeans casually observe the plight from their living rooms. An exploration of growing desensitization and helplessness around the climate crisis. – *KM* (NETHERLANDS, 25 MIN)

The Man in the Rectangle

Director: Ali Heraize
Producer: Hannah Yang
North American Premiere Blurring performance and reality, an actor posing as an AI-created photographer sharply and self-reflexively exposes fragile truths about identity, labor, and authorship in an increasingly simulated world. – *ME* (CANADA, 25 MIN)



NBCUniversal, Universal Television Alternative Studio, and Monkeypaw Productions co-present the **World Premiere** screening of Peacock’s new three-part documentary *High Horse: The Black Cowboy*. Ride into the world of the Black Cowboy legacy — a cultural reckoning showcasing their image, their culture, and their deep ties to the land. (USA, 87 MIN)

Screening co-presented by NBCUniversal, Peacock, and Monkeypaw Productions

TUE NOV 18, 4:15PM | VE



Hannah Mayree: Songs of Reclamation

In the Making

Season four of this short film series from American Masters and Firelight Media follows artists on their way to becoming masters of their disciplines. (TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 125 MIN)

SAT NOV 15, 1:45PM | IFC ONLINE | NOV 12-30

Aliah Irvine & Kēhau Kapua'a: Kukulu

Director/Producer: Aukai Ligairi
Producers: Robinder Uppal, Terra Debold
World Premiere Aliah and Kēhau take on the male-dominated practice of building Hawaiian hale, traditional thatched structures—a personal and political effort as they reclaim cultural traditions nearly lost to colonial erasure. (USA, 15 MIN)

Alsarah: The Sonic Historian

Director: Roopa Gogineni, Wael Gzoly | Producer: Roopa Gogineni
World Premiere Sudanese musician and ethnomusicologist Alsarah leads Alsarah and the Nubatones, a band of immigrants exploring migration’s impact on culture through music—an essential venture amid displacement and an enduring conflict. (USA, 16 MIN)

Ani Liu: Eye Heart Womb

Director/Producer: Miao Wang | Producer: Damon Smith
World Premiere New York-based artist Ani Liu creates provocative artifacts at the intersection of art, science, and technology. From neuroscience to motherhood, her practice challenges understandings of bodies and gender. (USA, 16 MIN)

Cindy Tran: From Here to Here

Director/Producer: Xinyan Yu
World Premiere Poet Cindy Tran creates works that bridge personal memories and shared experiences, reflecting on childhood, parental expectations, and societal stigmas around an Asian-American identity. (USA, 16 MIN)

Hannah Mayree: Songs of Reclamation

Director/Producer: Ebony Marie Bailey | Producer: Alyssa Mopia
World Premiere Musician, banjo-maker, and founder of the Black Banjo Reclamation Project Hannah Mayree organizes workshops and performances celebrating the banjo’s Black history. (USA, 15 MIN)

Lani B. Supreme: Legacy

Director/Producer: Sabaah Folayan | Producer: Chloe Campion
World Premiere Trumpeter, composer, educator, and storyteller Lani B. Supreme (Jelani Akil Bauman) carries forward a musical legacy that began with his great-great-grandfather before emancipation. Driven by his family’s craft, Bauman’s music celebrates Black creative expression. (USA, 15 MIN)

Stankface Standing Soldier: The Rise of Mato Wayuhi

Director: Josiah W. Jones | Producers: Blake Brown, Jeremy Charles
NYC Premiere Oglala Lakota artist, musician, and composer Mato Wayuhi, known for his work on Reservation Dogs, references ancestral knowledge to inform his present artistic processes and visions for the future. (USA, 16 MIN)

Warren King: King of Cardboard

Director/Producer: Curtis Chin | Producer: Adam Wolman
World Premiere Warren King transforms cardboard into sculptural reflections of his Chinese-American family’s immigration and his path from engineer to artist. Preparing for a Wisconsin homecoming show, King explores belonging through art. (USA, 16 MIN)



Not Another Film About the Holocaust?!?!

Screening and panel co-presented by The Lost Shtetl Museum

SUN NOV 16, 12:00PM | IFC

DOC NYC and The Lost Shtetl Museum present the NY Premiere of *Extinguished Lives* (Lithuania/USA, 14 MIN), a hybrid documentary short examining a little-known story of the Holocaust by bullets—the murder of Lithuanian Jews by Nazis and their local collaborators in the forests surrounding hundreds of shtetls. Based on survivor testimony, the film follows a young woman who must choose between staying with her family or saving herself.

Following the film, a panel moderated by DOC NYC Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen will discuss the need (or not) for Holocaust films in 2025. Panelists include *Extinguished Lives* director Roberta Grossman, The Lost Shtetl Museum Director of Education Dr. Jolanta Mickute, filmmaker Denis Dobrovna (*The Consequences of Truth*), and Exhibit Designer Büke Kumyol (RAA).



Where the Light Enters You

Screening co-presented by South Asian House

TUE NOV 18, 5:30PM | VE

In the wake of personal loss, an unexpected sisterhood unites an ambitious New York healthcare worker with a spirited girl from a nomadic tribe in India. Filmed over seven years, this documentary short is a deeply personal East-meets-West story of mutual healing. *Where the Light Enters You* (USA, 37 MIN) reveals how the sufferings and joys of the human experience blur borders and boundaries, countries and caste.

This special presentation will feature a Q&A with directors Matt Alesevich and Hemal Trivedi, moderated by DOC NYC Director of Special Projects Thom Powers.

Where the Light Enters You is Oscar-qualified and eligible for the Best Documentary Short category.

DOC NYC PRO VOICES OF CANADA INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLES

CO-PRESENTED BY **Canada**

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 meet with industry and advance their creative projects.

The Voices of Canada Industry Roundtables program will bring six Canadian works-in-progress film projects to NYC for a day of curated meetings and industry feedback. This initiative is co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada in New York and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Creative Export Strategy (CES).

The 2025 DOC NYC Voices of Canada works-in-progress projects are:

Gagged

Director/Producer: Nathalie Bibeau
Producers: Tara Jan, Andrea Stewart

Gagged is a poetic reckoning that unmask how NDAs have quietly enabled abuse, stifled victims, and shaped our collective silence. Featuring a live case that will break in the film, paralleled with Zelda Perkins' quest to ban them, it is a story about secrets and what happens to us all when the wrong ones are forced to be kept.

Inuguiniq

Director: Olivia Ikey
Producers: Kim O'Bomsawin, Andrée-Anne Frenette

Inuguiniq follows Inuk filmmaker Olivia Ikey as she and her young daughter Navarana reconnect to long-lost Inuit traditions surrounding birth. *Inuguiniq* offers unprecedented access to a multi-millennial people's traditional philosophies and ways of being, which were almost completely erased. A deeply intimate story that also speaks universally about how we bring and support life in the world.

Holdouts

Director/Producer: Ric Bienstock
Producer: Garfield Miller

Holdouts tells the eccentric, defiant stories of homeowners and business owners who refuse to sell—quirky strongholds in seas of glass and steel—exposing both their oddball charm and the larger fights over gentrification, housing, and what we call "progress."

The Gymnasts of Fisherman Colony

Director/Producer: Habiba Nosheen
Producer: Amar Lohana

Against the weight of societal expectations on women and girls, three Pakistani teenagers push to make space for themselves, one somersault at a time. The film offers a rare and tender portrait of girlhood, joy, and play told through the eyes of young girls navigating the margins of society.

North Korea's Joy Division

Director: Noa Im
Producers: Ann Shin, Sally Blake, Erica Leendertse, Mariam Bastani

Four women break decades of silence to expose North Korea's secret "Joy Division"—a pleasure squad serving three generations of dictators. Their explosive testimonies reveal a world of sex, power, and propaganda, where performance itself becomes a weapon of control.

Turtle Island Rap

Director: Alexandra Lazarowich
Producer: Jessica Ford

Turtle Island Rap follows three young Indigenous rappers as they fight to make it in the music industry, push through colonial barriers, and challenge prejudice through their art.



CO-PRESENTED BY

Organized around day-long thematic topics, DOC NYC PRO assembles panels of experts to explore breakthroughs in how documentaries are being made and reaching new audiences.

To experience the DOC NYC PRO lineup, purchase an individual **PRO Day Pass**, offering access to any individual day's events, for \$125.

Discounted **PRO Day Pass packages** can be purchased for \$450 for any four days of PRO programming, or \$850 for all eight days of the PRO conference.

PRO Passes also include same-day access to the Festival Lounge, offering daily breakfast and happy hour, plus a place to network throughout the day.

For additional information on pass pricing and benefits, see page 88. DOC NYC PRO events take place at Village East by Angelika.

Check docnyc.net for updates on DOC NYC PRO programming!



NOVEMBER 13-20, 2025

DOC NYC PRO

**THU NOV 13
PITCH DAY 1**

Expanded this year to two full-day sessions, pitch days give 24 filmmaking teams the chance to present works in progress to key industry players across distribution, funding, publicity, and more. Filmmakers will receive targeted feedback based on their needs. The Pitch Days program kicks off with a special Chicken & Egg Films work in progress showcase of six titles. *Co-presented by AJH Films and Chicken & Egg Films*

**FRI NOV 14
CRISIS & OPPORTUNITY: MAKING DOCS
IN A TURBULENT ERA**

In a time of upheaval, how do we turn disruption into a chance to redefine documentary storytelling, and who gets to decide what comes next? This day takes an unflinching look at the forces reshaping the field, from AI and ethics to political pressure and shrinking funding. Together, we'll ask what's really happening and explore the opportunities we can build in response.

**SAT NOV 15
PITCH DAY 2**

Expanded this year to two full-day sessions, pitch days give 24 filmmaking teams the chance to present works in progress to key industry players across distribution, funding, publicity, and more. Filmmakers will receive targeted feedback based on their needs. *Co-presented by AJH Films*

**SUN NOV 16
EDITING: SHAPING THE STORY**

How do editors and directors shape not just footage, but the very heartbeat of a film's story? This day is for editors, directors, and anyone interested in how to craft a film in the edit. Through case studies and behind-the-scenes insights, we'll break down how scenes take shape, what makes them land, and how the edit drives both emotion and story. *Co-presented by Hulu*

**MON NOV 17
THE FUTURE OF FUNDING
(WHILE SURVIVING NOW)**

What does it take to fund stories now and keep funding alive for the future? This day dives into the realities of today's tighter budgets and changing support systems. Through conversations with funders, filmmakers, and innovators, we'll explore creative approaches and emerging opportunities.

**TUE NOV 18
DIRECTING & PRODUCING:
LEADING THE VISION**

What does it take to carry the vision for a film? This day looks at what it means to lead creatively, logistically, and emotionally. Through real stories and case studies, we'll explore holding the vision, making tough calls, and staying grounded through creativity and chaos.

**WED NOV 19
CINEMATOGRAPHY & THE VISUAL
LANGUAGE OF DOCS**

How can choices behind the lens turn everyday moments into powerful visual stories that stay with us? Accomplished cinematographers will share how they craft scenes, build meaning through imagery, and navigate the real-world challenges of filming nonfiction. *Co-presented by National Geographic*

**THU NOV 20
DISTRIBUTION: WHERE ARE WE AND
WHAT'S NEXT?**

How do we keep telling urgent stories when the paths to audiences are narrowing? How can we pivot from a changing distribution landscape to reclaim our power and find new ways to reach audiences? This day gets real about what's broken, what's shifting, and how filmmakers and industry voices are creating new paths forward.



SCAN FOR DOC NYC PRO SCHEDULE

DEFUNDED, NOT DEFEATED

Congress has rescinded all funds previously promised for New York City's THIRTEEN.

Despite these challenges, we are still here, working every day to inform, educate, and connect our communities.

Any gift you can give now will help us navigate our budget challenges.

We can make a difference together.



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SCAN FOR
 COMPLETE
 SCHEDULE

DOC NYC All Film Pass \$995

Binge on all of the films in the 2025 program! The DOC NYC All Film Pass gets you access to every film screening during the live, in-person festival November 12-20, plus films on the festival's virtual screening platform through November 30. Additionally, All Film Passholders get complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge at Bar Veloce, including daily breakfasts and happy hours, and the option to purchase discounted Visionaries Tribute Luncheon tickets.

Note: Only a limited number of All Film Passes will be available. The All Film Pass is valid for one (1) person and is not transferable. The All Film Pass does not include the Visionaries Tribute lunch or PRO events.

Ten-Ticket Package \$170

A package of 10 festival tickets for regular in-person screenings at a special discounted price - Save \$30 off regular festival admission!

An individual ticket for each of the 10 included admissions must be redeemed online or at a festival venue box office for admission. Not redeemable for admission to Opening, Centerpiece, or Closing Night films.

Online Film Pass \$250

Grants access to all the films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 12-30. Films screening online are only available to watch in the US and US territories.

Online Shorts Pass \$49

Get all the short films streaming on DOC NYC's online platform at a special price.

DOC NYC PRO Passes

DOC NYC PRO Day Pass \$125

Grants access to a single DOC NYC PRO thematic day, plus complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge at Bar Veloce for that day, including the day's breakfast and happy hour.

Note: Only a limited number of DOC NYC PRO Day Passes will be available. Each DOC NYC PRO Pass is valid for one (1) person and is not transferable.

DOC NYC PRO Multi-Day Packs:

4 Days for \$450 | 8 Days for \$850

Grants access to a selection of any 4 or all 8 DOC NYC PRO programming thematic days for one individual from November 13-20. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge at Bar Veloce for days selected, including those days' breakfasts and happy hours. Does not include access to the Visionaries Tribute Luncheon or film screenings.

Note: Only a limited number of DOC NYC PRO Multi-Day Packs will be available. Passes purchased via a DOC NYC PRO Multi-Day Pack are valid for one (1) person and are not transferable. Multi-Day Packs may not be redeemed for already sold-out PRO days.

Pass Purchase & Usage

Purchasing a Pass

All passes may be purchased online at [DOCNYC.net/tickets-and-passes](https://docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes). Online purchasers will be emailed details on using their pass and picking up their badge.

Passes and ticket packs for in-person screenings are available for purchase at the IFC Center box office starting November 7, or at any open festival venue box office starting November 12.

DOC NYC PRO Day Passes are available for in-person purchase at Village East by Angelika November 13-20.

Using a Pass

Instructions on picking up passes will be emailed to purchasers.

For in-person film screenings, All Film Pass holders may simply display their badge at the venue for admission to a film and will be admitted free, providing they arrive no later than 15 minutes before showtime.

Customers with a Ten-Ticket Package for in-person screenings must redeem their tickets for individual film screenings online or at the box office while or after purchasing their ticket package. Ten-Ticket Package purchases by themselves will not guarantee admission to a screening; an individual film screening ticket must be selected online or at a venue box office. Ten-Ticket Package admissions cannot be redeemed for Opening Night, Closing Night or Centerpiece presentations, or for admission to any sold-out show.

For all DOC NYC PRO panels and events, DOC NYC PRO Day Pass holders may simply display their badge at the venue for admission to PRO panels for the day indicated on the badge. Pass holders who have purchased the PRO 8-Day Pack will receive a single badge good for entry to all eight days of PRO. Those who purchase a 4-Day Pack will be issued an individual badge for each of the four days selected.

How to Buy Tickets

Tickets are now on sale for all events. We encourage you to order early to avoid being shut out of a sold-out show.

Online at DOCNyc.net

There are individual ticket links on each film and event page for all available in-person shows and online screening windows. There is a \$2.00 per ticket service charge for tickets purchased online, except for IFC Center members, who pay no online fee for member-priced tickets.

Ticket Prices

Opening Night: *Whistle* (page 8)

Centerpieces: *The Merchants of Joy* and *Steal This Story, Please!* (page 11)

Closing Night: *Ask E. Jean* (page 9)

\$30 General Admission | **\$25** IFC Center Members

Tickets for other festival films:

In Person Screenings:

\$20 Adult | **\$18** Seniors/Children | **\$16** IFC Center Members

Short Lists, Winner's Circle, Selects Encore (page 50-67)

and other **Monday-Friday screenings starting before 5:00pm:**

\$13 General Admission | **\$11** IFC Center Members

Online screenings:

\$13 | **\$9** IFC Center Members

In Person

November 7-11: Advance tickets for all in-person DOC NYC screenings and events are available at IFC Center (323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street, open daily 10:30am-10pm).

November 12-20: Tickets for all in-person screenings and events are available at any DOC NYC venue box office, open from 30 minutes before the venue's first show of the day to 15 minutes after the venue's last show of the day. *Tickets for online screenings are only available to purchase online.*

Rush Line

For sold-out shows, a limited number of tickets may be released 15 minutes before showtime at the screening venue, on a first-come, first-served basis. Rush lines begin forming one hour before sold-out shows at the screening venue.

Questions

Visit the IFC Center box office or email ticketing@docnyc.net.





Original Films



Come See Me in the Good Light

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STREAMING NOVEMBER 14



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