



# VISIONARIES TRIBUTE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025





SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL BOULDER FILM FESTIVAL CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FULL FRAME DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL SF FILM FESTIVAL HOT DOCS 2025

# Come See Me in the Good Light

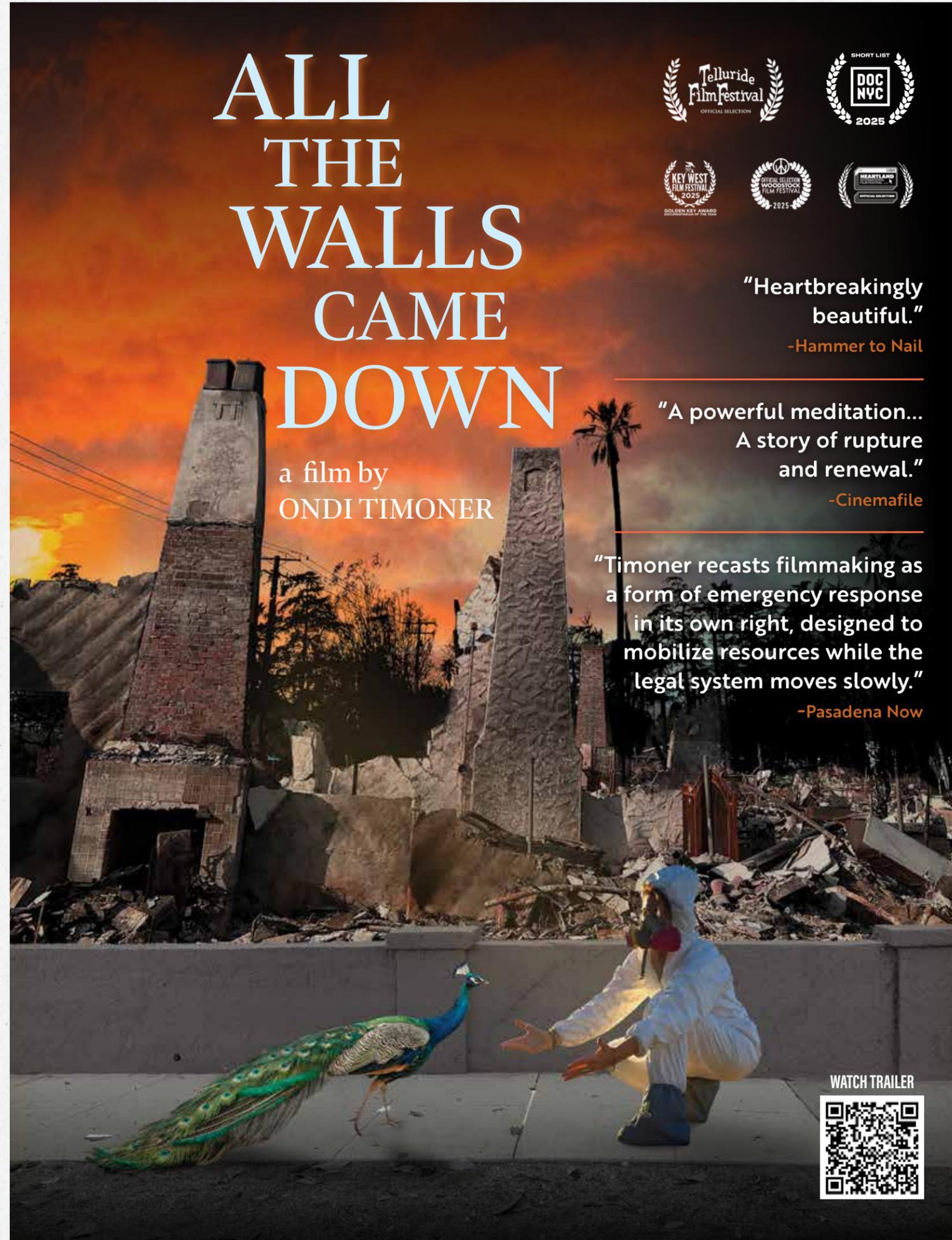
IN SELECT THEATERS AND STREAMING NOVEMBER 14



NYFF 63

# STILLER & MEARA NOTHING IS LOST

IN SELECT THEATERS OCTOBER 17  
STREAMING OCTOBER 24



# ALL THE WALLS CAME DOWN

a film by  
ONDI TIMONER



"Heartbreakingly beautiful."

-Hammer to Nail

"A powerful meditation...  
A story of rupture  
and renewal."

-Cinemafile

"Timoner recasts filmmaking as  
a form of emergency response  
in its own right, designed to  
mobilize resources while the  
legal system moves slowly."

-Pasadena Now

WATCH TRAILER





ALAN BERLINER



RAOUL PECK, JOAN CHURCHILL



MARCIA SMITH



WIM WENDERS, ORLANDO BAGWELL, TABITHA JACKSON, E. CHAI VASARHELYI, JIMMY CHIN



LUCY WALKER



BARBARA KOPPLE, SHEILA NEVINS



CHI-HUI YANG



CYNTHIA LOPEZ, JULIA REICHERT, MARTIN SCORSESE, STEVEN BOGNER

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

- 2014:** Chris Hegedus, Albert Maysles, D.A. Pennebaker
- 2015:** Jon Alpert, Barbara Kopple, Frederick Wiseman
- 2016:** Jonathan Demme, Stanley Nelson
- 2017:** Errol Morris, Sheila Nevins
- 2018:** Orlando Bagwell, Wim Wenders
- 2019:** Michael Apted, Martin Scorsese
- 2020:** Sam Pollard, Jean Tsien
- 2021:** Joan Churchill, Raoul Peck
- 2022:** Geralyn White Dreyfous, Werner Herzog
- 2023:** Michael Moore, Deborah Shaffer
- 2024:** Alan Berliner, Marcia Smith

**Leading Light Award**

- 2014:** Dan Cogan
- 2015:** Tom Quinn
- 2016:** Molly Thompson
- 2017:** Cara Mertes
- 2018:** Tabitha Jackson
- 2019:** Cynthia Lopez
- 2020:** Yvonne Welbon
- 2021:** Chi-hui Yang
- 2022:** Sonya Childress
- 2023:** Erika Dilday
- 2024:** Jenni Wolfson

**Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence**

- 2014:** Laura Poitras
- 2015:** Kim Longinotto
- 2016:** Dawn Porter
- 2017:** Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady
- 2018:** Jimmy Chin, E. Chai Vasarhelyi
- 2019:** Steven Bogner, Julia Reichert
- 2020:** Alexander Nanau
- 2021:** Peter Nicks
- 2022:** Ondi Timoner
- 2023:** Maite Alberdi
- 2024:** Lucy Walker

Welcome to the twelfth edition of Visionaries Tribute. We meet at a time when the documentary field has innumerable challenges—slashed funding, reduced distribution, and political attacks on public media. But every time we gather for this event, we feel re-energized by the talents and passions that keep the art of documentary shining brightly.

Our Leading Light Award recognizes someone who's been a champion of documentary in a role other than a filmmaker. This year's honoree, **Carlos Gutiérrez**, has been a tireless advocate of Latin American filmmakers for nearly 25 years. As the co-founder of Cinema Tropical, he's played a vital role in helping Latin American directors gain exposure to festivals, distributors, journalists, and the general public.

The Robert and Anne Drew Award is named for the dynamic couple who dedicated their lives to observational filmmaking. Their daughter-in-law Jill Drew, general manager and director of Drew Associates, joined DOC NYC in creating this honor to recognize contemporary filmmakers whose careers deepen the artistry of observational documentary. This year, we're delighted to present the award to **Elizabeth Lo**, whose latest work *Mistress Dispeller* is playing on the DOC NYC Short List.

In the category of Lifetime Achievement, we celebrate **Joe Brewster** and **Michèle Stephenson**, whose long careers include both collaborations and individual works. They co-directed the longitudinal study *American Promise* as well as the Oscar Shortlisted title *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*. This year, Stephenson directs *True North*, making its New York City premiere at the festival.

Our second Lifetime Achievement Award goes to **Lois Vossen**, the founding executive producer of Independent Lens on PBS and YouTube. For more than 25 years, Vossen has been a fierce proponent in making space for diverse and distinctive voices on public television. She's earned a deep respect among filmmakers for her care and dedication.

Visionaries Tribute is just the beginning of the 16th edition of DOC NYC. In these pages, you'll be introduced to the works appearing in the Short Lists, Winner's Circle, and Selects Encore sections. We hope you'll spend the coming days exploring these programs, alongside the other 200+ features, shorts, and panels throughout the festival. We are grateful to you all for being here.

**Raphaela Neihausen** Executive Director    **Jaie Laplante** Artistic Director    **Thom Powers** Director of Special Projects



“A TRIUMPH...  
A RAVISHING WORK OF POETRY”  
— INDIEWIRE

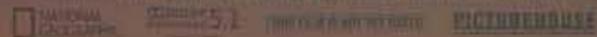
“EXQUISITE...  
AN IDIOSYNCRATIC DOCUMENTARY GEM”  
— SCREEN INTERNATIONAL



# THE TALE OF SILYAN

FROM THE OSCAR®-NOMINATED DIRECTOR OF *HONEYLAND*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY FILMS PRESENTS A VICTORIA TRAIL PRODUCTION WITH CONCORDIA STUDIO AND THE CROWN SHIRT  
“THE TALE OF SILYAN” BY JOE WILSON, DAVYD HONDIK, PAKI, MATTI VUONONEN, JUAN CARLOS  
DAVID GIBSON, ANITA IANUCCI, JAMES PAVITT, JONAS VASSY, MELISSA LIZZO TOX, CAROLYN WENSTON, THE WOODRUFFS  
ANNA VASILI, TAMARA KUTEVSKA, JEAN-LUCAS, JORDAN CELESTROVSKI, TAMARA KUTEVSKA



IN SELECT THEATERS  
STARTING NOV 28



## VISIONARIES TRIBUTE

### HOST COMMITTEE

Jon Alpert*	Julie Goldman	Carrie Lozano	Bernardo Ruiz
Julia Bacha	Carla Gutiérrez	Stephen Maing	Sabrina Schmidt Gordon
Alan Berliner*	Nadia Hallgren	Susan Margolin	Deborah Shaffer*
Christopher Clement	Chris Hegedus*	Louis Massiah	Ondi Timoner*
Bonni Cohen	Judith Helfand	Ivy Meeropol	Jean Tsien*
Kasper Collin	Rory Kennedy	Lucilia Moctezuma	Lucy Walker*
Carl Deal	Simon Kilmurry	Marilyn Ness	Noland Walker
Erika Dilday*	Barbara Kopple*	Sheila Nevins*	Yvonne Welbon*
Geralyn Dreyfous*	Tia Lessin	Paco de Onis	Roger Ross Williams
Sam Feder	Beth Levison	Raoul Peck*	Jenni Wolfson*
Violet Du Feng	Cynthia Lopez*	Paula DuPre' Pessman	Hao Wu
		Sam Pollard*	Pamela Yates

\* Denotes past Visionaries honorees

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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



2025 HONOREE

# Carlos A. Gutiérrez

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

**Carlos A. Gutiérrez** is the co-founding executive director of Cinema Tropical, the New York-based media arts non-profit organization founded in 2001 and the leading promoter of Latin American cinema in the US. As a guest curator, he has organized series at institutions such as The Museum of Modern Art, Film at Lincoln Center, the Guggenheim Museum, BAM Film, and Anthology Film Archives. He co-curated the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar in 2007 and again in 2025 for its 70th anniversary. He is a founding member of the Distribution Advocates collective and currently serves as artistic director of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's Latin Wave film festival, and co-director of Cinema Tucson. As a publicist, he has overseen press campaigns for numerous films, including the U.S. theatrical releases of Patricio Guzmán's acclaimed trilogy *Nostalgia for the Light*, *The Pearl Button*, and *The Cordillera of Dreams*. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) and serves on the Board of Directors of Film Forum.



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## THE ROBERT AND ANNE DREW AWARD



2025 HONOREE

# Elizabeth Lo

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

**Elizabeth Lo** is an award-winning director, producer, and cinematographer whose films have premiered at Venice, TIFF, Sundance, Tribeca, DOC NYC, and other distinguished festivals. Elizabeth has been featured in Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" and DOC NYC's "40 Under 40." Her 2020 debut feature, *Stray*, was a New York Times "Critic's Pick," released by Magnolia Pictures and Hulu. Her second feature, *Mistress Dispeller*, had its world premiere at the 2024 Venice International Film Festival, where it won two awards. It went on to win over twenty other festival awards. She was born and raised in Hong Kong.



2025 HONOREE

# Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson

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

Emmy, Guggenheim, and Sundance award-winning duo **Joe Brewster** and **Michèle Stephenson** co-founded Rada Studio to balance their family life with their passion for the arts. Together, they have built an impressive portfolio of fiction films, documentaries, immersive XR installations, and books. Through a Black Atlantic lens, they reimagine narratives of resistance and healing, weaving fiction, immersive, experimental, and hybrid forms that center a Black Radical tradition and the lived experiences of the Black diaspora exemplified by their genre-bending works, including *Changing Same XR*, *Black Girls Play: The Story of Hand Games*, *Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*, and *True North* (produced by Studio 112), which recently premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.



2025 HONOREE

# Lois Vossen

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

**Lois Vossen**, founding executive producer of Independent Lens on PBS and YouTube, leads the programming of 25-30 original documentary projects made by independent filmmakers each season. Independent Lens documentaries, including *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Philly DA*, *Newtown*, *Tower*, and *The Invisible War*, build empathy and empower people to better understand themselves and each other. Awarded Best Series by the International Documentary Association (IDA) six times, Independent Lens has received 11 Academy Award nominations and 75 Emmy, Peabody, and duPont-Columbia University Awards. Vossen was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Silver Circle and honored as Nonprofit Leader of the Year by the Anthem Awards.

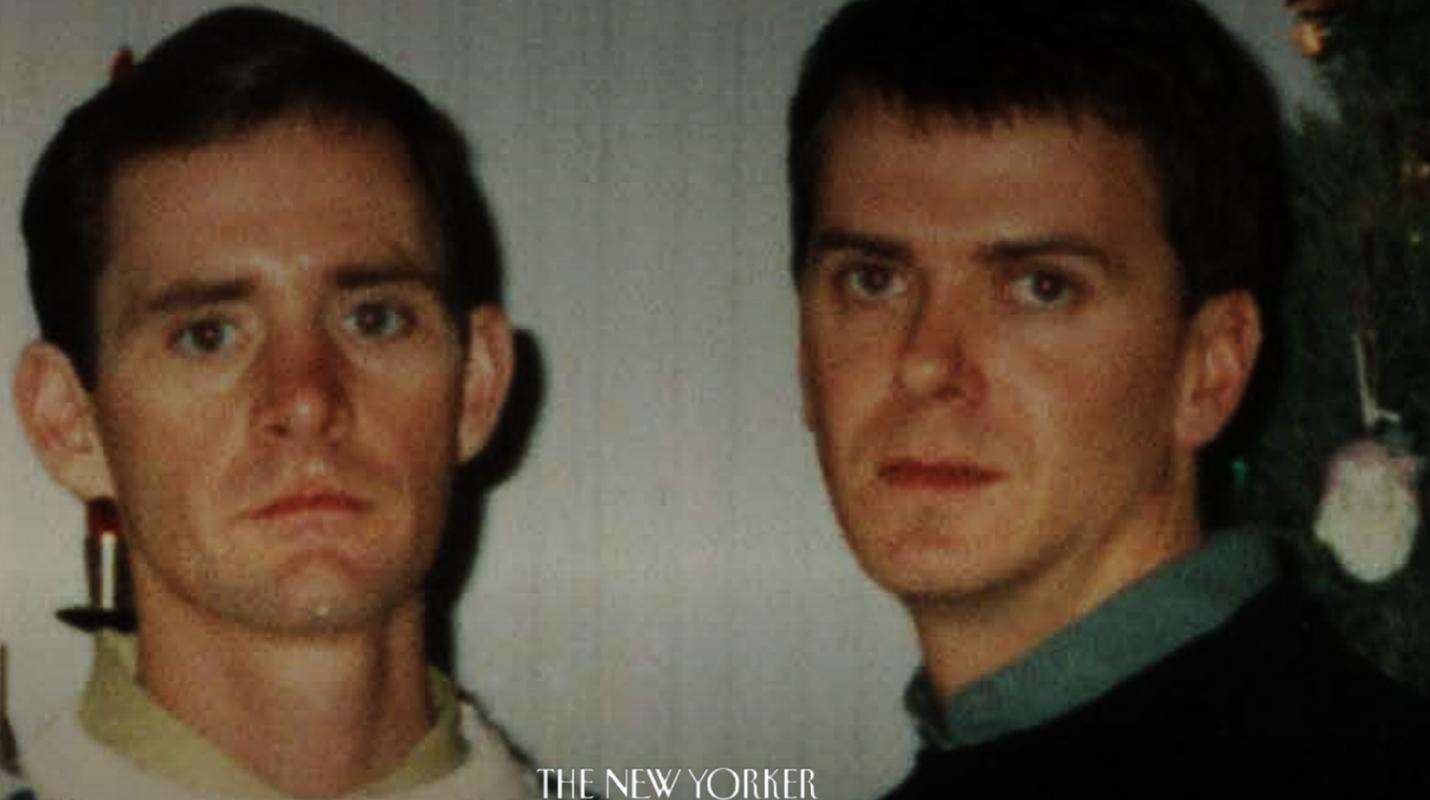


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HILTON ALS | THE NEW YORKER

"Riveting."

CAMERON SCHEETZ | QUEERTY



THE NEW YORKER DOCUMENTARY

FROM OSCAR® NOMINATED EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JULIE COHEN

# CASHING OUT

At the height of the AIDS crisis, thousands of queer people — abandoned by their families, ignored by institutions — sold their life insurance policies to investors for desperately needed cash.



WATCH SHORT FILM NOW



"A PORTRAIT OF PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL COURAGE"

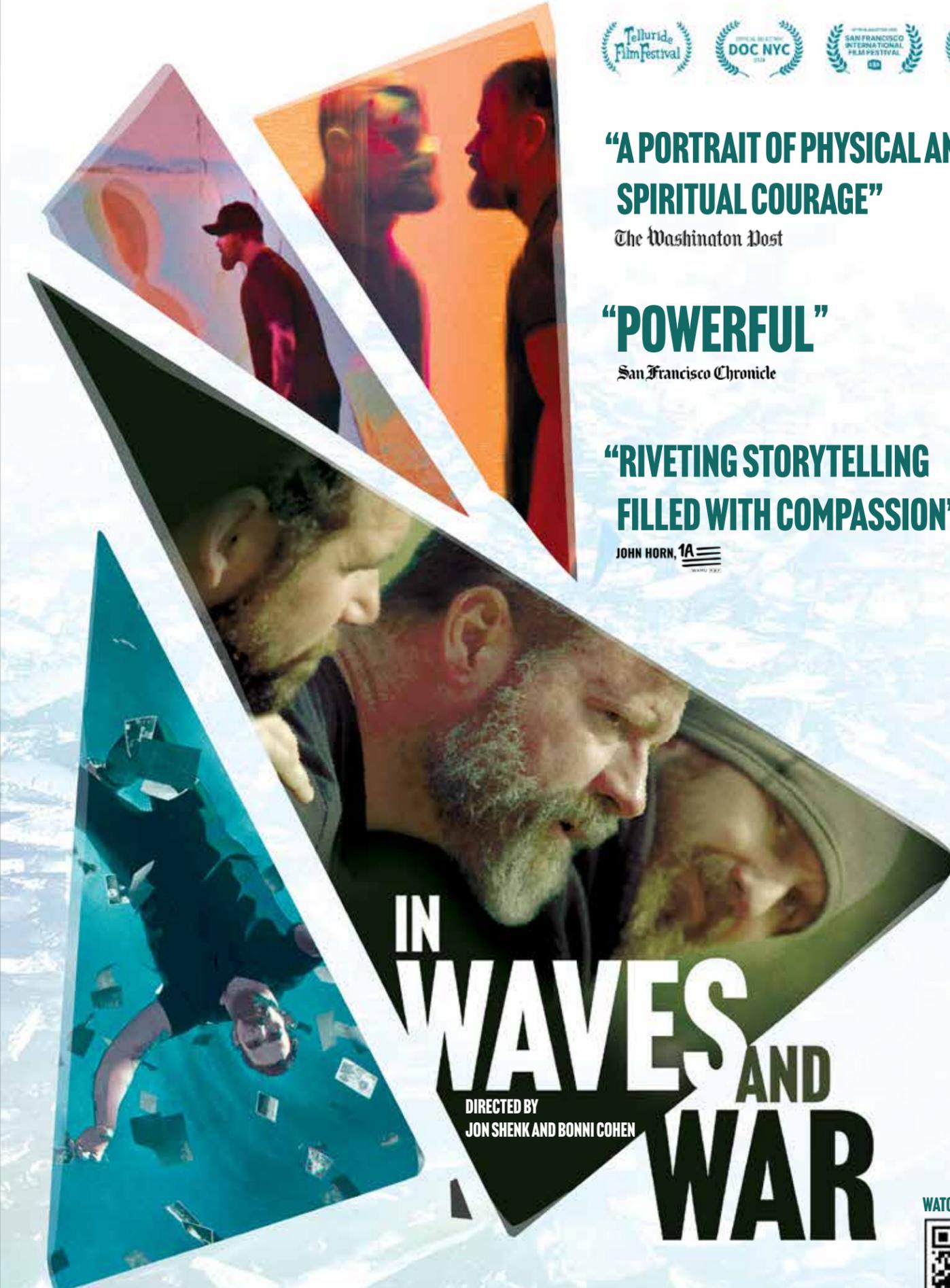
The Washington Post

"POWERFUL"

San Francisco Chronicle

"RIVETING STORYTELLING FILLED WITH COMPASSION"

JOHN HORN, 1A



# IN WAVES AND WAR

DIRECTED BY JON SHENK AND BONNI COHEN

INWAVESANDWARFILM.COM



WATCH TRAILER HERE



"POLITICALLY POTENT & EMOTIONALLY GRIPPING." - *Hollywood Reporter*

# HOLDING LIAT

DOC NYC SCREENING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

1:20 PM

Berlinale  
Documentary Award  
75<sup>th</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin



WATCH THE  
OFFICIAL TRAILER



SELECTION OFFICIELLE FESTIVAL DE DEAUVILLE 2025  
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2024  
tiff Platform  
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VARIETY



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# FACING WAR



"GULLIKSEN'S ASTOUNDING ACCESS FEELS SPECTACULAR TO A VIEWER"

cineuropa

From Director  
TOMMY GULLIKSEN

and Producers  
ANNE MARTE BLINDHEIM  
DANIELLE TURKOV WILSON



SIGN UP FOR DOC  
NYC'S NEWSLETTER

DOC NYC PROGRAMMING  
IS YEAR-ROUND!



SIGN UP AND BE THE FIRST TO HEAR  
ABOUT YEARLONG OFFERINGS LIKE DOC  
NYC SELECTS SCREENINGS, PRO PANELS,  
SPRING SHOWCASE, AND MORE!



## 2000 Meters to Andriivka

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

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)



## Come See Me in the Good Light

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

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)



## Apocalypse in the Tropics

**Director/Producer:** Petra Costa  
**Producer:** Alessandra Orofino

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, 110 MIN)



## Cover-Up

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

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)



## Coexistence, My Ass!

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

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)



## Cutting Through Rocks

**Directors/Producers:** Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni

**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)



## Heightened Scrutiny

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

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

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)



## Mr. Nobody Against Putin

**Directors:** David Borenstein, Pasha Talankin  
**Producer:** Helle Faber

**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)



## My Mom Jayne

**Director/Producer:** Mariska Hargitay  
**Producer:** Trish Adlesic

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)



## Orwell: 2+2=5

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

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

Directed by Geeta Gandbhir, *The Perfect Neighbor* is a haunting exploration of a neighborhood tragedy in Ocala, Florida. Through unfiltered police bodycam footage, the film chronicles the escalating tensions between Ajike Owens, a Black mother of four, and her white neighbor, Susan Lorincz, culminating in a fatal shooting. The documentary delves into the complexities of race, gun laws, and community dynamics—offering a stark portrayal of systemic issues in America. (USA, 97 MIN)



### Predators

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

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)



### Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk

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

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



### The Tale of Silyan

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

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)

# IndieWire

The Voice of Creative Independence

Sign up for our newsletters, including our latest, IN DEVELOPMENT - A Future of Filmmaking newsletter from IndieWire Editor-in-Chief Dana Harris-Bridson dedicated to the never-ending pursuit of a sustainable entertainment career with insights, interviews, case studies and more. Plus, receive exclusive event invitations and opportunities from the Future of Filmmaking community.



"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF 2025"  
VULTURE

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION  
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

"DELIGHTFUL.  
MOVING.  
CONSISTENTLY  
ENGAGING."  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# secret mall apartment

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **JESSE EISENBERG**  
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KEN BURNS

"A PROFOUNDLY HUMANE PORTRAIT OF CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY"  
WASHINGTON POST

DOC NYC PROGRAMMERS  
PICK 15 OF THE YEAR'S BEST

## 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)

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



### All the Walls Came Down

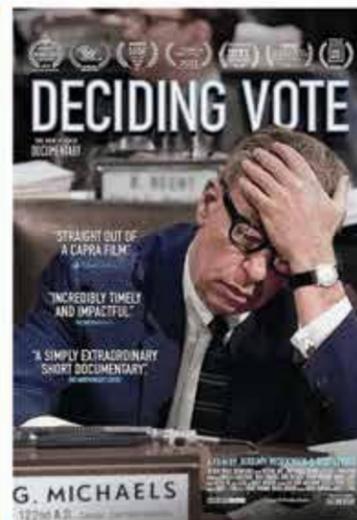
Director/Producer: Ondi Timoner  
Producers: Eli O. Timoner, Maggie Contreras

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)

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

## WHEELHOUSECREATIVE

The creative studio built by filmmakers for filmmakers.



### 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)

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



### 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)

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)

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



**The Devil Is Busy**

**Directors:** Christalyn Hampton, Geeta Gandbhir  
**Producers:** Rose Arce, Christalyn Hampton, Amber Fares

At an Atlanta abortion clinic besieged by protesters, the director of operations, Tracy, takes on risks to safeguard staff and patients. (USA, 31 MIN)

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)

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)

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



**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)

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)

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



**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)

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



**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)

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

Impact Partners congratulates this year's DOC NYC Visionaries Tribute honorees and MISTRESS DISPELLER director Elizabeth Lo for receiving the Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence!

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SHORT LIST: SHORTS



### 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)

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



### Tiger

**Director/Producer:** Loren Waters  
**Producer:** Dana Tiger

**NYC Premiere** 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)

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)

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

## American Documentary



**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER ALUMS **JOE BREWSTER AND MICHÈLE STEPHENSON**, AND FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE **LOIS VOSSSEN** ON YOUR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONORS!

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FROM, YOUR FRIENDS AT AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY.





**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



**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 Beinun 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



**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



**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



**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



**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

kudos

2025 DOC NYC  
 Visionaries Tribute

**Joe Brewster**  
 Lifetime Achievement

**Elizabeth Lo**  
 Drew Award for Documentary Excellence

**Carlos A. Gutiérrez**  
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**Michèle Stephenson**  
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## 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)



## 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)



## 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)



## 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)



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

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

Prestige Custom Awards is proud once again to be providing the awards for the DOC NYC festival and competition.

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# We've Moved!

## Film School Radio is now Cinemafile with Mike Kaspar.

The podcast bringing you the best in independent, documentary and foreign films through conversations with the filmmakers who made them.

**Some of our esteemed guests include:** Wim Wenders - Matteo Garrone - Pawo Choyning Dorji Lila Avilés - Kaouther Ben Hania - Sara Nodjoumi - Till Schauder - Maite Alberdi - Morrisa Maltz Moses Bwayo - Christopher Sharp - Niels Arden Oplev - Nick Broomfield - Babak Jalali - Bomani J. Story - Charlotte Le Bon - Davide Ferrario - Nancy Buirski - Geeta Gandbhir - Sam Pollard - Kartiki Gonsalves - Paula Eiselt - Sara Dosa - Jerzy Skolimowski - Ewa Piaskowska Sacha Jenkins - Matthew Heineman - Philipp Stölzl - Ramin Bahrani - Simon Arnar Guðmundsson - Alice Daniel Roher - Hà Lê Diễm - Jim Margaret Brown - Shaunak Benson - Aaron Moorhead Chernov - Harmony Korine Tim Hetherington - Patrick Marielle Heller - Barbara Bing Liu - Madeleine Gavin Doug Liman - Yance Ford DuVernay - Margaret Brown Bujalski - Albert Maysles Chazelle - Matt Tyrnauer Morgan Neville - Lucy Walker Dan Mirvish - Raoul Peck - Sue Rachel Grady - Alex Ross Perry Jonathan Caouette - Guy Maddin Ross Williams - Richard Linklater Patricia Arquette - Petra Epperlein - Michael Tucker - Paul Schrader - Dick Cavett - Gianfranco Rosi Evgeny Afineevsky - Julie Dash - Tamer El Said - Todd Solondz - D.A. Pennebaker - Chris Hegedus Dawn Porter - Frederick Wiseman - Carthew Neal - Terence Nance - Charles Randolph - Deniz Gamze Ergüven - Ciro Guerra - Liz Garbus - Matthew Heineman - Asif Kapadia - Feras Fayyad - Hemal Trivedi Mohammed Ali Naqvi - Joshua Oppenheimer - Ruben Östlund - Benny and Josh Safdie - Jehane Noujaim - Rory Kennedy - Dean Fleischer Camp - Errol Morris - Amy Berg - David Lipsky - Stanley Nelson - Marshall Curry - Chai Vasarhelyi - Richard Rush - Laura Poitras - Destin Cretton - Frank Pavich Armando Iannucci - Charles Burnett - Zachary Heinzerling - J.C. Chandor - Noah Baumbach - Philip Glass - Amy Ziering - Kirby Dick - John Sayles - Noah Hutton - Debra Granik - Sebastian Junger - John Turturro - Haskell Wexler - Sarah Polley - James Marsh - Oren Moverman - Morgan Spurlock - Jimmy Chin - Sebastián Silva - David France - Tomas Alfredson - Julie Delpy - Phillip Noyce - Alma Har'el Jem Cohen - Henry Jaglom - Robert Greene - David Michôd - Reed Morano - Anne Biller - Bryan Fogel Justin Chon - Bill Ross IV - Matt Spicer - Duncan Jones - Turner Ross - Terry Jones



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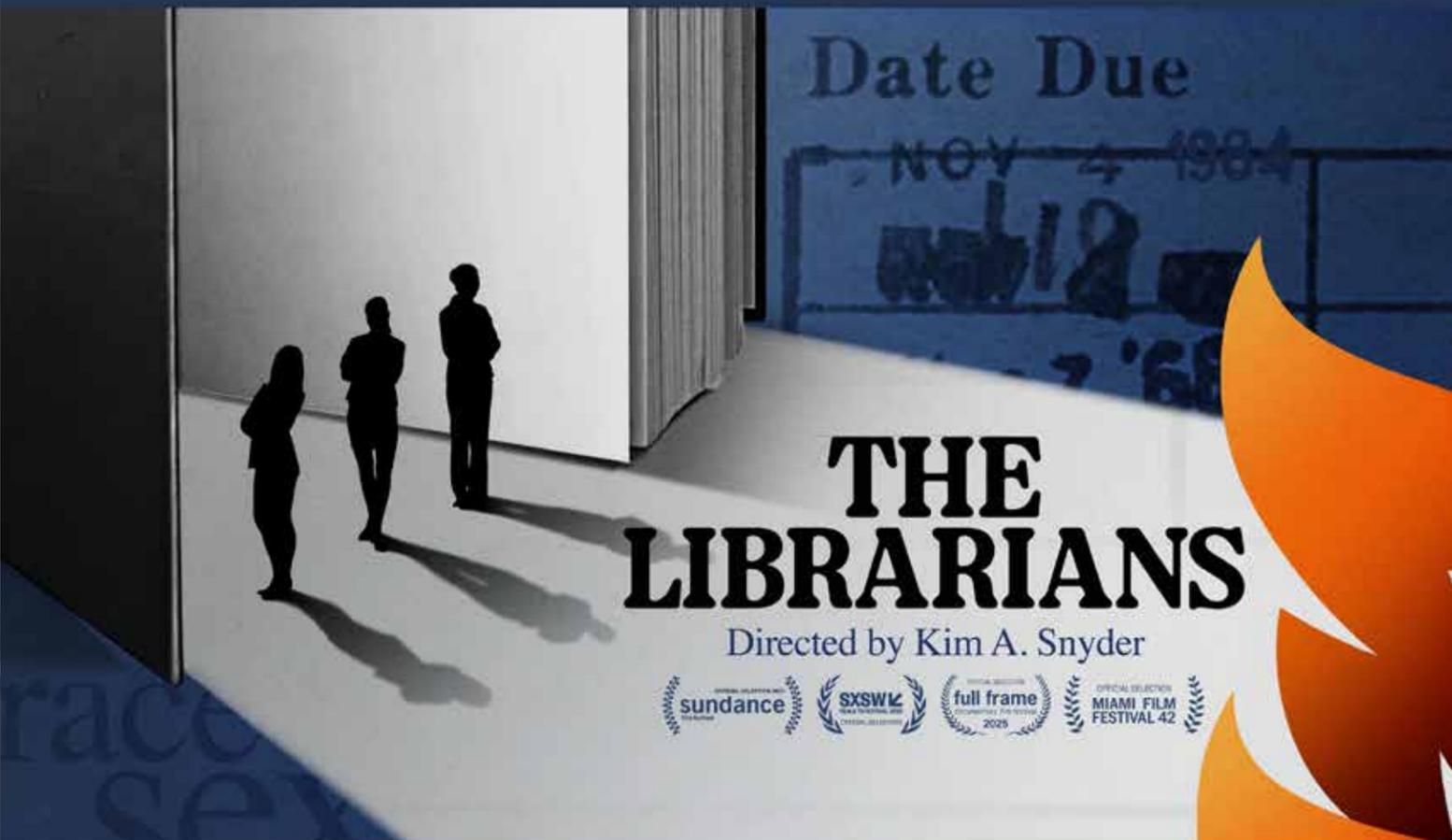
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CONCORDIA FELLOW ELIZABETH LO  
*on the 2025 Drew Award for Documentary Excellence  
and her exceptional awards contender, Mistress Dispeller*



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**APOCALYPSE  
IN THE TROPICS**  
*Directed by Petra Costa*



**COVER-UP**  
*Directed by Laura Poitras  
& Mark Obenaus*



**THE  
PERFECT  
NEIGHBOR**  
*Directed by Geeta Gandbhir*

## SHORT LIST: SHORTS



**ALL THE EMPTY ROOMS**  
*Directed by Joshua Seftel*

