



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES 2026 SHORT LISTS FOR FEATURES AND SHORTS,
WINNER'S CIRCLE AND SELECTS ENCORE PROGRAMS**

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

**IN-PERSON SCREENINGS OF ALL FILMS NOV. 11-19,
WITH VARIOUS TITLES CONTINUING ONLINE THROUGH NOV. 29**

NEW YORK, October 14, 2026 - **DOC NYC**, the festival for documentaries, completed the announcement of its full lineup today by unveiling titles in the remaining four sections of its 17th Edition — **Short List: Features**, **Short List: Shorts**, **Winner's Circle**, and **Selects Encore**. All films will have theatrical screenings at the festival, often with the directors in person.

With these new announcements, DOC NYC will present a total of 118 features (including 26 World premieres and 27 U.S. premieres) and 89 short films in its 17th edition. The festival runs in person November 11-19 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre, and Village East by Angelika and continues online through November 29 with films available to viewers across the U.S.

The Short Lists sections showcase a selection of nonfiction features and shorts that the festival's programming team considers to be among the year's strongest contenders for Oscars and other prizes, while Winner's Circle is a celebration of films already awarded at major international and U.S. film events that are worthy of additional consideration. Selects Encore showcases significant titles from DOC NYC's year-round Selects screening series—films that continue to be part of our awards season conversations.

DOC NYC's 2026 Short List: Features screenings will include the New York City premieres of **Biljana Tutorov** and **Petar Glomazic's** ***To Hold a Mountain***, winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at this year's Sundance Film Festival and recently chosen to represent Montenegro in the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards, and **Mehrdad Oskouei** and **Soraya Akhlaghi's** ***A Fox Under a Pink Moon***, executive produced by **David Borenstein** (co-director of the Oscar-winning DOC NYC 2025 alumnus ***Mr. Nobody Against Putin***).

The Winner's Circle screenings include the NYC premiere of **Pegah Ahangarani's *Rehearsals for a Revolution***, winner of the L'Œeil d'Or for Best Documentary at Cannes and recently selected as the UK submission for Best International Feature Film at the 99th Academy Awards.

See below for the complete slates for each section.

SHORT LIST: FEATURES

The DOC NYC Short List for documentary features was launched in 2012 and has a long history of being a predictor of other awards—from critics' prizes and top-ten lists to the Oscars. For 14 of the last 15 years, DOC NYC has screened the documentary feature that went on to win the Academy Award, and the festival has screened 64 of the last 75 Oscar-nominated documentary features, including *Mr. Nobody Against Putin* in 2025, which went on to win the Oscar. DOC NYC's Short List: Features selection committee is overseen by Artistic Director **Jaie Laplante** and Director of Special Projects **Thom Powers**.

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

14TH

Director: Ava DuVernay

Producers: Ava DuVernay, Spencer Averick, Tammy Garnes, Paul Garnes

A powerful film essay exploring the legacy of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

AMERICAN DOCTOR

Director: Poh Si Teng

Producers: Poh Si Teng, Kirstine Barfod, Reem Haddad

A visceral, unflinching film following three notable U.S. physicians as they provide in-person support at a Gaza hospital treating victims of mass-casualty events from the Israeli war campaign.

THE BEND IN THE RIVER

Director: Robb Moss

Producers: Lisa Remington, Kristin Feeley

A masterful meditation on the eternal, the temporal and the inevitable, from veteran filmmaker Robb Moss.

EVERYBODY TO KENMURE STREET

Director: Felipe Bustos Sierra

Producer: Ciara Barry

An uplifting portrayal of resistance focuses on an incident in 2021 when immigration officers conducted a raid on Glasgow's Kenmure Street.

A FOX UNDER A PINK MOON (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Mehrdad Oskouei, Soraya Akhlaghi

Producer: Mehrdad Oskouei

A young, talented Afghan woman living under the thumb of the patriarchy in Iran channels her emotions into unforgettable expressions of art.

THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

Directors: Stephen Maing, Eric Daniel Metzgar

Producers: Stephen Maing, Eric Daniel Metzgar, Farihah Zaman

Traversing the U.S. from 2016 to 2020, patient observational filmmaking becomes a temperature check on American democracy—what George Washington described as the last great experiment in promoting human happiness in civil society. *Co-director Stephen Maing will receive the Robert and Anne Drew Award for Documentary Excellence at this year's DOC NYC Visionaries Tribute.*

MUSK

Director: Alex Gibney

Producers: Alex Gibney, Jessie Deeter, Erin Edeiken, Zhang Xin, Joey Marra, Nick Shumaker, Jessica Grimshaw, Dana O'Keefe

An epic work profiling the world's first trillionaire, Elon Musk. *Director Alex Gibney will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's DOC NYC Visionaries Tribute.*

NAZA

Directors: Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor

Producers: Harry Davies, Lindsay Poulton, James Wilson

Anonymous members of the Israel Defense Force candidly reflect on their attitudes toward civilian casualties, known as NAZA, and how they process the meaning of genocide.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HARLEM

Director: David Greaves

Producers: Liani Greaves, Anne de Mare

A glorious night, capturing a vital period of American culture, when luminaries who had been active in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s recount their memories.

ONE IN A MILLION

Directors: Itab Azzam, Jack MacInnes

Producers: Will Anderson, James Bluemel, Andrew Palmer, Raney Aronson-Rath

A chronicle of one Syrian daughter's journey in fleeing war and seeking refuge in Germany, and how over ten years, new pressures and opportunities present themselves.

SOUL PATROL

Director: J.M. Harper

Producers: Sam Bisbee, Danielle Massie, J.M. Harper, Nasir Jones, Peter Bittenbender

A hidden chapter of American military history—the Vietnam War's first Black special ops team, an elite unit operating deep behind enemy lines.

TIME AND WATER

Director: Sara Dosa

Producers: Shane Boris, Elijah Stevens, Jameka Autry, Sara Dosa

A letter to the next generation by an Icelandic poet, reflecting on the melting glaciers that are a harbinger of climate change.

TO HOLD A MOUNTAIN (NYC Premiere)

Directors: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić

Producers: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić, Quentin Laurent, Rok Biček

In the remote highlands of Montenegro, the spirit of motherhood, the violence of men, and the sacredness of the mountain collide and reconcile.

WILD INSIDE

Director: Penny Lane

Producers: Gabriel Sedgwick, Nickolas Hasse

In 2023, Flaco the Eurasian Eagle Owl became an international folk hero and a mythological figure for a world in which so many find themselves living in circumstances far away from their roots.

YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING

Directors: Nathan Fielder, Lance Oppenheim

Producers: Nathan Fielder, Lance Oppenheim, Tatiana Bears, Maggie Ambrose, Jack Davis

As she prepares to begin serving her federal prison sentence, disgraced Silicon Valley tycoon Elizabeth Holmes continues to claim she has never lied, as America's premiere absurdist documentarians record her every word.

SHORT LIST: SHORTS

The Short List: Shorts showcase of 15 titles is now in its ninth year at DOC NYC. The selection process is overseen by Artistic Director **Jaie Laplante**, Director of Special Projects **Thom Powers**, and consultant **Samah Ali**. In 2025, the showcase included *All The Empty Rooms*, which went on to win the Oscar.

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

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

Directors: Ben Proudfoot, Stephen Curry

Producers: Stephen Curry, Erick Peyton, Ben Proudfoot

At 93, Martin Luther King Jr. 's lawyer and speechwriter offers a living testament to history, and reminds us that silence is still our most urgent problem.

THE BOYS AND THE BEES

Director: Arielle Knight

Producer: Sean Weiner

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.

BUCKSKIN

Director/Producer: Mars Verrone

A ground-breaking African-American and indigenous forester reflects on his life's work of conservation and ancestral knowledge, while he approaches the twilight of his days.

A DERAILMENT

Director: Nathan Truesdell

Producers: Kat Nguyen, Will Lennon

A 2023 freight train derailment in rural Ohio corporate gives rise to a shocking new low in corporate maleficence.

THE GRANDFATHER PUZZLE

Director: Ora DeKornfeld

Producers: Zsafia Paczolay, Noémi Veronika Szakonyi, Máté Artur Vincze

Ora wants to better understand her aging grandfather before it's too late. When she travels to Hungary to see if she can unlock the mysteries of his defense mechanisms, she finds a world left behind that illuminates a deep appreciation for life as it is now.

LA TIERRA DEL VALOR (THE HOME OF THE BRAVE)

Director: Cristina Costantini

Producers: Cristina Costantini, Alfie Koetter

In the face of growing antipathy towards immigrants, Latina pop star NEZZA makes the bold choice to perform the National Anthem at Dodger Stadium in Spanish, sparking an outpouring of outrage, support, and discussion about freedom of speech and who decides what 'American' means.

LISTEN

Director: Taliesin Black-Brown

Producers: Taliesin Black-Brown, Sam Davis, Greg Moga

An Alaskan sound specialist works for preservation within two levels of loss - the fading songs of wildlife disappearing from the wilderness, as climate change threatens natural populations; and his mother's disappearing memory, as she slowly succumbs to dementia.

THE OATH

Directors: Liane Aviram, Louis Hollis

Producer: Liane Aviram

Dr Lina Qasem-Hassan, a Palestinian living and working in Israel, teaches medical ethics as well as practising as a physician - walking a tightrope of activism and professionalism while working through the trauma of her people.

ONE LAST ORDER

Directors: Lauren Defilippo, Sam Soko

Producers: Lauren Defilippo, Sam Soko, Amanda Pollak

After 37 years at Mac's Drive-Thru in Gainesville, Florida, sunny and beloved Sighle is retiring. As customers travel from near and far to say goodbye, this heartwarming portrait celebrates an everyday worker who always went above and beyond, and the joy and community one person can inspire.

AN OPEN FIELD

Director: Teboho Edkins

Producers: Don Edkins, Carine Chichkowsky

One hundred and fifty seven people died when a new Boeing 737 MAX crashed in Ethiopia in 2019. While Boeing callously deflects blame for their negligence, a family of one victim finds strength in gathering collective mourning.

OUTPOSTS - NOTHING HERE IS YOURS

Director: Hilla Medalia

Producers: Hilla Medalia, Sheila Nevins, Yael Melamed

In the West Bank, Palestinian shepherd communities face escalating settler violence and displacement, while a group of Israeli activists stand in solidarity with shepherd communities as they struggle to remain on their land.

THE REVOLUTION AGAINST DEATH

Director: Joshua Oppenheimer

Producer: Signe Byrge Sørensen

A sharp, provocative look at the anti-aging industry and our increasingly elaborate efforts to resist mortality.

THEY'RE HERE

Directors: Laura Poitras, Rachel Lauren Mueller

Producers: Rachel Lauren Mueller, Laura Poitras, Yoni Golijov

A view of the evils of ICE through an organized resistance group of citizens in Minneapolis during the 2025-26 winter, using a unique cinematic language.

THE TUNERS

Director: Pawel Piotr Chorzepa

Producer: Joanna Chorzepa

Behind the scenes of Warsaw's Chopin Festival, a group of expert tuners vie to achieve the perfect pitch so that the champion pianist will win on their instrument.

WATER COOLER

Director/Producer: Emma V.F.

In the halls of NYC's immigration court, the casual chitchat of ICE agents waiting to arrest their unsuspecting targets stands in stark contrast to the horrors these detainees are likely to face.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

The DOC NYC Winner's Circle for documentary features, introduced in 2019, highlights films that arrive at DOC NYC with significant awards pedigrees already in place. Past films shown in Winner's Circle that all went on to further acclaim include *Writing with Fire*, *The Mole Agent*, *A House Made of Splinters*, *Hollywoodgate*, *In the Rearview*, *Bad Axe*, *Midnight Family*, and *Advocate*. To qualify for inclusion in this category, films must have won a major award at a significant international or US film festival.

This year's selections for **Winner's Circle** are:

AMERICAN PACHUCO: THE LEGEND OF LUIS VALDEZ

Director: David Alvarado

Producers: David Alvarado, Lauren DeFilippo, Everett Katigbak, Amanda Pollak

Against political resistance and industry skepticism, Luis Valdez pushes Chicano storytelling forward, creating iconic works that challenge, celebrate, and expand America's story. *Winner, Audience Award: U.S. Documentary and Festival Favorite Award, 2026 Sundance Film Festival*

BUCKS HARBOR

Director: Pete Muller

Producers: Pete Muller, Nathan Golon, Noel Paul

Striking cinematography marks this observant, verite film about men in East Maine, the traditions of their elders, and their complex inner lives. *Winner, Golden Eye Award for Best Documentary Film, 2026 Zurich Film Festival*

CLOSURE

Director: Michał Marczak

Producers: Monika Braid, Remi Grellety, Michał Marczak, Katarzyna Szczerba, Karolina Marczak

A haunting portrait of what it means to seek closure that's a testament to parental love. *Winner, Golden Alexander International Competition Award, 2026 Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival*

AN EYE FOR AN EYE

Directors: Tanaz Eshaghian, Farzad Jafari

Producers: Christoph Jorg, Katayoon Arsanjani, Gelareh Kiazand, Joey Marra

A tense examination of Iran's justice system and one family torn asunder by a legacy of abuse and mariticide, unfolding like a Shakespearean tragedy. *Winner, Grand Prize Impact Documentary, 2026 Fipadoc*

GIVE ME THE BALL!

Directors: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff

Producers: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff, Chris James, Dan Cogan, Dominic Crossley-Holland, Gentry Kirby

Billie Jean King, the iconic athlete who changed both the worlds of tennis and of women's athletics, offers new perspectives on her legacy and the state of the sports world. *Winner, Audience Award / Best Documentary Feature, 2026 Provincetown International Film Festival*

NUISANCE BEAR

Directors: Gabriela Osio Vanden, Jack Weisman

Producers: Will N. Miller, Michael Code, Teddy Leifer, Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden

The modern clash between human beings and polar bears takes on an ironic meaning when an Inuit elder shares his perspectives on the ancient belief and customs of his people. *Winner, U.S. Documentary: Grand Jury Prize, 2026 Sundance Film Festival*

REHEARSALS FOR A REVOLUTION (NYC Premiere)

Director: Pegah Ahangarani

Producers: Parnian Farnam, Pegah Ahangarani, Arash Ashtiani

Celebrated Iranian actor Pegah Ahangarani creates an essayistic documentary, weaving together home movies and news broadcasts to construct a vivid portrait of Iran's modern history in the four decades since the revolution. *Winner, L'Œil d'or Documentary Award, 2026 Cannes Film Festival*

STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

Directors: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin

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

Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!* pursues the news with integrity and dauntlessness, seeing independent journalism as a major force for good. *Winner, Greg Gund Memorial Standing Up Competition, Cleveland International Film Festival*

SELECTS ENCORE

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

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

DAYLIGHT

Director: Jon Kasbe

Producers: Jon Kasbe, Zoe Rogovin

Serving a life sentence for murder, Joe Garcia finds unexpected refuge in Taylor Swift's lyrics. When an essay he writes about love and music goes viral, it cracks open the past and rekindles a connection, opening the door to a life and love he thought were lost forever.

A LIFE ILLUMINATED

Director: Tasha Van Zandt

Producers: Tasha Van Zandt, Sebastian Zeck, Jessica Harrop, Kathryn Everett

A daring quest to document a bioluminescent phenomenon that could forever change how we understand life on Earth.

MANHOOD

Director: Daniel Lombroso

Producers: Kerry Mack, Rebecca Shaid

Manhood explores shame, sex, and the fragile myths of American masculinity, with dark humor and unexpected empathy.

MARY OLIVER: SAVED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD

Director/Producer: Sasha Waters

If poetry had a pop icon, Mary Oliver would be it, and Sasha Waters' beguiling portrait is as poetic as its protagonist.

SCENES FROM THE DIVIDE

Director: Alison Klayman

Producers: Alison Klayman, Courtney Powell

A fierce battle among American Jews over identity, history, and responsibility is revealed in the homes of New Yorkers on both sides of Zohran Mamdani's 2025 mayoral campaign.

THEYDREAM

Director: William D. Caballero

Producers: William D. Caballero, Brad Jones, Erin Ploss-Campoamor, Elaine Del Valle

A deeply personal documentary that examines the transformative nature of grief for a close-knit Puerto Rican family.

WHO MOVES AMERICA

Director: Yael Bridge

Producers: Yael Bridge, Jeremy Flood, Yoni Golijov, Mars Verrone

Examines the tense 2023 contract negotiations between UPS and its 340,000 unionized workers, as a microcosm for the larger struggles of labor justice in the U.S.A.

SPONSORS

The festival is made possible by:

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DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center, a division of AMC Global Media.

To inquire about sponsor or partnership opportunities for DOC NYC, contact Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen at raphaela@docnyc.net.

TICKETS AND PASSES:

Festival tickets and passes may be purchased at [**docnyc.net**](https://docnyc.net)

In-person Screenings:

Opening Night (*The Hummingbird Paints Fragrant Songs*), **Closing Night** (*Totality*), and **Centerpiece screening** (*Union Town*) \$30 General Public / \$25 IFC Center Members

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

All screenings in the Short List: Features, Short List: Shorts, Winner's Circle and Selects Encores sections, as well as all Monday-Friday screenings starting before 5:46pm: \$15 General Public / \$12 IFC Center members

Online screenings:

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

Passes and Ticket Packs:

All Film Pass \$995 (Early bird discount price of \$699 available through October 17) Grants access to every film screening during the live, in-person festival November 11-19, plus films on the festival's virtual screening platform November 11-29. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours.

Online Film Pass \$250 (Early bird discount price of \$199 available through October 18)
Grants access to all the films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 11-29.

Online Shorts Pass \$49

Grants access to all short films screening on the festival's virtual platform, November 11-29.

Ten-Ticket Package for In-Person Screenings \$170

A package of 10 festival tickets for regular in-person screenings at a discounted price.

DOC NYC PRO Day Pass \$125

Grants access to a single DOC NYC PRO day-long programming track, plus complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge for that day, including the day's Breakfast and Happy Hour.

DOC NYC PRO Multi-Day Packs:

4-Day Pack \$450

7-Day Pack for all PRO Conference Days: \$749

Grants access to a selection of any 4 or all 7 DOC NYC PRO programming tracks and events for one person from November 12-13 and 15-19. Grants complimentary access, space permitting, to the Festival Lounge for days selected, including daily Breakfasts and Happy Hours.

The Solutions Lab Pass \$125

Grants access to The Solutions Lab on November 14, and to that day's Happy Hour at the Festival Lounge.

Press is invited to apply for accreditation to DOC NYC 2026. Accreditation grants press access to screen select festival titles on a secure online portal. Contact:

docnyc@frankpublicity.com

ONLINE PRESS OFFICE:

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

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