



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES JURY AWARDS
FOR TENTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL**

**Feature Films *City Dream* and *Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back*
and Short *Bob of the Park* Win Grand Jury Prizes**

**Inaugural 'Short List' Awards Given to Features *The Edge of Democracy*,
American Factory, *Apollo 11* and *The Elephant Queen*,
and to Short *Stay Close***

***After Sherman* Receives DOC NYC PRO Pitch Award**

NEW YORK, Nov. 12, 2019 – Three days before the festival's close, **DOC NYC** announced its 2019 jury award-winners at an evening ceremony at the Flatiron Room in Manhattan.

This year's event, running November 6-15 at IFC Center, the SVA Theatre and Cinépolis Chelsea, featured 135 feature-length films and 126 short documentaries. Included were 28 world premieres and 27 U.S. premieres among over 300 films and events.

Three juries selected films from each of the festival's **Viewfinders**, **Metropolis** and **Shorts** sections to recognize for their outstanding achievements in form and content. The DOC NYC PRO programmers selected the winner of this year's DOC NYC PRO **Pitch Perfect Award**, given to a work-in-progress.

For the first year, the **Short List: Features** program—a selection of nonfiction films that the festival's programming team considers to be among the year's strongest contenders for Oscars and other awards—vied for awards in four categories: **Directing**, **Producing**, **Cinematography** and **Editing**, with a Best Director prize also awarded in the **Short List: Shorts** section. The Short List awards were voted on by two juries of filmmaker peers.

The **Audience Award**, voted on by DOC NYC audiences from all new features in the regular lineup screening in the festival, will be announced on Friday, November 15.

The Viewfinders, Metropolis, Shorts and Audience Award winners will all have special public encore screenings on Friday, November 15 at IFC Center as part of the final day of the festival.

Viewfinders Competition: The jury selected from among seven films in this section, chosen by the programmers for their distinct directorial visions.

Grand Jury Prize Winner: *City Dream*, directed by Weijun Chen (*Please Vote For Me*), is a documentary comedy that looks at a street vendor in China who clashes with the authorities trying to shut down his stall.

Jurors' statement: "*City Dream* is an incisive and compassionate look at the disconnect between authority and democracy and its impact on the day to day lives of ordinary civilians."

Special Mention: *Love Child*, directed by Eva Mulvad

Jurors: Bill Guentzler, Artistic Director of the Cleveland International Film Festival; Carolyn Hepburn, Producer; Denae Peters, Senior Director of Impact Distribution at Picture Motion.

Films featured in the Viewfinders section: *Chéche Lavi (Looking For Life)*, dir. Sam Ellison; *City Dream*, dir. Weijun Chen; *The Human Factor*, dir. Dror Moreh; *Love Child*, dir. Eva Mulvad; *Sing Me a Song*, dir. Thomas Balmès; *Symphony of the Ursus Factory*, dir. Jaśmina Wójcik; *The Wind. A Documentary Thriller*, dir. Michal Bielawski.

Metropolis Competition: The jury selected from among seven films in this section, which is dedicated to stories set in New York City.

Grand Jury Prize Winner: *Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back*, directed by John Carluccio, looks at charismatic song-and-dance man Maurice Hines, who reflects on his life on stage from Broadway to Hollywood, as well as his tumultuous relationship with superstar brother Gregory Hines.

Jurors' statement: "*Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back* beautifully captures one of the many fabulous stories New York has to offer, but transcends easy assumptions to become an emotional meditation on the universal theme of love, loss, family, art, aging and more."

Jurors: Lindsay Crouse, Producer, *New York Times* Op-Docs; Sabrina Schmidt Gordon, Filmmaker; Jenni Wolfson, Executive Director, Chicken and Egg Pictures.

Films featured in the Metropolis section: *Brooklyn Inshallah*, dir: Ahmed Mansour; *The Grand Unified Theory Of Howard Bloom*, dir: Charlie Hoxie; *I'm Gonna Make You Love Me*, dir: Karen Bernstein; *Lydia Lunch: The War Is Never Over*, dir: Beth B; *Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back*, dir: John Carluccio; *On Broadway*, dir: Oren Jacoby; *Pier Kids*, dir: Elegance Bratton.

Winners of the 2019 Grand Jury Prize in the Viewfinders and Metropolis competitions receive a deliverables package provided by Technicolor PostWorks New York as well as a one-week awards-qualifying theatrical run at the IFC Center in 2020.

Shorts Competition: All short films featured in the festival (with the exception of the DOC NYC U student showcases and special showcases) were eligible for this jury prize.

Grand Jury Prize Winner: *Bob of the Park*, directed by Jake Sumner, follows Robert “Birding Bob” DiCandido, a friendly Central Park bird walk leader to some, archnemesi to others.

Jurors’ statement: “*Bob of the Park* is a surprising, complex and involving character study that looks beyond the subject to raise bigger questions about humanity and its effect on nature.”

Jurors: Monica Castillo, Film Critic and Writer; June Cross, Filmmaker and Professor, Columbia Journalism School; Bill Curran, Senior Producer, The Paley Center for Media.

Special Mentions: *A Childhood on Fire*, directed by Jason Hanasik, and *Yves & Variation*, directed by Lydia Cornett.

The 2019 winning Short film qualifies for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run (provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules).

DOC NYC PRO Pitch Perfect Award: This award recognizes the best pitch given during DOC NYC PRO’s Pitch Perfect Day, and was chosen by the DOC NYC PRO programming team.

Winner: *After Sherman*, directed by Jon-Sesrie Goff, is a film about our collective American inheritance that is in part a conversation between an African American father and his son about spiritual survival as a black American, a representation that is rarely seen in popular culture.

The winner of the 2019 Pitch Perfect Award receives a mentorship and consultation from DOC NYC artistic leadership.

Short List: Features: DOC NYC’s Short List for Features puts the spotlight on 15 documentaries representing the best of the year. Also new this year, the programmers brought together a jury of documentary filmmakers to recognize the films in this category for directing, producing, editing and cinematography.

Directing Award: *The Edge of Democracy*, directed by Petra Costa

Jurors’ statement: The Directing Award goes to a film that is at once intimate in access and epic in scope. It is audacious and personal, tragic and hopeful, committed to history and urgently engaged with the present.”

Producing Award: *American Factory*, produced by Steven Bognar, Julie Parker Benello, Jeff Reichert and Julia Reichert (directed by Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert)

Jurors’ statement: “The Producing Award goes to filmmakers whose long-term commitment to people and to place brings integrity and depth to every frame they put on screen.”

Editing Award: *Apollo 11*, edited by Todd Douglas Miller (directed by Todd Douglas Miller)

Jurors' statement: "The Editing Award goes to a film that took a staggering amount of archival footage and used it to craft an engaging story of the triumph of science, and a time when this country was united by the spirit of curiosity and endless possibility."

Cinematography Award: *The Elephant Queen*, cinematography by Mark Deeble (directed by Victoria Stone and Mark Deeble)

Jurors' statement: "The Cinematography Award goes to a film that breathtakingly captures the interdependence of creatures large and small and their life and death reliance on the world's most precious resource."

Special Recognition for Courage in Filmmaking: *For Sama* director Waad al-Kateab (directed by Waad al-Kateab and Edward Watts)

Jurors' statement: "Special recognition for exceptional bravery goes to a filmmaker who put her body and her camera in the path of death and didn't flinch. She produced a moving, human portrait of the human will to survive and the refusal to surrender."

Jurors: Filmmakers Gary Hustwit, Tia Lessin, Richard Rowley.

Short List: Shorts: DOC NYC's Short List for Shorts highlights 12 doc shorts that impress us as the year's leading awards contenders. New this year, the festival programmers assembled a jury of filmmakers to recognize one film from this section for excellence in directing.

Directing Award: ***Stay Close***, directed by Luther Clement and Shuhan Fan

Jurors' statement: "The Directing Award goes to ***Stay Close***, a work of inspired filmmaking that features a brilliant mix of live action and animation to tell an intensely human story. Both filmmakers and subject display a whimsical, playful sensibility."

Jurors: Filmmakers Kristi Jacobson, Thomas Lennon, Stephanie Wang-Breal

SPONSORS

The festival is made possible by:

Leadership Sponsor: Netflix

Major Sponsors: A&E IndieFilms; HBO Documentary Films; HISTORY Films; Kanopy

Supporting Sponsors: National Geographic Documentary Films; SHOWTIME® Documentary Films; Topic Studios

Leading Media Sponsors: New York Magazine; WNET New York Public Media

Signature Sponsors: 30 for 30; Bloomberg Philanthropies; Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment; NEON; Participant; Sony; Technicolor PostWorks NY; WNYC

Event Sponsors: Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas; Consulate General of Canada in New York; Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP; EJF Philanthropies; Fox Rothschild LLP; Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz; Hulu; Impact Partners; JustFilms | Ford Foundation; MTV Documentary Films; The New Yorker Documentary; Reavis Page Jump LLP; SVA MFA Social Documentary Film; Vulcan Productions; The Yard

Friends of the Festival: Agile Ticketing; Brooklyn Roasting; Chicago Media Project; Essentia; Kickstarter; Mahou Beer; Posteritati; Ptex; Shiftboard; Together Films; Writers Guild of America, East; Wheelhouse Creative

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

Complete DOC NYC program information can be found at: www.docnyc.net

MEDIA CONTACT:

Susan Norget Film Promotion
susan@norget.com, 212-431-0090