



DOC NYC REVEALS LINEUP FOR 8-DAY IN-PERSON PRO CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 9-16

CONFERENCE FEATURES MORE THAN 100 SPEAKERS

DOC NYC PRO PASSES NOW ON SALE

NEW YORK, Oct. 5, 2023 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary film festival, announced the lineup for its eight-day DOC NYC PRO conference dedicated to the art and business of documentary storytelling, and running November 9-16 at Village East by Angelika.

The conference brings together filmmakers and industry professionals to explore key aspects of documentary craft, production, and business. Organized around day-long thematic topics, DOC NYC PRO assembles panels of experts and insiders to examine new developments in how documentaries are being made and reaching audiences. Among the new features this year is a **Live Pitch** event, which launches the conference (Nov. 9) with 12 work-in-progress films. Among PRO’s speakers are representatives from 30 for 30 / ESPN Films and Hulu on **Producing and Directing Day** (Nov. 10); cinematographers from National Geographic and filmmakers from *Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero* on **Cinematography Day** (Nov. 11); the editors and directors of *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project* and *All The Beauty and The Bloodshed* on **Editing Day** (Nov. 12); filmmakers from *Julia* on **Journalism and Documentary Day** (Nov. 13); the music team from *Little Richard: I Am Everything* and representatives from Gigantic Studios on **Music and Sound Day** (Nov. 14); representatives from Firelight Media and Google on **The Business of Documentary Day** (Nov. 15); and representatives from New Day Films and Odyssey Impact® on **Creative Distribution Day** (Nov. 16).

PRO day passes include access to the Festival Lounge for the day, including a pre-panel breakfast and evening happy hour for attendees (see below for a daily schedule).

“Building upon the triumph of our 2022 PRO conference, we’ve meticulously designed an exceptional sequel,” shared Malikkah Rollins, Director of Industry and Education at DOC NYC. “Our goal is to provide attendees with invaluable expert insights and foster pertinent industry discussions, ensuring that, once again, participants leave PRO with an enriched toolkit of resources, expanded networks, and a fresh wellspring of inspiration.”

DOC NYC PRO is co-presented by Apple Original Films.

DOC NYC PRO takes place at Village East by Angelika at 181 Second Avenue in Manhattan. To attend PRO events, a PRO Day Pass, offering access to any individual day's events, can be purchased for \$125. Discounted packages for any four days of PRO programming or for all eight days are also available; see below for details.

The 2023 DOC NYC festival will start on Wednesday, November 8, with in-person screenings and events held at IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Village East by Angelika through Thursday, November 16. DOC NYC's online screenings, available across the U.S., will begin on November 9 and continue through Sunday, November 26. The festival's film lineup will be announced in mid-October.

The DOC NYC PRO lineup is below. Additional panelists will be added in the coming weeks; visit [DOC NYC PRO](#) for updates.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 9:00am-5:30pm

LIVE PITCH DAY

Co-presented by Kickstarter

Moderated by Elise McCave (Kickstarter), Industry Roundtables/Live Pitch presents an opportunity for 12 filmmaking teams with works-in-progress to pitch to industry figures from the fields of distribution, financing, production and more. The program aims to curate the most promising documentary features of the future for industry feedback.

The selected work-in-progress projects are below.

A Bird with a Knife

Director: Winslow Crane-Murd, Producer: Andrew Hinton

Arrest the Midwife

Director: Elaine Epstein, Producer: Robin Hessman

Baseline

Director: John Sutter, Producer: Su Kim

Carlebach Project (Untitled)

Director: Simon Mendes, Producer: Heidi Reinberg

Coach Emily

Director: Pallavi Somusetty, Producer: Debra A. Wilson

Fair Play

Director: Tina Charles, Producer: Veronique Bernard

Give the Drummer Some

Director and Producer: Trevor Banks

In the End of the World

Director: Abraham Escobedo-Salas, Producer: Julie Freres

Instrumental: The Elayne Jones Story

Director: Julie Wyman, Producer: Jameka Autry

Sister Senators

Director and Producer: Emily Harrold

The Long Rescue

Director: Jennifer Huang, Producer: Jethro Patalinghug

The Song of the Hands

Director: Maria Valverde, Producer: Cristina Oliva

Live Pitch Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 9:00am-5:30pm

PRODUCING AND DIRECTING DAY

Co-presented by Hulu

ESPN Films: Sports & Beyond

This panel will focus on the business of developing and producing documentary series, features, and shorts. Moderated by Marsha Cooke, ESPN's Vice President of Documentary, ESPN producers Tara Nadolny, Carolyn Hepburn, Marquis Daisy, and Gentry Kirby will provide an in-depth analysis of what producers look for in a pitch and discuss the distribution trends of the broadcast and streaming business.

Co-presented by 30 for 30 / ESPN Films

Documentary Ethics and the Law

Join attorneys Nicole Page and Daniel Ain from Reavis Page Jump LLP and producer Jessica Devaney (*Milisuthando*) for an enlightening panel discussion that examines the ethical and legal considerations that underpin documentary filmmaking. Gain a comprehensive understanding of how to navigate the legal landscape while safeguarding the well-being and rights of your participants.

Co-presented by Reavis Page Jump LLP

Reflecting on Trans Narratives in Documentaries

Join directors Kristen Lovell (*The Stroll*), Zackary Drucker (*Queenmaker, The Stroll*), D Smith (*Kokomo City*), and filmmakers David Miller and Melinda Maerker (*We Live Here: The Midwest*) for an insightful panel discussion on the nuanced challenges and ethical considerations involved in accurately representing trans experiences on screen. From personal narratives to broader social contexts, our panelists will explore the complexities of crafting authentic and impactful trans stories.

In Conversation with... Raoul Peck

Explore documentary storytelling with filmmaker Raoul Peck (*Silver Dollar Road*, *I Am Not Your Negro* and recipient of DOC NYC's Visionary Tribute Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021) and moderator Omar Mullick (*Flight/Risk*). Hear about Peck's creative process and gain insights into his acclaimed works as well as his valuable perspectives on art and documentary.

Co-presented by Amazon MGM Studios

Producing and Directing Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 9:00am-5:30pm

CINEMATOGRAPHY DAY

Co-presented by National Geographic

Stories from the Field

Award-winning and critically acclaimed National Geographic creates and delivers riveting stories and experiences in natural history, science, adventure, and exploration that inspire a deeper connection to the world. Join DPs Pablo Durana (*Arctic Ascent*), Nathan Small (*A Real Bug's Life*), Moses Bwayo (*Bobi Wine: The People's President*), Kim Jeffries, (*Incredible Animal Journeys*), and Justine Evans (*Queens*), who will share stories from the field and explore their filmmaking tools and techniques.

From DP to Director

The natural progression from cinematography to directing is discussed in this panel with director/DPs Zac Manuel (*Lil Nas X: Long Live Montero*), Martina Radwan (*Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow*), and Amitabh Joshi (*Christian Scott Atunde Adjuah: The New Chief*). Their expertise, rooted in practical experience, uniquely informs their directorial approach. Hear how the efficiency of DPs taking on both roles utilizes their inherent talents to enhance productions.

Co-presented by SVA - MFA Social Documentary Film

The Tools of Cinematography

Delve into the world of lenses, cameras, lighting, and accessories that shape cinematic storytelling with DPs Claudia Raschke (*Julia*), Yoni Brook (*32 Sounds*) and Christopher Lew (*The Diver*). Learn how each piece of equipment contributes to crafting compelling narratives, creating mood, and capturing unforgettable moments.

Co-presented by Screen Nova Scotia

Capturing Sensitive Moments

Explore the art of documentary production planning through the lens of storytelling. Join director Dean Leslie (*Shaped By Water*), director Jennifer Huang, and producer Jethro Patalinghug (*The Long Rescue*), and DP Justin Ervin (*Is That Black Enough For You?!?*) as they discuss their decision-making processes for crewing and equipment. Three distinctly sensitive scenarios will be presented: high-profile interviews, trauma survivor

stories, and environmental impact stories. Discover how these experts translate their storytelling focus into tangible gear and crew choices.

Co-presented by 11th Hour Racing

Cinematography Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge. The happy hour is co-presented by 11th Hour Racing.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9:00am-5:30pm

EDITING DAY

Co-presented by Participant

Documentary Editors and Mental Health

The craft of editing can bring unique challenges, pressures, and emotional toll. Filmmaker Tyler Walk (*Great Photo, Lovely Life*) and a mental health professional share coping strategies, self-care techniques, and ways of fostering a supportive editing community. Discover how to navigate the delicate balance between creating powerful stories and safeguarding your mental health and well-being. This discussion will include audience interactive elements.

Editing Secrets of *All The Beauty and The Bloodshed* and *Food, Inc. 2*

Uncover the editing secrets behind *All The Beauty and The Bloodshed*, co-edited by Amy Foote, and *Food, Inc. 2*, co-edited by Ryan Loeffler. Gain insights into their distinctive storytelling techniques, from navigating extensive footage to crafting compelling narratives. Whether you're an aspiring editor or a documentary enthusiast, this dynamic conversation promises an elucidating look into the art of editing.

Collaborative Filmmaking, Accessibility, and Editing

Accessibility is key to inclusive storytelling. In this panel, we'll explore how to work in collaboration with film participants throughout the editing process, how to incorporate feedback, and how to center accessibility as a cornerstone throughout. Director Alexis Neophytides and producer Peter Yearwood (*Fire Through Dry Grass*) and co-directors Set Hernandez and Pedro Navarro (*Unseen*) discuss their challenges and some of the ingenious solutions that arose during their own collaborative filmmaking processes.

Case Study: *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*

Filmmakers Michèle Stephenson and Joe Brewster share the challenges and creative choices that brought Nikki Giovanni's remarkable journey to life on screen. Explore the documentary's intricate editing process and uncover the storytelling secrets that make this film a powerful narrative.

Editing Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 9:00am-5:30pm

JOURNALISM AND DOCUMENTARY DAY

Co-presented by NBC News Studios

Documentary Podcasts as Investigative Powerhouses

This dynamic discussion explores the potent world of documentary-style podcasts. Navigate audio's immersive power as investigative reporters use it to reveal hidden truths and incite change. Guided by NBC News President of Editorial Rebecca Blumenstein, join NBC News journalist and podcaster Antonia Hylton (*Grapevine*), Nancy Soloman (*Dead End*), and others to unravel the art of podcasting as a medium for probing complex issues. Embrace podcasting's potential as an investigative tool.

When Journalists Become Documentary Visionaries

Join preeminent journalist, NBC Nightly News, and Dateline NBC anchor Lester Holt to explore the transition from journalism to documentary filmmaking in a captivating panel he'll moderate with Alyse Shorland (*Man On the Run*) and Julie Cohen (*Julia*). Learn how journalists navigate the shift to visual storytelling and their challenges, insights, and transformative moments.

NBC Original Voices Live Pitch

Join us for a special NBC Original Voices live pitch event hosted by NBCU Academy, NBC News Studios, and IF/Then Shorts. Six teams selected from a national open call will pitch their archival and journalistically driven short documentary works-in-progress for a chance to receive a \$100,000 investment and co-production deal with NBC News Studios.

The selected work-in-progress projects are below.

Cashing Out

Director: Matt Nadel, Producer: Luke Hodges

Free Joan Little

Director: Yoruba Richen, Producer: Christalyn Hampton

Goodbye Baby

Director: Katya Berger, Producer: Maria Chiu

Love, Birds

Directors: Angel Morris and Elliott Kennerson

Stingrays

Director: LeRon Lee, Producer: Yvonne Michelle Shirley

Women Walk Home

Director: Stephanie Andreou, Producer: Adrián Gutiérrez

Journalism and Documentary Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge. The happy hour is co-presented by NBC News Studios.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 9:00am-5:30pm

MUSIC AND SOUND DAY

Case Study: *Little Richard: I Am Everything*

Explore the film's intricate score, remote editing, and the marriage of emotion and editing beats with director Lisa Cortes, composer Tamar Kali-Brown, editor Nyneve Laura Minnear, and music supervisor Jonathan Finegold. Discover the craft that turned this documentary into a storytelling symphony, guided by panelist insights on remote collaboration.

Sound Design in Documentary Filmmaking

Prepare to immerse yourself in the auditory realm as we take attendees on an exclusive journey with sound designers Tristan Baylis and Annie Taylor (*Retrograde*) and Tom Paul (*Little Richard: I Am Everything*). Discover how these professionals craft unique sonic landscapes, from capturing raw audio to creating an immersive auditory experience.

The Director/Composer Relationship

Join director and composer team Kris Bowers and Katya Richardson (*The Last Repair Shop*) as they discuss the conversations that lead to rewarding collaborations between director and composers.

Case Study: *Trip To Infinity*

Embark on a sonic exploration of the Netflix documentary *A Trip to Infinity* with sound designer/re-recording mixer Willie Elias (Trailblazer Studios), writer/director Jonathan Halperin (Room 608 Productions), and editor Alex Ricciardi (Room 608 Productions). In this insightful case study moderated by Eric Johnson (Trailblazer Studios), these professionals will dissect the art of crafting the film's soundscape. Gain insights into their creative process, techniques, and helpful tips on delivering sound elements to a streamer or network.

Music and Sound Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 9:00am-5:30pm

THE BUSINESS OF DOCUMENTARY DAY

Navigating the Tension of AI's Ethical and Business Landscape

Step into the dynamic crossroads of documentary filmmaking, AI, and its business impact, where creators wrestle with ethical dilemmas amidst relentless innovation. Eva Kozanecka (Google), Will Tyner (Google), and Tess Thorsen (independent AI

researcher) reflect on how AI might transform artistic approaches to connection and access, power and positionality, agency, and community care.

Co-hosted by Firelight Media as part of its Beyond Resilience series

Access Agreements and Studio Partnerships in Filmmaking

Join Fox Rothschild LLP entertainment attorneys Daniel Benge, Daniel Spencer, and Marc Simon as they discuss the power of attachment agreements as the foundation for securing access to subjects and materials. Our legal experts and filmmakers will detail the role of these agreements in financing and distribution and offer an overview of studio-network structures.

Co-presented by Fox Rothschild LLP

Fair Use Post-*Andy Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith*

Delve into a panel dissecting fair use in documentary filmmaking in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in the *Andy Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith* case. Frankfurt Kurnit attorneys Caren Decter and Melissa Georges detail how this landmark case has reshaped artistic expression and copyright, analyzing implications for documentary creation and distribution. Gain insights into fair use boundaries, opportunities, and responsible navigation strategies.

Co-presented by Frankfurt Kurnit

Additional panel to be announced

The Business of Documentary Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge. The happy hour is co-presented by Frankfurt Kurnit.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 9:00am-5:30pm

CREATIVE DISTRIBUTION DAY

Empowering Change Through Partnerships

Join changemakers Evyenia Constantine (Odyssey Impact®), Ray Boyd (Law & Racial Justice Center at Yale University), Brian Walker (Picture Motion), and Jenna LeDoux (The Just Trust) for an illuminating panel discussion that explores the art of strategic collaboration between documentary filmmakers and nonprofits to help create and support your film's impact campaign.

Co-presented by Odyssey Impact®

The Power of Educational Distribution

Explore the dynamic world of educational distribution as a strategic avenue for documentary filmmakers. Join our panelists Kristin Cooney (Roco Films), Chithra Jeyaram (New Day Films), and Brittany Quirarte (New York Public Library) as they share insights into harnessing this platform, not only to generate revenue but also amplify your project's visibility and social impact.

Where Will Your Film Be in 20 Years?

Explore the intricate journey of your film's long-term rights and the preservation of vital materials. Legal experts Susan Bodine and Nancy Wolff from CDAS, alongside filmmakers Shola Lynch (*Free Angela and All Political Prisoners*), and Susan Margolin (*Obsessed with Light*) will navigate the nuances of film ownership, distribution, and safeguarding key elements. Join us in uncovering the secrets to preserving your film's rights/materials over the years.

Co-presented by Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP

Additional panel to be announced

Creative Distribution Day also includes a **Breakfast** and a **Happy Hour** for passholders and other festival guests in the Festival Lounge. The happy hour is co-presented by Fever Content.

Attending PRO Events:

PRO events can be attended with the purchase of an individual **PRO Day Pass** for any individual day's events for \$125. Each pass also includes access to the Festival Lounge for that day, including the Breakfast and Happy Hour.

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 are available for purchase online at <https://www.docnyc.net/doc-nyc-pro-fall-2023/> through November 16. During DOC NYC PRO itself, November 9-16, PRO passes may be purchased at Village East by Angelika (181 Second Avenue, open 30 minutes before the venue's first event of the day until 15 minutes after the day's last screening).

SPONSORS

The festival is made possible by:

Leading Media Partners: *New York Magazine*; The WNET Group

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

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

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