

DC/DOX

DC/DOX Documentary Film Festival Announces Full Slate of Films for Second Edition

World Premiere Screenings Include
**BREAKING THE WEST, THE CALLING, MAJORITY RULES,
ONE SOUTH: PORTRAIT OF A PSYCH UNIT,
PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE, and WILD WILD SPACE**

North American Premieres of
**APOLLO THIRTEEN: SURVIVAL,
and THE CINEMA WITHIN**

US Premiere of **THE BONES**

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 9:30AM ET / 6:30AM PT May 1, 2024, WASHINGTON, DC — The DC/DOX documentary film festival in the nation's capital has announced the full slate of films for its second edition. In addition to the previously announced Signature Screenings of **SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY, EVERY LITTLE THING, LOOK INTO MY EYES, and LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH**, DC/DOX will also host the World Premieres of the features **BREAKING THE WEST, THE CALLING, MAJORITY RULES, ONE SOUTH: PORTRAIT OF A PSYCH UNIT, PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE, and WILD WILD SPACE**.

The DC/DOX slate includes 51 features and 47 shorts from 17 countries, with 12 World Premieres, four North American Premieres, a US Premiere, and 60% of filmmakers identifying as women or non-binary. The second annual DC/DOX festival will be held June 13-16, 2024 in Washington, DC. Passes and tickets are now available at dcdoxfest.com.

"The films on the 2024 slate highlight the remarkable breadth and depth of documentary storytelling today. From filmmakers around the world, these works recalibrate the past through archival footage, immerse themselves in the present with unmatched immediacy and intimacy, and even dare to envision the future," said DC/DOX co-founder and festival director Sky Sitney. "They depict a not-too-distant world, shadowed by the looming specter of all we stand to lose: democracy, discernible truth, a sustainable planet, and world peace. Yet, they are also filled with hope from individuals confronting adversity with determination and optimism and engaging in immense and small acts of kindness."

As previously announced, the festival's Signature Screenings include the Opening Night film SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY on June 13 at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History, the Closing Night screening of EVERY LITTLE THING on June 16 at the Burke Theatre at the US Navy Memorial, the Centerpiece film LOOK INTO MY EYES on June 15 at the Burke Theatre at the US Navy Memorial, and the Spotlight screening of LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH on June 14 at Smithsonian's Museum of African American History and Culture.

This year's festival will host five feature World Premiere screenings throughout the festival. MAJORITY RULES, a comprehensive look at Alaska's decision to use ranked-choice voting directed by AJ Schnack, and PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE, about Faith Ringgold's visionary painting, "For the Women's House", will premiere Friday, June 14. BREAKING THE WEST, a look at a Russian oligarch's ambitions in the West directed by Bridget Hunnicutt, ONE SOUTH: PORTRAIT OF A PSYCH WARD, Alexandra Shiva and Lindsey Megrue's observational portrait of a psychiatric unit for young adults, and WILD WILD SPACE, Ross Kauffman's exploration of the private companies jostling for dominance in space, will screen Saturday, June 15. THE CALLING, which follows a group of medical students in the Bronx directed by Asako Gladsjo, will screen Sunday, June 16.

DC/DOX will also screen the North American Premieres of APOLLO THIRTEEN: SURVIVAL, Peter Middleton's look at the almost disastrous NASA mission, on Saturday, June 15 at the National Archives and THE CINEMA WITHIN, Chad Freidrichs' exploration of the art and science of film editing, on Sunday, June 16.

The US Premiere of THE BONES, an examination of the clash between science and capitalism in the search for dinosaur fossils directed by Jeremy Xido, will screen on Saturday, June 15.

Additional World Premieres include the shorts 51ST STATE, AS LONG AS WE CAN, IN DUE SEASON, INSTRUMENTS OF A BEATING HEART, PENN F-ING STATION, and THE QUILTERS. Shorts that will be making their North American Premieres will be A BORDER BETWEEN US and CAN I HUG YOU?

This year's slate of films explores a wide range of subjects including legendary talents (SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY, Luther Vandross in LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH, Ani DeFranco in 1-800-ON-HER-OWN, DIANE VON FURSTENBERG: WOMAN IN CHARGE), fights for justice both past and present (AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND, PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE, UNION), and the ongoing impacts of global conflicts (ANTIDOTE, HOLLYWOODGATE, INTERCEPTED, MEDIHA, PORCELAIN WAR).

"With this second edition, DC/DOX continues to provide a festival experience that can only be found in the nation's capital," said DC/DOX co-founder Jamie Shor. "This festival allows filmmakers the unique opportunity to connect with an audience that can be influencers and amplifiers of their work, as well as appreciators."

For more information on this year's festival and registration, visit dcdoxfest.com.

DC/DOX 2024 PROGRAM

Signature Screenings

Opening Night Screening: Thursday, June 13

SUPER/MAN:THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY: DIRS Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui. PRODS Lizzie Gillett, Robert Ford, and Ian Bonhôte. United Kingdom, USA.

The story of Christopher Reeve is an astonishing rise from unknown actor to iconic movie star, marked by his definitive portrayal of Clark Kent/Superman. After becoming a quadriplegic he became a passionate advocate for disability rights, all while continuing his career in cinema, and dedicating himself to his beloved family.

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Discovery.

Spotlight Screening: Friday, June 14

LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH: DIR Dawn Porter. PRODS Trish D. Chetty, Ged Doherty, Jamie Foxx, Datari Turner, and Leah Smith. USA.

Using a wealth of rarely seen archives, the virtuoso vocalist Luther Vandross tells his own story with assistance from his closest friends including Mariah Carey, Dionne Warwick, Valerie Simpson, and Roberta Flack.

Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment and Sony Music Publishing.

Centerpiece Screening: Saturday, June 15

LOOK INTO MY EYES: DIR Lana Wilson. PRODS Kyle Martin and Lana Wilson. USA.

A group of New York City psychics conduct deeply intimate readings for their clients, revealing a kaleidoscope of loneliness, connection, and healing.

Courtesy of A24.

Closing Night Screening: Sunday, June 16

EVERY LITTLE THING: DIR Sally Aitken. PRODS Bettina Dalton, Oli Harbottle, and Anna Godas. Australia.

Amid the glamor of Hollywood, Los Angeles, a woman finds herself on a transformative journey as she nurtures wounded hummingbirds, unraveling a visually captivating and magical tale of love, fragility, healing, and the delicate beauty in tiny acts of greatness.

Courtesy of Wildbear Entertainment, Dogwoof, and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios.

Features

1-800-ON-HER-OWN: DIR Dana Flor. PROD Amy Hobby. USA.

1-800-ON-HER-OWN follows groundbreaking indie musician/feminist Ani DiFranco, founder of the first “woman-run non-corporate queer-happy” label, Righteous Babe Records, on a wild

road trip from her punk-folk past to her life today as an activist, mother and rock star. Throughout, Ani remains resolutely true to herself, no matter the cost.

ADMISSIONS GRANTED: DIRS Hao Wu and Miao Wang. PRODS Hao Wu and Miao Wang. USA. In a landmark Supreme Court case pitting Asian American plaintiffs against Harvard University, activists on both sides wrestle with hard truths about race and equality, as the fate of affirmative action hangs in the balance.
Courtesy of MSNBC Films.

AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND: DIR Ilana Trachtman. PROD Ilana Trachtman. USA. Five Howard University students rode a segregated carousel outside Washington, DC in 1960, igniting the first organized interracial civil rights protest in US history. This is the untold story of the Jews they marched with, Nazis they provoked, Congressmen they inspired, and Civil Rights leaders they became.
Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

AMERICA'S BURNING: DIR David Smick. PROD Ian Michaels. USA. America's Burning explores the country's divide through the lens of the U.S. economy and examines the big question -- could an economic civil war take us all down?

AND SO IT BEGINS: DIR Ramona S. Diaz. PROD Ramona S. Diaz. USA. Amidst the traditional pomp and circumstance of Filipino elections, a quirky people's movement rises to defend the nation against deepening threats to truth and democracy. In a collective act of joy as a form of resistance, hope flickers against the backdrop of increasing autocracy.

ANTIDOTE: DIR James Jones. PROD James Jones. United Kingdom. A deeply immersive and urgent film that reveals the cost of standing up to Vladimir Putin and daring to tell the truth about modern Russia.

APOLLO THIRTEEN: SURVIVAL: DIR Peter Middleton. PRODS Hugh Davies and Clive Patterson. USA. In April 1970, NASA faced the greatest crisis in its history: three astronauts were halfway to the moon on a spacecraft that had suffered a catastrophic explosion. With access to NASA's complete audiovisual archives, APOLLO THIRTEEN: SURVIVAL tells the story of a space mission like no other.
North American Premiere.
Courtesy of Netflix.

THE BITTER PILL: DIR Clay Tweel. PRODS Tim Grant, Shannon E. Riggs, and Mary Rohlich. USA. A small-town lawyer takes on a 500 billion-dollar sector of the pharmaceutical industry to aid his community in its recovery from the opioid epidemic.

BLACK BOX DIARIES: DIR Shiori Ito. PRODS Eric Nyari, Hanna Aqvilin, and Shiori Ito. Japan, United Kingdom, USA.

Young journalist Shiori Ito embarks on a courageous investigation of her own sexual assault in an improbable attempt to prosecute her high-profile offender. Her quest becomes a landmark case in Japan, exposing the country's outdated judicial and societal systems.

Courtesy of Dogwoof.

BLACK TABLE: DIRS John Antonio James and Bill Mack. PRODS Katie Taber, John Antonio James, Bill Mack. USA.

For Black students at an elite college during the early days of the culture wars, the most important lessons didn't happen inside the classroom.

THE BONES: DIR Jeremy Xido. PROD Ina Fichman. Canada, Germany.

Traversing the globe, paleontologists are on a quest to unearth dinosaur fossils that may hold the key to save humanity from extinction. It's a race against time before the bones disappear into the hands of fossil dealers, who stand to make millions by selling them on the open market.

US Premiere.

Courtesy of Dogwoof.

BREAKING THE WEST: DIR Bridget Hunnicutt. PRODS Bridget Hunnicutt, Mike Gehman, Eddie Stafford. USA.

A Russian oligarch's dream of becoming a pop star is derailed, as he is accused of influencing the 2016 US presidential election.

World Premiere.

Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

THE CALLING: DIR Asako Gladsjo. PROD Tanya Blake. USA.

Over the course of a year, a diverse group of medical students at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx learn what it takes to become doctors serving one of America's most underserved communities.

World Premiere.

Courtesy of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios.

CHAMPIONS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY: DIR Ben Sturgulewski. PRODS Katie Stjernholm and Baktash Ahadi. USA.

In the peaks of Afghanistan, villagers from rival ethnic groups build makeshift skis and convene for a thrilling mountain race that requires incredible camaraderie and resilience – lessons they must call upon when they experience the collapse of their country to the Taliban.

THE CINEMA WITHIN: DIR Chad Freidrichs. PRODS Chad Freidrichs and Jaime Freidrichs. USA.

Film editor Walter Murch, film scholar David Bordwell, and a group of psychologists suggest that film editing is profoundly "natural," but in remote Turkish mountains, a budding researcher – alongside people who have never seen films – puts this deepest of cinematic ideas to the test.

North American Premiere.

DAUGHTERS: DIRS Angela Patton and Natalie Rae. PRODS Natalie Rae, Lisa Mazzotta, Justin Benoliel, James Cunningham, Mindy Goldberg, Sam Bisbee, Kathryn Everett, and Laura Choi Raycroft. USA.

Four young girls prepare for a special Daddy-Daughter Dance with their incarcerated fathers as part of a unique fatherhood program in a Washington, DC jail.
Courtesy of Netflix.

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG: WOMAN IN CHARGE: DIRS Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Trish Dalton. PRODS Fabiola Beracasa Beckman, Tracy Aftergood, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Sean Stuart, and Trish Dalton. USA.

The story of the iconic trailblazer known by her initials DVF worldwide, Diane von Furstenberg is the child of a holocaust survivor, a princess by marriage, and the trailblazing founder of a fashion empire. She shares her remarkable story in her own words, with reflections from Oprah Winfrey, Marc Jacobs, Hillary Clinton, and many more.

Courtesy of Hulu.

DRIVER: DIR Nesa Azimi. PRODS Nesa Azimi, Nicolas Borel, and Ines Hofmann Kanna. USA.

After losing everything, Desiree Wood takes a second lease on life as a long-haul truck driver. Alongside an irreverent group of women drivers, she fights for a life on the road.

EMERGENT CITY: DIRS Kelly Anderson and Jay Arthur Sterrenberg. PRODS Brenda Avila-Hanna, Kelly Anderson. USA.

As rents and sea levels rise, Brooklyn residents confronting a new real estate development navigate a tangled web of power, money and politics.

THE FIRST CLASS: Lee Hirsh. PRODS. Robert Fernandez, Lee Hirsch. USA.

A rousing documentary that immerses viewers into the lives of the very first students and teachers at Memphis's Crosstown High.

HOLLYWOODGATE: DIR Ibrahim Nash'at. PRODS Talal Derki, Odessa Rae, and Shane Boris. Germany.

When the United States withdrew from Afghanistan, the Taliban retook control of the ravaged country and immediately found an American base loaded with weaponry. Unprecedented and audacious, director Ibrahim Nash'at's HOLLYWOODGATE spends a year inside Afghanistan following the Taliban as they take possession of the cache America left behind—and transform from a fundamentalist militia into a heavily armed military regime.

INHERITANCE: DIRS Matt Moyer and Amy Toensing. PRODS Matt Moyer and Amy Toensing. USA.

Filmed over 11 years, INHERITANCE follows Curtis, a young boy, as he grows up in rural Appalachia in a family and community surrounded by substance use disorder and poverty. Can Curtis break the cycle of addiction that has plagued his family for generations?

INTERCEPTED: DIR Oksana Karpovych. PRODS Rocío B. Fuentes, Pauline Tran Van Lieu, Lucie Rego, Darya Bassel, and Olha Beskhnelytsina. Canada, France, Ukraine.

Quiet scenes of everyday life for Ukrainians since the full-scale invasion play out in stark contrast with intercepted phone conversations between Russian soldiers and their families, creating a stunning tension between sound and image.

LOVE MACHINA: DIR Peter Sillen. PRODS Brendan Doyle and Peter Sillen. USA.

LOVE MACHINA follows Bina48, a humanoid AI, commissioned in 2007 by Martine & Bina Rothblatt. An early sketch of potential digital consciousness, Bina48 is our vehicle to explore the Rothblatts' futurist ideas and their quest to be in love forever.

MADE IN ETHIOPIA: DIRS Xinyan Yu and Max Duncan. PRODS Tamara Dawit, Xinyan Yu, and Max Duncan. Canada, Ethiopia, USA, United Kingdom.

When a massive Chinese factory complex attempts a high-stakes expansion in rural Ethiopia, three women in search of prosperity have their faith in industrialization tested to the limit. Courtesy of Dogwoof.

MAJORITY RULES: DIR AJ Schnack. PRODS AJ Schnack, Nick Troiano, and Alana Schwartz. USA.

With America's democratic experiment mired in division and dysfunction, the state of Alaska votes to revolutionize its election system. The surprising results spark new alliances, a growing call for election reform, and fierce pushback from political parties. Could changing how Americans vote also improve politics?

World Premiere.

MEDIHA: DIR Hasan Oswald. PRODS Hasan Oswald, Annelise Mecca, Fahrinisa Campana, Alexander Spiess, and Stephen Nemeth. USA.

Mediha, a teenage Yazidi girl who has recently returned from ISIS captivity, turns her camera on herself to process her trauma. She confronts her past through personal video-diaries, reclaiming her voice and stepping bravely towards the future.

Courtesy of The Film Collaborative.

NEW WAVE: Elizabeth Ai. PRODS. Rachel Sine, Elizabeth Ai. USA.

Mile-high hair. Synthesized music. Underground parties. Elizabeth Ai was on a mission to excavate an untold story of rebellious punks in the chaotic world of 80s Vietnamese new wave until she rediscovered a hidden past.

Courtesy of The Film Collaborative.

OMAR AND CEDRIC: IF THIS EVER GETS WEIRD: DIR Nicolas Jack Davies. PRODS. Germany.

Whittled down from hundreds of hours of footage shot by Omar Rodriguez-Lopez and Cedric Bixler-Zavala, this film offers an all-access pass to the masterminds behind the Grammy award-winning band, The Mars Volta.

Courtesy of Outlook Filmsales.

ONE SOUTH: PORTRAIT OF A PSYCH UNIT: DIRS Alexandra Shiva and Lindsey Megrue. PROD Matt Gottesfeld. USA.

A deeply intimate, two-part observational portrait of an inpatient psychiatric unit in Queens, NY that specializes in treating young adults in acute crisis.

World Premiere.

Courtesy of HBO Documentary Films.

PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE: DIR Catherine Gund. PROD Tanya Selvaratnam. USA.

Featuring artists Faith Ringgold and Mary Baxter, PAINT ME A ROAD OUT OF HERE uncovers the whitewashed history of Faith's masterpiece For the Women's House and follows its 50-year journey from Rikers Island to the Brooklyn Museum in a heartbreaking, funny, and true parable for a world without mass incarceration.

World Premiere.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY: DIR Rachel Elizabeth Seed. PRODS Kirsten Johnson, Maida Lynn, Hinda Gilbert, and Robina Riccitiello. USA.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY is an intimate, genre-bending portrait of a daughter's attempt to piece together a portrait of her mother, an avant-garde journalist and a woman she never knew. Uncovering the vast archive Sheila Turner Seed produced, including lost interviews with iconic photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson, Gordon Parks, Cecil Beaton, Bruce Davidson, Lisette Model, and others, the film explores memory, legacy, and stories left untold.

Courtesy of The Film Collaborative.

PORCELAIN WAR: DIRS Brendan Bellomo and Slava Leontyev. PRODS Aniela Sidorska, Paula DuPre' Pesmen, Camilla Mazzaferro, and Olivia Ahnemann. USA.

Under roaring fighter jets, Ukrainian artists Slava, Anya, and Andrey choose to stay behind. Defiantly finding beauty amid destruction, they show that although it's easy to make people afraid, it's hard to destroy their passion for living.

PRECONCEIVED: DIRS Sabine Keane and Kate Dumke. PRODS Heather Keane, Maggie Contreras, and Sabine Keane. USA.

PRECONCEIVED explores the pervasive presence of crisis pregnancy centers throughout the US, and their role in furthering the anti-abortion movement.

Courtesy of The Film Collaborative.

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN: DIR Benjamin Ree. PROD Ingvil Giske. Norway.

Mats Steen, a Norwegian gamer, died of a degenerative muscular disease at the age of 25. His parents mourned what they thought had been a lonely and isolated life when they started receiving messages from online friends around the world.

Courtesy of Netflix.

THE RIDE AHEAD: DIRS Dan Habib and Samuel Habib. PROD Erica Lupinacci. USA.

Samuel Habib is a typical 21-year-old, itching to move out, start a career and find love. But no one tells you how to be an adult, let alone an adult with a disability. Can a community of disability activists help him follow his dreams?

SABBATH QUEEN: DIR Sandi DuBowski. PROD Sandi DuBowski. USA.

Filmed over 21 years, SABBATH QUEEN follows Amichai Lau-Lavie, descendent of 38 generations of rabbis, from drag-queen rebel to rabbi, as he radically reinvents religion and ritual, challenges patriarchy and supremacy, and stands up for peace.

SECRET MALL APARTMENT: DIR Jeremy Workman. PROD Jeremy Workman. USA.

In 2003, eight young Rhode Islanders created a secret apartment in a hidden space inside the Providence Place Mall and lived in it for four years, filming along the way. More than a wild prank, the secret apartment became a meaningful place for everyone involved.

SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER: DIRS Abby Ginzberg and Christy Carpenter. PRODS Abby Ginzberg and Christy Carpenter. USA.

Over her 89 years, Liz Carpenter was often front and center where history was unfolding, leaving her own indelible mark on some of the most vivid moments and movements that shaped the twentieth century. As journalist, vice-presidential advisor, White House official, author, humorist, and feminist leader she blazed important trails.

SKYWALKERS: A LOVE STORY: DIRS Jeff Zimbalist and Maria Bukhonina. PRODS Jeff Zimbalist, Maria Bukhonina, Chris Smith, and Tamir Ardon. USA.

To save their careers and their relationships, a daredevil couple journeys across the globe to illegally climb the world's last super skyscraper and perform a life-or-death acrobatic stunt on the spire.

Courtesy of Netflix.

SOUNDTRACK TO A COUP D'ETAT: DIR Johan Grimonprez. PRODS Daan Milius and Rémi Grellety. France.

Jazz and decolonization are entwined in this historical rollercoaster that rewrites the Cold War episode that led musicians Abbey Lincoln and Max Roach to crash the UN Security Council in protest against the murder of Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba.

STORY & PICTURES BY: DIR Joanna Rudnick. PRODS Joanna Rudnick, Tim Horsburgh, and Korelan Matteson. USA.

This is a story about the boundary pushers who shape souls and give children strange dreams; picture book creators who are changing the narrative for the next generation, even when their own lives are not fairytales.

SUGARCANE: DIRS Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie. PRODS Emily Kassie and Kellen Quinn. USA, Canada.

An investigation into abuse and missing children at an Indian residential school ignites a reckoning on the nearby Sugarcane Reserve.

Courtesy of National Geographic Documentary Films.

SWAMP DOGG GETS HIS POOL PAINTED: DIRS Isaac Gale and Ryan Olson. PRODS Paul Lovelace, Ryan Olson, Isaac Gale, David McMurry, Ben Wu, and Townson Wells. USA. Legendary musician Swamp Dogg, together with his housemates Moogstar and Guitar Shorty, navigate the tumultuous waves of the music industry, and forge a unique and inspiring path across time and space.

UNION: DIRS Brett Story and Stephen Maing. PRODS Brett Story, Stephen Maing, Samantha Curley, Mars Verrone, and Martin Diccio. USA. The Amazon Labor Union (ALU)—a group of current and former Amazon workers in New York City’s Staten Island—takes on one of the world’s largest and most powerful companies in the fight to unionize. Courtesy of The Film Collaborative.

WAR GAME: DIRS Jesse Moss and Tony Gerber. PRODS Todd Lubin, Jesse Moss, Jack Turner, Mark DiCristofaro, Jessica Grimshaw, and Nick Shumaker. USA. A bipartisan group of U.S. defense, intelligence, and elected policymakers spanning five presidential administrations participate in an unscripted role-play exercise, set on January 6, 2025, in which they confront a political coup backed by rogue members of the U.S. military, in the wake of a contested presidential election.

WILD WILD SPACE: DIR Ross Kauffman. PRODS Jaye Callahan, Ashlee Vance, Justin Falvey, Darryl Frank, Christopher Collins, Lydia Tenaglia, and Craig H. Shepherd. USA. Less than one hundred miles above our heads is where some of the most valuable real estate in the universe lives: Low Earth Orbit. This is an extraterrestrial land grab, a galactic Wild West where the cowboys are visionaries, tinkerers, and capitalists dead set on owning the future. WILD WILD SPACE delivers the audience into this critical and unknown world. World Premiere. Courtesy of HBO Documentary Films.

Shorts

14 PAINTINGS: DIR Dongnan Chen. PRODS Jiaqing Lin, Chongjun Li, Dongnan Chen, Jisong Li, and Heying Chen. China. A field study of fourteen paintings from China’s Dafen village, as the government rebrands the copy-painting district as a hub for original art.

51ST STATE: DIR Hannah Rosenzweig. PRODS List Rubin and Ray Whitehouse. USA. 51ST STATE explores the emerging national issue of DC statehood from the personal perspective of one of DC's most vibrant Gen Z leaders - set against the overlooked cultural backdrop of our capital city and a deep yet virtually unknown crack in our democracy. World Premiere.

Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

ANYUKA: DIR Maya Erdelyi. PROD Marga Varea. USA.

A story of a marvelous and tragic life as told across three generations.

AS LONG AS WE CAN: DIR Kristy Guevara-Flanagan. PROD Kristy Guevara-Flanagan. USA.

As the Arizona Supreme Court argues on whether to reinstate an abortion ban that originated in 1864, AS LONG AS WE CAN offers a glimpse into the day-to-day activities of this, for-now, still functioning clinic.

World Premiere.

BEEN THERE: DIR Corina Schwingruber Ilić. PROD Stella Händler. Switzerland.

Weekend trips, city breaks, a detour into nature or around the world, tourists become invaders in search of the best pictures.

THE BIG WAIT: DIR Yannick Jamey. PRODS Lucy Pijnenburg and Yannick Jamey. Australia.

In a remote desert town in Australia, population two, a couple manages an emergency airport and keeps vacant cottages in pristine condition, waiting for visitors who never seem to arrive.

BOB'S FUNERAL: DIR Jack Dunphy. PROD Jordan Tetewsky. USA.

Searching for the root of generational trauma, the director takes a camera into his estranged grandfather's funeral.

A BORDER BETWEEN US: DIR Riad Arfin. PROD Charlotte Hailstone. United Kingdom.

How does a couple with roots in two different countries find a place to make home?
North American Premiere.

THE CALLERS: DIR Lindsey Dryden. PRODS Colleen Cassingham, Samantha Steele, Lindsey Dryden. USA.

Anonymous documentary testimony from the UK's oldest queer support line is blended with imagined creative scenes to tell the stories of those who have sought help from it in times of need.

CAN I HUG YOU?: DIR Elahe Esmaili. PROD Hossein Behboudi Rad. Iran, United Kingdom.

In the Iranian city of Qom, restrictions are imposed on women in the name of "sexual safety." Hossein grew up in this context, but as a young boy he found himself victimized, left to carry this secret into adulthood. Now, with the help of his wife Elahe, he is confronting his trauma.
North American Premiere.

CHRISTMAS, EVERY DAY: DIR Faye Tsakas. PRODS Enrique Pedraza Botero, Rowan Ings, Lauren Howell, and Faye Tsakas. USA.

From their rural Alabama home, two preteen girls market fashion and beauty products to thousands of online fans.

CONTRACTIONS: DIR Lynne Sachs. PRODS Emily Berisso and Laura Goodman. USA.

Intimate confessions, paired with experimental choreography outside a woman's clinic in Memphis, offer a glimpse into the end of safe and legal abortion access in the US. Plays with companion audio piece, *WE CONTINUE TO SPEAK*, featuring recordings of the participants and producers of *CONTRACTIONS* as they vocalize their reactions to the reduction of women's bodily autonomy in the United States.

DENIAL: DIRS Paul Moakley and Daniel Lombroso. PROD Paul Moakley. USA.

Arizona's republican Chairman, Bill Gates, lived in relative obscurity until Donald Trump contested the 2020 election results. With unprecedented access, we follow Gates through a fight to uphold the integrity of the vote in Maricopa County, setting the stakes for the future of democracy.

Courtesy of The New Yorker.

EAT FLOWERS: DIR River Autumn Finlay. PRODS Cig Harvey and Sashka Rothchild. USA.

When a dear friend is forced into isolation with a rare form of leukemia, artist Cig Harvey sets out to fill her sterile world with beauty and magic.

FAMILIA: DIRS Picho García and Gabriela Pena. PRODS Gabriela Pena and Picho García. Chile.

The dual nature of social media is revealed when a young man tries to get an appealing profile picture, while the family WhatsApp chat is sharing the last days of the grandfather's life.

FRANK: DIR David Gauvey Herbert. PRODS Lance Oppenheim, Abigail Rowe, and Nate Hurtsellers. USA.

At 99 years old, Frank Lucianna is America's oldest practicing attorney. Now, he's preparing for his final criminal trial.

HELLO STRANGER: DIR Amélie Hardy. PRODS Sarah Mannering and Fanny Drew. Canada.

Between loads of laundry at the corner laundromat, Cooper shares the tumultuous story of her gender reassignment journey.

HINDSIGHT: DIR Max Rykov. PRODS Anna Rykova and Igor Rykov. Ukraine, USA.

A visual meditation on the memories of two young Ukrainians emerging from the fall of the Iron Curtain, *Hindsight* looks at the fragility of our roots, the impermanence of our cultures, and the transience of our freedom through the lens of a VHS camera in the late 1990s.

Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

HOLD THE LINE: DIR Daniel Lombroso. PROD Devon Blackwell. USA.

When the largest Protestant organization in the U.S. decides to purge women in leadership positions, one prominent female pastor fights back.

East Coast Premiere.

Courtesy of The New Yorker.

I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: DIR Frank Eli Martin. PRODS Sophie Outhwaite and Solomon Golding. United Kingdom.

A visionary devotion to the Virgin Mary in rural Ireland reveals the hushed secrets that exist beneath the surface of the country's Catholic institutions.

IN DUE SEASON: DIR Ashley O'Shay. PROD Cherrelle Swain. USA.

Despite the Obama-era push for expansion under the Affordable Care Act, ten states—mainly in the South—opted out, leaving many low-income families without healthcare coverage. **IN DUE SEASON** introduces us to three individuals caught in this gap.

World Premiere.

INSTRUMENTS OF A BEATING HEART: DIR Ema Ryan Yamazaki. PROD Eric Nyari. Japan.

As first-grader Ayame traverses the ups and downs of music auditions and performances, lessons of sacrifice and resilience in the Japanese education system are revealed.

World Premiere.

Courtesy of The New York Times Op-Docs.

JARDINES (GARDENS): DIR Alfredo Torres. PRODS Alfredo Torres, Jennifer Redfearn, and Jason Spingarn-Koff. USA.

While waiting in limbo, displaced LGBTQ+ folks hoping to find asylum in the United States offer support and healing to one another, as they process the heartbreak and joy of a queer family on the move.

JE M'APPELLE MARIIA: DIR Juho Reinikainen. PRODS Hedi Nikzad, Aalto University, and ELO Film School Finland. Finland.

Ukrainian Mother and daughter Liubov and Mariia start on a European journey toward Mariia's big dream of visiting Paris and studying in France.

THE LEGACY OF LEE'S FLOWER SHOP: DIR Kamilah Thurmon. PRODS Rick Lee, Stacie Lee, and Kristie Lee. USA.

Lee's Flower and Card Shop, the oldest Black-owned flower shop in Washington, DC, has planted seeds of wisdom and perseverance in the District since 1945.

Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

MY DEAD DAD: DIRS Abby Ellis and Erik Osterholm. PRODS Omar Mullick, Michael Simkin, and Erik Osterholm. USA.

With a cult-like following at the New York Times, Christopher Gray throws his family for a posthumous loop when he requests that his body be defleshed and his skeleton preserved for permanent display—a request his daughter strictly abides, but not before a last father-daughter road trip along the way.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD: DIRS Theresa Delsoin, Lisa Marie Malloy, J.P. Sniadecki, and Ray Whitaker. PRODS Rachel Burns, Karin Chien, Judson Childs, Theresa Delsoin, Clarence Dossie, Wynne Hannan, Lisa Marie Malloy, J.P. Sniadecki, and Ray Whitaker. USA.

In the Southern Illinois region of Little Egypt, a sound recordist walks through the fields where once stood Pyramid Courts - the housing projects that formed the heart of the Black community of his hometown, Cairo.

ONE STORY AT A TIME: CELESTE LECESNE: DIRS Eva Tenuto and Natalia Iyudin. PROD Kashka Glowacka. USA.

Celeste Lecesne candidly shares how he escaped the confines of homophobia by sharing his truth with the world in an off-broadway solo-show that becomes an Academy Award-winning film and ultimately inspires The Trevor Project, the largest suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQIA+ youth.

THE ONLY GIRL IN THE ORCHESTRA: DIR Molly O'Brien. PRODS Lisa Remington and Molly O'Brien. USA.

Orin O'Brien never wanted the spotlight, but when Leonard Bernstein made her the first female musician hired by the NY Philharmonic, it was inevitable. Exploring Orin's remarkable career, we discover the key to life: "You don't mind playing second fiddle."

PENN F—ING STATION: DIR Claire Read. PRODS Nora DeLigter and Claire Read. USA.

In NYC, the debate over how to fix Penn Station erupts between the city's power brokers and residents. But what's at stake is not just a transit hub; it's the future of the city.
World Premiere.

PUBLIC DEFENDER: DIR Andrea Kalin. PRODS Andrea Kalin, Ethan Oser, Kate Woodsome, Liz Gilbert Cohen, and Janice Engel. USA.

What happens when a liberal public defender represents right-wing January 6th rioters? PUBLIC DEFENDER takes on America's epidemic of division and misinformation with humanity and comic relief, modeling how to restore trust and accountability one relationship at a time.
Screening as part of DC/FRAME.

THE PUZZLE PALACE: DIRS Jenny Schweitzer Bell and Brian Bell. PRODS Brian Bell, Jenny Schweitzer Bell, Justin Lacob, Kenny Laubbacher, and Bryn Mooser. USA.

Amassing the world's largest puzzle collection is a labor of love for one inseparable couple.

THE QUILTERS: DIR Jenifer McShane. PROD Jenifer McShane. USA.

A quilting group inside a maximum security prison is an unlikely setting where incarcerated men create personalized quilts for local foster children. Through this process and the relationships formed, we witness the power of art to restore an individual's view of themselves and others.
World Premiere.

THE SCHOOL OF CANINE MASSAGE: DIR Emma D. Miller. PRODS Emma D. Miller and Colby Day. USA.

At a unique training program in Southern California, people heal dogs and dogs heal people.

SEAT 31: ZOOEY ZEPHYR: DIR Kimberly Reed. PRODS Kimberly Reed and Robin Honan. USA.

After Zoey Zephyr's expulsion from the Montana House of Representatives for defending transgender medical care, she made a nearby bench her "office." Director Kimberly Reed's intimate camera transforms this shocking political moment into a portrait of trans and queer joy.

THE SOUND OF THE WIND: DIR Maria Pankova. PROD Sophia Carr-Gomm. United Kingdom. Yuliia has become a refugee in Scotland due to the war in Ukraine. She is fighting for the future of her children while trying to maintain her relationship with her husband, who is on the frontline.

THE TEST: DIRS Claudia Myers and Laura Waters Hinson. PROD Heather Brumley. USA. A Ghanaian maintenance worker at a Virginia retirement community dreams of becoming an American citizen to provide a better life for his family. With their future at stake, he enlists the help of two elderly residents to prepare for the biggest test of his life: the US Citizenship exam. *Screening as part of DC/FRAME.*

TO BE DESTROYED: DIR Arthur Bradford. PRODS Jennifer Ollman and Katie Taber. USA. Author Dave Eggers travels to Rapid City, SD after learning that five books, including his novel, *The Circle*, were removed from local high school shelves and designated "to be destroyed". Courtesy of MSNBC Films.

TO BE INVISIBLE: DIR Myah Overstreet. PRODS Myah Overstreet, Devon Blackwell, Melissa Fajardo, Jennifer Redfearn, and Jason Spingarn-Koff. USA. For over three years, Alexis and Kellie have been fighting to get their children back. With the assistance of a former social worker turned parent advocate, these mothers are battling to reunite with their children, who were removed from their homes by the children's welfare service.

UNTIL HE'S BACK: DIR Jacqueline Baylon. PROD Jacqueline Baylon. USA. After learning that his son, Yahya, has died at sea trying to get to Spain, Ahmed Tchiche must find a way to bring his remains back home to Morocco so he and his family can have a proper goodbye.

WE EXIST IN MEMORY: DIR Darian Woehr. PROD Hailey Sadler. USA. How do you rebuild home from nothing but memories? Through the candid conversations between a grandmother and grandchild living in refuge, we witness the complexity of raising a new generation in displacement.

WEEKEND VISITS: DIR Pete Quandt. PRODS Hannah Whisenant and Garson Ormiston. USA. Jessi, an incarcerated mother at a rural Virginia prison, gets the rare experience of an extended visitation with her sweet and hyperactive 9-year-old, Ryleigh.

WINDING PATH: DIRS Ross Kauffman and Alexandra Lazarowich. PROD Robin Honan. USA.

Eastern Shoshone medical student Jenna Murray spent summers on the Wind River Indian Reservation helping her grandfather any way she could. When he suddenly dies, she must find a way to heal before realizing her dream of a life in medicine.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PUSSY NOIR: DIR Amy Oden. PROD Amy Oden. USA.

Follow Pussy Noir's historic fellowship at the Kennedy Center as she blends history, queerness, and couture. Her marquee project is a self-produced queer fashion show. Can she make her ideas sing on the catwalk?

Screening as part of DC/F.R.A.M.E.

WOULDN'T MAKE IT ANY OTHER WAY: DIR Hao Zhou. PRODS Tyler Hill, Merrill Sterritt, and Carlo Velayo. USA.

Having built a colorful queer life in Iowa, an aspiring costume designer visits their island homeland of Guam to make costumes for a children's theater while reconnecting with distanced parents.

YOU CAN'T SHRINK LOVE: DIR Veena Rao. PROD Veena Rao. USA.

An artist gives life in miniature to the memories of our most beloved companions.

About DC/DOX

DC/DOX is a documentary film festival showcasing powerful, timely stories in our nation's capital, founded in 2022 by Jamie Shor and Sky Sitney. DC/DOX brings together innovative visions, bold voices, and truth seekers in celebration of documentary cinema. Visit dcdoxfest.com and follow us at [instagram.com/dcdoxfest](https://www.instagram.com/dcdoxfest), [facebook.com/dcdoxfest](https://www.facebook.com/dcdoxfest), twitter.com/dcdoxfest, and [tiktok.com/@dcdoxfest](https://www.tiktok.com/@dcdoxfest).

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