

DOCLANDS

**DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL OPENS WITH CALIFORNIA PREMIERE OF
ANOTE'S ARK AND CLOSURES WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF 16 BARS**

May 3 – May 6, 2018

SAN RAFAEL, CA (March 23, 2018) – Now in its second year, the 2018 edition of **DocLands** Documentary Film Festival kicks off Thursday, May 3 with the California Premiere of *Anote's Ark*; director Matthieu Rytz and former president of Kiribati/films subject Anote Tong will be in attendance. The four-day festival will showcase 43 films from 10 countries, with 50 filmmakers in attendance. The Festival will close with the World Premiere of *16 Bars* with director Sam Bathrick and film subjects Todd "Speech" Thomas of hip-hop group Arrested Development (*Tennessee, Mr. Wendell*), and Teddy Kane attending.

Showcasing documentary film in a variety of genres and with a diversity of content, while exploring three main programming sections (*Art of Impact*, *The Great Outdoors* and *WonderLands*) and highlighting films that transcend the traditional definition of the documentary—films that break form in terms of creativity and entertainment. DocLands is a non-competitive, inclusive festival dedicated to fostering connections and partnerships that will invigorate the business and art of nonfiction filmmaking. Through public screenings, engaged conversations, and grassroots networking events, the Festival aims to build an active, involved and fully supportive community around documentary film, with organizational goals that include gender equality and zero waste.

Opening Night

ANOTE'S ARK – California Premiere

Thursday, May 3 | 7:00pm | Smith Rafael Film Center

In Person: Director Matthieu Rytz and former president of Kiribati/film subject Anote Tong

Climate change is no abstraction to the people of Kiribati, a series of low-lying atolls in the central Pacific Ocean that are being swallowed by the rising sea. Photographer-ethnologist Matthieu Rytz's exquisitely shot film portrays the slow, dignified demise of an entire culture—soon to be global refugees—while sounding a clarion call for meaningful political action.

Opening Night Party following screening and onstage conversation will be held at the San Rafael Elks Lodge.

Closing Night

16 BARS – World Premiere

Saturday, May 5 | 6:30pm | Smith Rafael Film Center

In Person: Director, Sam Bathrick and film subjects Todd “Speech” Thomas of Arrested Development and Teddy Kane

In Sam Bathrick’s transformative film, Todd “Speech” Thomas of hip-hop group Arrested Development instigates a unique rehabilitation program in Richmond, Virginia, helping prisoners write and record their own songs. The filmmaker lovingly follows four inmates battling cycles of incarceration and addiction. Through superbly produced recording sessions, the men reach out from behind bars to bring their poignant stories to life through music.

Closing Night Party following the screening, onstage conversation, and special performance will be held at the Art Works Downtown/Green Chile Kitchen

About DOCLANDS

Presented by the California Film Institute, DocLands Documentary Film Festival brings compelling stories and the provocative insights behind them to Marin County, California May 3-6, 2018. Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through public screenings, engaged conversations and grassroots networking events, DocLands aims to build an active, involved, fully supportive community around documentary film, dedicated to initiating connections and partnerships that will illuminate and invigorate the business and art of non-fiction filmmakers.

DOCLANDS Sections

Art of Impact engages and sparks action by sharing stories that open our eyes to the global community and its disparate cultures, politics, personal narratives, and biographies.

The Great Outdoors transports us outside to truly appreciate, explore, and ultimately compel us to save and conserve our environment and the wilds of our precious and precarious planet.

WonderLands lifts our spirits through stories of joy, wonder, and possibility.

About California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CFI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting film and media arts through the presentation of the internationally acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival celebrating its 41st year in 2018 and DocLands Documentary Film Festival, the ongoing cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CFI Education, which features a broad range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions and seminars with top international and local filmmakers and industry professionals as well as a rich program of classes and hands-on-workshops. Additionally, CFI acts as a year-round film-centric town hall with a diverse calendar of programming at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theatres in the country. The art of storytelling through film enables CFI to touch 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain as well as address a breadth of social, environmental and cultural issues. CFI relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs. The invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success. For more information visit cafilm.org

Supporters

CFI is proud to acknowledge the Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, Wareham Development, Genuine Article Pictures, Vickie Soulier, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Teresa Wolf, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Jim Boyce Trust and Kris Otis, Caroline Crawford Labe, the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media and EO Products for their generous support of DOCLANDS.

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