

CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH VARIETY TO PRESENT DOCLANDS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASE

EVENT TO BE BROADCAST LIVE VIA VARIETY'S STREAMING ROOM
 SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

SAN RAFAEL, CA (April 2, 2020) — On Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 PM PST // 7:00PM EST, the Variety Streaming Room, Variety's new initiative for virtual conversations and events, will host filmmakers, from the recently postponed DocLands Documentary Film Festival (DocLands), in conversation with Variety's Sr. Features Writer, Andrew Barker. With support from Amazon Studios, Magnolia Pictures/Participant, Netflix, and Patagonia Films.

Showcasing compelling documentaries and the provocative insights behind them, during this high-def live stream broadcast, Barker will speak with filmmakers from Amazon Studios' **TIME** directed by Garrett Bradley; Magnolia Pictures/Participant's **JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE** directed by Dawn Porter (*Trapped, Gideon's Army*); Netflix's **DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD** directed by Kirsten Johnson (*Cameraperson*); Illumine Films' **GATHER** directed by Sanjay Rawal (*Food Chains*); Patagonia Films' **PUBLIC TRUST** directed by David Garrett Byars (*No Man's Land*) and executive produced by Yvon Chouinard and Robert Redford; Exposure Labs' **THE SOCIAL DILEMMA** directed by award-winning filmmaker and environmentalist Jeff Orlowski (*Chasing Ice, Chasing Coral*); and **SOCIALISM: AN AMERICAN STORY** directed by award-winning documentary filmmaker Yael Bridge.

In addition to previewing trailers and learning more about each film, audiences will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive virtual Q&A via social media. During the extraordinary circumstances we're currently experiencing, we hope this 90-minute event will help showcase films that haven't yet had public screenings or exposure beyond Sundance this year, and will prompt engaging conversations, as well as an exciting exchange of ideas between the filmmakers, moderator Barker, and our streaming audience.

All conversations will be later posted on Variety.com.

About the Films

TIME (Amazon Studios)

Director, Garrett Bradley

Logline: Fox Rich is a fighter. The entrepreneur, activist, and mother of six boys has spent the last two decades campaigning for the release of her husband, Rob, who is serving a 60-year sentence for a robbery they both committed long ago in a moment of desperation. Combining the video diaries Fox has recorded for Rob over the years with intimate glimpses into her present-day life, director Garrett Bradley paints a mesmerizing portrait of the resilience and radical love necessary to prevail over the endless separations of the prison-industrial-complex — a legacy of slavery in America.

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE (Magnolia Pictures/Participant, CNN Films)

Director, Dawn Porter

Logline: Few living Americans have fought as hard or endured as much for the sake of our democracy and civil rights as Congressman John Lewis of Georgia. Mixing riveting archival footage alongside contemporary interviews with a new generation of leaders like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as well as long-time leaders including Congressman James Clyburn and President Jimmy Carter, Bay Area filmmaker Dawn Porter (*Trapped*) creates a moving tribute to the multifaceted and down-to-earth congressman, who balances his fiery determination with humor and general human decency. A Magnolia Pictures/Participant release. Executive produced by CNN Films, AGC Studios, and Time Studios.

DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD (Netflix)

Director, Kirsten Johnson

Logline: Dick Johnson is perhaps the most beloved grandpa in New York City. However, the retired psychiatrist is 86 and reaching his final years. As a catalyst to confront the inevitable, his daughter — award-winning documentarian Kirsten Johnson (*Cameraperson*) — devises an ingenious experiment: celebrate Dr. Johnson's life by staging fantasies of death and beyond. Utilizing moviemaking magic and their family's dark humor, dad and daughter confront the great inevitability awaiting us all.

GATHER (Illumine Films)

Director, Sanjay Rawal

Logline: Through poignant stories from tribes across the U.S., director Sanjay Rawal (*Food Chains*) explores the growing food sovereignty movement among Native Americans that is a direct response to the appropriation and decimation of their food and health and showcasing how Native Americans are reclaiming control of their ancestral food systems and in the process restoring their cultural well-being.

PUBLIC TRUST (Patagonia Films)

Director, David Garrett Byars

Executive Producers, Yvon Chouinard and Robert Redford

Logline: Focusing on the eminent destruction of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota, the downsizing of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, and the wholesale appropriation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, director David Garrett Byars enlists a slew of journalists, land historians, tribal leaders, and government whistleblowers to present a highly persuasive argument that is impossible to ignore and vital to hear. Above all else, as executive producer Robert Redford tells us, "*Public Trust* is the story of citizens who are fighting back. It's a much-needed wake-up call for all of us who want to preserve our unique and wild cultural heritage."

THE SOCIAL DILEMMA (Exposure Labs)

Director, Jeff Orlowski

Logline: Big Tech is listening, watching... and manipulating. In this timely, provocative new film, award-winning filmmaker Jeff Orlowski (*Chasing Coral, Chasing Ice*) sounds the alarm, calling for immediate individual and collective action while showcasing experts on the frontlines of these issues in a riveting story-driven approach that is bound to have far-reaching consequences. Surprisingly, the main critics are many of the very same engineers and tech executives who created these platforms in the first place.

SOCIALISM: AN AMERICAN STORY

Director, Yael Bridge

Logline: Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign brought unprecedented focus on the notion of socialism in the context of the United States. Since then, socialists have won seats in both houses of Congress while others equate socialism with the totalitarian regimes of South America. This thorough, thoughtful, and engaging film tracks the history of socialism in America and dispels many of the myths that are so often promulgated in public discourse.

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. 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 43rd year in 2020 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 engage 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 is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. Additionally, through [CFI Releasing](#), a national non-profit film distribution initiative, CFI enables filmmakers and sales agents to collaborate with U.S. independent exhibitors, giving nationwide audiences access to quality independent film and promoting this work as a valuable artistic and educational medium conveying different visions, viewpoints and cultural perspectives.

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, Project No. 9, Genuine Article Pictures, Vickie Soulier, The EACH Foundation, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Netflix, Teresa Wolf, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Jim Boyce Trust and Kris Otis, and the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media for their generous support of DocLands.

ABOUT VARIETY

Now celebrating its 115th year anniversary, *Variety* is the seminal voice of the entertainment industry. Featuring award-winning breaking news reporting, insightful award-season coverage, must-read feature spotlights and intelligent analysis of the industry's most prominent players, *Variety* is the trusted source for the business of global entertainment. Read by a highly engaged audience of industry insiders, *Variety's* multi-platform content coverage expands across digital, mobile, social, print and branded content, events and summits.

*In May 2019, Variety's "Actors on Actors" on PBS took home a Daytime Creative Arts Emmy award and has been awarded the Emmy for best entertainment programming at the 67th and 68th [Emmy Awards](#). "Actors on Actors," an interview special that features pairings of prominent actors discussing their craft, was produced by PBS SoCal in partnership with Variety Media, LLC. Follow *Variety* on Facebook [facebook.com/variety](https://www.facebook.com/variety); Twitter, [@variety](#); Instagram, [@Variety](#) The Variety Group – *Variety*, Variety.com, [Variety Insight](#), [Indiewire](#), – is owned by Variety Media, LLC, a division of Penske Media Corporation.*