

Press/Media Contact:
Shelley Spicer, California Film Institute
Director of Marketing & Publicity
415-526-5845 (o) | 415-269-5808 (m) | sspicer@cafilm.org
(The above number and email are not for publication)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALIFORNIA FILM INSTITUTE'S 5th ANNUAL
DOCLANDS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES 2021 DATES, MAY 6 – 17, 2021
SUBMISSIONS OPEN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

SAN RAFAEL, CA – Mark Fishkin, Founder/Executive Director of the California Film Institute and Founder/Director of the internationally known Mill Valley Film Festival, announced today that the 5th annual DocLands Documentary Film Festival will be held virtually Friday, May 7 – Sunday, May 16, 2021.

With the extended dates of May 7-16, the 2021 Festival will reflect and build upon the structure and innovations introduced during the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, while being responsive and respectful of the public health situation. This flexibility means planning for an accessible and inclusive virtual Festival, with the possibility of limited in-theater screenings available while maintaining virtual access to those unable or unwilling to travel. We will continue to deliver a Festival that engages our members and patrons, supports filmmakers, and our valued partners, while also serving to bolster the documentary film community.

No matter what form screenings and conversations take moving forward, DocLands encourages the exchange of ideas and inspiration through public screenings, engaged conversations, in-development documentary project pitching, and grassroots networking events. All programs exist 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 filmmaking.

Submissions for the 2021 Festival opened, Wednesday, November 4, 2020 for new works in documentary features (60+ minutes), mid length films, and shorts. Filmmakers can submit a film for consideration via upload through FilmFreeway. No DVDs or external links will be considered. Filmmakers are responsible for providing an exhibition-quality file or, if in-theatre screenings are possible, a DCP or 35mm print only.

- **NOVEMBER 4, 2020 – SUBMISSIONS OPEN**
- **FEBRUARY 1, 2021 – EARLY DEADLINE**
- **FEBRUARY 12, 2021 – FINAL DEADLINE**

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 and engaged conversations, DocLands aims to bring diverse communities together for dialogue, and 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 planet.
- **WonderLands** lifts our spirits through stories of joy, wonder, and possibility.

About California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CFI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting film as art and education with a diverse series of annual programs, including the presentation of the internationally acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival, celebrating its 43rd year in 2020 and the documentary film festival DocLands; building the next generation of young filmmakers and audiences through CFI Education, featuring a broad range of activities, 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 for all Bay Area students and lifetime learners. Year-round, CFI acts as a film-centric town hall with a varied calendar of programming at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theaters in the US, celebrating and promoting the art of storytelling through film. 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 members, sponsors, foundations, and individual donors ensures our continued success. For more information visit cafilm.org

Supporters | DocLands

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.

###

Social Media

#Doclands

Instagram: @doclands

Twitter: @doc_lands

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/doclandsfestival>