

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DOCLANDS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL  
TO HONOR ACCLAIMED FILMMAKER  
DAWN PORTER**

**FESTIVAL TO PRESENT CALIFORNIA PREMIERE OF PORTER'S  
NEW GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY THE LADY BIRD DIARIES**

**THURSDAY, MAY 11 @ 6:30 PM**



SAN RAFAEL, CA – Critically acclaimed director Dawn Porter will be honored during the 2023 DocLands Documentary Film Festival, for her commitment to exploring controversial issues and inspiring conversations about her varying subjects. Known for her timely commentary on numerous subjects with social and political relevance, Porter joins us for a conversation, where she will delve into her craft as a documentarian, focusing on the original and insightful perspective she brings to each of her films. Through her lens, she gives us a glimpse into the life and times and importance of some of the most remarkable American artists, politicians, humanitarians, and social justice activists of our times.

The DocLands Honors Award is presented to a filmmaker or filmmaking team to recognize exceptional storytelling within the documentary genre, artists whose films resonate universally, emphasizing our shared humanity – no matter the subject.

Included with the Honors conversation is a screening of her most recent documentary, *The Lady Bird Diaries*. A groundbreaking all-archival documentary film about Lady Bird Johnson, one of the most influential and least understood First Ladies. The feature film looks at the 123 hours of personal and revealing audio diaries that Lady Bird recorded during her husband's administration. The film reveals Lady Bird as an astute observer of character and culture and a savvy political strategist. It recasts her crucial role in LBJ's presidency and brings viewers behind the scenes of one of the most tumultuous and consequential periods in modern American history.

**About Dawn Porter**

Dawn Porter has emerged in the entertainment industry as a leader in the art of storytelling; directing and producing critically acclaimed films and series. A two-time Sundance film festival director, Porter's work has been featured on HBO, Netflix, CNN, PBS, MSNBC, ESPN, Discovery, National Geographic, and others. Porter's latest film, "The Lady Bird Diaries," an all-archival documentary about Lady Bird Johnson will have its California premiere at DocLands following its debut at the 2023 SXSW Film Festival. Her next project "Supreme," is a four-part docuseries, exploring the history of the United States Supreme Court, the justices,

decisions, and confirmation battles that have shaped America. Other current projects include the next installment of the historic civil rights documentary series “Eyes on the Prize” for HBO. Additional credits include “The Me You Can’t See” (Apple TV+), “Rise Again: Tulsa and the Red Summer” (National Geographic), “The Way I See It” (Focus Features, MSNBC), “John Lewis: Good Trouble” (CNN, Magnolia Pictures), “37 Words” (ESPN), “Un(re)solved” (Frontline PBS), and “Gideon’s Army” (HBO).

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#### **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, networking and pitching events, and engaged conversations, DocLands aims to bring diverse communities together for dialogue and to build an active, inclusive, and fully supportive community around documentary film and is 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 (CAFILM) 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, DocLands Documentary Film Festival, and the ongoing cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CAFILM Education. CAFILM Education features a broad range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions, seminars with top international & local filmmakers and industry professionals, and a rich program of classes and hands-on workshops. Additionally, CAFILM 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 CAFILM to touch 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain and address a breadth of social, environmental, and cultural issues. CAFILM is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. CAFILM relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs; the invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, individual donors, and members ensures our continued success. For more information, visit [cafilm.org](http://cafilm.org).

#### **Supporters | DocLands**

CFI is proud to acknowledge Vickie Soulier, the Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, Project No. 9, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Jackson Square Partners, Jim Boyce Trust and Kris Otis, Community Action Marin, AC San Rafael Marriott, and the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media for their generous support of DOCLANDS. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following DocPitch supporters Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation and Resonance Philanthropies.

Social Media

**#Doclands**

Instagram: @doclands

Twitter: @doc\_lands

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

#### **For Calendar Editors:**

DocLands Documentary Film Festival

Wednesday, May 10 - Sunday, May 14, 2023

Location: Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA 94901

#### **Tickets On Sale Date**

Individual Tickets

CAFILM Members – Thursday, April 6 – Sunday, April 9

General Public – Monday, April 10 at Noon

General admission: \$16.50

Seniors (65+): \$15.00

CAFILM members: \$14.00

Students (valid ID): \$8.00

Youth (12 & under): \$8.00

How to purchase tickets

**ONLINE** – [doclands.com](http://doclands.com)

**IN PERSON** – at the Rafael Box Office - Hours:

- April 6 – May 9: Open during regular Smith Rafael Film Center hours
- May 10-14: Open 60 min. before the first show to 15 min. after the start of the last show.

Save time and skip Will Call! Select the Print-at-Home option when purchasing tickets online; either present your printed tickets at the theater or show them on your mobile device.