

DOCLANDS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Documentary Filmmaking

Thursday, May 2 – Sunday, May 5, 2024

Location for all Screenings: **Smith Rafael Film Center • 1118 4th Street, San Rafael, CA**

FULL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED



(San Rafael, CA) April 2, 2024 – Mark Fishkin, Executive Director/Founder of the California Film Institute, and Joni Cooper, DocLands Director of Programming, are delighted to unveil the lineup for the DocLands Documentary Film Festival, returning Thursday, May 2 – Sunday, May 5, 2024. Featuring captivating world premieres, including **From Here/From There (De Aquí/De Allá)**, **I Hope This Helps!**, **Make A Circle**, and **Not Just A Goof**, alongside the anticipated North American Premiere of **Living with Wolves** and the US premieres of **500 Days in The Wild** and **Hunt for the Oldest DNA**, this year's festival promises an unforgettable cinematic experience.

"We are so excited to present 25 exceptional feature films from filmmakers worldwide at the 2024 DocLands Documentary Film Festival. Documentary filmmaking is more relevant than ever, covering a spectrum of topics from joy to the most pressing issues of our time," said Mark Fishkin, Founder/Executive Director at The California Film Institute (CAFILM). "The DocLands lineup is set to entertain, inspire, and leave a lasting impact. Join us for an unforgettable experience."

Providing attendees with the opportunity to interact with industry professionals and fellow film enthusiasts, the event will include engaging Q&A sessions with filmmakers, an enlightening DocTalk panel discussion, and special events, including DocLands Education's DocShorts, a free community screening at the Multicultural Center of Marin. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, April 3, for CAFILM members and Saturday, April 6, for the public.

DOCLANDS FULL PROGRAM

Opening Night Film – SKYWALKERS: A LOVE STORY

Bay Area Premiere Thursday, May 2 @ 6:30 PM

In Person: Directors **Jeff Zimbalist** and **Maria Bukhonina**

Opening Night Party will be held at 1312 Mission Avenue, San Rafael

Special Musical Performance Highlight – FROM HERE/ FROM THERE (DE AQUÍ/DE ALLÁ)

World Premiere Friday, May 3 @ 7:00 PM

In Person: Writer/Director **Marlene "Mo" Morris**; Producers **Jed Riff** and **Nicole Solis-Sison**; and Film Protagonist **Luis Cortes Romero**

Adding to the evening's excitement, Bay Area Rapper Deuce ECLIPSE, the creative force behind the film's closing song, will deliver an energetic live performance. Known for his dynamic blend of bilingual lyricism and cultural influences, Deuce ECLIPSE draws inspiration from his Nicaraguan roots and the rich tapestry of the vibrant spirit of the San Francisco Bay Area and the global hip-hop communities.

Closing Night Film – 500 DAYS IN THE WILD

US Premiere Saturday, May 4 @ 6:00 PM

In Person: Director **Dianne Whelan** and Film Protagonists **Louisa Robinson** and **Jenica Vanelli**

Closing Night Reception will be held at Lotus Cuisine of India in San Rafael.

DocTalk – Finding Your Documentary Form: What Comes First

Sunday, May 5 @ 10:30 AM at the MFR (adjacent to the theater)

Documentaries take different forms, and depending on the genesis of a film, the form can vary immensely. What comes first: the topic, an idea, or a character?

Unlike in film school, where documentaries are typically labeled, we select films based on our interests. However, a filmmaker's chosen mode and approach can elevate a film from 'good' to 'outstanding.' Whether it's through expository or participatory narration, observational or performative techniques, or a blend of these styles, these choices shape the film's impact. Join us for a casual conversation as we explore the choices some of this year's filmmakers have made to bring us their outstanding films!

Panelists:

- ◆ Lucas Guilkey, JoeBill Muñoz, *The Strike*
- ◆ Stephanie Johnes, *Maya and The Wave*
- ◆ Yuqi Kang, *7 Beats Per Minute*
- ◆ John Rubin, *Hunt for The Oldest DNA*
- ◆ Dianne Whelan, *500 Days in The Wild*

DocPitch – Fundraising Forum

The highly anticipated return of the California Film Institute's virtual documentary pitching forum, DocPitch, marks its eighth year at the DocLands Documentary Film Festival. Generously supported by the Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation and Resonance Philanthropies, DocPitch is set to empower independent documentary filmmakers by awarding cash prizes totaling **\$100,000**. These awards aim to facilitate the advancement of feature-length documentary projects (70+ min.) currently in various stages of development, ranging from early to late stages of completion.

The filmmaker pitches will debut globally on Monday, April 15, at 10:00 AM (PT). Audiences worldwide can view and cast their votes for the Audience Award until Wednesday, May 1 at 11:59 PM (PT). Four Industry Awards and one Audience Award, totaling \$100,000 in prize money, will be announced on Saturday, May 4.

DocLands Education

The CAFILM Education team is thrilled to announce the 8th annual DocLands Education Program, offering free live and virtual field trips for students across the Bay Area and across the country. Paired with discussion guides, lesson plans, and film analysis toolkits, DocLands Education aims to seamlessly integrate documentary films into classroom curricula. From May 2nd and 3rd, we'll host in-person screenings and filmmaker conversations. They are complemented by online screenings and discussions for schools nationwide from April 29th to May 3rd. Also returning this year is the highly popular Filmmakers Go to School program, which facilitates live, in-depth discussions between students and filmmakers, both in Bay Area classrooms and virtually via Zoom. **New** this year is the FREE DocLands Education Community Screening, DocShorts, being held Friday, May 3rd, at 7:00 PM at the Multi-Cultural Center in San Rafael. Co-presented by TAY Radio and the Multi-Cultural Center of Marin, the program promises an engaging cinematic experience with five short films suitable for ages 13 and above. From the intimacy of a San Francisco backyard to the vibrant commemoration of a drag queen's legacy, the DocShorts encapsulates a rich tapestry of narratives, exploring the lives of community leaders, intricate family dynamics, and the resilience of iconic family businesses. Featuring predominantly Bay Area filmmakers, each film showcases distinct styles marked by bold directorial voices. **Small Steps, Big Future** (Luca Capponi, US 2023, 17 min // contains references to domestic violence) delves into the dynamic world of a bilingual preschool, while **I Would've Been Happy** (Jordan Wong, US 2023, 9 min) brings domestic spaces to life through animation. **BENKYODO: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town** (Tadashi Nakamura, Akira Boch, US 2023, 16 min) bids farewell to a 115-year-old family establishment. **Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens** (Kristal Sotomayor, US 2024, 9 min) pays homage to a legendary New Hope drag queen, and **"To Be Invisible"** (Myah Overstreet, US 2023, 25 min) embarks on a poignant journey of mothers striving to reunite with their children. These compelling short films serve as powerful windows into diverse realities, offering a profound appreciation for the unique artistry of documentary filmmaking suitable for ages 13 and above. In-person will be directors Luca Capponi (*Small Steps, Big Future*), Tadashi Nakamura, Akira Boch (*BENKYODO: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town*), Kristal Sotomayor (*Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens*), and Myah Overstreet (*To Be Invisible*)

FULL PROGRAM FEATURE FILMS (Listed in Alphabetical Order)

7 BEATS PER MINUTE – West Coast Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 5:45 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Director: Yuqi Kang | Canada 2024 • 100 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

Language: In English and Mandarin with English Subtitles

*In Person: Director **Yuqi Kang***

During a world-record attempt, freediving champion Jessea Lu blacked out and was lifeless for four minutes. Director Yuqi Kang's documentary captures the descent of a lifetime when Jessea returns to the site of her near-death experience to face the traumas of her past and find a way back to connection.

399: QUEEN OF THE TETONS – West Coast Premiere

Screening: **Friday, May 3 @ 4:15 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Director: Elizabeth Leiter | US 2023 • 87 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

*In Person: Director **Elizabeth Leiter***

Known only by her research number, Grizzly 399 has captivated photographers since 2007, becoming the most famous — and photographed — mother bear in the world. The film follows 399 as she struggles to raise an unusually large litter in the face of human encroachment, a rapidly changing climate, and disputes over her Endangered Species protections.

500 DAYS IN THE WILD – US Premiere (Closing Night Film)

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 6:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Dianne Whelan | Canada 2023 • 120 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

*In Person: Director **Dianne Whelan**, Film Protagonists **Louisa Robinson, Jenica Vanelli***

In August 2021, after a 6-year journey, filmmaker **Dianne Whelan** became the first person to travel the 24,000 km of the Trans Canada Trail—the longest trail in the world. *500 Days in the Wild* weaves adventure, personal reflections, and stunning captures of wildlife and landscapes.

AGENT OF HAPPINESS

Screening: **Friday, May 3 @ 3:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Directors: Arun Bhattarai, Dorottya Zurbó | Bhutan 2024 • 94 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

Language: In Nepali, Dzongkha, and English with English subtitles

How can you measure happiness? The country of Bhutan invented Gross National Happiness to do just that, and Amber is one of the agents who travels door to door to meet people and measure how happy they really are. He is still living with his elderly mother at the age of 40 but is nevertheless a hopeless romantic who dreams of finding love: a happiness agent who is in search of his own happiness. We embark with Amber on a cross-country road trip meeting citizens from all walks of life, reminding us of the fragility and beauty of our own happiness. No matter where we live.

THE BODY POLITIC – West Coast Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 3:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Director: Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough | US 2023 • 90 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

*In Person: Director **Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough**, Film Protagonist **Erricka Bridgeford***

Like many areas in the United States, the City of Baltimore has been plagued by gun violence. Amid the George Floyd uprising, Brandon Scott, a young reform-minded leader, is elected mayor. His hope is to lower violence in the city with a new public health-focused approach rather than relying only on policing as he feels others have done. With unfettered access, cameras follow him and his team of young leaders throughout their first year in city hall, unveiling an ambitious plan to lower the city's murder rate. When opposition mounts, his commitment to his principles puts his political future in jeopardy. *Will his holistic approach lead to healing and serve as a blueprint for the rest of the nation?*

DAUGHTERS – California Premiere

Screening: **Friday, May 3 @ 6:15 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Directors: Angela Patton and Natalie Rae | US 2024 • 102 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

*In Person: Director **Natalie Rae***

A moving lesson in empathy and forgiveness, *Daughters* is a result of an eight-year documentary journey that filmmaker Natalie Rae and Angela Patton, an activist advocating for “at-promise” girls, embarked

upon. As Aubrey, Santana, Raziah, and Ja'Ana get ready for the special event, they speak candidly about their hopes, dreams, and disappointments. There is an innate wisdom and honesty to what they share about their dads' inconsistent presence; an awareness far beyond their years. *Daughters* meaningfully challenges many stereotypes around incarceration and serves as a poignant reminder that maintaining family bonds can be both healing and empowering. We get to witness a lot of joy, but in keeping with the film's vérité style, Rae and Patton don't shy away from more challenging moments, including heartbreak, skepticism, reluctance to engage, and anger. But then comes a classic dad joke, and the mood shifts again.

FROM HERE/FROM THERE (DE AQUÍ/DE ALLÁ) – World Premiere

Screening: **Friday, May 3 @ 7:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Director: Marlene “Mo” Morris | US 2024 • 66 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

In Person: Writer/Director **Marlene “Mo” Gale Morris**; Producers **Jed Riffe, Nicole Solis-Sison**; Protagonist **Luis Cortes Romero** + **Live performance by Bay Area Rapper Deuce ECLIPSE, the creative force behind the film's closing song.**

When the Trump administration abruptly threatens to deport 700,000 fellow Dreamers, charismatic attorney Luis Cortes Romero fights back, co-piloting an A-Team of lawyers who take their case all the way to the Supreme Court, making the tattooed homeboy, raised in Redwood City, CA, the first undocumented immigrant to argue before the nation's highest court. Accompanied by vibrant animation and an original score reflecting Luis's code-switching identity, *From Here/From There (De Aquí De Allá)* interweaves the journey of the case with the remarkable story of Cortes Romero and his close-knit family. Their ties nearly snap under the stains of personal tragedies, but they survive to rejoice together when Luis triumphs at the Supreme Court. Set for release amidst this volatile election year and ongoing DACA threats, this timely documentary is more urgent than ever, serving as a poignant reminder of the pressing need for immigration reform. Luis's narrative, marked by family resilience and unwavering determination, promises to inspire audiences to stand up for justice in the face of adversity.

GIANTS RISING – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 3:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Lisa Landers | US 2023 • 80 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

In Person: Director **Lisa Landers**; Film Protagonists **Rosie Clayburn** (Yurok Tribe), **Zane Moore** (Redwood Geneticist), and **Sarah Bird** (Photographer)

Telling the epic tale of California's majestic redwoods, *Giants Rising* transports viewers into the heart of some of the most rare and remote forests. The tallest and among the oldest living beings on Earth, these trees are a gateway to experiencing an unparalleled sense of awe and connection. Living links to the past, redwoods also hold superpowers that may play a key role in our future – including their ability to withstand fire and capture carbon, to offer clues about resilience and longevity, and to enhance our physical and emotional well-being. Through the voices of scientists, artists, Native communities and others, the film reveals the wonder and plight of these awe-inspiring forests, offering insights that could help sustain us all. *Giants Rising will be preceded by the short film Fire Poppy*

FIRE POPPY

Director: Sashwa Burrous | US 2023 • 11 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

THE FIRE POPPY is a portrait of MYSTERY RANCH ambassador Sasha Berleman. This short film explores her enduring relationship with fire and delves into her evolving perspective, from seeing fire as a threat to developing a deep interest in it and eventually recognizing it as a valuable tool. As a steward of the land, Sasha has gained valuable insights into how fire can be harnessed to promote land health, and she has come to understand its importance for certain plants like the Fire Poppy, which depend on it for growth.

HAPPY CLOTHES: A FILM ABOUT PATRICIA FIELD – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Friday, May 3 @ 7:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Michael Selditch | US 2023 • 100 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

In Person: Director **Michael Selditch**

Carrie Bradshaw's tutu. Miranda Priestly's hair. Betty Suarez's red-framed glasses. Even if you haven't heard of Patricia Field, there is no doubt you're deeply familiar with her legendary designs. *Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field* takes a deep dive into the storied life of this iconic costume designer. Take a walk down memory lane with Field and her endless list of friends, team members, and

collaborators to see how some of the most memorable film and television costumes came to life. Featuring interviews with television fan favorites Lily Collins (*Emily in Paris*), Kim Cattrall (*Sex and the City*), Michael Urie (*Ugly Betty*), Darren Star (creator of *Sex and the City* and *Emily in Paris*), and more, this film delves behind the scenes with Field and uncovers the thought process behind her designs. Watch as she recalls incredible stories, from employing Daphne Rubin-Vega, Laverne Cox, and other NYC nightlife stars in the retail store she operated for 50 years; to her early patronage of Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat, who sold their designs in the back of her store; to receiving an Oscar nomination as the costume designer for *The Devil Wears Prada*.

HOMEcomings (Máhccan) – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 12:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Directors: Suvi West and Anssi Kõmi | Finland 2023 • 77 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

Language: In Finnish with English subtitles

The film is set in the Museum world in a turning point, where the national museums have to deal with their colonialistic history. The National Museum of Finland returned thousands of everyday objects taken from the indigenous Sámi people back to them. Filmmaker Suvi West takes the audience behind the scenes of the museum world, revealing a visual, philosophical, and spiritual realm. She seeks a connection with ancestors through old museum objects, eventually arriving at the collective pain points of the Sámi people. How can the damage caused by outsiders be repaired so that collective pains can be left behind? *Homecomings will be preceded by the short film Ellavut Cimirtuq (Our World is Changing)*

ELLAVUT CIMIRTUQ (Our World is Changing)

Directors: Mischa Hedges, Jacqueline Cleveland, and Sonia Luukkala | US 2023 • 30 min. | Strand: Art of Impact

In Person: Director **Mischa Hedges**

Many coastal villages in Alaska are under imminent threat from thawing permafrost, sea-level rise and erosion. The accelerated retreat of Arctic Sea ice has left shorelines unfrozen and exposed. In Southwest Alaska, the thawing permafrost reveals a significant archaeological site, frozen in time. As the community of Quinhagak races to save the artifacts from being washed away into the Bering Sea, Yupik filmmaker Jacqueline Cleveland explores how a distant past rewrites narratives of change and adaptation. As the village pioneers a new model of community archaeology, the artifacts reawaken connections with language, art, and ways of life, while the warming climate alters the very ground that shaped them.

HUNT FOR THE OLDEST DNA – US Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 2:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Director: Niobe Thompson | Canada 2024 • 90 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

In Person: Executive Producer **John Rubin**

For decades, scientists have tried to unlock the secrets of ancient DNA. But life's genetic blueprint is incredibly fragile, and researchers have struggled to find DNA in fossils that could survive millions of years. Then, one maverick scientist had the controversial idea to look for DNA not in fossils or frozen ancient tissue – but in dirt. Join the hunt as scientists decipher the oldest DNA ever found and reveal for the first time the genes of long-extinct creatures that once thrived in a warm, lush Arctic.

I HOPE THIS HELPS! – World Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 4:45 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Director: Daniel M. Freed | US 2023 • 51 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

In Person: Director **Daniel Freed**, DP **Brendan Hubbard**, Editor **Josh Bowen**

Daniel Freed is a man who is convinced that artificial intelligence is going to destroy humanity. He attempts to finance, recruit, and train an army to defeat AI in the coming human-machine war. Ironically, he uses AI to help him do all this. *I Hope This Helps! will be preceded by the short film The Shit-thropocene*

THE SHIT-THROPOCENE

Director: David Garrett Byars | US 2024 • 40 min. | Strand: Art of Impact

The Shit-thropocene (a play on the word, Anthropocene) is characterized by a world that has just gone to shit. Join us on a wild and wacky journey through time as we delve into the history of just how the eff we got here.

LIVING WITH WOLVES (Vivre avec les loups) – North American Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 12:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Jean-Michel Bertrand | France 2023 • 89 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

Language: In French with English subtitles

After disappearing for almost 80 years, wolves are gradually repopulating Europe. Man will have to learn to live and cohabit with these mysterious yet dangerous animals.

After living alongside a community of wolves, Jean-Michel Bertrand embarks on a fascinating cinematic quest through European forests, during which he'll make some surprising encounters.

A sensitive and naturalistic reflection that leads us to perceive differently both the nature that surrounds us and the cohabitation between humans and the wild animals that inhabit it, which has become a worldwide concern. *Living with Wolves will be preceded by the short film Way of the Shepherd*

WAY OF THE SHEPHERD

Director: Matthew Boyd | US 2023 • 9 min. | Strand: The Great Outdoors

Language: In Spanish with English subtitles

In Person: Director **Matthew Boyd**

Unable to secure sustainable work in his native Peru, Christian Cordova Aliaga sacrifices years away from his family to provide a better life for them. With two fearless Border Collies and a massive herd of goats, he roams the land conducting wildfire mitigation with an old-world, natural approach to vegetation management. In his journey, he shares not only a commitment to nature and the animals he tends to but also the enduring pursuit of a better life for his loved ones.

MAKE A CIRCLE – World Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 3:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Directors: Jen Bradwell, Todd Boekelheid | US 2024 • 90 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

In Person: Director **Jen Bradwell, Todd Boekelheide**, Producer **Rebekah Fergusson**

MAKE A CIRCLE is a character-driven documentary that follows the directors and teachers at three childcare centers in California over several years. Emerging from the pandemic, this ensemble of educators is determined to change how society values the education of its youngest citizens. MAKE A CIRCLE captures the unfolding stories of Patricia, a leader of the California child care workers union, as she fights on behalf of a mostly immigrant workforce; Charlotte, another union member who tirelessly lifts up the low-income families in her care; and Anne, the director of a large preschool, who finds novel ways to value and support her teachers when jobs at Starbucks are offering higher pay. The film culminates as thousands of childcare union members march on the California state capitol demanding better working conditions resulting in an unlikely, inspiring victory for the providers on the day their contract is set to expire. Weaving together the magic they create in the classroom, the struggles they endure at home, and their drive to change the system for the better, MAKE A CIRCLE is a moving portrait of life as an early childhood educator and a rallying cry for a childcare system in crisis.

MARRIED TO COMICS – California Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 6:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Director: John Kinhart | US 2023 • 114 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

In Person: Director **John Kinhart**

A rare glimpse into the life and art of two giants of autobiographical comics, who are also married. Laying their personal lives to bare in comics, including the intimate details of their troubled marriage, Justin Green and Carol Tyler pioneered and set the bar for one of comics' most important genres. In 1972, during the height of the Underground Comix movement in San Francisco, Justin changed the course of comics with his magnum opus, Binky Brown Meets The Holy Virgin Mary, about growing up Catholic with OCD. It was one of the earliest examples of an autobiographical comic and immediately influenced Art Spiegelman and Robert Crumb to create their own autobiographical work, inspiring thousands more. After reading Binky, Carol was drawn to San Francisco and to Justin, sparking a romance and marriage. For years Carol worked to distinguish herself in comics and to get out of her husband's shadow. But when their marriage is put to the ultimate test, they separate, and Carol forges a path to her own comic masterpiece, Soldier's Heart. But can the marriage survive their troubled past? Married to Comics is a riveting documentary that is a testament to the power of autobiographical omics and the resilience of love.

MAYA AND THE WAVE – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 12:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Stephanie Johns | US 2022 • 100 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

Language: In English and Portuguese with English subtitles

In Person: Director **Stephanie Johns**, Executive Producer **Julian Cautherley**

Maya Gabeira, from Rio de Janeiro, is the #1 female big wave surfer in the world. She's the first woman to attempt to surf the infamous big wave in Nazaré, Portugal, and nearly drowns. In the following years, Maya undergoes three spine surgeries and weathers a psychological breakdown. Maya has the blood of a rebel. Her father is legendary activist and politician, Fernando Gabeira. With the same radical spirit, Maya endures - and succeeds. On January 18, 2018 an unprecedented storm approaches Nazaré and Maya surfs the biggest wave a woman has ever surfed. She fights for recognition and becomes the first female surfer honored with a Guinness Book World Record. Two years later, Maya is the first woman to compete in the men's division of a big wave competition. She surfs the biggest wave of the year (73.5 feet), breaking her previous world record. In the footsteps of Billie Jean King, Maya has achieved a rare moment in sports – outperforming all men to show the world that women are capable of anything.

NOT JUST A GOOF – World Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 11:15 AM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Directors: Christopher Ninness, Eric Kimelton | US 2024 • 88 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

In Person: Directors **Christopher Ninness**, **Eric Kimelton**, Film Protagonist **Kevin Lima**, Producer **Scott**

Seibold, Writer **Mason Trueblood**, Composer **Cameron Chambers**

"Not Just A Goof" unveils the untold story of Disney's "A Goofy Movie," tracing the underdog team's journey from initial disappointment to a surprising comeback two decades later. Through interviews and rare footage, the film showcases the behind-the-scenes challenges and victories that led to making it a cult classic for Disney fans and millennials alike.

REVIVAL69: THE CONCERT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 6:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Director: Ron Chapman | Canada, France 2022 • 97 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

In Person: Director **Ron Chapman**

REVIVAL69: The Concert That Rocked the World, is the remarkable, behind-the-scenes story of how a little known, but life-altering music festival came together — against all odds. Young, scrappy concert promoter John Brower puts his life on the line (literally) to turn his failing Toronto Rock n Roll Revival into a one-day event, later coined in rock mythology as “the second most important event in rock n’ roll history.” And it almost didn't happen. The festival united rock legends and the most famous, but it was the 11th-hour arrival of John Lennon and the Plastic Ono Band that ignited a truly seminal moment for the 20,000 fans at Toronto's Varsity Stadium, triggering Lennon's final decision to leave the Beatles forever.

SEND KELP! – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 3:45 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Director: Blake McWilliam | Canada 2024 • 90 Minutes | Strand: The Great Outdoors

Frances Ward, a self-professed “Seaweed Nerd” and adventurer, is about to give up everything she's built in her life to start a kelp farm off the west coast of Canada. *Send Kelp!* follows Frances on an odyssey that brings her into the vast oceans of the Pacific where she intends to build one of the first farms of its kind in British Columbia. But to coax a crop from the wild Pacific, she'll need help from scientists, wild harvesters, and entrepreneurs who know the challenges and astonishing potential of this miraculous organism. And along the way, she'll find a glimmer of the hope that seaweed might provide not only for our planet, but for her, too. Combining breathtaking underwater cinematography (think, *My Octopus Teacher*) with a fun, quirky cast of characters, *Send Kelp!* explores many remarkable surprises about this game-changing organism and how it, along with the efforts of entrepreneurs like Frances, just might help change the world.

SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER – California Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 12:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Directors: Abby Ginzberg, Christy Carpenter | US 2024 • 78 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

In Person: Directors **Abby Ginzberg** and **Christy Carpenter**

A captivating story of an extraordinary woman, **SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER** provides an intimate look at the trailblazing career and influential life of journalist, author, humorist, political activist, and proud Texan Liz Carpenter. Carpenter served as chief of staff/press secretary for Lady Bird Johnson and was an inspirational leader for the women's movement. From the JFK assassination to campaigning for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, Liz Carpenter experienced and helped shape some of the most vivid moments and movements of the 20th century. Directors Christy Carpenter and Abby Ginzberg weave candid modern-day interviews with Dan Rather, Bill Moyers, Gloria Steinem, Luci Johnson, and more, with archival footage that reveals Liz's enduring passion for shaking things up in the battle for equal rights and human progress.

SKYWALKERS: A LOVE STORY – Bay Area Premiere (Opening Night Film)

Screening: **Thursday, May 2 @ 6:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #1**

Directors: Jeff Zimbalist, Maria Bukhonina | US 2023 • 99 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

*In Person: Directors **Jeff Zimbalist** and **Maria Bukhonina***

To save their career and their relationship in wartime, a Russian couple endeavor to illegally climb the world's last super skyscraper and perform a daring acrobatic stunt on the spire. Filmed over six years across six countries, **SKYWALKERS** uses extreme climbing as a metaphor for romantic relationships, ultimately compelling us to choose love on the most epic scale.

THE STRIKE – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 7:15 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Directors: Lucas Guilkey, JoeBill Muñoz | US 2024 • 86 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

*In Person: Directors **Lucas Guilkey** and **JoeBill Muñoz***

The Strike is a feature documentary that tells the story of a generation of California men who endured decades of solitary confinement and, against all odds, launched the largest hunger strike in U.S. history.

SUGARCANE

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 12:45 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #3**

Directors: Julian Brave Noisecat, Emily Kassie | US 2023 • 107 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

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

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY OWN – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Saturday, May 4 @ 2:00 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Directors: Peter Ringbom, Marquise Stillwell | US, Sweden 2023 • 97 Minutes | Strand: Wonderlands

Chewing-gum sculptures, a wealthy gallerist, a firebrand wrestler, a notorious murder case and the segregated south – it's all part of Nellie Mae Rowe's boundless universe. *This World is Not My Own* reimagines this self-taught artist's world and her life spanning the 20th century.

WILDING – Bay Area Premiere

Screening: **Sunday, May 5 @ 5:30 PM // Rafael • Auditorium #2**

Director: David Allen | UK 2023 • 75 Minutes | Strand: Art of Impact

Based on Isabella Tree's best-selling book by the same title, *Wilding* tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. The young couple battles entrenched tradition and dares to place the fate of their farm in the hands of nature. Ripping down the fences, they set the land back to the wild and entrust its recovery to a motley mix of animals both tame and wild. It is the beginning of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe. *Wilding will be preceded by the short film **A Symphony of Tiny Lights***

A SYMPHONY OF TINY LIGHTS

Directors: Dominic Gill, Nadia Gill | US 2023 • 27 min. | Strand: Art of Impact

*In Person: Directors **Dominic Gill, Nadia Gill**, Film Protagonist **John Francis***

Nagged by his conscience after witnessing an oil spill in the San Francisco Bay, John Francis, known the world over as 'Planetwalker', gave up motorized vehicles, took a vow of silence, earned a Ph.D., and roamed the country for decades, spreading kindness without ever uttering a single word.

For Calendar Editors:

DocLands Documentary Film Festival

In-person at the **Smith Rafael Film Center** in San Rafael, 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA 94901
May 2 – 5, 2024

Tickets:

On-sale to CAFILM members Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 PM (PT)

On-sale to General Public Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 AM (PT)

\$16.50 general | \$14 CAFILM member | \$15 senior (65+) |

\$8.00 Students (with ID) | \$8.00 Youth (12 & under)

Opening Night • **Film Only \$25 general | \$20 CAFILM member**
Film & Party \$45 general | \$40 CAFILM member

Closing Night • **Film Only \$25 general | \$20 CAFILM member**
Film & Reception \$45 general | \$40 CAFILM member

Social Media

#DocLands2024

Facebook: @doclandsfestival @californiafilminstitute

Instagram: @doclands @cafilm

Twitter: @doc_lands @cafilminstitute

About DocLands

DocLands Documentary Film Festival, presented by the California Film Institute, is a vibrant celebration of nonfiction storytelling held annually in Marin County, California. Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through captivating screenings, networking, and engaging conversations, DocLands strives to foster dialogue, inspire connections, and build an inclusive community around the art of documentary filmmaking. DocLands aims to illuminate filmmakers' diverse perspectives and ignite a passion for exploring real-world issues by showcasing compelling stories and the thought-provoking insights behind them. Join us as we embark on a journey to discover, connect, and celebrate the power of documentary cinema.

About DocLands Sections

- **Art of Impact:** Experience stories that illuminate the diverse cultures, politics, and personal narratives shaping our global community.
- **The Great Outdoors:** Journey outside to explore and appreciate the beauty of our environment, compelling us to protect and conserve our planet's natural wonders.
- **WonderLands:** Discover stories of joy, wonder, and possibility that uplift and inspire audiences.

About the California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing film and media arts through acclaimed programs like the Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival. With CAFILM Education, we provide students of all ages with opportunities to learn about the world through the art of film and filmmaking. Our premier independent theater, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, engages over 275,000 guests annually with compelling cinema and storytelling on pressing social, environmental, and cultural issues. Additionally, CAFILM now owns and operates the Sequoia Cinema, reinforcing our commitment to preserving cinematic heritage and access to fine films locally. The organization relies on the generosity of its community; the invaluable support from our sponsors, foundations, donors, and members ensures our ability to continue expanding and sustaining our vital programs. Join us in celebrating, exploring, and championing the art of film. For more information, visit cafilm.org.

Supporters | DocLands

CAFILM is proud to acknowledge the Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Vickie Soulier, Resonance Philanthropies, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Jackson Square Partners, Jim Boyce Trust and Kris Otis, Downtown San Rafael Arts District, 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.