



## AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY ANNUAL GALA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018

**AMDOC**  
American Documentary

# POV

PBS Proudly Supports  
**Bold Documentaries**  
with a **Point of View**

**AMDOC**  
American Documentary

ANNUAL AMDOC GALA 2018



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## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Fledgling Fund  
Hartley Media Initiative at Auburn Seminary  
The Pritzker Pucker Family Foundation  
Rogovy Foundation

# 2018 AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY ANNUAL GALA

## PROGRAMME

6:30 P.M. VIP PRE-RECEPTION

7:30 P.M. GALA FUNDRAISER

8:30 P.M. REMARKS

## GOLD SPONSOR

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Wafels & Dinges

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the Annual American Documentary Gala! We love moments when independent filmmakers and public media believers can gather together and celebrate their achievements. There are few pairs in media better suited for each other, and I'm so happy to celebrate that strong bond tonight.

A year after celebrating the 30th anniversary season of our PBS series POV, we've kept ourselves busy. Since January, we've launched two field-building initiatives. We kicked off with the Knight AmDoc Patron fund on Kickstarter, partnering with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to fund documentary filmmakers working in 26 small and mid-size cities across the country. We also started the Artist Emergency Fund, providing emergency financial assistance to filmmakers facing unexpected personal calamities. Special thanks to the Chicago Media Project, Sage Foundation and Genuine Article Pictures for providing seed support for this fund. With these projects we're taking an important step forward in addressing sustainability and diversity in our industry.

On broadcast and streaming, AmDoc's series are continuing to reach broad audiences. For the first time, POV partnered with PBS' theatrical arm PBS Distribution, bringing two of our Season 31 films to the silver screen: *Bill Nye: Science Guy* and *Dark Money*. And this month marks the launch of our brand new broadcast and streaming strand POV Shorts, giving programmers more flexibility in presenting viewers fresh and relevant content. Meanwhile, our youngest series, America ReFramed, has been making a splash on the awards circuit, winning its first duPont-Columbia Award for *Class of '27*, a Peabody for *Deej* and receiving three nominations from the News and Documentary Emmy Awards.

With our interactive team, we are not only supporting broadcast films with exciting digital content but also pushing the boundaries of nonfiction storytelling. From Instagram Stories to a partnership with the Smithsonian, AmDoc is planning a bold new chapter for documentaries.

With your support, we've been able to grow and evolve as a strong leader in public media and across the nonfiction landscape. As we continue our mission of making the best films and stories accessible to the public, we thank you for paving the way for the next generation of groundbreaking, bold storytelling.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justine L. Nagan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Justine L. Nagan



As the world of nonfiction filmmaking changes in an evolving media landscape, so is American Documentary, where we have been steadily growing our team as we expand our initiatives and redefine what we consider a documentary.

First, we want our leadership to look like the public we serve. Since January, we've added three women to our board of directors. A total of four new members have joined in the past months: Anjali Kumar, chief people officer and general counsel at Cheddar; John Limotte, founder and executive creative director at Mustache; Carolyn Strauss, former president of HBO Entertainment; and Joi Thomas, senior counsel of business and legal affairs at Universal Kids. Today, six women and five men serve on our board.

I also want to give a heartfelt thanks to our longtime friend Eliza Licht. Our vice president of content strategy and engagement until this past June, Eliza had been with POV for 17 years. During her time here, she shepherded POV into an impact producing powerhouse, bringing in over 10,000 librarians, schoolteachers and community organizers into our community network, where these days they organize over 800 events annually.

On staff, we have new faces working on everything from bringing new series to PBS to archiving our 30-year-old records to engaging on social media and producing boundary-pushing interactive content. It's an exciting time for us, and we can already see their hard work and dedication come to fruition.

AmDoc has always been a unique player in media. In one generation, it has grown from the scrappy upstart that dared to bring independent films to a national audience to a respected brand with a legacy of presenting high-quality films. One thing that hasn't changed—it is still accessible to everyone, everywhere in the country.

Our mission isn't easy, but I know for a fact we're in good hands. From our dedicated and talented staff to our legions of generous supporters, we have much to celebrate and many to thank tonight.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Drain". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Margaret Drain

## POV: DOCUMENTARIES WITH A POINT OF VIEW

Join us as we toast POV—the longest-running nonfiction showcase on television. This year, POV presented stories of the creative and resilient human spirit to millions of viewers through broadcast, streaming and on-the-ground screenings. For the first time, we partnered with PBS’ theatrical arm PBS Distribution to bring two of our Season 31 films to the silver screen: *Bill Nye: Science Guy* and *Dark Money*. We amplified essential New York stories like *93Queen* with bus, subway and taxi advertising through the “Made in NY” marketing program. And we took documentaries directly to community doorsteps, with our local engagement campaign around *QUEST* in Philadelphia and regional initiatives like “Our America: Documentary in Dialogue” with PBS stations in the country’s heartland. So raise a glass to our flagship series, and find out how you can help us keep meaningful storytelling alive.



Photo Captions (left to right): beloved science communicator Bill Nye returns to public media with POV; behind-the-scenes of the “Made in NY” advertising campaign with the all-female volunteer corps from *93Queen*; WHYY reporter Annette John-Hall moderates a post-screening discussion of *QUEST* in Philadelphia (Photo Credit: WHYY).

## INSTALLATION: “THE AMDOC EXPERIENCE”

Follow the venue rampway to “The AmDoc Experience” and get to know the organization behind the PBS series POV. Wander through individually-curated rooms that invite you to watch, engage and create the future of documentary storytelling, with never-before-seen materials from our audience archives alongside interactive media from upcoming programs. This one-night only installation offers a first look at exciting new initiatives launching this fall and early 2019, including:

- **FROM THE ARCHIVES:** What does three decades of impact look like? From VHS tapes to voicemails, letters to social media, we present rare audience responses from viewers like you.
- **AMERICA REFRAMED:** What is your America? Map, explore and reframe the changing contours of our diverse nation with interactive content from this award-winning series.
- **POV SHORTS:** Pop in for an exclusive preview of an episode from POV Shorts, our newest broadcast series bringing the best and boldest short-form content to public media.
- **INTERACTIVE LOUNGE:** Take a break from the crowds in a chill makerspace where you can ponder the future of public media and create a customized gala souvenir.

*“With empowering visions of humanity’s promise, the films coming to POV this year showcase the fighters among us. They are people we grew up with on public television, our neighbors and those we may never meet from across the globe working to change their reality and our society. This is the power of nonfiction storytelling on public media—it stretches our expectations of what is possible and makes these stirring narratives available to all.”*

— JUSTINE NAGAN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



### BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY

by David Alvarado and Jason Sussberg  
APRIL 18, 2018



### QUEST

by Jonathan Olshefski and  
Sabrina Schmidt Gordon  
JUNE 18, 2018



### SINGING WITH ANGRY BIRD

by Hyewon Jee  
JUNE 25, 2018



### BRIMSTONE & GLORY

by Viktor Jakovleski  
JULY 2, 2018



**THE WORKERS CUP**

by Adam Sobel  
JULY 9, 2018



**LINDY LOU, JUROR NUMBER 2**

by Florent Vassault  
JULY 16, 2018



**THE WAR TO BE HER**

by Erin Heidenreich  
JULY 23, 2018



**BEATRICE**

by Lorena Alvarado  
JULY 23, 2018



**WHOSE STREETS?**

by Sabaah Folleyan and Damon Davis  
JULY 30, 2018



**STILL TOMORROW**

by Jian Fan  
AUGUST 6, 2018



**NOWHERE TO HIDE**

by Zaradasht Ahmed  
AUGUST 27, 2018



**VOICES OF THE SEA**

by Kim Hopkins  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2018



**93QUEEN**

by Paula Eiselt and Heidi Reinberg  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2018



**SURVIVORS**

by Arthur Pratt, Banker White,  
Barmmy Boy and Anna Fitch  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018



**DARK MONEY**

by Kimberly Reed  
OCTOBER 1, 2018



**THE APOLOGY**

by Tiffany Hsiung  
OCTOBER 22, 2018



**MINDING THE GAP**

by Bing Liu  
JAN/FEB 2019



**306 HOLLYWOOD**

by Elan Borgarín and Jonathan Borgarín  
SPRING 2019

## OUR AMERICA: DOCUMENTARY IN DIALOGUE

With seed funding from the Open Society Foundations, AmDoc piloted a new high-impact campaign to spark civic dialogue around divisive topics in nonpartisan spaces. We worked with three PBS station partners in the Midwest to produce events around issues that resonated with their communities, and provided stipends to address local barriers to access, like childcare, food scarcity or transportation. This first year was a resounding success—with one station partner responding: “You guys are going to keep doing these, right? These events have really made an impact, and hopefully create replicable model for us statewide!” And we’re proud to announce these screenings will continue with renewed support from the Open Society Foundations and new funding from the Lefkofsky Foundation, expanding to three new locations this fall.

## KNIGHT-AMDOC PATRON FUND

This spring, AmDoc launched the Knight-AmDoc Patron Fund to directly support nonfiction projects and creators on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter. With a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, we pledged over \$53,000 to 20 projects based in small and mid-sized communities where the foundation invests—ultimately raising more than \$300,000 for new works through the platform’s all-or-nothing funding model. This fund allowed us to take a risk on emerging artists who heavily rely on crowdfunding for project support. The impact was immediate, as one team shared: “I’m not sure our campaign would have succeeded without your support but now we are confident that we’ll be able to make our goal... It’s not just the money either—we are so honored that POV and Knight (two organizations that we’ve admired for years) have seen something in our work, and have supported it so generously.”

## ARTIST EMERGENCY FUND

First announced at the inaugural gala, our Artist Emergency Fund supports documentary filmmakers facing financial emergencies due to unforeseen personal calamities. To date, AmDoc has awarded fifteen individuals with grants of up to \$1,000 to alleviate costs associated with health issues, evictions or disasters. This fund received an overwhelming response from an industry contending with issues of sustainability, as seen in a post from No Film School (@nofilmschool): “As a community of filmmakers, we’d like to thank American Documentary for having our backs with your new Artist Emergency Fund.” AmDoc plans to report its pilot-year findings back to the field while keeping the fund recipients anonymous. The fund will continue through 2019 with additional support from the Chicago Media Project.

## INTERACTIVE INITIATIVES

With executive producer Opeyemi Olukemi at the helm, our interactive team exists to create and advance inventive forms of storytelling in order to expand the currency, relevance and inclusiveness within public media. This year, AmDoc has convened an advisory board, developed an interactive co-production pipeline and launched talent incubation partnerships that will be publicly announced through 2019. Through these initiatives, AmDoc builds upon our years-long leadership in nonfiction innovation on broadcast and beyond with an extensive focus on bringing new platforms and interactive content to local communities, helping to solve the accessibility issue within the immersive ecosystem.

### PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, we provide a critical public platform for intimate and timely stories, putting a human face on contemporary social issues. As American television's longest-running showcase for nonfiction films, our flagship series **POV** has featured award-winning works from the most acclaimed filmmakers of our time including Marlon Riggs, Laura Poitras and the Maysles brothers, and remains one of the premiere broadcasters of international documentaries. AmDoc launched **America ReFramed** on WORLD Channel in 2013 as a much-needed outlet for diverse and emerging storytellers focusing on a wide range of domestic issues. **POV Shorts**, the first-ever shorts broadcast series on PBS, premieres this fall. Through these programs, we make the best and boldest documentaries available to over 97% of the country, regardless of where they live or how much they can pay.

For our latest broadcast and streaming offerings, visit [amddoc.org/watch](http://amddoc.org/watch).

### IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

For over 20 years, we have pioneered models for civic engagement using independent documentary films by some of the most acclaimed storytellers of our time. Through our impact and engagement department, we partner with over 11,000 community-based organizations, librarians, PBS stations and other engaged community members to spark conversation about the issues presented in our films and digital productions. Free screenings, panel discussions and public events are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback, to educational opportunities and community participation.

For events and resources, visit [amddoc.org/engage](http://amddoc.org/engage).

### INTERACTIVE

Since 1994, we have driven new storytelling initiatives and interactive production for public media audiences. Our interactive department has continually experimented with web-based documentaries, producing PBS' first program website and the first Snapchat-native documentary. It has won major awards for its work, including a Webby Award and over 19 nominations. Now with a singular focus on incubating and distributing interactive productions, AmDoc continues to explore the future of independent nonfiction media through its co-productions, acquisitions and artist incubations including residencies and labs to reinvent storytelling forms.

To explore the future of nonfiction, visit [amddoc.org/interactive](http://amddoc.org/interactive).

### FIELD-BUILDING INITIATIVES

As a public media pioneer and stakeholder, we actively contribute to and gain insight from the independent nonfiction landscape. Our staff serve as mentors, jury members and workshop leaders at a number of events including Sundance, Good Pitch, IDFA and IFF Film Week, as well as regional film festivals across the country. This year, we launched two new funds to address issues of sustainability in the field. In addition, AmDoc recently launched an internship stipend program to remove financial barriers to emerging artists and media professionals interested in entering the field.

To find out about our funds and special initiatives, visit [amddoc.org/create](http://amddoc.org/create).

American Documentary thanks

**SAGE**  
**FOUNDATION**

for supporting diverse independent storytellers!



# CMP CONGRATULATES AMDOC FOR ANOTHER FABULOUS YEAR!

## FILMRISE

Emmy® nominated documentaries

*Rolling the Dice for a Family*  
**VEGAS BABY**  
A FILM BY AMANDA MICHELI

*"Offers a look inside an otherwise intensely private sphere"* - VOGUE

*"Many powerful moments"* - THE NEW YORK TIMES

*"Emotional... highlights the complexities and despair of America's fertility industry"*  
- ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL 2016  
OFFICIAL SELECTION SAN FRANCISCO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL  
AFI DOCS OFFICIAL SELECTION 2016  
IFFBOSTON OFFICIAL SELECTION 2016

Outstanding Business & Economic Documentary

**THE BAD KIDS**

Outstanding Business & Economic Documentary

**THE WITNESS**

Best Documentary

**NATIONAL BIRD**

Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary

**Congratulations!**

**POV**

**6** Emmy Nominations +

AMERICA REFRAMED

**3** Emmy Nominations

= Another Stellar Year

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[www.idfa.nl/industry](http://www.idfa.nl/industry)

 IDFA Industry & press

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**SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Justine Nagan, Executive Director / Executive Producer  
Chris White, Executive Producer, POV and America ReFramed  
Kristal Choy, Vice President, Finance & Business Affairs  
Opeyemi Olukemi, Vice President, Interactive, Executive Producer, POV Spark  
Theresa Navarro, Vice President, External Affairs

**ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS**

Betty Cordero, Director, Finance & Operations  
David Nanasi, Consultant, Operations  
Rachel Howard, Associate, Operations & Administration

**AMERICA REFRAMED**

Carmen L. Vicencio, Supervising Producer  
Robert Y. Chang, Associate Producer  
Naomi McPeters, Programming & Outreach Assistant

**COMMUNICATIONS & AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT**

Keisha A. Salmon, Director  
Isaac Park, Communications Associate  
Mahboob Alam, Marketing Associate

**IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT**

Erika Howard, Senior Director  
Alice Quinlan, Director  
Ione Barrows, Senior Associate  
Rachel Friedland, Community Partnerships Assistant

**INTERACTIVE**

Akmyrat Tuyliyev, Interactive Producer  
Sunil Patel, Creative Technologist  
Yvonne Ashley Kouadjo, Associate Producer

**PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION**

Nikki F. Heyman, Co-Producer  
Nicole Tsien, Co-Producer  
Chloe Gbai, POV Shorts & Streaming Producer  
Sophie Harari, Media Coordinator & Editor

**GALA STAFF**

Marisa Marquez, Event Producer  
Lana Ottley, Exhibition Assistant

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Nancy Blachman and David desJardins  
Ann Tenenbaum and Thomas H. Lee  
Chicago Media Project  
Lefkofsky Family Foundation  
Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences  
& public media viewers

## SPECIAL THANKS

The 2050 Group

Adam Segal

Alicia Pollard

Allison Kave

AmDoc Interns

Brandy Weiss

Cara Mertes

Catharine Gatlin

Cathy Lehrfeld

Cynthia Lopez

Dara Messinger

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Neyda Martinez

Paula Froehle

Richie Cardona

Rosehip Productions

Simon Kilmurry

Stephen Segaller

Steve Cohen

Thomas DeGeest

Tracy Hopkins

Wendy Llinas

& our office dogs Bella, Juicy, Willow and Conant



AMERICA  
REFRAMED

PERSONAL  
STATEMENT

October 23 | 8/7 c

WORLD

EARTHRISE



# SHORT DOCS, BIG STORIES

POV SHORTS IS A BRAND NEW BROADCAST INITIATIVE AIMED AT MAKING POV AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING A PREMIERE DESTINATION FOR SHORT-FORM NONFICTION STORYTELLING. AUDIENCES CAN EXPECT A HIGHLY-CURATED SLATE OF FRESH AND RELEVANT CHARACTER-DRIVEN FILMS COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER. THE SHORT DOCUMENTARIES SHARE THE SAME SPIRIT AS OUR FEATURES: CHALLENGING AUDIENCES WITH BOLD CONTENT AND SHOWCASING POIGNANT ASPECTS OF HUMAN LIFE.

POV  
SHORTS

WE SUPPORT BOLD DOCUMENTARIES & DOCUMENTARIANS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.  
WATCH, ENGAGE AND CREATE AT [AMDOC.ORG](https://amdoc.org)