

American Documentary

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

in American Storytelling

NOVEMBER 7, 2023



American Documentary Gala Celebration 2023

#WhoTellsTheStories

American Documentary

Congratulations

on 36 years

*of documentary excellence, community
impact, and service to public media!*

Cheers,

American Documentary's Board of Directors

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MINDING THE GAP



THE LOVE BUGS



TONGUES UNTIED

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Letter from Erika Dilday

Dear Doc Friends and Family,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to our 2023 gala. As an organization we have chosen to highlight American storytelling and all that it encompasses. We are a country that includes many cultures, connects to every nation in the world and at American Documentary it is our mission to share those stories widely and authentically and to make them accessible to all. We want to amplify the actuality, not an idea of America.

This year we also choose to highlight work in the field through the creation of two awards, the Industry Trailblazer and the Creative Visionary. I am proud to recognize our inaugural award recipients, Jon Abbott and Darcy McKinnon.

Over the years, at the helm of GBH, Jon Abbott's openness to new ideas, his creation of funding strands to support diverse filmmakers, and his willingness to engage in conversations about how we as an industry can and should move forward have helped to guide us toward a more inclusive place.

Producer Darcy McKinnon has been the deft, knowledgeable, creative, and bold support behind so many important documentaries and emerging documentary directors. Her influence goes beyond the films she works on to our entire community and many of us consider her the future of American documentary filmmaking.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to the staff, board members, donors, gala host committee, filmmakers, partners and viewers who make us not just a documentary organization, but a documentary family. We would not exist without you. I hope you will continue to support us and challenge us as we invest not just in films, but in the impact that filmmakers can have with the powerful documentaries they make.

Wishing you Love and Peace,



Erika Dilday

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER,
POV, POV SHORTS, AMERICA REFRAMED

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Gala Host Committee

We are proud to serve as Co-Chairs of American Documentary's 2023 Fall Gala and we are extremely grateful to all of you for choosing to support this important organization by spending your evening with us.

The theme of this year's Gala is "Embracing Diversity in American Storytelling." But that could also describe American Documentary over the course of its entire 36 years of providing support to filmmakers who might not otherwise have a platform for their important stories—stories that need to be seen and heard and need to be told by those filmmakers. From POV, to America ReFramed, to POV Shorts and POV Engage, to all the other ways American Documentary reaches audiences, their amazing staff and creative partners bring unique perspectives to events and people we thought we understood, and shine a light on other important stories that might otherwise remain in the dark.

So, thank you for joining us to celebrate American Documentary and our staff, the filmmakers we support and the many stakeholders, such as yourselves, who have made this incredible organization the force in public media that it is.

Finally, we want to congratulate and thank tonight's two special honorees, Jon Abbott, who has spent his entire career tirelessly working to advance public media, and Darcy McKinnon, whose films have given voice to those who most need it. Jon, you are a big reason that American Documentary is able to continue to do the critical work we do. And, Darcy McKinnon, you are why we do it.

Here's to another 36 years of American Documentary!



Chris Plaut

HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Nancy Winkelstein Plaut

HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

HOST COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRS

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Nancy Winkelstein Plaut

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Paco de Onís

Brenda Robinson

Michèle Stephenson

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GBH IS PROUD TO CONGRATULATE

Jon Abbott

Former President & CEO, GBH

On receiving the American Documentary Trailblazer award for his work as a leading public media advocate nationwide.



A-DOC Asian American Documentary Network

A-Doc and AmDoc champion unique voices in nonfiction storytelling. A-Doc members' work can be seen this season on POV and America ReFramed, exploring family history, civic engagement, and the contradictions of the American Dream. Thank you AmDoc for elevating Asian American stories and filmmakers.

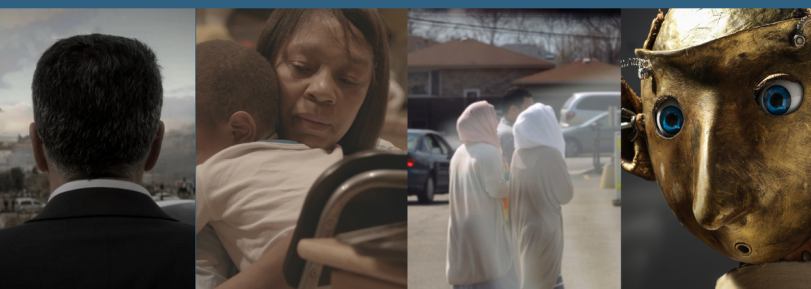


Want to learn more?



We support bold, independent filmmakers with early funding and mentorship to launch artful documentaries that make us think differently about the world.

catapultfilmfund.org | [@catapultfilmfund](https://twitter.com/catapultfilmfund)



American Documentary

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In support of Julian Assange and The Freedom of the Press.

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American Documentary

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

in American Storytelling

Our theme, **Embracing Diversity in American Storytelling**, speaks to our belief in the power of documentary film as a vehicle to connect audiences across communities and backgrounds.

We are committed to supporting independent storytellers all over the world and exposing audiences to new and alternative perspectives on common themes, meeting our audiences where they watch.

At AmDoc, we often ask ourselves: who gets to tell stories that reach public audiences?

Through an immersive showcase featuring each of our series and teams, we invite you to learn more about our work through interactive activities, have fun, connect with peers, and celebrate an evening with our larger filmmaking community.



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Jon,

Congratulations on a long and distinguished career
as a public media **Trailblazer!**

And thank you for all you have done for American
Documentary and filmmakers everywhere.

We are honored and blessed for our lifelong friendship.
The road goes on forever.

- Chris & Nancy Plaut

Program

5:30 pm

VIP Cocktail Reception

6:00 pm

Main Event begins

7:00 pm

Remarks & Presentation of Awards

8:00 pm

Dance the night away!

► **THROUGHOUT THE EVENING:**

- Food & drinks
- Raffle opportunities
- Interactive exhibits
- Photo booth

Awardees



Jon Abbot
Special Advisor to GBH Boston

American Documentary is pleased to present Jon Abbott with the 2023 Trailblazer Award in recognition of his distinguished service in public media, his advocacy for diverse and inclusive programming, and his ongoing support of American Documentary.

TRAILBLAZER AWARD



Darcy McKinnon
Filmmaker

American Documentary extends its proud recognition to Darcy McKinnon for her unwavering dedication to a storytelling craft where art and social justice converge.

CREATIVE VISIONARY AWARD



INFORMING AND INSPIRING
WITH REAL STORIES FROM
AROUND THE WORLD



CONGRATULATIONS TO TRAILBLAZER JON ABBOTT!

From Your Friends at APT and WORLD

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Mission

American Documentary (AmDoc) is a national nonprofit media arts organization striving to make essential documentaries accessible as a catalyst for public discourse. We collaborate with passionate filmmakers to amplify their voices, and to nurture the nonfiction community.



**News & Doc
Emmy Awards**



**Peabody
Awards**



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**Academy
Awards**

Stay updated, sign up for our newsletter [here](#)

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**THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT AMERICAN
DOCUMENTARY'S INDEPENDENT,
DIVERSE STORYTELLING THROUGH
DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING.**

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

**"Thank you American
Documentary for amplifying
the work of independent
filmmakers who uplift the
voices and stories of diverse
communities and enrich our
civic and cultural vitality."**

Michael Isip, KQED CEO &
American Documentary
Board member



NEED TO REACH NEW AUDIENCES?

CC AD)))



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YOUR CONTENT ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL
THROUGH DUBBING, AUDIO DESCRIPTION
AND CAPTIONING SERVICES.**

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POV

POV is the longest-running independent documentary showcase on American television. Since 1988, POV has presented films on PBS that capture the full spectrum of the human experience, with a long commitment to centering women and people of color in front of, and behind, the camera.

The series is known for introducing generations of viewers to groundbreaking works like *Tongues Untied*, *American Promise*, *Minding The Gap* and *Not Going Quietly*, and innovative filmmakers including Jonathan Demme, Laura Poitras and Nanfu Wang. POV goes “beyond the broadcast” to bring powerful nonfiction storytelling to viewers wherever they are.

Executive Producers: Erika Dilday, Chris White



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CONGRATS

TO THE AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY TEAM

on the 2023 Gala: Embracing
Diversity in American Storytelling!



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POV SHORTS

POV Shorts launched in 2018 as one of the first PBS series dedicated to bold and timely short-form documentaries.

The series is known for its curation, and for broadcasting award-winning titles, including: Emmy® nominated *Earthrise*, *Water Warriors*, *The Changing Same*, Emmy® winner *The Love Bugs* and the Oscar® shortlisted *A Broken House* and *Águilas*. It won Best Short Form Series at the IDA Documentary Awards in 2020 and 2022.

POV Shorts' sixth season continues the tradition of presenting a broad array of the best in short form documentary from both seasoned and emerging filmmakers, covering a variety of topics and creative approaches. This season's slate of films presents personal stories, tackles social issues, and breaks artistic boundaries.

Executive Producers: Opal H. Bennett, Erika Dilday, Chris White



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PLAY/ACTION PICTURES CELEBRATES AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY

PLAY / ACTION
PICTURES

**Thank you, AmDoc, for 36 years
of championing independent
documentary storytelling!**

Cheers to many more years
of stellar & diverse indie docs

Love ♥ and rockets 🚀

Everyone at Doc Society

docsociety.org

Congratulations to
Doc Society supported
films on POV this season:

After Sherman

A Story of Bones

While We Watched

unseen

Uýra – The Rising Forest



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A co-production of [WORLD](#) and American Documentary, America ReFramed, curates a diverse selection of independent documentaries that brings to national audiences compelling stories which illuminate the changing contours of our ever-evolving country to national audiences. Viewers are immersed in stories that span the spectrum of American life, from the streets of towns big and small to its exurbs and country roads. Each season, the series presents an array of personal voices and experiences through which we learn from our past, understand our present, and are challenged to seek new frameworks for America's future.

America ReFramed received a Peabody Award for [Deej](#) and an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for [Class of '27](#). The series has earned several Christopher, GRACIE, Telly and Cine Golden Eagle Awards, as well as multiple nominations for Emmy, Independent Documentary Association and Imagen Awards.

Executive Producers: Erika Dilday, Chris Hastings, Chris White



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POV Engage

For over 20 years, POV has pioneered models for civic engagement using independent documentary films by some of the most acclaimed storytellers of our time. The POV Engage team partners with community-based organizations, educators, librarians 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.

The [POV Community Network](#) makes more than 200 POV feature films, shorts and digital initiatives available for free to over 14,000 local and national partners. Join the Network to discover films by title or topic, plus accompanying materials such as discussion guides, promotional tools and other resources to help shape the conversation and inspire action.

POV collaborates with media educators to produce lesson plans for teachers interested in using our films as a teaching tool. We offer free resources for educators, including 200+ online film clips connected to 100+ standards-aligned lesson plans, discussion guides and reading lists.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Special thanks

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Alan Gevinson
Caroline Oliveira
Office of the NYC Public Advocate, Jumaane D. Williams

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Nancy Winkelstein Plaut
Juanita Anderson
Wendy Ettinger
Marie Therese Guirgis
Anjali Kumar
Brenda Robinson
Michèle Stephenson
Joe Brewster
Pamela Yates
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Beth Viner
Ann Tenenbaum

AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY STAFF, CONSULTANTS, & INTERNS

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Kristal Choy, *VP Finance & Business Affairs*
Cecilia R. Mejia, *VP External Affairs*
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Chris White, *VP P&P**
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Yoninah Segal, *The 2050 Group*

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Thuy Tran, *James Kass Consulting*

*P&P = Programming and Production