

# films to inspire change

GLOBAL HEALTH  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ONLINE

01-06 DEC 2020



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# GLOBAL HEALTH FILM

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# Welcome to the sixth Global Health Film Festival!

This year's six-day online programme features a host of international premieres and preview screenings, with in-depth panel discussions with film makers, film protagonists and global health experts.

Our 2020 programme is particularly raw, confronting and occasionally brutal. The dark urgency of many of the stories we showcase this year is only made bearable by the ordinary-extraordinary heroes that shine through as beacons of hope - fiery examples of courage, compassion and a gritty determination to fight for a better world for us all, often at huge personal cost.

This year's online format means we can invite a significantly larger and more diverse audience from all across the globe to meet these local and international heroes and share their own reflections in a truly global conversation at each of our live events. We have been perfecting our online offering since June through our Global Health Film Classics series and we are looking forward to using the skills we have learnt to maximise the opportunities that each live festival event offers for meaningful engagement and conversation in real time across multiple time zones.

As part of our support for global health film-makers, we are running a series of test screenings within this year's programme. The three films we have selected for this series are scheduled for release in early 2021; each screening will be followed by a 40-minute discussion and audience feedback, moderated by a leading figure in global health film documentary. If you would like to support a film at this critical near-final stage of its development, please register for one or more of the test screenings and offer your feedback to help shape the final product.

We complement the film programme with a series of workshops developed by our Festival Programme Producer, Lauren Anders Brown - with sessions on audio documentaries for global health and

filming sensitive subjects with women.

We bring some lightness to the programme with a virtual photo booth running throughout the six days of the festival - snap yourself on the Global Health Film Festival red carpet against the backdrop of your favourite films in this year's programme and share on social media!

On the evening of Saturday 05 December we head to New York City for a Global Health Film Festival 2020 virtual party, hosted by the director Lauren Anders Brown and the cast of *When The Shifts Change*, a five-part series that we have been delighted to support this year, focussing on essential workers in NYC during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support, encouragement and guidance we receive from our Advisory Board, strategic partners and collaborators, including *The Lancet*, The Whickers and UNFPA, our graphic designer Andy Spencer at Creative Star, and Richard King at our production company Spirited Pictures.

Finally, a very special mention for the Global Health Film Volunteer Team who have worked so hard over the past six months to help deliver the Classics series and the Global Health Film Festival.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, a very warm welcome to this year's Global Health Film Festival; we hope you find your time with us enjoyable, inspiring and thought-provoking and we look forward to meeting many of you over the next six days.



Gerri McHugh

Founder and Director



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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# Tuesday 01 December

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19:00

## **I Am Belmaya (2020)**

*Sue Carpenter*

81 mins plus Q&A

**WORLD Premiere**

Taking the movie camera into her own hands, Belmaya stands up to oppression and takes charge of her story - and her life.

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© *I Am Belmaya*

# Wednesday 02 December

14:00

**Hearing health: the art of the audio documentary in global health (90 mins)**

Workshop

Sponsored by The Whickers



17:00

**Stranger At Home (2021)**

*Beth Dolan*

25 mins excerpt plus audience feedback

TEST Screening

The US Military's policy on combat-related psychological trauma has remained unchanged in nearly 100 years, despite significant advances in the diagnosis and treatment of such pathologies. This policy has resulted in a mental health crisis which increasingly devastates not only those in active service and veterans, but also their families and communities.

19:00

**Priya's Mask (2020)**

*Syd Fini and Ram Devineni*

2 mins

WORLD Premiere

Priya, India's first female superhero, embarks on a mission to stop the spread of Covid-19.

**The People vs Agent Orange (2020)**

*Alan Adelson and Kate Taverna*

84 mins plus Q&A

UK Premiere

The Agent Orange catastrophe did not end with the Vietnam War. Today, a primary chemical of the toxic defoliant causes deformed births and deadly cancers. Two heroic women fight to hold the manufacturers accountable.

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# Thursday 03 December

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17:00

## **Unsavoury Times: A Chef's Pandemic Journey (2021)**

*Brian Kimmel*

28 mins plus audience feedback

**TEST Screening**

A restaurateur in Portland, Oregon, reinvents his business to adapt to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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19:00

## **Here I Am (2020)**

*Chloe White*

11 mins

**WORLD Premiere**

How dance has helped a group of vulnerable women in Bradford during the Covid-19 lockdown.

## **Amy's Victory Dance (2020)**

*Brian Thomas*

86 mins plus Q&A

**UK Premiere**

Chronicles professional dancer Amy Jordan's triumphant path back to the stage after the near loss of her life and her right leg.

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# Friday 04 December

13:30

## Doctors of War (2020)

*Nathaniel Lippiett*

67 mins plus Q&A

A snapshot of life inside one of the world's largest refugee camps, and the often brutal and unforgiving conditions of a country torn apart by ten years of conflict.

15:45

## Filming sensitive subjects with women (60 mins)

Workshop

Sponsored by UNFPA



17:00

## Once Años (Eleven Years) (2021)

*Emily Wright*

40 mins

TEST Screening

Conflict, health and intergenerational trauma in Colombia.

19:00

## On Our Doorstep (2020)

*Thomas Laurance*

90 mins plus Q&A

PRIVATE Preview

A behind-the-scenes look at the unprecedented grassroots movement that rose to aid the refugees in Calais, and the community that sprang up there, before 'The Jungle' was forcefully demolished.

# Saturday 05 December

09:45

## **I Am Belmaya (2020)**

*Sue Carpenter*

75 mins plus Q&A

NEPAL *Premiere*

Taking the movie camera into her own hands, Belmaya stands up to oppression and takes charge of her story - and her life.

12:30

## **Vamik's Room (2020)**

*Molly Castelloe*

56 mins plus Q&A

EUROPEAN *Premiere*

Five-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee Vamik Volkan was born on the ethnically-divided island of Cyprus and has devoted his lifetime bringing enemy groups together for dialogue, developing a new method of diplomacy based on the emotional life of nations.

14:30

## **What Doesn't Kill Me (2017)**

*Rachel Meyrick*

80 mins plus Q&A

In the US, abusive fathers are seeking custody of their children in increasing numbers. And frighteningly, they are winning, putting children in extreme danger and making their mothers helpless to protect them.

16:45

## **Missing in Brooks County (2020)**

*Jeff Bemiss*

81 mins plus Q&A

EUROPEAN *Premiere*

Two families search for their loved ones who went missing in the fields of Brooks County, Texas, and find a haunted land with more questions than answers.

# Saturday 05 December

19:00

## **When The Shifts Change (2020)**

*Lauren Anders Brown*

30 mins plus Q&A

WORLD *Premiere*

Self-recorded confessionals by New Yorkers working during the Covid-19 pandemic as they explore the highs and lows of being essential workers.

20:00

## **Global Health Film Festival 2020**

*Virtual Party in New York City*

60 mins



© Missing in Brocks County

# Sunday 06 December

12:00

## **The Marriage Project (2020)**

*Atieh Attarzadeh Firozabad and Hesam Eslami*

80 mins plus Q&A

UK Premiere

The new head of a Tehran psychiatric hospital has an idea to experiment with: find a couple of patients who may want to live together there as romantic and sexual partners.

14:30

## **On the Wild Side (2019)**

*Giacomo Giorgi*

85 mins plus Q&A

Illustrating the different methods of hunting throughout the planet and shining a light on the species who are most victimized - whether they be from land, sea, or air.

17:00

## **Nasrin (2020)**

*Jeff Kaufman*

92 mins plus Q&A

UK Premiere

An immersive portrait of human rights activist and political prisoner, attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, and of Iran's remarkably resilient women's rights movement.

19:30

## **Welcome to Chechnya (2020)**

*David France*

107 mins plus Q&A

Chronicles the current anti-LGBTQ persecution raging in the Russian republic of Chechnya and shadows the LGBTQ activists who risk unimaginable peril to rescue victims from a targeted campaign of torture and brutality.

22:00

**Close**



# TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER

19:00 **I Am Belmaya** (81 mins)

*Directed by Sue Carpenter and Belmaya Nepali*

WORLD *Premiere*

Dominated by her husband, her family and society, Belmaya is desperate for independence. But in much of Nepal, men rule and women obey. Here, in one of the poorest nations on earth, women are daughters, wives, mothers, dependents and, all too often, victims and slaves - but rarely individuals in their own right.

Born a Dalit (the lowest, 'untouchable' caste), orphaned at the age of nine, poorly educated, and trapped in an abusive marriage with a baby daughter, Belmaya, 21, has given up hope of finding happiness.

Rewind to 2006, when Belmaya, at 14, participated in a photo project at a girls' home in Pokhara. Impassioned and inspired, she was keen to change her discriminatory world through photography. But that window closed when the home locked away her camera.

Now she gets a second chance, this time to train in documentary filmmaking. Picking up the camera once more, her old spark returns. Determined to create a better life for her young daughter, Belmaya gains the skills and confidence to forge a new path. But are her resentful husband and conservative community ready for this?

An inspirational tale of rebellion, love and hope, shot over five years, as Belmaya battles to take charge of her story.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Anna Smith, film critic and host of Girls On Film podcast

## **Panel**

Sue Carpenter, director *I Am Belmaya*

Subina Shrestha, film maker and journalist



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# WEDNESDAY 02 DECEMBER

## 14:00 **Hearing health: the art of the audio documentary in global health (90 mins)**

*Jane Ray, The Whickers and Kim Normanton, story-teller*

### Workshop

Join audio documentary directors Jane Ray and Kim Normanton sharing their experiences on capturing and producing issues of global health and why audio is a unique platform for specifically for stories on health. Hosted by The Whickers.

## 17:00 **Stranger at home (25 min excerpt)**

*Directed by Beth Dolan*

### TEST Screening

The US Military's policy on combat-related psychological trauma has remained unchanged in nearly 100 years, despite significant advances in the diagnosis and treatment of such pathologies. This policy has resulted in a mental health crisis which increasingly devastates not only those in active service and veterans, but also their families and communities.

Two psychologists, both war veterans from different generations, embark on a quest to hold military medicine accountable for failing to follow their own recommendations - a failure that has resulted in a mental health crisis of epidemic proportions.

40-minute audience feedback, moderated by Mark Galloway in conversation with director Beth Dolan.



# WEDNESDAY 02 DECEMBER

19:00 **Priya's Mask** (2 mins)

*Directed by Syd Fini and Ram Devineni*

**WORLD** *Premiere*

Priya, India's first female superhero, embarks on a mission to stop the spread of Covid-19. She befriends a little girl named Meena to show her the sacrifices made by frontline healthcare workers and instill the power of courage and compassion during this difficult time. Along with her tiger Sahas, Priya explains the importance of wearing a mask and working together to help end the pandemic around the world.

The short animated film *Priya's Mask* is an important testament to the courage of women healthcare workers and will help educate people about the virus. An international array of actors and leaders lend their voices to this important film including Vidya Balan, Mrunal Thakur, and Sairah Khan. Previous editions of the popular comic book series were showcased as interactive displays at the Global Health Film Festival.

**The People vs Agent Orange** (84 mins)

*Directed by Alan Adelson and Kate Taverna*

**UK** *Premiere*

The Agent Orange catastrophe did not end with the war in Vietnam. Today, all over the world, a primary component of that toxic herbicide controls weeds in farming, forestry, parks - even on children's playgrounds. The chemical wreaks havoc on the human genome, causing deformed births and deadly cancers. After decades of struggle and tragic personal losses, two heroic women are leading a worldwide movement to end the plague and hold the manufacturers accountable.

In France, Tran To Nga is suing the American chemical industry for poisoning her Vietnamese family. And in America, Carol Van Strum exposes the continuing use of toxic herbicides.

Incriminating documents disappear. Activists and their children are threatened and die. A helicopter technician secretly films the contamination of reservoirs, while a massive industrial cover-up continues.

40-minute panel discussion:

**Panel moderator**

Andrew Jack, Global Education Editor *Financial Times* and Global Health Film Advisory Board member

**Panel**

Alan Adelson, co-director *The People vs Agent Orange*

Professor Mike Skinner, biologist Washington State University

Kate Taverna, co-director *The People vs Agent Orange*

Carol Van Strum, protagonist *The People vs Agent Orange*





02:

# THURSDAY 03 DECEMBER

**17:00** **Unsavoury Times: A Chef's Pandemic Journey** (28 mins)

*Directed by Brian Kimmel*

TEST Screening

The storied restaurant, Higgins, in Portland, Oregon is poised to be placed on the doorstep of history. Literally.

Twenty-six years ago, Greg Higgins opened the doors to his eponymous restaurant in Portland, Oregon. At that moment, he became a pioneer in the farm-to-table movement. His work with local farmers and as a chef helped put Portland on the map for foodies across the nation. The past ten years have seen a renaissance in how and what we eat with the advent of culinary tourism and gourmet food carts. Until very recently, the dream of many of these food cart operators was to open a brick and mortar restaurant; Covid-19 has turned that dream on its head.

Now in the middle of a pandemic, James-Beard-award-winning chef Greg Higgins is looking to build a food cart of his own, and in the process is hoping to save his restaurant.

Not alone in this unexpected challenge, Higgins' fate is linked with many of America's most celebrated restaurants, more than 80 percent of which may close for good. His food-cart-in-progress is named "Piggins" and for Greg, the immediate need to reinvent his restaurant represents a living history of how a small, independent food business just might adapt and survive the worst economic disaster of our lifetime.

Appropriately, Piggins will stand on the grounds of the Oregon Historical Society.

40-minute audience feedback, moderated by Catherine McCarthy in conversation with director Brian Kimmel.

# THURSDAY 03 DECEMBER

**19:00** **Here I Am** (11 mins)  
*Directed by Chloe White*

**WORLD Premiere**

*Here I Am* explores how dance has helped a group of vulnerable women in Bradford. During the Covid-19 lockdown, however, the opportunity to dance has been very hard or impossible for the women and it has been deeply missed.

The film documents the women's creative response to lockdown and explores how dance will continue to be a tool that empowers all the women as we emerge out of the Covid-19 crisis.

**Amy's Victory Dance** (86 mins)  
*Directed by Brian Thomas*

**UK Premiere**

01 May 2009. Amy Jordan, a former professional dancer, crosses the street and is run over by a 15-ton New York City express bus, pinning her under the wheel. As she regains awareness, she has no feeling on the right side of her body. Her first thought: "Am I ever going to dance again?" Her second thought "If I survive the night, there will be a Victory Dance." Amy's right leg is completely crushed.

The first hospital wants to amputate but Amy demands a second opinion. She is transferred to New York Presbyterian Hospital's burn unit where she is literally rebuilt undergoing 18 surgeries during which she experiences cardiac trauma, a severe bacterial infection in her bones all leading up to thousands of hours of rehabilitation.

This documentary chronicles Amy's triumphant path back to the stage after the near loss of her life and her right leg and embodies the physical, emotional, and spiritual journey of a woman who doesn't allow her circumstances to dictate her life. We watch her manage her diabetes daily, navigate through

# THURSDAY 03 DECEMBER

New York City as a legally blind woman, and painstakingly maintain her rehabilitation. You will be inspired by her determination, witty humour, spirit, and sincere heart.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Carol Nahra, film producer and journalist

## **Panel**

Amy Jordan, protagonist *Amy's Victory Dance*

Brian Thomas, director *Amy's Victory Dance*





# FRIDAY 04 DECEMBER

**13:30** **Doctors of War** (67 mins)  
*Directed by Nathaniel Lippiett*

**PREVIEW** *Screening*

South Sudan is the world's newest country, and one of its bloodiest. Civil war has left half a million people dead, and forced millions of men, women and children from their homes. But their plight is largely unreported.

This raw and visceral film is a snapshot of life inside one of the world's largest refugee camps, and the often brutal and unforgiving conditions of a country torn apart by ten years of conflict. It follows a team of international and local medics operating under extreme pressures with limited resources as they battle to save lives. They work amidst an onslaught of war-induced injuries and a major humanitarian crisis.

Filming, which took place earlier this year during the time a fragile peace was declared in South Sudan, was completed ahead of the Covid-19 lockdown. The feature-length documentary is produced by ITN Productions.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Claudia-Liza Armah, Channel 5 News Tonight anchor

## **Panel**

John Buckels, protagonist, *Doctors of War*

Nathaniel Lippiett, director *Doctors of War*

**15:45** **Filming sensitive subjects with women**

*Sara Elgamal and Nafissatou J. Diop*



**Workshop**

Join filmmaker Sara Elgamal and Nafissatou J. Diop, Chief of Gender and Human Rights at the United Nations Population Fund to discuss the behind-the-scenes work in filming the series *A Piece of Me* with survivors of female genital mutilation. Workshop and discussion hosted by UNFPA.



# FRIDAY 04 DECEMBER

**17:00** **Once Años (Eleven Years)** (40 mins)

*Directed by Emily Wright*

TEST Screening

*Once Años* (eleven years) ago, Anyi enlisted into an armed rebel group deep in the Colombian jungle, and her life changed forever. As she takes her first step towards freedom, she reunites with Adriana, the mother she hasn't seen in over a decade, to confront the secrets of the past.

This lyrical film charts their battle to transcend the trauma of history: to forgive themselves and each other. Over five impressionistic chapters, it paints a multi-layered portrait of violence through its “unwomanly face” and shows that the cycle of war exists in the place we least expect it: the home and the family.

40-minute audience feedback, moderated by Peter Broderick in conversation with director Emily Wright.

**19:00** **On Our Doorstep** (90 mins)

*Directed by Tom Laurance*

PREVIEW Screening

*On Our Doorstep* delves deep into an area of the refugee crisis that rarely reached the press. With NGOs blocked by red tape and with the absence of any positive action by French or British authorities, the film is a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary grassroots movement that rose up to aid the refugees in Calais, and the community that sprang up there, before it was forcefully demolished.

This is the story of what happens when young and inexperienced citizens are forced to devise systems and structures to support 10,000 refugees; and are left unguided to face the moral and emotional conflicts, blurred lines and frequent grey areas of giving aid to

vulnerable people. People who do not want to be there. It questions whether the aims of the volunteers were met, and whether these aims ultimately served the refugees' needs.

Originally arriving at the Calais Jungle as a volunteer, Thomas Laurance was moved to pick up a camera and document what he saw over the year he spent there, until the camp's destruction in October 2016. This film is the result of the remarkable and intimate access he gained to both volunteers and refugees.

40-minute panel discussion:

**Panel moderator**

Dr Pam Das, senior editor *The Lancet* and Global Health Film Advisory Board member

**Panel**

Liz Clegg, protagonist *On Our Doorstep*

Ellie Kavner, therapeutic counsellor for refugees and volunteers in the camp

Tom Laurance, director *On Our Doorstep*





# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

09:45 **I Am Belmaya** (75 mins)

*Directed by Sue Carpenter and Belmaya Nepali*

NEPAL *Premiere*

Dominated by her husband, her family and society, Belmaya is desperate for independence. But in much of Nepal, men rule and women obey. Here, in one of the poorest nations on earth, women are daughters, wives, mothers, dependents and, all too often, victims and slaves - but rarely individuals in their own right.

Born a Dalit (the lowest, 'untouchable' caste), orphaned at the age of nine, poorly educated, and trapped in an abusive marriage with a baby daughter, Belmaya, 21, has given up hope of finding happiness.

Rewind to 2006, when Belmaya, at 14, participated in a photo project at a girls' home in Pokhara. Impassioned and inspired, she was keen to change her discriminatory world through photography. But that window closed when the home locked away her camera.

Now she gets a second chance, this time to train in documentary filmmaking. Picking up the camera once more, her old spark returns. Determined to create a better life for her young daughter, Belmaya gains the skills and confidence to forge a new path. But are her resentful husband and conservative community ready for this?

An inspirational tale of rebellion, love and hope, shot over five years, as Belmaya battles to take charge of her story.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Malvika Subba, social activist and entrepreneur

## **Panel**

Sue Carpenter, co-director *I Am Belmaya*

Belmaya Nepali, protagonist and co-director *I Am Belmaya*

# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

**12:30** **Vamik's Room** (56 mins)  
*Directed by Molly Castelloe*

EUROPEAN *Premiere*

*Vamik's Room* is about the life of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Vamik Volkan, who grew up as an ethnic minority on the divided island of Cyprus, home for two warring ethnic groups – the Turks and Greeks – and the site of bloody conflict in the 20th century.

After training to be a psychiatrist in Turkey, Vamik emigrated West and worked at racially segregated hospitals in the southern United States. He founded the Center for the Study of Mind & Human Interaction at the University of Virginia and over the next four decades travelled around the globe bringing enemy groups together for dialogue in traumatized areas of the world including Estonia, Latvia, Serbia, Croatia, Turkey, Greece and the Middle East.

Based on his fieldwork Vamik created a new vocabulary for group psychology, one based on understanding shared traumas, how they are transmitted to our children, and the important task of collective mourning. What is too hard to mourn is passed onto the next generation and into our monuments, which sheds light on the current controversies erupting over Confederate statues.

The film's climactic scene dramatizes Slobodan Milošević's rally at Kosovo, Serbia in 1989, illustrating how destructive leadership uses a nation's unmourned injury to create "time collapse" and foment enemies in the present.

The process of reparative mourning is told through the central story of Vamik's work with a refugee family forced from their home by war in The Republic of Georgia. He helps this family find hope in their new surroundings – a dilapidated hotel that was previously a luxury resort of their Soviet colonizers. He returns to the refugee camp years later where, out of the ruins, they have created a room for him, *Vamik's Room*.

40-minute panel discussion:

**Panel moderator**

Andrew Jack, Global Education Editor *Financial Times* and  
Global Health Film Advisory Board member

**Panel**

Molly Castelloe, director *Vamik's Room*

Michael Diamond, Professor Emeritus of Public Affairs and  
Organization Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia



# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

**14:30** **What Doesn't Kill Me** (80 mins)

*Directed by Rachel Meyrick*

It wasn't until her husband attacked her in public that 86-year-old Charlotta Harrison found the strength to leave. She is one of the lucky ones: every day, three women in the US are murdered by a male partner and 5 million children witness or are subject to domestic violence.

But for those who escape domestic violence, the story does not end. In the US, abusive fathers are seeking custody of their children in increasing numbers. And frighteningly - they are winning in the majority of cases. Rachel Meyrick's directorial debut explores a terrifying trend occurring in courts all over America; abusers using the family court system to gain custody and continue the abuse, putting children in extreme danger and rendering their mothers helpless to protect them.

In this bold and provocative film, mothers, lawyers, and domestic violence experts share intimate personal stories, hard-hitting facts and frank discussions about what is wrong with the system and how to fix it. The indomitable main character, 86-year-old Charlotta, stayed in her 62-year marriage in order to protect her son but you will also meet women and children who have been separated, silenced, and pushed to extreme solutions in order to escape. Hear their stories and what they're doing to fight back.

*What Doesn't Kill Me* exposes a USA national travesty compared by some to the Catholic Church scandal but also mirrors what is happening in UK courts. In this explosive era of the #TimesUp and #MeToo movement, this film illustrates to perfection gender discrimination in our court systems in which children and mothers are being actively separated from their protective parent.

# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

40-minute panel discussion:

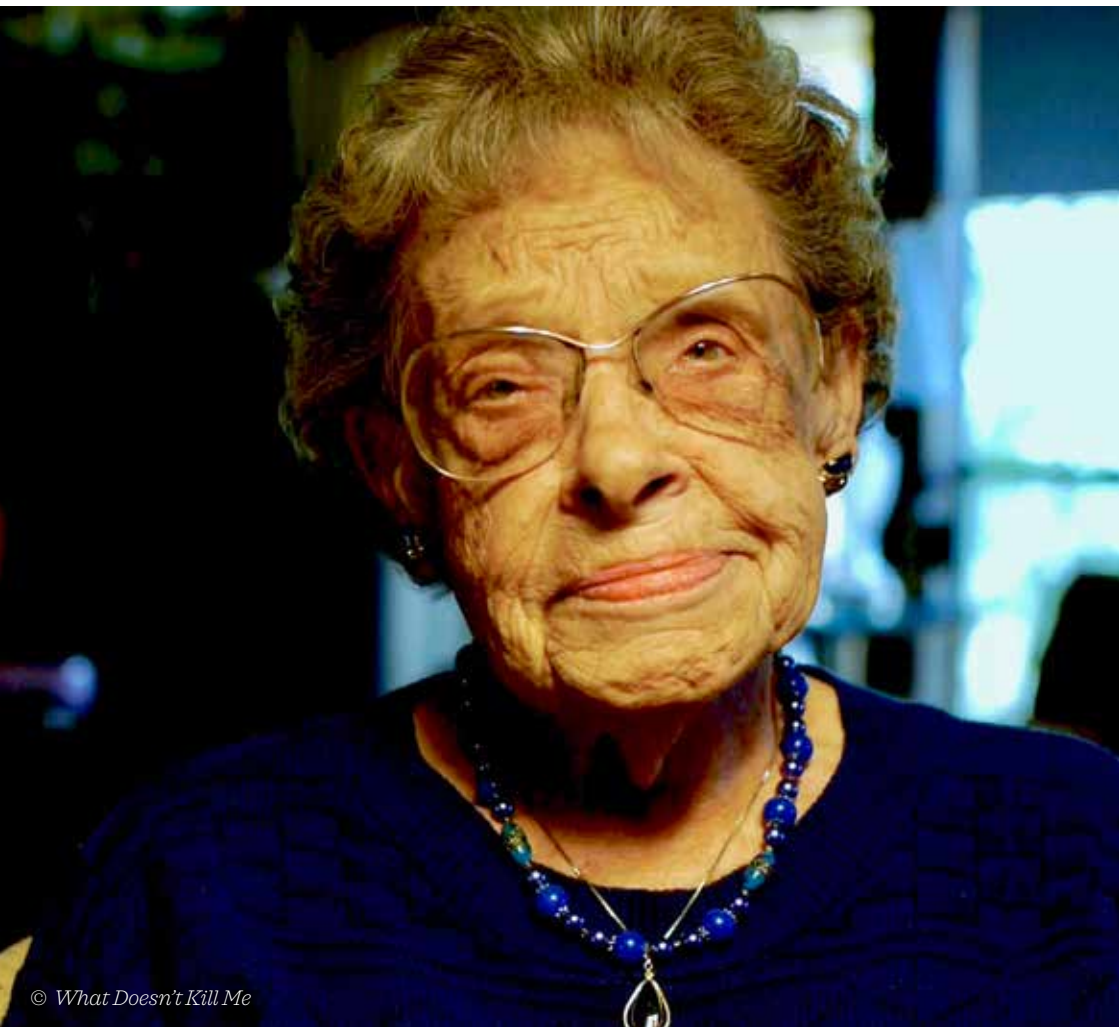
**Panel moderator**

Mark Galloway, director International Broadcasting Trust

**Panel**

Rachel Meyrick, director *What Doesn't Kill Me*

Hope and Elizabeth Loudon, protagonists *What Doesn't Kill Me*





# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

16:45 **Missing in Brooks County (81 mins)**

*Directed by Jeff Bemiss and Lisa Molomot*

EUROPEAN *Premiere*

70 miles north of the Mexican-US border lies Brooks County, Texas - a haunting, inhospitable place where thousands of immigrants have gone missing or died over the past decade.

*Missing in Brooks County* follows the journey of two families who arrive in Brooks County to look for their loved ones, only to find a mystery that deepens at every turn. Stuck between the jurisdiction of border agents, local law enforcement, and cartels, the county is a barren landscape designed as a deterrent to illegal crossings.

Despite this tactical designation, the municipality has never been provided the resources to process the remains of the hundreds of undocumented immigrants who succumb to dehydration and exposure each year.

*Missing in Brooks County* is a potent reminder that these deaths are more than a number - each represents a human being, one who was loved and lived and is now lost.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Fawzia Gibson-Fall, Senior Research Associate, King's College London and Global Health Film Advisory Board member

## **Panel**

Jeff Bemiss, co-director *Missing in Brooks County*

Omar Roman-Gomez, brother of a missing person, and protagonist *Missing in Brooks County*

Dr Kate Spradley, biological anthropologist, and protagonist *Missing in Brooks County*

# SATURDAY 05 DECEMBER

**19:00** **When The Shifts Change: Episode 5** (30 mins)

*Directed by Lauren Anders Brown*

**WORLD** *Premiere*

*When The Shifts Change* is a five-part series, with self-recorded confessionals by New Yorkers working during the Covid-19 pandemic as they explore the highs and lows of being essential workers. Each day of the Global Health Film Festival we will release an episode on our festival platform, with Episode 5 as a live event.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Lauren Anders Brown: Award-winning documentary director of *When The Shifts Change*

## **Panel**

Neiko Cristina: Sanitation worker at Borowide recycling, cast *When The Shifts Change*

Alexandria Harris: Intensive care nurse, cast *When The Shifts Change*

Syed Hoda: Medical doctor and surgical pathologist, cast *When The Shifts Change*

Carlos Lopez: Building concierge, cast *When The Shifts Change*

Jess Weiss: producer *When The Shifts Change*

**20:10** **Virtual party in New York City**

Wherever you are in the world, join us for a virtual party with a DJ to help get you dancing to the skylines of New York City hosted by the contributors and director of the series *When The Shifts Change*.



# SUNDAY 06 DECEMBER

**12:00** **The Marriage Project** (80 mins)

*Directed by Atieh Attarzadeh Firozabad and Hesam Eslami*

**UK Premiere**

Encourage the patients from a mental hospital to form relationships with each other, get married and live as a family.

That's the bold new idea of the head of Ehsan House in Southern Tehran. For the past 20 years, its 480 patients have lived in separate male and female units with no hope of ever leaving or of having meaningful sexual and emotional relationships.

In 2017 the head of the centre secured the money to build a new unit of marital facilities. Despite strong opposition, he was convinced the patients would benefit from being in a couple.

As a selection committee begins evaluating patients, hidden affections come to the surface. Finally, the team selects two patients to form the first couple. Are these two patients capable of having a relationship that leads to marriage? What do their families think? And what about the patients who weren't selected but still crave human relationships?

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Peter Jarrett, psychiatrist and Global Health Film Trustee

## **Panel**

Atieh Attarzadeh Firozabad, co-director *The Marriage Project*  
Hesam Eslami, co-director *The Marriage Project*

# SUNDAY 06 DECEMBER

**14:30** **On The Wild Side** (85 mins)

*Directed by Giacomo Giorgi*

All over the world, humans continue to view the hunting of animals as a hobby. No longer a fundamental tool for survival, the hunting of wolves, rhinos, birds, foxes and many other species is now more for entertainment and damages the fragile wildlife on which we depend on to survive.

*On The Wild Side* unites the global anti-hunting movement and sheds light on the psychology of hunting, and what drives people to kill for entertainment or sport.

Featuring interviews with activists, politicians and organisations around the world, it investigates and exposes the effects that hunting has on local ecosystems, wildlife populations, and endangered species, and shows how hunt saboteurs, mobile veterinary clinics and political lobbyists are integral to conserving our planet's wildlife.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Alice Hawryskiewicz, University of Oxford and Global Health Film Advisory Board member

## **Panel**

Giacomo Giorgi, director *On The Wild Side*

'Steve', Tactics Officer Hunt Saboteurs Association

Amaroq Weiss, Senior West Coast Wolf Advocate, Center for Biological Diversity

# SUNDAY 06 DECEMBER

**17:00** **Nasrin** (92 mins)  
*Directed by Jeff Kaufman*

**UK Premiere**

Secretly filmed in Iran by women and men who risked arrest to make this film.

*Nasrin* is an immersive portrait of the world's most honored human rights activist and political prisoner, attorney Nasrin Sotoudeh, and of Iran's remarkably resilient women's rights movement. In the courts and on the streets, Nasrin has long fought for the rights of women, children, religious minorities, journalists and artists, and those facing the death penalty.

In the midst of filming, *Nasrin* was arrested in June 2018 for representing women who were protesting Iran's mandatory hijab law. She was sentenced to 38 years in prison, plus 148 lashes.

Featuring acclaimed filmmaker Jafar Panahi, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, and journalist Ann Curry. Narrated by Academy Award-winner Olivia Colman.

40-minute panel discussion:

## **Panel moderator**

Christopher Hird, founder Dartmouth Films and Global Health Film Advisory Board member

## **Panel**

Raha Bahreini, Iran Researcher, Amnesty International

Jeff Kaufman, director *Nasrin*

Marcia Ross, producer *Nasrin*

# SUNDAY 06 DECEMBER

**19:30** **Welcome to Chechnya** (107 mins)

*Directed by David France*

Award winning writer and Oscar® nominated director David France (*How to Survive a Plague*, *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*) continues to bring important LGBTQ issues to the fore in *Welcome to Chechnya*, his searing documentary about an ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Russian republic of Chechnya.

Employing a guerrilla filmmaking style, France takes us inside the fraught, day-to-day workings of an underground pipeline of activists who face unimaginable risks to rescue LGBTQ victims from Chechnya's brutal government-directed campaign. In a republic where being gay or transgender is unspeakable, the LGBTQ community lives in the utmost secrecy and fear, under threat of detention, torture and death, often at the hands of the authorities.

Extensive access to a remarkable group of activists - from the Russian LGBT Network and the Moscow Community Center for LGBTI+ Initiatives - and alarmingly brutal footage of abuse, bring to light the underreported atrocities and the dangers of exposing them.

Since 2016, Chechnya's leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, has waged a depraved campaign to "cleanse the blood" of LGBTQ+ Chechens, overseeing a government-sanctioned effort to detain, torture, and execute them. With only faint global condemnation and no action from the Kremlin, a vast and secretive network of activists takes matters into its own hands. Countless numbers of victims have been killed, and hundreds more are missing.

In this environment of prejudice and hate, an ill-equipped and underfunded coalition of LGBTQ activists mobilizes into action despite having little experience in such

dangerous work. Offering a secure hotline to call for help and a wide-reaching network of support, the activists provide temporary shelter, safe houses and urgent safe passage. They risk their own safety by meeting with survivors, smuggling them through checkpoints and out of the country.

The film features several gay men and women who come forward in need of aid and tells their stories with astounding candour and bravery. To protect the identities of those fleeing for their lives, France alters their voices and uses adopted pseudonyms. He also deploys a ground-breaking new digital “face double” technique that has never been used before in documentary filmmaking. Visceral and haunting, the survivors can talk without fear of reprisal, and their ordeals can be heard first-hand.

By the close of the film, 151 people have been located with the help of the LGBTQ pipeline. Yet 40,000 others remain in hiding, in need of protection.

40-minute panel discussion:

**Panel moderator**

Greg Owen, co-founder I Want PrEP Now

**Panel**

Olga Baranova, protagonist *Welcome to Chechnya*

David France, director *Welcome to Chechnya*

Peter Tatchell, LGBTQ human rights campaigner

**22:05 Close**







**GHF**

# WHEN THE SHIFTS CHANGE



## CONTRIBUTORS





1.20 LBS 04/09

a documentary made  
by essential workers  
during COVID-19  
in New York City

**DIRECTED BY**  
LAUREN ANDERS BROWN

**PRODUCED BY**  
JESS WEISS

NYC  
C 19



## **Alan Adelson**

Alan Adelson is co-director and co-producer of *The People vs Agent Orange*.

Alan works in both film and print. His film and television credits include *One Survivor Remembers*, (HBO,) 1995, European production coordinator, winner of the Best Short Documentary Oscar and three Emmy Awards; as producer, director and writer: *Lodz Ghetto*, (PBS, Channel Four, 9 other countries) short-listed for Best Feature Length Documentary Oscar, 1989, winner, International Film Critics Prize, 8 international film festivals; *Two Villages in Kosovo*, 2006, (ARTE, RTE), and *In Bed With Ulysses*, 2012.

*The People vs. Agent Orange* won the Jury Award in the 2020 Eugene Environmental Film Festival.

Alan made worldwide headlines with his investigative articles in *Esquire* and the *Wall Street Journal* revealing the disappearance of enriched plutonium from a nuclear reprocessing plant.

Alan will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The People vs Agent Orange* on Wednesday 02 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Lauren Anders Brown**

Lauren Anders Brown is a self-shooting documentary filmmaker with over 10 years of industry experience starting out on television shows (*Ugly Betty*, *Royal Pains*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The Blacklist*, *House of Cards*) and feature films (*Argo*, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*) in the US. Since that initial start she has transitioned into documentaries and has worked in over 40 countries.

Lauren's interest in documenting global health has continued focusing on issues that are culturally and/or gender sensitive subjects including conflict zones, often filming on behalf of the United Nations. *When The Shifts Change* is her fifth premiere at the Global Health Film Festival following *The Checklist Effect* (2016), *Six Year Old Fears* (2017), *Shanti Khana* (2018), and *WOMENstruate* (2019).

Lauren is also our Film Festival Producer, developing the workshop programme this year, as well as encoding all the film content for this year's Global Health Film Festival.

She will moderate a panel discussion after our World Premiere of Episode 5 of *When The Shifts Change* on Saturday 05 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Claudia-Liza Armah**

With more than 15 years journalism experience, Claudia-Liza is the face of Channel 5 News Tonight, proudly being the first black lead anchor to present the daily show. Covering some of the biggest and topical stories with discussion, debate and in-depth interviews with political leaders and those at the centre of major stories, and broadcasting from national events including The Royal Wedding and the 2019 General Election.

Notching up hours of live broadcasting, Claudia-Liza has worked with some of the UK's biggest television channels including Sky News, BBC, ITV and of course Channel 5. In addition, she has covered the anchor role of 5 News at 5 and Jeremy Vine (formerly The Wright Stuff).

Claudia-Liza will moderate a panel discussion after our screening of *Doctors of War* on Friday 04 December 13:30 GMT.

### **Atieh Attarzadeh Firozabad**

Atieh Attarzadeh holds a BA and Master's in Cinema Studies from the University of Tehran as well as a Master's in documentary practice from the University of Bristol.

She has directed three short documentary films and is also a published novelist and poet. *The Marriage Project* is her first feature-length documentary.

Atieh will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The Marriage Project* on Sunday 06 December at 12:00 GMT.

### **Raha Bahreini**

Raha Bahreini is an Iranian-Canadian human rights lawyer with expertise in international human rights law.

She works as Amnesty International's researcher on Iran. Before that, she assisted the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran. Raha Bahreini's work has engaged with a wide range of human rights issues including the death penalty, freedom of expression, association and assembly, torture, women's rights, discrimination against minorities, gender identity and sexual orientation rights, and transitional justice.

Raha will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Nasrin* on Sunday 06 December at 17:00 GMT.

### **Olga Baranova**

Olga Baranova is the founding director of the Moscow Community Center for LGBT+ Initiatives. She set up and operates the largest secret shelter in the country for community members fleeing peril.

Olga will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *Welcome to Chechnya* on Sunday 06 December at 19:30.

### **Jeff Bemiss**

Jeff Bemiss is an award-winning writer/director who has worked in shorts, features and documentaries; his work has aired on network television and PBS.

Jeff is a graduate of the University of Southern California film school and the L.A. Sanford Meisner Academy. Originally trained in scripted filmmaking, Jeff's film *The Book and the Rose* was a semi-finalist for the Academy Award for best short film.

Jeff shot and directed the award-winning short documentary *Coaching Colburn* about a young man with Fragile-X Syndrome, which premiered at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. Jeff is a Connecticut Artist Fellow and a Film Independent Fast Track Fellow. He freelances for disability and social activist clients and teaches film at Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

Jeff will join a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Missing in Brooks County* on Saturday 05 December at 16:45 GMT.

## **Peter Broderick**

Peter Broderick is President of Paradigm Consulting, which helps filmmakers and media companies develop strategies to maximize distribution, audience, and revenues.

In addition to advising on sales and marketing, Paradigm Consulting specializes in state-of-the-art distribution techniques—including innovative theatrical service deals, hybrid video strategies (mixing retail and direct sales online), and new approaches to global distribution.

Broderick was President of Next Wave Films, which supplied finishing funds and other vital support to filmmakers from the US and abroad. He helped launch the careers of such exceptionally talented directors as Christopher Nolan, Joe Carnahan, and Amir Bar-Lev. In January 1999, Broderick established Next Wave Films' Agenda 2000, the world's first initiative devoted to financing digital features.

A key player in the growth of the ultra-low budget feature movement, Broderick became one of the most influential advocates of digital moviemaking. He has given presentations on digital production at festivals worldwide and written articles for *Scientific American*, *The New York Times*, and *The Economist*. In 2004 Broderick launched *Films to See Before You Vote*, harnessing the power of film to impact the US presidential election. He is a graduate of Brown University, Cambridge University, and Yale Law School.

Peter will moderate the discussion and audience feedback after our test screening of *Once Años (Eleven Years)* on Friday 04 December at 17:00 GMT.

## **John Buckles**

John Buckels was born and schooled in Liverpool then studied medicine at Birmingham University. He was appointed Consultant Surgeon to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham but took early retirement to work in the humanitarian sector. In 2002 he was awarded a CBE for "services to Transplant Surgery".

John will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *Doctors of War* on Friday 04 December at 13:30 GMT.

## **Sue Carpenter**

Sue Carpenter has been involved in Nepal and women's rights for 20 years. A journalist and photographer, she moved into documentary filmmaking in 2013, and has made several short films; *I Am Belmaya* is her first feature-length documentary.

In 2006-07 she lived in Pokhara, running the My World, My View photo project, where she met Belmaya Nepali. Sue is a Founder Trustee of GlobalGirl Media UK, empowering young women through digital media training.

Sue will take part in a panel discussion after the World Premiere of *I Am Belmaya* on Tuesday 01 December 19:00 GMT and also after the Nepal Premiere of *I Am Belmaya* on Saturday 05 December 09:45 GMT.

## **Molly Castelloe**

Molly Castelloe holds a doctorate in Performance Studies from New York University where she studied psychoanalysis and theatre. She has published in international scholarly journals on these topics and writes a blog for psychologytoday.com on group psychology.

For *Vamik's Room* she garnered the *Sidney Halpern Award* in Psychohistory and the *Gradiva Award* which recognizes artistic excellence in psychology and psychotherapy.

Molly will join a panel discussion after our European Premiere of *Vamik's Room* on Saturday 05 December at 12:00 GMT.

## **Liz Clegg**

Liz Clegg is the founder of the Women and Children's Centre in the Calais Jungle and on of the main contributors to *On Our Doorstep*.

She will take part in a panel discussion following our preview screening of *On Our Doorstep* on Friday 04 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Pam Das**

Pam Das joined *The Lancet* family of journals in 2001. She is currently a Senior Executive Editor at *The Lancet*, where she co-lead's the journal's global health work with the Editor-in-Chief, Richard

Horton. This work has led to a new role for the journal—to use organised science as a strong platform for social and political action. Her areas of interest are infectious diseases and tropical medicine, global health, public health, and international health policy. Her roles include peer review, and regularly writing editorials and for other sections of the journal, as well as overseeing *The Lancet's* Comment and News sections. She is a PhD Science graduate in Biochemistry, and prior to working at *The Lancet* spent a few years as a medical writer and a journalist.

Pam will moderate the panel discussion after our preview screening of *On Our Doorstep* on Friday 04 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Michael Diamond**

Michael Diamond is professor emeritus of public affairs and organization studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Since 2016, he has been a resident of New York City, an organizational consultant, political psychologist, and author of *Discovering Organizational Identity* (2017), among other books and scholarly articles, and is currently a faculty and steering committee member of the Gould Center for Psychoanalytic Organizational Study and Consultation at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research in New York City, where he is an honorary member.

In 2019, Michael received the award of Distinguished Member of the International Society for the Psychoanalytic Study of Organization. He is a previous recipient of the Levinson Award for Excellence in Consulting from the American Psychological Association.

Michael will join a panel discussion after our screening of *Vamik's War* on Saturday 05 December at 12:30 GMT.

### **Nafissatou Diop**

Nafissatou (Nafy) Diop is Chief of the Gender and Human Rights Branch of UNFPA. Nafy has worked with the Technical Division since 2009 as a Senior Adviser and the Global Coordinator of the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change, the global largest programme promoting the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation within a generation.



She brings more than 20 years of rewarding experience advocating for international health services, human rights and gender equality. Alongside her expertise in leading, designing, coordinating, implementing and managing complex programs and establishing multi-partnerships, she provides leadership and technical support globally, especially to African countries, the Middle East.

Nafy leads programmes to change entrenched social norms on harmful practices, accessibility to adolescent sexual and reproductive rights services, family planning, reproductive health, maternal and neonatal health, STIs and HIV/AIDS and post-abortion care. She is adept at leading operations research, using data to improve efficacy of sexual and reproductive health and rights services.

She has a PhD in Demography from the University of Montreal, a Master in Socioeconomics of Development from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and a Master's in Sociology from the University of Nanterre, Paris, France.

She will co-deliver a workshop on *Filming sensitive subjects with women* on Friday 04 December at 15:45 GMT.

## **Beth Dolan**

An acting-playwriting graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University's conservatory theatre program, Beth began her writing-directing-producing career in the Manhattan stage world. In series television she has worked with social justice series creators and showrunners Norman Lear (*All In The Family*), Diane English (Murphy Brown) and Mike Milligan (*The Jeffersons and Los Beltran*). Through their mentorship, she developed the belief that screenwriting can have tremendous social impact and reach huge audiences.

Her production company has overseen the development through completion of numerous award-winning projects, including national public service announcement campaigns, commercials and short-form documentaries. Her feature length documentary, *Regreso*, an intimate, character driven story set against the unsettled political backdrop of today's Cuba, enjoyed its world premiere at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival and continues to be screened by audiences worldwide. Beth is a member of The Writers Guild Of America and Women In Film.

Beth will showcase her current project *Strangers At Home* at a test screening on Wednesday 02 December at 17:00 GMT.

## **Hesam Eslami**

Hesam Eslami got his BFA and MA in cinema from Tehran University of Art. Since 2009 he has edited, directed and produced documentaries for television. Juvenile offenders and social injustice are the main themes of his work. In 2017 his first feature-length documentary, *20th Circuit Suspects* (six years in the life of an adolescent crime gang that breaks into cars in the streets of Tehran) premiered at Hot Docs. He attended the Berlinale Talent Campus in February 2018 where he presented his latest project on gold searchers in Iran.

Hesam will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The Marriage Project* on Sunday 06 December at 12:00 GMT.

## **David France**

David France is an Oscar® nominated filmmaker, bestselling author, and award-winning investigative journalist. His directorial debut *How to Survive a Plague* is hailed as an innovative and influential piece of storytelling and is regularly screened in university classrooms, and by community groups and AIDS service organizations. Appearing on over 20 “Best of the Year” lists, including Time and Entertainment Weekly, the documentary earned a GLAAD Award and top honours from the Gotham Awards, the International Documentary Association, the New York Film Critics Circle, the Boston Society of Film Critics, and the Provincetown Film Festival, among many others. *How to Survive a Plague* also garnered Oscar® and Emmy® nominations and a Peabody Award.

His 2017 film *The Death and Life of Marsha P Johnson* received rave reviews and won numerous festival prizes including the Outfest “Freedom Award” and special jury recognition from Sheffield International Documentary Festival.

David’s latest book, also titled *How to Survive a Plague* (Knopf, 2016), received multiple awards including the Baillie Gifford Prize for best nonfiction book published in the English Language, and was named by Entertainment Weekly, Slate, and LitHub as one of the top books

of the 2010s. In addition, France has seen his journalistic work inspire several films, including the Peabody-winning Showtime film *Soldier's Girl* based on his New York Times Magazine story of the transgender girlfriend of a soldier killed in an anti-gay attack.

David will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *Welcome to Chechnya* on Sunday 06 December at 19:30 GMT.

### **Mark Galloway**

Mark Galloway is the Director of the International Broadcasting Trust (IBT). Before joining IBT, Mark worked as a journalist, current affairs producer and documentary filmmaker. He's been a Channel 4 Commissioning Editor, responsible for Education and Features, and has made films for ITV, Channel 4, the BBC, Discovery and Al Jazeera, winning more than a dozen national and international awards including a Gold Medal at the New York Film Festival, a Peabody Award and a BAFTA. His main claim to fame is that he commissioned *Grand Designs*, one of Channel 4's longest running shows.

Mark will moderate the discussion and audience feedback after our test screening of *Stranger At Home* on Wednesday 02 December at 17:00 GMT and the panel discussion after our screening of *What Doesn't Kill Me* on Saturday 05 December at 14:30 GMT

### **Fawzia Gibson-Fall**

Fawzia Gibson-Fall is a PhD researcher working on the role of militaries in global health at Queen Mary University London.

She is a Senior Research Associate with the Conflict and Health Research Group at King's College London where she was a Teaching Fellow from 2014-19. Fawzia has a background in media and public broadcasting (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) and film is a core part of her teaching methods.

Fawzia will moderate a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Missing in Brooks County* on Saturday 05 December at 16:45 GMT.

## **Giacomo Giorgi**

Giacomo Giorgi has been very passionate about animal rights and the environment for over two decades.

In 2010 he joined one of the ships of the marine conservation and anti-poaching group Sea Shepherd, becoming one of the official photographers for the organization.

Giacomo create the On The Wild Side project to expose the effect that hunting has on billions of animals every year and on our ecosystems.

Giacomo will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *On The Wild Side* on Sunday 06 December at 14:30 GMT.

## **Alice Hawryszkiewicz**

Alice Hawryszkiewicz is a DPhil candidate at the University of Oxford studying the relationship between values and evidence in the firearm debate. Alice previously worked for the Infectious Diseases Data Observatory as the Programme Manager for Ebola and visceral leishmaniasis, and spent two years with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Neglected Tropical Diseases and Donor Government Relations. Before pursuing global health, Alice worked professionally as an actor with roles in *EastEnders* and *Holby City*.

Alice has an MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine from the University of Oxford, a BSc majoring in Genetics and Psychology from the University of Adelaide, and an Acting degree from the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts

Alice will moderate a panel discussion after our screening of *On the Wild Side* on Sunday 06 December at 14:30 GMT.

## **Christo Hird**

Christo Hird is the founder and managing director of Dartmouth Films, which has pioneered new ways of funding and distributing documentaries in the UK. Most of Dartmouth's films start their lives in cinemas and aim to change public attitudes, political policy and corporate behaviour. He is also on the Advisory Board of Global Health Film.

Christo will moderate a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Nasrin* on Sunday 06 December at 17:00 GMT.

### **Andrew Jack**

Andrew Jack is global education editor at the *Financial Times* and editorial lead for its free schools access programme. He oversees its weekly newsletter *FT Health*, and previously worked in Russia, France and the US. He wrote the books *Inside Putin's Russia* and *The French Exception* and contributes to the *British Medical Journal*.

Andrew received the Media Award of the European Organisation for Rare Diseases, a Stop TB Award for Excellence in Reporting, and a Kaiser Family Foundation mini-fellowship in global health reporting.

He will moderate a panel discussion following our UK Premiere of *The People vs Agent Orange* on Wednesday 02 December at 19:00 GMT and our European Premiere of *Vamik's Room* on Saturday 05 December at 12:30 GMT.

### **Peter Jarrett**

Dr Peter Jarrett recently retired as an NHS consultant psychiatrist after almost 25 years' service.

His career included work in the USA, family research, senior NHS management, the assessment of poorly performing doctors, junior doctor training, the education of clinicians to support patient safety and, more recently, the inspection of mental health services and work for the Mental Health Tribunal.

His career has brought him face to face with social disadvantage and health inequalities, and to the political context in which these occur, while his experience as a movie-goer has shown him the educative power of documentary film.

Peter will moderate a panel discussion following our UK Premiere of *The Marriage Project* on Sunday 06 December at 12:00 GMT.

## **Amy Jordan**

Amy Jordan is a motivational speaker, coach, fitness expert and dancer.

Amy's dance life includes study with choreographers for Madonna, Michael Jackson and Paula Abdul; her Sweet Enough Movement is an award-winning youth diabetes and obesity prevention programme and was a top-five national finalist of First Lady Michelle Obama's 'End Childhood Obesity Challenge.'

Amy has Type 1 Diabetes and fought most of her life to hide her chronic condition. Amy was critically injured and permanently disabled when she was run over by a New York City bus in May 2009. *Amy's Victory Dance* chronicles her road to recovery, all the way back to the stage.

Amy will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Amy's Victory Dance* on Thursday 03 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Jeff Kaufman**

Jeff Kaufman is the director of *Nasrin*.

He also produced, directed and wrote the Emmy-nominated documentary *Terrence McNally: Every Act Of Life* (aired on American Masters), and the documentaries *The State of Marriage*, *Father Joseph*, *The Savoy King: Chick Webb and the Music That Changed America*, *Brush With Life: The Art of Being Edward Biberman*, and *Education Under Fire*, plus a number of short films for Amnesty International, and programs for The Discovery Channel, and The History Channel.

He also edited/designed a book based on the film *Every Act Of Life*, contributed cartoons to *The New Yorker*, and illustrations to *The Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times*, wrote/illustrated several children's books, and hosted daily radio shows in Vermont and Los Angeles.

Jeff will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Nasrin* on Sunday 06 December at 17:00 GMT.

## **Ellie Kavner**

Ellie Kavner had a long career in the NHS/public sector as a family therapist working with children and families, most recently at the Tavistock Clinic London where she was both a manager, clinician and trainer. Her special interest as a practitioner was the understanding and treatment of familial violence. Currently Ellie is semi-retired and working in private practice with individuals, couples and families who present a range of human dilemmas and suffering.

Ellie has also been part of the Refugee Resilience Collective since 2016 and for two years travelled once a month on a weekly rota to help support the mental health of refugees and volunteers in the Calais area. The work came to focus primarily on supporting volunteers and has continued to do so, including virtual meetings since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ellie is taking part in a panel discussion after our preview screening of *On Our Doorstep* on Friday 04 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Brian Kimmel**

Brian Kimmel is the Principal and Director of Photography for Optic Nerve Productions.

Brian has been making films about people's livelihoods and their connections to extraordinary food and drink for over twenty years. His career as a culinary cinematographer began while filming *The Kitchen Sessions*, winner of the James Beard Award for Best Cooking Show in America.

From Brian's hometown in Portland, Oregon to the coffee farms of Rwanda, Brian's film and photography work have taken him around the world for documentary and commercial projects. His approach to filmmaking captures the intention of the storytellers in front of the camera, transporting the audience into their lives as they share their purpose and connection to place.

Brian will showcase his current project *Unsavory Times: A Chef's Pandemic Journey* at a test screening on Thursday 03 December at 17:00 GMT.

## **Thomas Laurance**

Tom Laurance is a UK based filmmaker; he studied direction at the Northern Film School in Leeds and screenwriting at The Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. His first short fiction *The Bottle* won Best Film at the Horizon Film Festival in 2013.

Tom went on to make the personal observational documentary *William Laurance & Sons Marine Engineers* which featured at Sheffield Doc Fest 2015 before travelling to Calais to volunteer as a refugee shelter carpenter.

Initially planning to stay for just a week, Tom ended up embedding himself in Calais for a year, compelled to continue to help and to document what he saw. *On Our Doorstep* is the product of that endeavor and Tom's feature documentary directorial debut.

Tom will take part in a panel discussion after our preview screening of *On Our Doorstep* on Friday 04 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Nathaniel Lippiett**

Nathaniel Lippiett is a British journalist and filmmaker. He has produced a number of films for ITN Productions, including *Inside The Court of Appeal*, *The Queen's Green Planet*, *An African Journey* and *Rivers of Blood*, winner of the Association for International Broadcasting Best Domestic Affairs Documentary award. *Doctors of War* is his first feature-length documentary.

Nathaniel will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *Doctors of War* on Friday 04 December at 13:30 GMT.

## **Hope and Elizabeth Loudon**

Twin sisters Hope and Elizabeth Loudon are protagonists in *What Doesn't Kill Me* and will join a panel discussion after our screening of the film on Saturday 05 December at 14:30 GMT.

## **Catherine McCarthy**

Catherine McCarthy is the Chief Executive of Medical Aid Films and a member of the Global Health Film Advisory Board. Previously she worked for many years in different roles at the BBC, including at a senior level in educational broadcasting and as a Senior Adviser at



BBC Media Action. She has also co-commissioned some of the BBC's major landmarks; such as *Frozen Planet*, *Life in the Undergrowth* and *LIFE*.

Catherine will moderate the discussion and audience feedback following our test screening of *Unsavory Times: A Chef's Pandemic Journey* on Thursday 03 December at 17:00 GMT.

### **Gerri McHugh**

Gerri McHugh is Founder and Director of Global Health Film and has overseen and advised on its transition from project to registered charity, including the development of a new governance structure, the recruitment of the Board of Trustees and the expansion of the Advisory Board.

She curates the Global Health Film Festival programme and develops strategic partnerships to extend its global reach through international medical and scientific conferences and arts programmes throughout the year.

She has held leadership roles in the not-for profit sector for over 20 years, advising on, developing and implementing strategies for organizational reform and growth. She has an MBA and an MSc in International Development.

### **Rachel Meyrick**

Rachel Meyrick has been a film editor for 20 years, including *A Deal with the Universe* which premiered at BFI Flare Film Festival in London.

*What Doesn't Kill Me* is her first feature-length film; she filmed, directed, produced and edited the whole film herself.

Rachel will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *What Doesn't Kill Me* on Saturday 05 December at 14:30 GMT.

### **Carol Nahra**

Carol Nahra is an American professor, journalist and producer based in London. She has been immersed in the world of documentary for more than twenty years, writing for industry publications such as *Real Screen* and *International Documentary*.

As a producer Carol helped bring a number of human rights driven documentaries to fruition, including Jose Padilha's *Secrets of the Tribe*, which highlighted the misbehaviour of anthropologists in the Amazon. She has regularly served as a judge for documentary awards, including the Griersons. She has been a long-term writer and advisory board member for Sheffield Doc/Fest, and also consults for Bertha Dothouse and others. She is a Trustee of One World Media.

As a professor, Carol is committed to training emerging filmmakers on the rich history of British nonfiction storytelling. She teaches courses on documentaries, British media, and digital journalism at several American institutions in London, including Syracuse University. She has also taught for Picturehouse Cinemas and is a regular guest speaker on documentaries.

Carol has earned a BA in English and Psychology from the University of Michigan, an MA in Anglo American studies from Sussex University, and an MA with distinction in International Journalism from City University, London.

Carol will moderate a panel discussion following our UK Premiere of *Amy's Victory Dance* on Thursday 03 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Kim Normanton**

Kim Normanton is an award-winning radio producer with over 25 years' experience in BBC Radio. Her specialism is producing thoughtful, moving interviews with people who are not used to being recorded and for treating difficult subjects with sensitivity and integrity. Her radio programmes have won Gold awards in Europe and the United States.

Kim will co-deliver a workshop entitled *Hearing health: the art of the audio documentary in global health* on Wednesday 02 December at 14:00 GMT.

### **Greg Owen**

Greg Owen leads on PrEP at Terrence Higgins Trust and is co-founder of *iwantPrEPnow*, a website which facilitates the safe purchase of genuine generic PrEP (the HIV prevention drug).

He is a global pioneer in PrEP advocacy and was awarded the Life Ball Life Plus Award 2017 for outstanding contribution to HIV prevention. Greg has featured in numerous radio shows and on television, speaking about HIV, sexual well-being and PrEP, as well as writing and contributing to countless articles for LGBT and mainstream media. He recently starred in the critically acclaimed, landmark BBC documentary *The People vs The NHS: Who Gets The Drugs?* He has just started work on a new mainstream media project.

Greg will moderate a panel discussion after our screening of *Welcome to Chechnya* on Sunday 06 December at 19:30 GMT.

### **Jane Ray**

Jane is the Consultant Artistic Director for The Whickers and a multi-award-winning documentary maker and executive producer in radio and television. Her awards range from the Sony Award for best news programme (2002) and the TRIC award for best children's programme (1993) to China's Golden Kapok award for best director (2014).

Having spent 29 years at the BBC, Jane worked with Alan Whicker in the 1990s and last year got the call to help set up a new documentary foundation funded by his generous legacy. She wrote and directed Radio 4's archive programme about Alan: *Around the World in 80 years*, presented by Michael Palin, and is immensely proud to have participated in his work for TV and radio.

Jane will co-deliver a workshop entitled *Hearing Health: the art of the audio documentary in global health* on Wednesday 02 December at 14:00 GMT.

### **Omar Roman-Gomez**

Omar Roman-Gomez' brother went missing in Brooks County after fleeing from Border Patrol; Omar has been trying to find out what has happened to him.

Omar will join a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Missing in Brooks County* on Saturday 05 December at 16:45 GMT.

## **Marcia Ross**

Marcia Ross is the producer of *Nasrin*.

She also produced the Emmy-nominated documentary *Terrence McNally: Every Act Of Life*, and the documentaries *The State of Marriage*, *Father Joseph*, and *The Savoy King*. Additionally, she has a 3- decade career as an independent casting director and casting executive, serving 16 years as EVP for Casting at Walt Disney Motion Pictures, and five years as VP for Casting and Talent Development at Warner Brothers TV.

Some of her film and television credits include *Clueless*, *Cujo*, *thirtysomething*, *Murder in Mississippi*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *The Princess Diaries*, *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*, *The Lookout*, *Enchanted*, *Oblivion*, and *Parental Guidance*.

Marcia will join a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Nasrin* on Sunday 06 December at 17:00 GMT.

## **Subina Shrestha**

Subina Shrestha is an award-winning filmmaker and journalist.

Her work ranges from print stories on the *New York Times*, to short fiction in virtual reality. Her documentaries on Al Jazeera have been used by various educational institutions including Columbia Journalism School, SOAS, and by human rights organizations in the Hague to discuss modern day slavery and the Maoist conflict. Her news coverage on Nepal's earthquake and its aftermath earned her multiple awards including an Emmy nomination.

She was nominated for the Rory Peck Award for her camerawork while undercover reporting in Myanmar during cyclone Nargis. She was a 2017 Nieman fellow at Harvard and a 2019 Global Media Maker fellow at Film Independent.

Subina will take part in a panel discussion after the World Premiere of *I Am Belmaja* on Tuesday 01 December at 19:00 GMT.

## **Mike Skinner**

Dr Michael Skinner is a professor in the School of Biological Sciences at Washington State University. His research is focused on the

investigation of gonadal growth and differentiation, with emphasis in the area of reproductive biology. His current research has demonstrated the ability of environmental toxicants to promote the epigenetic transgenerational inheritance of disease phenotypes due to abnormal germ line epigenetic programming in gonadal development.

His research has been highlighted in BBC, PBS and Smithsonian documentaries and selected as one of the top 100 discoveries in 2005 and 2007 by Discover. In 2013 he received the American Ingenuity Award from the Smithsonian.

Mike will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The People vs Agent Orange* on Wednesday 02 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Anna Smith**

Anna Smith is one of the UK's leading film critics and broadcasters.

The former President of The Critics' Circle, she is also host of the podcast Girls On Film, which was listed as the 'Best Feminist Film Podcast' by Stylist magazine.

A long-time contributor to *Time Out*, *Metro*, *The Guardian* and *Sight & Sound*, Anna appears regularly on BBC TV ('The Film Review'), Radio 4 and Sky TV. She has twice been the chosen film expert on the Sky Cinema sofa during the UK's official Academy Awards broadcast. Over the years, she has hosted hundreds of Q&A across the UK with stars including Annette Bening, Hugh Jackman, Sir Ben Kingsley, Sienna Miller, Julianne Moore, Louis Theroux and Stanley Tucci.

Anna will moderate a panel discussion after the World Premiere of *I Am Belmaya* on Tuesday 01 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Kate Spradley**

Dr Kate Spradley is a biological anthropologist at Texas State University. With her team of graduate students and colleague Krista Latham, Kate processes the scores of bodies found buried in mass graves in Brooks County.

Kate is joining a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Missing in Brooks County* on Saturday 05 December at 16:45 GMT.

## **‘Steve’**

Steve has been a hunt saboteur, blogger and activist for almost ten years. He is passionate about wildlife and fighting for their rights, both at home and abroad to live unmolested, free from hunting and persecution be it illegal or state sponsored.

He is a founding member of a regional sab group and Tactics Officer for the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Steve will join a panel discussion after our screening of *On The Wild Side* on Sunday 06 December at 14:30 GMT.

## **Peter Tatchell**

Peter Tatchell is a human rights campaigner working mainly on democracy, LGBT+ freedom and global justice issues since 1967.

Among his many involvements, he was a leading activist in the Gay Liberation Front 1971-74 and in the queer human rights group OutRage! 1990-2011. Through the Peter Tatchell Foundation, he campaigns for human rights in Britain and internationally.

Peter will take part in a panel discussion after our screening of *Welcome to Chechnya* on Sunday 06 December at 19:30 GMT.

## **Kate Taverna**

Kate Taverna is co-director and co-producer of *The People vs Agent Orange*. She edited, produced and co-directed *In Bed with Ulysses* as well as co-directed and edited the feature-length *Lodz Ghetto* both of which had nationwide theatrical releases.

Alan Adelson and Kate Taverna also collaborated on *Two Villages in Kosovo* for ARTE France and Germany, and RTE Ireland. Kate has edited more than 50 films over her career: *Asylum* and *Killing in the Name* were Academy Award nominees in the Best Short Documentary category in 2004 and 2011 respectively. The feature-length *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* won Best Documentary award at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival. *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* won the Audience Award at the 2014 Boston Independent film festival, released theatrically nationwide and globally on Netflix. *Los Sures*, a film she edited in 1984, premiered at the New York Film Festival that year and reprised again in 2014, going on to a nationwide theatrical release.

Kate will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The People vs Agent Orange* on Wednesday 02 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Brian Thomas**

Emmy-nominated and award-winning director Brian Thomas has worked in all areas of show business over 25 years. After many years of working with various music artists, Brian started choreographing and teaching around the world. He is best known for his work on the Michael Jackson 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special featuring an all-star cast that still ranks as one of the most watched television events ever.

He has also directed music videos, short films and his first feature-length documentary *Amy's Victory Dance*.

Brian will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *Amy's Victory Dance* on Thursday 03 December at 19:00.

### **Carol Van Strum**

Carol Van Strum is a writer, bookseller, ruthless editor, chronic book reviewer, and seasoned troublemaker.

Her books include *A Bitter Fog: Herbicides and Human Rights* (Sierra Club Books, 1983, Jericho Hill 2014), *The Oreo File* (Jericho Hill 2016), *No Margin of Safety* (Greenpeace 1987), and *The Politics of Penta* (Greenpeace 1989).

She has been a proof-reader and toxics and legal researcher for environmental lawyers since 1975 and was sole editor and on-line book reviewer for The Department of the Planet Earth until the demise of its founder, as well as researcher and copy editor for Mongabay.com, and Tropical Conservation Science Journal.

Carol will take part in a panel discussion after our UK Premiere of *The People vs Agent Orange* on Wednesday 02 December at 19:00 GMT.

### **Amaroq Weiss**

Amaroq Weiss is the Senior West Coast Wolf Advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity.

A biologist and former attorney, Amaroq has worked on wolf issues in the northern Rockies, Alaska, the Southwest, Pacific West and at the federal level, for 23 years. She was a stakeholder/advisor for the drafting of Oregon and California's state wolf plans, and currently focuses on wolf management by state wildlife agencies, commissions and legislatures in Washington, Oregon and California, and wolf recovery and protections at the federal level. She is the author, co-author or editor on multiple publications and Op Eds on wolves, has appeared in several wolf documentaries, and is frequently interviewed by national and international media outlets.

Prior to joining the staff of the Center for Biological Diversity in 2013, Amaroq previously worked for the Mexican Wolf Conservation Fund, Defenders of Wildlife and the California Wolf Center. She holds a B.S. from Iowa State University, an M.S. from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a J.D. from University of California Hastings College of the Law. The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Amaroq will join a panel discussion after our screening of *On The Wild Side* on Sunday 06 December at 14:30 GMT.

## **Emily Wright**

Emily Wright is a filmmaker, writer and film programmer, based between London and Bogotá. Her work has appeared in *Foreign Policy*, *The New Yorker*, *Al Jazeera*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic*, *Radio France International* and *Deutsche Welles*. Her work has been exhibited at the ICA, Cinema Politica, Slought Mediatheque in Philadelphia, and presented to the US Congress on Capitol Hill. She co-curates the showcase Ficción/no/Ficción at the Cinemateca de Bogotá.

Emily will showcase her current project *Once Años (Eleven Years)* at a test screening on Friday 04 December at 17:00 GMT.



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