



16th annual  
**DOCU** WEEKS  
docuweeks.com

**NY** AUGUST 03 – 23, 2012  
**LA** AUGUST 10 – 30, 2012

**International Documentary Association (IDA) Announces Films  
for  
16th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase**

TWENTY-EIGHT FILMS SCREENING IN THEATRICAL RELEASE  
IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES FROM AUGUST 3rd – 30th

LOS ANGELES, June 28, 2012 — The Arab Spring as seen from the eyes of a young female Egyptian journalist. The mass exodus from a Northeastern Mexican village in search of water during the annual drought. A once-in-a-lifetime journey to the Academy Awards® for one extraordinary 5th grade choir. These are just some of the 28 outstanding stories that will be presented in the International Documentary Association's 16th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase.

Screening from August 3rd through the 23rd in New York at the IFC Center (323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street) and August 10th through the 30th at the Laemmle NoHo 7 (5240 Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood), the 2012 edition of DocuWeeks™ will present seventeen feature films and eleven shorts from nineteen different countries in theatrical runs, which will give movie-lovers a chance to catch some of the best documentary films of the year.

“With over 500 screenings during the month of August, DocuWeeks™ gives documentary fans on both coasts multiple opportunities to see a great lineup of short and feature length docs,” says IDA Executive Director Michael Lumpkin. “We are especially excited about the eleven amazing short documentaries playing in DocuWeeks this year, by far more than we have had before.”

The 16th Annual DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase is presented by the International Documentary Association with the support of lead sponsor HBO Documentary Films; contributing sponsors NBCUniversal Archives, Chainsaw, and WESTDOC; and media sponsors *LA Weekly* and *Village Voice*.

Features appearing in this year's DocuWeeks™ Theatrical Documentary Showcase include: *The Anderson Monarchs*, *Defiant Requiem*, *Digital Dharma: One Man's Mission to Save a Culture*, *Drought*, *Garden in the Sea (Jardín en el Mar)*, *La Source*, *Love Free or Die*, *The Magic Life*, *Of Two Minds*, *Once In a Lullaby: The PS 22 Chorus Documentary*, *Out of the Clear Blue Sky*, *RICKY on LEACOCK*, *TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged*, *We Women Warriors (Tejiendo Sabiduría)*, *Without A Net*, and *Words of Witness*.

DocuWeeks™ will also present eleven documentary short films including: *The A-Word*, *Beauty CULTure*, *Cutting Loose*, *Jimmy*, *Kings Point*, *Open Heart*, *The Perfect Fit*, *The Record Breaker*, and POV's StorysCorps Shorts: *Facundo the Great*, *Eyes on the Stars*, and *Sundays at Rocco's*.

(See below for more information on the individual films.)

Tickets for individual films at the Laemmle NoHo 7 are \$11.00 for general admission, \$8.00 for IDA members, and \$8.00 for seniors and children.

Tickets for individual films at the IFC Center are \$13.00 for general admission, \$8.00 for IDA members and \$9.00 for seniors and children. Tickets can be purchased at the respective box offices, or through [www.documentary.org/docuweeks](http://www.documentary.org/docuweeks) in July.

A complete schedule and additional information about each film can be found on the International Documentary Association's website at <http://www.documentary.org/docuweeks>.

Since its premiere in 1997 DocuWeeks™ has qualified over 205 short and feature length films for Oscar consideration and yielded 25 nominations with 7 winning the Oscar®. Documentaries presented in past DocuWeeks™ programs include Oscar® winners *Smile Pinki* (2008), *Taxi To The Dark Side* (2007) and *The Blood of Yingzhou District* (2006), as well as Oscar® Nominees *Hell and Back Again* (2011), *The Barber of Birmingham* (2011), *Wasteland* (2010), *Sun Come Up* (2010) *Killing in the Name* (2010), *Rabbit à la Berlin* (2009), *The Betrayal* (2008), *War/Dance* (2007), *Salim Baba* (2007) and *Sari's Mother* (2007).

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### **About IDA**

The International Documentary Association (IDA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 1982 to support documentary filmmaking worldwide. At IDA, we believe that the power and artistry of the documentary are vital to cultures and societies globally, and we exist to serve the needs of those who create this art form. Our mission is to provide community, education, specific support services, opportunities and related resources to our clients, the documentary filmmakers.

### **About Laemmle NoHo 7**

Laemmle Theaters is the premiere art house chain in Los Angeles. A family owned business established in 1938 by Kurt and Max Laemmle, nephews of Carl Laemmle, the founder of Universal Pictures, Laemmle Theatres spans three generations, and remains dedicated to bringing quality foreign and American independent film to the Los Angeles community.. Tickets can be purchased online and at the lobby box office. Laemmle offers a Premiere Card membership with ticket and concession discounts. The Laemmle NoHo 7 is located at 5240 Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood. Reduced rate parking is available with theater validation. Parking entrance is on Weddington. For membership, tickets and show times, visit [www.laemmle.com](http://www.laemmle.com).

### **About IFC Center**

IFC Center, a five-screen, state-of-the-art cinema in the heart of New York's Greenwich Village, opened in June 2005 following an extensive renovation of the historic Waverly Theater. Bringing the very best in new foreign-language, American independent, and documentary features to NYC audiences, IFC Center is also known for its innovative repertory series and festivals, for showing short films before its regular features in the ongoing "Short Attention Span Cinema" program, and for special events such as the guest-curated "Movie Nights" and frequent in-person appearances by filmmakers. In 2010, the theater launched DOC NYC, an annual festival that premieres new documentary work in November of each year. The theater's lobby concession stand features a unique array of food and merchandise, from organic popcorn, locally made vegan baked goods and David Lynch coffee to CineMetal t-shirts, books and a carefully curated selection of classic, foreign and independent films on DVD and Blu-Ray. IFC Center also offers a membership program that includes ticket and merchandise discounts, free members-only screenings and other rewards. For additional theater information, current and upcoming program details and more, visit [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com)

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## DocuWeeks™ 2012: FILM LINEUP

### FEATURES

#### **The Anderson Monarchs**

Director/Producer: Eugene Martin  
Producers: Daniel M. Kalai, Daniel O'Meara, Ed Givnish  
Philly Soccer Doc, LLC  
76 min. USA

*The Anderson Monarchs* is about a nationally competitive African-American girls soccer club competing, living, and thriving in an at-risk urban neighborhood in Philadelphia. Nominated in 2008 by *Sports Illustrated* as "Sports Team" of the year, they were also hailed as "the future of American Soccer" in the London newspaper, *The Guardian*. *The Anderson Monarchs*, like their namesake Marian Anderson, are making history. Their remarkable story brings them to a place they only ever imagined in their dreams.

#### **Defiant Requiem**

Director/Producer/Writer: Doug Shultz  
Producer: Peter Schnall  
Executive Producers: Whitney Johnson, Peter Schnall  
Partisan Pictures  
85 min. USA/Czech Republic

A memorial concert reawakens the story of an artistic uprising in the Nazi concentration camp, Terezin, where a chorus of 150 inmates confronts the Nazis face-to-face...and sings to them what they dare not say.

#### **Digital Dharma: One Man's Mission to Save a Culture**

Director/Producer/Writer: Dafna Yachin  
Writers: Timothy Gates, Arthur Fischman  
Executive Producer: Frank Evers  
Lunchbox Communications  
82 min. India/USA/Nepal/China

When ancient writings of Sanskrit and Tibetan texts vanish during the political turmoil of the 1950s and 1960s, the history of a whole society is in danger of disappearing. *Digital Dharma* chronicles the 50-year journey of E. Gene Smith, a Mormon from Utah, the unlikely leader of an effort to rescue, preserve, and share 20,000 volumes of ancient Tibetan text; an epic of one man's mission that became the catalyst for an international movement to provide free access to the story of a people.

#### **Drought**

Director/Writer: Everardo González  
Producer: Martha Orozco

Ciénega Docs/Fondo para la Producción Cinematográfica de Calidad (FOPROCINE) with the support of the Tribeca Film Institute and Jan Vrijman Fund.

83 min.

Mexico

Residents from the ejido (communal land) Los Cuates de Australia in Northeast Mexico perform every year a massive exodus to look for water during drought. In this exile, men, women, elders, and children wait for the first drops of water to return to their lands, metaphor of a small town that hides from death.

### **Garden in the Sea (Jardín en el Mar)**

Director/Writer: Thomas Riedelsheimer

Producer: Manuel Arango

Executive Producer: Rodolfo Ogarrio

Mexican Foundation for Environmental Education

69 min.

Mexico

*Garden in the Sea* is a documentary about art, landscape, and environment. Over a period of four years, the director followed Spanish artist Cristina Iglesias to the Mexican Sea of Cortez where she was commissioned to create an underwater sculpture that gradually would help enhance marine life. Expanding the form of a classic portrait, the film talks not only about the role of art but also about human passion, experiences, and longings and makes the stunning beauty of our world tangible inviting us to care for it.

### **La Source**

Director//Producer/Writer: Patrick Shen

Producer/Writer: Brandon Vedder

Producer/Executive Producer: Jordan Wagner

Executive Producers: Christian Tureaud, David Salzberg, Regina Manian, Nancy Luyen

Transcendental Media/All Cut Up Films

71 min.

USA/Haiti

After an earthquake devastates his beloved country, a Haitian Princeton janitor seeks the support of the privileged community he serves every day and sacrifices everything to revive his lifelong dream to bring what is most fundamental to his village's survival: clean water.

### **Love Free or Die**

Director: Macky Alston

Producer: Sandra Itkoff

Reveal Productions, Inc.

82 min.

USA/UK

*Love Free or Die* is about a man whose two defining passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and his partner Mark. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historical traditions of Christendom. His consecration in 2003, to which he wore a bulletproof vest, caused an

international stir, and he has lived with death threats every day since. *Love Free or Die* follows Robinson from small-town churches in the New Hampshire North County to Washington's Lincoln Memorial to London's Lambeth Palace, as he calls for all to stand for equality—inspiring bishops, priests and ordinary folk to come out from the shadows and change history.

**The Magic Life**

Director/Producer: Nelson Cheng  
Park Row Productions  
73 min. USA

Three aspiring individuals try to turn their passion into a career. Can they pull off the biggest trick of their lives and become working magicians?

**Of Two Minds**

Directors/Writers: Doug Blush, Lisa Klein  
Producers: Kristin Chambers, Lisa Klein  
Executive Producers: Christine O'Malley, John Loll, Jane Bierke-Loll  
MadPix, Inc.  
89 min. USA

Take your best day...and your darkest moment...and multiply by a million. *Of Two Minds*, from the creative team behind *Wordplay*, *I.O.U.S.A.*, *Superheroes*, and *These Amazing Shadows*, explores the extraordinary lives, struggles, and successes of a few of the over five million Americans living with bipolar disorder. *Of Two Minds* puts a human face on bipolar, providing an intimate, painful, and painfully funny look at those who live in its shadows...our parents and children, our friends and lovers...and ourselves.

**Once in a Lullaby: The PS 22 Chorus Documentary**

Director/Producer: Jonathan Kalafer  
Producers: Steve Kalafer, Bao Nguyen  
New Jersey Pictures  
85 min. USA

The PS22 Chorus from Staten Island became a YouTube sensation when their teacher started posting videos of them singing on his blog. At their annual Holiday Concert they received a surprise visitor. Anne Hathaway was there to invite them to be the featured performance at the 83rd Annual Academy Awards! *Once in a Lullaby* follows these lovable fifth-graders from the streets and hallways in Staten Island to the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, where creative differences, lost voices, and homesickness threaten their performance.

**Out of the Clear Blue Sky**

Director/Producer/Writer: Danielle Gardner  
Producers: Genevieve Baker, Lydia Snape  
Asphalt Films, Inc.

107 min.

USA/UK

On September 11, 2001, Cantor Fitzgerald became famous for the worst of all possible reasons. 658 of their employees were missing, presumed dead, in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Though Cantor suffered almost twice the casualties of the FDNY, their story was soon pushed aside as the media ambushed Cantor CEO Howard Lutnick, who went from face-of-the-tragedy to pariah within weeks. A true stranger-than-fiction account, unfolding over months and years, the film captures being caught in the crosshairs of history.

### **RICKY on LEACOCK**

Director/Producer/Writer: Jane Weiner  
Co-Producers: Frédéric Gaffigne, Heidi Draper  
Executive Producer: Diane Markrow  
JDB Films, Inc./AS'Image  
89 min. USA/France/Spain/Canada

The work (on and off screen) of legendary filmmaker, Richard Leacock, protégé to Robert Flaherty (*Nanook of the North*, *Louisiana Story*) not only influenced generations of filmmakers during his long career but also changed, technically and aesthetically, "how" movies are made. *RICKY on LEACOCK* is a cinematic journey that Jane Weiner began as a young filmmaker during which, over 38 years, she filmed various encounters with his friends and contemporaries including D.A. Pennebaker, Robert Drew, Ed Pincus, Jonas Mekas, Dušan Makavejev, and others.

### **TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged**

Director/Producer/Writer: Megan Smith-Harris  
Writer/Executive Producer: Bill Harris  
Pyewackitt Productions  
87 min. USA

*TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged* celebrates the strength, courage and hope of burn survivors as they reclaim their lives, and their dreams, after the devastating injuries of fire. American hero and *Dancing with the Stars* champion, J.R. Martinez provides context and perspective to the inspirational survivor stories in the film, which also honors the firefighters, doctors, and nurses who help them recover. When you forge metal with fire, it becomes stronger. The same is true of the human spirit.

### **We Women Warriors (Tejiendo Sabiduría)**

Director/Producer/Writer: Nicole Karsin  
Todos Los Pueblos Productions  
79 min. USA/Colombia

*We Women Warriors* follows three native women caught in the crossfire of Colombia's warfare who use nonviolent resistance to defend their peoples' survival. Colombia has 102 aboriginal groups, one-third of which face extinction because of the conflict. Trapped in a protracted predicament financed by the

drug trade, indigenous women are resourcefully leading and creating transformation imbued with hope. *We Women Warriors* bears witness to neglected human rights catastrophes and interweaves character-driven stories about female empowerment, unshakable courage, and faith in the endurance of indigenous culture.

**Without a Net**

Director/Producer/Writer: Kelly J. Richardson  
Producer: John Antonelli  
Live Wired Productions  
60 min. USA/Brazil

Djeferson, Bárbara, Rayana, and Platini live in a drug controlled slum of Rio de Janeiro. Their families are struggling, their homes are physically unstable, and everyone they know has dropped out of school. When a big-top circus tent suddenly appears in a nearby parking lot, they decide to take a chance. They learn trapeze, acrobatics, juggling, and contortion, and then audition for the end-of-year show, rehearse, and prepare for the curtains to part on opening night. Along the way, *Without a Net* explores the connections between risk, desire, poverty, and circus and celebrates the perseverance and resilience of youth in the face of tremendous odds.

**Words of Witness**

Director/Producer: Mai Iskander  
Executive Producers: Tiffany Schauer, Steve Cohen  
Iskander Films  
69 min. USA/Egypt

Every time 22-year-old Heba Afify heads out to cover the historical events shaping her country's future, her mother is compelled to remind her, "I know you are a journalist, but you're still a girl!" Defying cultural norms and family expectations, Heba takes to the streets to report on an Egypt in turmoil, using tweets, texts, and Facebook posts. Her coming of age, political awakening, and the disillusionment that follows mirrors that of a nation seeking the freedom to shape its own destiny, dignity, and democracy.

**SHORTS**

**The A-Word**

Director/Writer/Executive Producer: Lindsay Ellis  
Producers: Kaveh Taherian, Clarinda Morales  
University of Southern California  
27 min. USA

In the fall of 2009, Lindsay Ellis, a 25-year-old graduate student, made the decision to terminate her first and only pregnancy, finding the decision much more difficult than she anticipated. In this film, she attempts to humanize the experience by exploring both her own and others' by asking, is there even such a thing as the "right" choice?

### **Beauty CULTure**

Director: Lauren Greenfield  
Producers: Frank Evers, Shanah Blevins  
Executive Producer: Frank Evers  
Evergreen Pictures  
31 min. USA/France

*Beauty CULTure* explores how feminine beauty is defined and revered, and the consequences for female body image. Through an examination of the photography industry and iconic fashion images, the film investigates our age-old obsession with beauty, its biological origins, and the role of the media and technology in narrowing its definition with ubiquitous imagery. Fashion photographers, avant-garde artists, celebrated models, child pageant stars, body builders, teenagers, and intellectuals engage in a provocative dialogue about the "beauty contest" of modern life.

### **Cutting Loose**

Directors/Producers: Finlay Pretsell, Adrian McDowall  
SDI Productions  
29 min. Scotland

Hairdressers poised, scissors at the ready, clients in place. Cutting begins. The salon looks familiar enough, chatter rising above the chopping and blow drying, but the hairdressers have something in common—they're all serving time in Scotland's jails. *Cutting Loose* provides a fascinating snapshot of prison life during the build up to the annual Scottish Prison Service hairdressing competition. As the competition approaches, we hear the dreams and aspirations of some of Scotland's most dangerous prisoners as they style the hair of fellow inmates on a daily basis.

### **Jimmy**

Director: Martin Smith  
Producer: Finlay Pretsell  
Writer: Jimmy  
Executive Producers: Noe Mendelle, Sonja Henrici  
SDI Productions  
12 min. Scotland

A day in the life of Jimmy McIntosh, MBE, who has tirelessly campaigned for disabled rights since 1972. An incredibly intimate portrait told from Jimmy's point of view, a wheelchair bound cerebral palsy sufferer. Nothing stands in Jimmy's way.

### **Kings Point**

Director/Producer: Sari Gilman  
Producers: Jedd Wider, Todd Wider  
Co-Producer: Susannah Ludwig  
Kings Point Documentary/Wider Film Projects

30 min.

USA

Director Sari Gilman tells the stories of five seniors living in a typical American retirement resort—men and women who came to Florida decades ago with their spouses by their sides and their health intact, and now find themselves grappling with love, loss, and the prospect of dying alone. A bittersweet look at our national obsession with self-reliance, *Kings Point* explores the dynamic tension between living and aging—between our desire for independence and our need for community—and underscores our powerful ambivalence toward growing old.

### **Open Heart**

Director/Producer/Writer: Kief Davidson

Producer: Cori Stern

Executive Producers: Geralyn Dreyfous, Rick Rosenthal, Damon Lindelof, Heidi Lindelof, Sean Mewshaw, Desi Van Til, Eric Dobkin, Barbara Dobkin, Nancy Stephens

Urban Landscapes Productions/Whitewater Films/Believe Media

39 min.

USA/Republic of Rwanda/Republic of the Sudan

Eight Rwandan children leave their families behind to embark on a life or death journey seeking high-risk heart surgery in Sudan. Their hearts ravaged by a treatable disease from childhood strep throat, the kids have only months to live. *Open Heart* reveals the intertwined endeavors of Dr. Emmanuel, Rwanda's lone government cardiologist as he fights to save the lives of his young patients, and Dr. Gino, the Salam Center's fiercely opinionated head surgeon, who must also fight to save his hospital, Africa's only link to life-saving free cardiac surgery for the millions who need it.

### **The Perfect Fit**

Director: Tali Yankelevich

Producer: Finlay Pretsell

Executive Producer: Noeme Mendelle

SDI Productions

9 min.

Scotland

Ballet shoes may be worn by delicate girls, but they're crafted by big burly men whose hands tell another story.

### **POV's StoryCorps Shorts**

Directors: The Rauch Brothers

Producers: Lizzie Jacobs, Mike Rauch

Executive Producers: Donna Galeno, Dave Isay

StoryCorps

7 min.

USA

***Facundo the Great*** Ramòn "Chunky" Sanchez recounts how the new kid at school became a hero when his name stumped their teachers.

***Eyes on the Stars*** Carl McNair tells the story of his brother Ronald, an African American kid in the 1950s who set his sights on the stars.

***Sundays at Rocco's*** Nicholas Petron remembers family dinners at his grandfather's place and how everything changed when the city made new plans for their neighborhood.

**The Record Breaker**

Director/Writer: Brian McGinn

Producer/Executive Producer: Mette Heide

Plus Pictures

25 min.

Denmark/USA

Ashrita Furman holds the official record for the most Guinness World Records by one individual, including marks for "Largest Hula Hoop," "Most Apples Sliced in Mid-Air with a Samurai Sword", and "Longest Distance Bicycling Underwater." A health food store owner and devotee of meditation, Furman travels the world creating new categories for record achievement. We meet Furman, a singularly driven character, and his merry band of compatriots (including Champ the dog) as he's about to attempt to climb Machu Picchu on stilts.