



Ramin Bahrani

2nd Chance; Man Push Cart

Academy Award, BAFTA, WGA and Emmy Nominee Ramin Bahrani is the Iranian-American writer, director, and producer of *Man Push Cart*, *Chop Shop*, *Goodbye Solo*, *99 Homes*, and *The White Tiger*. His debut feature documentary, *2nd Chance*, premiered at Sundance and was released by Showtime. Roger Ebert proclaimed Bahrani as “the director of the decade” in 2010. Bahrani is a Guggenheim Fellow and his cinematic oeuvre is housed in the permanent collection at the MoMA in New York City. Currently, he is adapting and will direct a six-part limited series of John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. His latest short documentary premiered at Telluride (2023). As producer, Ramin’s films include Alex Camilleri’s Sundance-winning Maltese debut feature *Luzzu* (2020), Alexandre Moratto’s Independent Spirit Award-winning Brazilian debut feature *Socrates* (2018) and his Venice-winning *7 Prisoners* (2021), Saim Sadiq’s Cannes-winning Pakistani debut *Joyland* (2022), and Angus MacLachlan’s Sundance premiere *A Little Prayer* (2023).



Reid Davenport

I Didn't See You There; A Cerebral Game

Reid Davenport makes documentaries about disability from an overtly political perspective. Reid’s film *I Didn’t See You There* won the Directing Award for U.S. Documentary at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and the Truer Than Fiction Award at the 2023 Independent Spirit Awards. It was also a Gotham Nominee for Best Documentary and won awards at Full Frame Documentary Film Festival and the San Francisco International Film Festival. Nick Allen of *Roger Ebert* described the film as “first-person poetry in captivating motion.” *Vox* called it a “must-see.” His film currently in production, *Life After*, is being produced by Multitude Films and has received support from The Ford Foundation, Sundance, Field of Vision, and Catapult Film Fund. In 2020, Reid was named to DOC NYC’s “40 Filmmakers Under 40” list. His short film *A Cerebral Game* won the Artistic Vision Award at the 2016 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.



Kathryn Ferguson

Nothing Compares; Taking the Waters

Belfast-born Kathryn Ferguson is an Emmy-nominated director and writer. Her innovative and boundary-pushing documentary work has screened globally, and in 2022 she was awarded the inaugural BFI & Chanel Filmmaker Award for Creative Audacity. In 2018, Kathryn’s film *Taking the Waters* premiered at Sheffield DocFest and was long-listed for a BAFTA. In 2021, Kathryn worked with Passion Pictures on the short *Space to Be* for The Guardian’s acclaimed documentary series. After a decade of short-form work centered on identity, gender politics, and community, Kathryn recently completed her debut feature documentary *Nothing Compares* — which takes as its subject Sinéad O’Connor’s artistry, activism, and legacy, and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival (2022). The film has screened globally, been theatrically released, and has won multiple awards, including Best Feature Documentary and Best Debut Director — Feature Documentary at this year’s BIFA Awards and the IFTA award for Best Documentary Feature.



Josef Gatti

Phenomena; A Forgotten Cure

Josef Gatti is an emerging filmmaker and artist from Melbourne, Australia, passionate about the intersection of art and science, and its capacity to tell universal stories with impact. Working as a director and cinematographer, he applies his distinct visual style to both traditional and contemporary media. From documenting Australia’s biggest music festivals to co-creating an internet cult character, his path is unconventional. Josef has recently completed a director’s placement with Emmy Award-winning Genepool Productions. He is currently directing his feature documentary debut based on his short series and immersive experience *Phenomena* — described by DOC NYC as “a film that just has to be experienced.” The film takes an innovative approach to exploring the universe by combining scientific experimentation and the artistry of filmmaking to produce a psychedelic perspective of nature and our relationship with it. One day he wants to make a movie in space.



Sam Green

32 Sounds; A Thousand Thoughts

Sam Green is an Academy Award-nominated documentary filmmaker based in New York. Green’s most recent film, *32 Sounds*, premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and is a live cinema collaboration with the legendary electronic musician JD Samson. Sam’s previous works include *A Thousand Thoughts*, a collaboration with classical ensemble the Kronos Quartet, and *The Love Song of R. Buckminster Fuller* with the indie band Yo La Tengo. An earlier documentary, *The Weather Underground*, was nominated for an Oscar, broadcast on PBS, and included in the Whitney Biennial.





Jazmin Jones

Seeking Mavis Beacon; Fighting for the Light

Jazmin Jones is a Brooklyn-based, Bay Area-raised visual storyteller, archivist, and organizer. Her aim is to create platforms for more vibrant, nuanced representation of marginalized communities. Working across visual mediums, her projects echo personal experiences as a queer, nonbinary Black femme waging intimacy in the Post-Internet era. In 2021, *Filmmaker Magazine* listed Jazmin as one of the “25 New Faces of Independent Film.” She’s been in fellowship with organizations like Sundance, The Flaherty, and Eyebeam and her work has been written about in publications like *The New York Times*, *Frieze*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Vice*. In 2015, Jazmin co-founded BUFU:By Us For Us, a project-based collective interested in solidarity amongst “Us,” co-creating experimental models of organizing with “You.” Jazmin’s current feature-length hybrid documentary, *Seeking Mavis Beacon*, is in co-production with Neon. When she isn’t investigating the disappearance of Mavis Beacon, she unwinds by archiving Black delight on Instagram @allBlackASMR.



Chase Joynt

Framing Agnes; No Ordinary Man

Chase Joynt is a director and writer who works at the porous boundaries between fiction and nonfiction. His latest documentary feature, *Framing Agnes*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival where it won the NEXT Innovator Award and the NEXT Audience Award. With Aisling Chin-Yee, Chase co-directed *No Ordinary Man*, a feature-length documentary about jazz musician Billy Tipton, which was first presented at Cannes Docs (2020) as part of the Canadian Showcase of Docs-in-Progress. The film has been hailed by *The New Yorker* as “a genre unto itself” and *Indiewire* as “the future of trans cinema.” Joynt holds a PhD in Cinema and Media Studies and is the author of two books, *You Only Live Twice* (with Mike Hoolboom) and *Boys Don’t Cry* (with Morgan M Page).



Nyasha Kadandara

Through the Fire; Imported for My Body

Nyasha is an award-winning, Pan-African director and cinematographer who tells stories that traverse the continent and reflect alternative voices. She is always looking to experiment with new forms of storytelling, including virtual reality, podcasting, fiction and nonfiction. Her work has been showcased at numerous festivals including Hotdocs, Sheffield DocFest, SXSW, and DOC NYC. Nyasha is a 2022 Brown Girls Doc Mafia Fellow, a Sundance Documentary Fund Grantee, and recently participated in the 2023 TIFF Filmmakers Lab. She is developing her first fiction feature, *Come Sunrise, We Shall Rule*, and is in post-production with the independent documentary *Matabeleland*. Both films take place in her native country, Zimbabwe. Currently, with her love for all things sports, Nyasha is following the Copper Queens who recently debuted at the 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup.



Jessica Kingdon

Ascension; Commodity City

Jessica Kingdon is a Chinese-American director who uses documentary as an inquiry into the polarities of intimacy and alienation within global capitalism. Her films illuminate the humor, absurdity, and surrealism of the everyday through image-driven observational techniques. She directed the Oscar-nominated and Tribeca-winning documentary *Ascension* (2021). Her award-winning short *Commodity City* (2017) is about the world’s largest wholesale mall in Yiwu, China. She was named one of “25 New Faces of Independent Film” by *Filmmaker Magazine* and selected for the 2020 DOC NYC “40 Under 40” list. Her work has been supported by organizations including SFFILM, Chicken & Egg, Cinereach, Sundance, Field of Vision, and Firelight Media. She is currently directing *Untitled Animal Project*, which explores the idea of animal sentience and the food supply chain. Residencies include UnionDocs, Yaddo, and a MacDowell Fellowship. She is a member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective and Brown Girls Doc Mafia.



Barbara Kopple

Harlan County, USA; American Dream

Barbara Kopple produced and directed *Harlan County, USA* and *American Dream*, both winners of the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. In 1991, *Harlan County, USA* was named to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress and designated an American Film Classic. The film was restored and preserved by the Women’s Preservation Fund and the Academy Film Archive. Barbara is also a nine-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker and was most recently an Honoree for the 2023 Emmy Lifetime Achievement. Heading up Cabin Creek Films in New York City, Barbara is a director and producer of documentaries, scripted films, episodic television, and commercials. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Directors Guild of America. She recently completed the documentary *Gumbo Coalition*.





Bing Liu

Minding the Gap; All These Sons

Bing Liu is a China-born, Midwest-raised filmmaker best known for directing *Minding the Gap*, which was nominated for Best Feature Documentary at the 2019 Academy Awards, an Independent Spirit Award, an Emmy, and won a Peabody Award. He was also a segment director on *America to Me*, which premiered on Starz and was nominated for a 2018 Critics Choice Award for Best Limited Documentary Series. He co-directed *All These Sons* with Josh Altman, which won Best Cinematography at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival and the Maysles Award at the Denver International Film Festival. His short documentary *What the Hands Do* recently had its world premiere at the 2023 Camden International Film Festival. He is currently in development on several fiction and non-fiction projects and is working on a museum installation in partnership with the organization Futures Without Violence.



Hannah Olson

Baby God; The Last Cruise

Hannah directed and produced HBO's *Baby God* (SXSW 2020) and *The Last Cruise* (SXSW 2021, Critics Choice Award Nominee). Prior to making her own films, Hannah worked as a producer on PBS's *American Experience* and *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.*, and created the story concept for the 2019 Netflix series *Who Killed Malcolm X?*. Hannah is currently directing *Love Has Won*, a three-part HBO documentary series executive produced by Elara Pictures on Amy Carlson, the deceased leader of a Colorado-based spiritual group. Hannah is from Minnesota and is based in Brooklyn.



Otilia Padua

Three Voices; Tzolkin, Heaven Mirrors Everything

Otilia Padua is a Mexican director. She studied architecture at Cambridge University and the Architectural Association, London. Her works include *Tzolkin, Heaven Mirrors Everything* (2006) and *Three Voices* (2012), which screened at SXSW, Ambulante, Morelia, DocsMX, Margaret Mead Film Festival, Documenta Madrid, Lima Film Festival and FIDBA Buenos Aires. In 2019 she made the short documentary *Birders* for Netflix. Otilia was part of the Berlinale Talents (2011) and the Talents Guadalajara (2011). She was a grantee of the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA) in 2010, the Mexican National Film Institute in 2016 and 2021, and the Sundance Institute in 2018. She is currently working on the feature-length hybrid documentary *The Queendom*, about indigenous scientists working with fungi, that has the support from the Sandbox Fund (Sundance Institute), The Redford Center, Inmaat Foundation, Doc Society, and the First Look prize at the Hot Docs Forum.



Nanfu Wang

One Child Nation; I Am Another You

Nanfu Wang is an award-winning Chinese filmmaker based in the U.S. She is a recipient of the 2020 MacArthur Genius Grant. Nanfu directed and produced the feature documentaries *Hooligan Sparrow* (Sundance 2016), *I Am Another You* (SXSW 2017, Special Jury Prize Winner), *One Child Nation* (Sundance 2019, Grand Jury Prize Winner, Amazon), and *In the Same Breath* (Sundance 2021, HBO). Nanfu's films have been shortlisted for three Oscars, received seven Emmy nominations, one Directors Guild of America nomination, two Independent Spirit Award nominations, and two Producers Guild of America nominations among other awards. Most recently, she directed and executive produced *Mind Over Murder*, a six-episode documentary series for HBO.



Drew Xanthopoulos

Fathom; The Sensitives

Drew Xanthopoulos is the Emmy-nominated director and cinematographer of the Emmy-winning Apple TV+ feature documentary *Fathom* (Tribeca, AFI Docs, Edinburgh, Thessaloniki 2021) and the award-winning feature documentary *The Sensitives* (Tribeca, CIFF, Big Sky, Thessaloniki 2017). *Fathom* was also shortlisted for a British Documentary Award and won Best International Film at the International Festival of Science Documentary Films (AFO). *The Sensitives* received an Honorable Mention for the Vision Award at the Camden International Film Festival and won the Points North Pitch Award. His collaborations as a freelance cinematographer have premiered at Sundance, Berlinale, and SXSW, and have been distributed by PBS, Netflix, ESPN, CNN, National Geographic, and IMAX. Drew has been a fellow of both the Sundance Institute and Tribeca Film Institute. He has taught or lectured at Harvard, the University of Southern California, Montana State University, the Big Sky Film Institute, and the University of Texas at Austin.

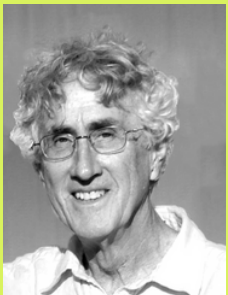




Sedona Chinn

Communications Researcher & Sci-Comm Disruptor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sedona Chinn is an assistant professor in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research explores how individuals make sense of competing claims about science, health, and the environment, as well as how social influence via new media affect perceptions of credibility and expertise. Ongoing work explores 'Do Your Own Research' narratives and how aspirational wellness content on social media is associated with perceptions of experts, health beliefs, and political attitudes. Sedona's research has been published in top journals in the field of communication including *Political Communication*; *Science Communication*; *Information, Communication & Society*; *Environmental Communication*; and *Public Understanding of Science*, among others.



Gerald Crabtree

Developmental Biologist & Cancer Wizard, Stanford University

Jerry Crabtree is the David Korn Professor at Stanford University, where he has taught and done research since he joined the faculty in 1985. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Over the years his research interests have evolved from understanding how cells respond to their environment to the intersection of genetics and epigenetics in the development of the brain. Most recently he and his laboratory developed a new class of molecules that cause cancer cells to kill themselves with the very genes that cause cancer (Gourisankar et al., *Nature* Aug 2023). In his spare time, he designs and builds houses.



Thavisha Dharmawardena

Computational Astronomer & Milky Way Mapper, Flatiron Institute

Thavisha Dharmawardena is a Sri Lankan-born astrophysicist. As part of her academic journey Thavisha has lived in five different countries, experiencing different cultures mostly joined by her extremely well-traveled cats. Thavisha works in several roles allowing her to focus on gender equity in astronomy as well as improving the representation of women of color in astronomy. She joined the Center for Computational Astrophysics at the Flatiron Institute as a Research Fellow in January 2023. She works on mapping the three-dimensional structure of the Milky Way and understanding properties of interstellar and circumstellar dust. Previously, Thavisha was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, and she received her PhD jointly in the Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics and National Central University in Taiwan. In her downtime Thavisha enjoys surfing, bouldering, Broadway, and likes to think of herself as an amateur mixologist.



Nikta Fakhri

Physicist & Symmetry Breaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Nikta Fakhri is the Thomas D. and Virginia W. Cabot Career Development Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at MIT and Physics of Living Systems Group. She completed her undergraduate degree at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, and her PhD at Rice University. She was a Human Frontier Science Program postdoctoral fellow at Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany before joining MIT. Nikta is an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Physics. She is the recipient of the 2018 IUPAP Young Scientist Prize in Biological Physics, the 2019 NSF CAREER Award, and the 2022 American Physical Society Early Career Award for Soft Matter Research. Her group focuses on discovering underlying principles of collective dynamics and complex spatiotemporal patterns in far from equilibrium living systems. They develop experimental tools and conceptual frameworks to uncover laws governing order, phase transitions and fluctuations in systems in which individual components break time reversal symmetry.



Manesh Girn

Neuroscientist & Psychedelics Heretic, University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Manesh Girn is a postdoctoral neuroscientist specializing in psychedelic drugs at the University of California, San Francisco. Working closely with psychedelic research pioneer Dr. Robin Carhart-Harris, he conducts research on the neural mechanisms underlying the psychedelic experience and psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy. He has been lead or co-author of over 20 peer-reviewed publications to date on topics spanning neuroscience, psychology, and the humanities. Manesh also serves as the Chief Research Officer at EntheoTech Bioscience, a pioneering Canadian bioscience company focused on psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy and multidisciplinary mental health solutions. Beyond academia and industry, he runs a popular digital platform on YouTube and Instagram called "The Psychedelic Scientist," where he disseminates the latest findings and developments in psychedelic science in a layperson friendly manner.





Nia Imara

Astrophysicist & Artist, University of California, Santa Cruz

Nia Imara is an astrophysicist and artist whose body of work reflects her love for vibrant color, people, and their stories. A painter and writer inspired by literature, music, history, and culture, Nia is also an astronomy professor who explores the mysteries of star birth in the Milky Way and other galaxies throughout the universe. Her public presentations on science, art, and the intersection of the two have been received by audiences at venues around the country. She is the founder/director of Onaketa, a nonprofit that provides free STEM tutoring, scholarships, and other educational resources for black and brown children.



Chris Impey

Astrophysicist & Cosmic Prophet, University of Arizona

Chris Impey is a Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona. He has 450 publications on education, cosmology, galaxies, and quasars, and his research has been supported by \$20 million in NASA and NSF grants. He has won eleven teaching awards and has taught online classes with 380,000 enrolled in 180 countries. Chris is a past Vice President of the American Astronomical Society and won its career Education Prize. He's also been a NSF Distinguished Teaching Scholar, Carnegie Council's Arizona Professor of the Year, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor. He has written two textbooks, a novel called *Shadow World*, and nine popular science books: *The Living Cosmos*, *How It Ends*, *Talking About Life*, *How It Began*, *Dreams of Other Worlds*, *Humble Before the Void*, *Beyond: The Future of Space Travel*, *Einstein's Monsters: The Life and Times of Black Holes*, and *Worlds Without End*.



Laura Simone Lewis

Comparative Psychologist & Animal Mind Reader, University of California, Berkeley

Laura Simone Lewis is a Black and Jewish queer woman who is fascinated by the evolution of great ape social cognition and passionate about creating a scientific world that is more diverse, equitable, and kind. She earned her PhD from Harvard University in the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology, and is currently a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley. Laura was born and raised in Berkeley, her beloved hometown and an incredibly diverse, progressive, and ecologically rich environment that served as the foundation for her journey as a scientist. She became enthralled with primates as an undergrad at Duke, where she had the immense opportunity to study chimpanzees. She immediately became passionate about exploring how great apes, including ourselves, have evolved to live in such rich social environments. Besides hanging out with great apes, she loves swimming in the ocean, making tiny pottery, and backpacking in the mountains of California.



Beronda Montgomery

Biochemist & Plant Whisperer, Grinnell College

Beronda L. Montgomery, PhD is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Grinnell College. She studies how individuals perceive, respond to, and are impacted by environments in which they exist. Her research efforts are focused on the responses of photosynthetic organisms to external light and nutrient cues. Additionally, Beronda pursues this theme in the context of effective mentoring and academic leadership. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (2018), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2020), the American Society of Plant Biologists (2021), and the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2022), as well as an American Society for Cell Biology Mentoring Keynote honoree (2021). She was named one of *Cell's* Inspiring Black Scientists in America. Beronda is the author of *Lessons from Plants* (Harvard University Press, 2021) and at work on her second book, *When Trees Testify* (under contract with Holt).



Ripal Shah

Clinical Psychiatrist & Women's Health Warrior, Stanford University

Ripal Shah, MD, MPH, is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Stanford School of Medicine. She is board certified in Adult Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine, and Obesity Medicine, and completed a two-year fellowship in Integrative Medicine. Ripal specializes in the care of reproductive age women, health care providers, and BIPOC communities, while leading Stanford University's Race and Mental Health Lab. She completed an MPH at Harvard University, an MD from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and a BS from Duke University. Ripal advises several companies and research teams on the clinical use of psychedelics in psychiatry, and often consults with media and tech companies as an industry expert on mental health. She has over 100 citations to her name and has been featured in *TIME*, *Forbes*, and *The Washington Post*, and was listed on *Medscape's* list of Top 25 Rising Stars in Medicine.





Simón(e) Sun

Neuroendocrinologist & Trans Rights Advocate, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Simón(e) Sun is a neuroendocrinologist, musician, and activist. They are a Hanna H. Gray Fellow at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a Senior Fellow at the Center for Applied Transgender Studies, and a postdoctoral researcher in the Tollkuhn Lab at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Their current research focuses on sex hormones and their role in reshaping neuronal epigenetics and physiology during mammalian adolescence, with the goal of informing and improving gender-specific healthcare. In their art, Simón(e) uses their experimental data as source material to create work expressing the inherent humanity of the scientific endeavor. Informed by their existence as a trans scientist and their experience of scientific bigotry and hatred, Simón(e) is a vocal activist, pushing back against those who, for too long, have used science as a tool to pathologize, oppress, and eradicate trans and queer identities.



Rebecca Thurston

Clinical Psychologist & Menopause Demystifier, University of Pittsburgh

Rebecca C. Thurston, PhD, is the Pittsburgh Foundation Chair of Women's Health and Dementia at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also serves as Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Epidemiology, and Director of the Women's Biobehavioral Health Program. Rebecca is an expert in midlife women's health. Her research has yielded breakthroughs in the understanding of the menopause transition and its implications for women's health. She is a Principal Investigator of the MsHeart/MsBrain studies and the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation, studies providing seminal information about the menopause transition. In addition, Rebecca is a clinical psychologist, leading the integration of behavioral health into menopause care. In recognition of her work, Rebecca was awarded the Henry Burger Award from the International Menopause Society. She is Past President of the North American Menopause Society and an elected fellow of both the American Psychosomatic Society and of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.



Andre Toussaint

Behavioral Neuroscientist & Addiction Sleuth, Columbia University

Andre B. Toussaint, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist at Columbia University's Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and a Junior Fellow at the Simons Society of Fellows in New York City. He holds a PhD in Psychology and Neuroscience from Temple University, with expertise in addiction and pain-related phenotypes using a multigenerational rat model of paternal morphine exposure. Andre's academic journey began at the City University of New York at Hunter College, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Psychology and Biopsychology. With a background in addiction neuroscience, he also serves as an instructor on substance abuse. Born in Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Andre's diverse interests include mouse genetics, pain sensitivity, pleasure, and addiction vulnerability. Beyond academia, he enjoys quality time with family, reading, and relaxing on Caribbean beaches.



Sherry Turkle

Sociologist & Technology Whistleblower, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

For over three decades, the MIT professor and New York Times best-selling author has warned that technology has the power to undermine human empathy. Sherry's recent books, *Reclaiming Conversation*, *Alone Together*, and *The Empathy Diaries*, describe new instabilities in how we understand privacy and community, intimacy, and solitude. Her book in progress is on Artificial Intimacy, the new AI — chatbots and robots that explicitly offer pretend empathy. Turkle is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at MIT and has received numerous awards, including the Harvard Centennial Medal, Rockefeller Humanities and Guggenheim Fellowships, and a citation as a *Ms. Magazine* Woman of the Year. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Turkle received a joint doctorate in Sociology and Personality Psychology from Harvard University, and is a licensed clinical psychologist.



Thalia Wheatley

Neuroscientist & Human Interaction Sage, Dartmouth College

Thalia Wheatley is the Lincoln Filene Professor in Human Relations at Dartmouth College, founding director of the Consortium for Interacting Minds, and external faculty at the Santa Fe Institute. She is a leader in the field of interbrain neuroscience, which seeks to understand how brains interact in ways that enable the co-creation of new ideas, social connection, and resilience. She has also published widely on music, emotion, free will, animacy, and social networks, and uses diverse methods, including neuroimaging, eye-tracking, cross-cultural research, and AI.





Josh Braun

Co-President, Submarine Entertainment

Josh Braun is the Co-President of Submarine Entertainment, a hybrid sales, production and distribution company. Mr. Braun recently produced the 2023 Sundance competition documentary *AUM: The Cult at the End of the World*, and recently executive produced the Emmy-nominated Netflix documentary series *The Andy Warhol Diaries*, the Netflix documentary *Pamela, A Love Story*, the Showtime docu-series *The 12th Victim*, the 2022 Sundance feature competition documentary *Fire of Love*, and the feature documentaries *Circus of Books*, *Crip Camp*, and *Apollo 11*. Other docu-series executive produced by Mr. Braun include *Lenox Hill*, *The Sons of Sam*, *Evil Genius*, *The Keepers*, *The Devil Next Door*, and *Wild Wild Country*, for which Mr. Braun won the Emmy for best documentary series in 2018.



Tabitha Jackson

Film Consultant and Arts Mentor

Tabitha Jackson is an independent consultant and arts advocate. She is the first woman and person of color to have been appointed Director of the Sundance Film Festival. As Festival Director she re-imagined and led two technologically innovative and radically accessible pandemic editions which expanded the possibilities of what a film festival can be and who it can be for. Between 2013 and 2020 she led the Documentary Film Program at the Sundance Institute, advocating for bold creativity and formal innovation in nonfiction cinema. Throughout her 30 year career in film and public broadcasting, and as an Emmy-winning director-producer, executive producer, commissioning editor, and nonfiction author she has demonstrated an unshakeable belief in the vital role of independent film and the arts as a public good.



Paola Mottura

Film Fund Director, Sundance Institute

Paola's career in the documentary field has been driven by her passion for the creative process coupled with a commitment to positive change and a more equitable and inclusive ecosystem. For over a decade Paola has worked across key areas of the U.S. and international documentary industry from production, festivals and markets to funding and artist support. As the director of the Sundance Documentary Fund, Paola currently oversees the curatorial and grant-making process that every year discovers exciting new talent and nurtures unique stories that explore pressing contemporary issues, push the boundaries of the documentary form, and connect with new audiences. Recent projects supported by the Sundance Documentary Fund include: *All That Breathes*, *American Factory*, *Collective*, *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, *Fathom*, *Fire of Love*, *I Didn't See You There*, *The Mole Agent*, *The Territory*, and *Users*.



Jason Spingarn-Koff

Professor of Journalism, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

Jason Spingarn-Koff is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, journalist, and media executive. He is Professor of Journalism and Knight Chair of Climate Journalism at UC Berkeley, where he's working to reinvent how stories about climate change are told. From 2015 – 2022, he served as Director of Original Documentary Programming at Netflix, overseeing more than 100 global films and series, with honors including four Academy Awards for the company. Formerly the Commissioning Editor for Opinion video at *The New York Times*, he launched and oversaw Op-Docs, publishing 165 documentary shorts and interactives by independent filmmakers, winning two Emmys and a Peabody Award. As a director, his debut feature *Life 2.0* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. He is a graduate of Brown University and the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, a former MIT Knight Journalism Fellow, and is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Nicole Stott

Head of Documentary, A24

Nicole Stott is an LA-based creative executive — currently Head of Documentary at A24, formerly Co-Head of Nonfiction for Concordia Studio. Recent credits include: Davis Guggenheim's multi Emmy-nominated *Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie* (Apple TV+), Ahmir 'Questlove' Thompson's 2022 Academy Award, BAFTA and Grammy-winning *Summer of Soul* (Searchlight Pictures / Onyx Collective and Hulu), Garrett Bradley's 2021 Academy Award-nominated *Time* (Amazon), Amanda McBaine & Jesse Moss' 2021 Emmy Winner and Academy Award-shortlisted *Boys State* (Apple TV+), and Ramona Diaz's Peabody-winning *A Thousand Cuts* (Frontline). Prior to joining Concordia, Nicole's tenure as Head of Documentary at Passion Pictures in London included many acclaimed titles such as: Academy Award and BAFTA Winner *Searching for Sugar Man*, BAFTA Outstanding Debut Winner *The Imposter*, and IDA and Peabody-winning *Listen to Me Marlon*. Nicole is a member of the Producers Guild of America, BAFTA, and The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

