


**Rita Baghdadi**
*Sirens; My Country No More*

Rita Baghdadi is an Emmy award-winning Moroccan-American documentary filmmaker known for the intimacy of her bold, character-driven films. Rita's latest feature documentary, *Sirens*, premiered at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at Outfest. The film was praised as "utterly charming" by the *Hollywood Reporter* and "deeply moving" by *RogerEbert.com*. Previous films include *My Country No More*, winner of Best Feature at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, and *City Rising*, which won the Los Angeles Area Emmy Award for Best Social Issue Film. Rita's work has been supported by Sundance, Tribeca, Netflix, HBO, Canon, Film Independent, and the International Documentary Association. She is co-founder of Lady & Bird Films and is a member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia. When she's not in the field, she is an active mentor dedicated to empowering women and girls of color through documentary film training.


**Brian Becker**
*Free Chol Soo Lee; Spaceship Earth*

Brian Becker is a New York-based filmmaker and producer who makes archival documentaries that highlight forgotten narratives of American culture. He was shortlisted for the 2021 FOCAL Jane Mercer Researcher of the Year Award and most recently served as archival producer on *Free Chol Soo Lee* and *MLK/FBI* (winner of the 2021 Critics' Choice Award for Best Archival Documentary). He received the 2021 Points North Fellowship and is an Impact Partners Producers Fellow. Before turning to production, he worked as an urban ecologist with an expertise in invasive mosquito populations. He is currently directing and producing his first feature on Y2K for HBO.


**Isabel Castro**
*Mija; USA v Scott*

Isabel Castro is a four-time Emmy-nominated, Mexican-American filmmaker who combines a practice in journalism and art. She directed, produced and filmed the Emmy-nominated, documentary short *USA v Scott* (Tribeca 2020, *The New Yorker*), Emmy-nominated *Darlin* (Tribeca 2019, NYT OpDocs), award-winning *Crossing Over* (Univision/Participant Media) and on the Emmy-nominated Netflix documentary series *Pandemic*. She's worked as a producer, cinematographer, and multimedia journalist for *The New York Times*, as an Edward R. Murrow Award-winning producer at *The Marshall Project*, and as an Emmy-nominated producer covering civil rights and policy at *VICE on HBO*. Her feature-length debut, *Mija*, debuted at Sundance 2022 and was acquired by Disney. Castro has had fellowships with Concordia Studio, Firelight Media, Chicken & Egg, NBC Studios, and SFFILM. In 2021, she was named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film" and one of DOC NYC's "40 Under 40."


**David France**
*Welcome to Chechnya; How to Survive a Plague*

David France is an Oscar-nominated filmmaker, *New York Times* bestselling author, and award-winning investigative journalist. His directorial debut, *How to Survive a Plague*, was nominated for an Oscar, two Emmys, and a Directors Guild Award. His 2017 film *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* won numerous festival prizes and was awarded the Outfest "Freedom Award" and a special jury award from Sheffield International Documentary Festival. He premiered *Welcome to Chechnya* at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Award for documentary editing. It also received the Panorama Audience Award and Amnesty International Film Prize at 2020 Berlinale. The film was further recognized with a Peabody Award and a BAFTA Award. It was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking. His latest film, *How to Survive a Pandemic*, premiered at the 2022 Thessaloniki Documentary Festival and was also screened at the 2022 CPH:DOX.


**François Girard**
*The Red Violin; The Song of Names*

François Girard has gained notoriety as much for his filmmaking as for his stage productions. His film credits include *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *The Red Violin* (Academy Award for the best original score), *Silk*, *Boychoir*, *Hochelaga*, *Land of Souls*, and *The Song of Names*. And his concert film *Peter Gabriel's Secret World* earned him a Grammy Award. On the opera stage, Girard directed *Oedipus Rex / Symphony of Psalms*, *Lost Objects*, *Siegfried*, *Seven Deadly Sins / Lindberghflug*, and *Émilie*. He also signed *Parsifal* and *Der Fliegende Holländer* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and recently premiered *Lohengrin* at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. He also directed the plays *Novecento*, *The Trial*, *Hunting Gun*, *Waiting For Godot*, and *Underneath the Lintel*, and two Cirque du Soleil shows: *Zed* and *Zarkana*. To date, Girard's works have earned over 100 international awards.





## Juan Pablo González

*Dos Estaciones; Las Nubes*

Juan Pablo González's film work spans fiction and nonfiction. His debut short film, *The Solitude of Memory* (2014), premiered at IDFA and received the Jury Prize for Documentary Short at Slamdance in 2015. In 2017, Juan Pablo's short piece, *Las Nubes*, screened at Rotterdam (IFFR) and Lincoln Center of New York, and received the Jury Prize at Festival dei Popoli. His mid-length debut, *Caballerango*, premiered at IDFA in 2018 and played at numerous festivals around the world. *Dos Estaciones* (2022), his feature debut, received the Jury Award for Acting at Sundance and screened at New Directors/New Films. Juan Pablo was awarded the 2022 True Vision Award at True/False Film Festival. He was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" in 2015, has been a fellow of the Fund for Culture and Arts (FONCA) in Mexico, and was awarded the 2021 Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise.



## Pernille Rose Grønkjær

*The Monastery - Mr. Vig and the Nun; Hunting for Hedonia*

Pernille Rose Grønkjær is a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, an award-winning director and executive producer, and founder of Danish Documentary Production. She graduated from the National Film School of Denmark. Her film *The Monastery - Mr. Vig and the Nun* (2006) won the Joris Ivens Award at IDFA, the Cinema Eye Award, and 11 more awards the world over. She also directed *Love Addict* (2011), the award-winning *Genetic Me* (2014), and *Comedian Mind* (2017). The film received 10 five-star reviews in the Danish press. In 2019, she premiered the mind-boggling *Hunting for Hedonia* as the opening film at CPH:DOX Science Programme, and worked with Academy Award-winning actress Tilda Swinton for the narration of the film. In 2021, *Solutions* also premiered as the opening film at CPH:DOX Science.



## Ari Handel

*Black Swan; The Territory*

In 2000, Ari Handel left academia to become president of Protozoa Pictures, where he works alongside Darren Aronofsky and has been a writer on the films *The Fountain* and *Noah*, a producer on *mother!*, *Jackie*, and *The Whale*, an associate producer on *The Fountain*, a co-producer on *The Good Nurse*, and an executive producer on *Some Kind of Heaven*, *White Boy Rick*, *Noah*, *Black Swan*, *Catch The Fair One*, and *The Territory*. In series, Handel has executive produced National Geographic's documentary series *One Strange Rock*, *Welcome to Earth*, and the upcoming *Limitless* with Chris Hemsworth, as well as FX's upcoming *Kindred*. Handel is the co-author of the YA novel, *Monster Club*, and has proudly served on the board of the storytelling organization The Moth for nearly two decades. Handel holds a doctorate in Neuroscience and has published four papers on the neural control of saccadic eye movements.



## Lisa Jackson

*Savage; How People Live*

Lisa Jackson's film and VR work has garnered multiple awards, including two Canadian Screen Awards (often referred to as "Canada's Oscar") and a Webby nomination, and screened at Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, Berlinale, and Hot Docs. Her work has also been screened in educational, community, museum, and art gallery settings. Known for cross-genre work that expands narrative boundaries and covers topics as diverse as catfishing, Indigenous languages, and lichen, she's committed to positive social change and Indigenous screen sovereignty. She launched Door Number 3 Productions in 2020 and is in post on her feature hybrid doc, *Wilfred Buck*. She is Anishinaabe, lives in Toronto, has an MFA in film production, and is pretty nerdy at heart.



## Praise O. Paige

*Imagining Abolition; Simone*

Praise Odigie Paige is a Nigerian-born writer, director, and producer. Her films explore the complex inner lives of marginalized women with a deep humanity and intimacy, examining their experiences from a Black feminist gaze. Her short film *Simone* premiered at the Portland Film Festival and played at the 2019 Lake Placid Film Festival. She recently directed *Imagining Abolition*, a three-part documentary series for Black Lives Matter. She is currently a creative director/director at VICE, and resides in upstate NY, where she curates collective filmmaking retreats for Black women filmmakers.





## Kim Reed

*Dark Money; Transhood*

Kimberly Reed's film *Dark Money* was an award-winning selection at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, named one of *Vogue's* "66 Best Documentaries of All Time," shortlisted for an Oscar, nominated for Best Documentary of the Year by IDA and for four Critics' Choice Awards, and won the prestigious duPont Columbia Prize for Broadcast Journalism. Her trailblazing film *Prodigal Sons* (Telluride Film Festival premiere, First Run Features, Sundance Channel) won 14 international awards and was the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released in the US. She recently directed episode two – "Transgender Pioneers" – of the series *Equal* on HBO MAX, was executive producer of the award-winning HBO documentary *Transhood*, and also produced/edited/wrote *Paul Goodman Changed My Life* (Zeitgeist Films). She has been honored as one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film," *Out Magazine's* "Out 100," and received the Chicken & Egg Award.



## Shaunak Sen

*All that Breathes; Cities of Sleep*

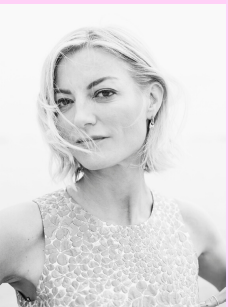
Shaunak Sen is a filmmaker and writer based in New Delhi. His film *All That Breathes* (2022) was the first film ever to win best documentary prizes at both the Cannes Film Festival (2022) and the Sundance Film Festival (2022). His previous film, *Cities of Sleep*, played at various film festivals and won five international awards. Shaunak has received various grants and fellowships, including the Pro Helvetia residency in Switzerland (2016), the Charles Wallace fellowship as visiting scholar at Cambridge University (2018), the IDFA-Amsterdam documentary grant (2020), the Tribeca documentary grant (2020), and the Sundance Film Grant (2020). Shaunak also holds a PhD, and his writings have been published in journals like *Bioscope* and *Widescreen*.



## Sam Soko

*Softie; Free Money*

Sam Soko is a documentary filmmaker based in Nairobi, Kenya. With his captivating approach to socio-political storytelling, he has developed content and collaborated with firebrand artists worldwide. His work has been showcased in many festivals, including Sundance, Berlin, and the Toronto International Film Festival. Soko has received various awards and been nominated for Emmy, Peabody, IDA, and PGA awards. He is an outspoken defender of freedom of expression and has participated in global conversations on making art matter when the world is on fire. Soko is also co-founder of LBx Africa, a Kenyan production company that works with local and international filmmakers to bring uniquely African perspectives to global audiences.



## Lucy Walker

*The Crash Reel; Bring Your Own Brigade*

Lucy Walker is an Emmy-winning, twice Oscar-nominated director renowned for creating riveting, character-driven nonfiction. Her directing work includes *Bring Your Own Brigade*, a New York Times Best Film of 2021, *Buena Vista Social Club Adios* (2017), *The Lion's Mouth Opens* (2014), *The Crash Reel* (2013), *David Hockney in the Now* (2012), *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom* (2011), *Waste Land* (2010), *Countdown to Zero* (2010), *Blindsight* (2006), *Devil's Playground* (2002), and Nickelodeon's *Blue's Clues*, winning over one hundred awards and seven additional Emmy nominations. For Netflix she directed and executive produced *How to Change Your Mind* (2022), executive produced *Ram Dass, Going Home* (2018), and produced *Why Did You Kill Me?* (2021). Walker grew up in London and graduated with top honors from Oxford University before winning a Fulbright Scholarship to earn her MFA in Film at NYU. She is based in Venice Beach and also had a successful DJ career.



## Julie Wyman

*Strong!; A Boy Named Sue*

Julie Wyman's creative documentary work engages issues of embodiment, body image, and the possibilities and problematics of media spectatorship – all informed by her experience of living with hypochondroplasia dwarfism. Her 2012 documentary *Strong!* premiered at AFI Silverdocs and was broadcast on PBS's Emmy award-winning series, *Independent Lens*, where it won the series' Audience Award. Wyman's work has been awarded support from Sundance, Sandbox Films, IDA, SF Film Society, Points North, ITVS, the Creative Capital Foundation, The Princess Grace Foundation, California Humanities and NEH. She has been a fellow at the UC Davis Feminist Research Institute and a resident at SF Film Society's Filmhouse, the Siena Art Institute, Logan Nonfiction, and Points North. Her films, including *FatMob* (2016) *Buoyant* (2005) and *A Boy Named Sue* (2000), have aired on Showtime, MTV's LOGO-TV, and have been exhibited worldwide. She serves as Associate Professor of Cinema and Digital Media at UC Davis.







## Stephon Alexander

*Theoretical Physicist & Jazz Guru, Brown University*

Physicist and musician Stephon Alexander has straddled the worlds of theoretical physics and jazz music over the last two decades. He works on the connection between the smallest and largest entities in the universe, pushing Einstein's theory of curved space-time to extremes, beyond the big bang with subatomic phenomena. Alexander is a Professor of Physics at Brown University, with previous appointments at Stanford University, Imperial College, Penn State, Dartmouth College and Haverford College. Alexander is a specialist in the field of string cosmology, where the physics of superstrings are applied to address longstanding questions in cosmology. In 2001, he co-invented the model of inflation based on higher dimensional hypersurfaces in string theory called D-Branes. In such models the early universe emerged from the destruction of a higher dimensional D-brane which ignited a period of rapid expansion of space often referred to as cosmic inflation.



## Anamaria Berea

*Computational Social Scientist & Economist, George Mason University*

Anamaria Berea holds a PhD in Economics (2010) and Computational Social Science (2012). Her current research is focused on the emergence of communication in biological and social networks, applying theories and methods from economics, complex systems, and data science to reinterpret historical, anthropological, biological, and artistic data regarding the fundamental aspects of communication. She uses a wide range of computational methods (agent-based modeling, network analysis, natural language processing, image analysis, and machine learning) to understand the universal patterns of communication on our planet and beyond.



## Wilfred Buck

*Cree Elder & Indigenous Astronomer, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre*

Wilfred Buck is ININIW (Cree), an Indigenous Astronomer & Consultant, Author, Educator, Addictions Consultant, Cultural Consultant, Education Consultant, Sun Dance Chief, Knowledge Keeper, Lecturer, Astrologer, Artist, Father, Husband, Portable Planetarium Owner & Operator. Wilfred originates from OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION (OCN) and is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with two degrees in Education. He has 25 years of experience as an educator and was a Science Facilitator at MFNERC for 15 years, where he did extensive research on ININIW ACAKOSUK (Cree Stars/Constellation) until retiring from that position in 2020. He is considered the foremost authority on Indigenous Astronomy in the world.



## Kim Cobb

*Environmental Scientist & Geological Time Traveler, Brown University*

Kim Cobb is the Director of the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society at Brown University. She is also Professor in Environment and Society, as well as Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences. In her climate research, she uses observations of past and present climate to advance our understanding of future climate change impacts, with a focus on climate extremes and coastal flood hazards. She received her BA from Yale University in 1996, and her PhD in Oceanography from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in 2002. Prior to joining Brown in 2022, she served as Director of the Global Change Program at Georgia Tech, Professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and ADVANCE Professor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In her research, Kim has sailed on oceanographic cruises and led caving expeditions in the Borneo rainforests.



## Michelle Fournet

*Ecologist & Whale Whisperer, Sound Science Research Collective*

Dr. Michelle Fournet is the Director of the Sound Science Research Collective and the Associate Director for Education at the University of New Hampshire's Center for Acoustics Research and Education (CARE). Dr. Fournet is a worldwide expert in humpback whale communication and conducts bioacoustics research from the sub-tropics to the Arctic. Her most active research program focuses on Alaskan marine mammals. She received her PhD from Oregon State University and spent four years as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University. Her goal as a scientist is to improve ecological function for sonic species experiencing rapidly changing oceans. Her goal as a human is to deepen the human relationship to the sea. At the intersection of these two is the intention to encourage humanity to stop looking for a mirror of themselves in nature, and instead begin to more fully appreciate and learn from the existence of a natural world that is different from our own.





### Siavash Golkar

*Computational Neuroscientist & Visual Artist, Flatiron Institute*

Siavash Golkar is an Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Computational Neuroscience at the Flatiron Institute. His primary interest is in understanding the different paradigms of learning and the effects of structural inductive biases in both artificial and biological neural networks. His work on biological learning spans small microcircuits comprised of a few neurons to global hierarchies of circuits spanning multiple regions in the brain. Prior to joining the Flatiron Institute, Siavash held postdoctoral positions at Cambridge University and New York University, working on solutions to fundamental machine learning problems such as transfer learning and forgetting. Siavash has a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Chicago, where his research focused on geometric and topological considerations in effective field theories.



### Sonya Hanson

*Biophysicist & Molecular Meteorologist, Flatiron Institute*

Sonya Hanson joined the Center for Computational Biology (CCB) at the Flatiron Institute in 2021. She co-leads the Structural and Molecular Biophysics collaboration between CCB and the Center for Computational Mathematics. She is particularly interested in the modeling and analysis of experimental data and simulations to understand the molecular mechanisms of key biological processes. She received her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford, studying the temperature-sensitive transient receptor potential (TRP) ion channels. Prior to joining CCB, Sonya was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, Columbia University, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she combined experimental and computational methods to study temperature-sensitive bacterial sodium channels, extracting continuous conformational heterogeneity from cryo-EM datasets, and how to design better targeted therapies to kinases, respectively.



### James Hay

*Epidemiologist & Infectious Disease Bloodhound, University of Oxford*

Dr. James A. Hay is an infectious disease epidemiologist. James uses mathematical models and statistics to study infectious disease spread, and has worked on multiple pandemic pathogens, including Zika, influenza, and SARS-CoV-2. Having just completed a postdoc at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, he is now building his own research program as a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. James' research focuses on infectious disease surveillance. Every time a diagnostic test is performed, a snapshot of biological information is created. This information is richly informative of an individual's state of infection and immunity, and when combined across many individuals, can provide a detailed picture of an epidemic. James develops methods and ideas to answer questions such as: What does a single blood sample tell us about an individual's history of infection? How can we maximize the epidemiological information gained from a small number of diagnostic tests?



### Zachary Mainen

*Neuroscientist & Psychedelics Research Pioneer, Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown*

Zachary Mainen heads a neuroscience research lab at the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown in Lisbon, Portugal. His work uses immersive digital technology to better understand and eventually mimic the effects of psychoactive drugs. His research is based on theories of artificial intelligence and has covered topics including uncertainty and confidence in beliefs, the neural origin of 'spontaneous' decisions, and the function of the brain's serotonin system, which is responsible for the effects of psychedelics and antidepressants. Zach moved from the U.S. to Portugal to found the Champalimaud Neuroscience Programme in 2007. Previously, he was a professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. He holds a PhD in neuroscience from University of California, San Diego, and a degree in psychology from Yale University. Zach is a long-time devotee of electronic music and dance.



### Priyamvada Natarajan

*Astrophysicist & Black Hole Detective, Yale University*

Priyamvada Natarajan, Joseph C. and Sofia C. Fruton Professor of Astronomy & Physics at Yale, is an astrophysicist whose research is on the invisible universe. Recognized for her seminal work on dark matter, black holes, and dark energy, she is also a principal investigator at Harvard's inter-disciplinary Black Hole Initiative. Deeply invested in disrupting the notion of the so-called "two cultures" in academia, she currently serves as the Director of Yale's Franke Program in Science and the Humanities. In addition to being a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, she is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *Mapping the Heavens: Radical Scientific Ideas that Reveal the Cosmos*.





## Orit Peleg

*Computational Biophysicist and Swarm Chaser, University of Colorado Boulder*

Peleg is an Assistant Professor at the Computer Science Department and the BioFrontiers Institute at the University of Colorado Boulder, and an External Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute. She is leading an interdisciplinary lab aimed at understanding how biological communication signals are generated and interpreted, using insect swarms as a model system. Her honorary recognitions include the Cottrell Scholar Award, the Complex Systems Society Junior Scientific Award, and a National Geographic Explorer distinction. Peleg draws from a multidisciplinary background. She holds a BS in physics and computer science, and an MS in physics from Bar-Ilan University in Israel. She moved to Switzerland to get her PhD in materials science at ETH Zurich, and then to Boston for a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, first in chemistry, then in applied mathematics.



## Suzanne Pierre

*Biogeochemist & Ecological Decolonizer, Critical Ecology Lab*

Dr. Suzanne Pierre is a soil microbial ecologist, biogeochemist, writer, and transformer of social systems. She is the Founder and Lead Investigator of the Critical Ecology Lab, a nonprofit organization creating novel processes and spaces for communities of people with scientific and generational knowledge to destabilize oppressive systems and fight back against escalating social and planetary disaster. She received an interdisciplinary BA in Environmental Studies from New York University, a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University, and was a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley. Pierre is a transdisciplinary scientist developing the new field of critical ecology, the study of basic ecological processes through the analytical lens of decoloniality and critical social theory. Her goal is to explain the phenomena of global ecological change as responses to systems of global colonialism and capitalism. Pierre speaks, writes and also collaborates with artists to convey these topics internationally. She is a 2022 recipient of the National Geographic Wayfinder Award and is a National Geographic Explorer.



## Michael Shadlen

*Neuroscientist & Decision Mapper, Columbia University*

Michael N Shadlen is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute and Professor of Neuroscience at Columbia University Medical School. He is a member of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute and the Kavli Institute of Brain Science. Dr. Shadlen obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees at Brown University, his PhD at UC Berkeley with Ralph Freeman. He trained in clinical neurology at Stanford University, where he joined William T. Newsome's lab, as a postdoctoral fellow. He then joined the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at the University of Washington, where he remained until 2012. His research focuses primarily on the neural mechanisms that underlie decision making. He is also a jazz guitarist. Honors include the Alden Spencer Prize, the Golden Brain, the Lashley Award and elections to the AAAS and National Academy of Medicine.



## Kaia Tombak

*Wildlife Ecologist & Evolutionary Biologist, Hunter College*

Kaia is a wildlife ecologist and evolutionary biologist interested in the evolution of social behavior. She has studied how female colobus monkeys maintain egalitarianism in Uganda, the demography of shark aggregations in South Africa, and the evolutionary forces that determine group size in zebras in Kenya. Because food competition is a strong influence on animal societies, she's now investigating the dietary niches of gorillas in Congo for her post-doctorate at Hunter College. She wants to know how nutrients are prioritized in the lowland gorilla as it forages in the wild, a missing piece of an evolutionary puzzle that will help us understand their food competition regime as well as the evolution of nutritional strategies in our hominid lineage. Field work in Congo is magical, but it is not for the faint of heart — she's gained a lot of respect for the local gorilla trackers along the way!



## Sara Walker

*Astrobiologist & Life Heretic, Arizona State University*

Professor Sara Walker is an astrobiologist and theoretical physicist. Her work focuses on the origins and nature of life, in particular whether or not there are universal 'laws of life' that would allow predicting when life emerges and could guide our search for other examples on other worlds. Her research integrates perspectives ranging from chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy, and the foundations of physics, to computer science, cheminformatics, artificial life, artificial intelligence, and consciousness. At Arizona State University she is Deputy Director of the Beyond Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, Associate Director of the ASU-Santa Fe Institute Center for Biosocial Complex Systems, and Associate Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration. She is also a member of the External Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute. She is active in public engagement in science, with appearances on *Through the Wormhole*, NPR's Science Friday, and on many international science festivals and podcasts.







## Adriana Banta

A24

Adriana Banta oversees Creative for Nonfiction at A24. Prior to A24, Adriana was vice president at 30WEST, where she helped build out the company's nonfiction slate. Select projects included *Wildcat*, *Maya and the Wave*, *Flee*, *Some Kind of Heaven*, and *Tiger King*.



## Josh Braun

*Submarine Entertainment*

Josh Braun is the Co-President of Submarine Entertainment, a hybrid sales, production and distribution company. Mr. Braun recently executive produced the Netflix documentary series *The Andy Warhol Diaries* and the National Geographic and Sundance award-winning feature documentary *Fire of Love*, as well as *Circus of Books*, *Crip Camp*, and *Apollo 11*. Other series titles include *Lenox Hill*, *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. Recent sales titles include *The Return of Tanya Tucker*, *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry*, *The Velvet Underground*, *Boys State*, *The Social Dilemma*, *Disclosure*, *American Factory*, *Honeyland*, and *One Child Nation*. Submarine has been responsible for the sale of six out of the last 12 Academy Award-winning documentaries – *American Factory*, *Citizenfour*, *20 Feet from Stardom*, *Man on Wire*, *The Cove*, and *Searching for Sugar Man*. Submarine has represented the Grand Jury Prize Winner at the Sundance Film Festival consecutively from 2016 to 2020.



## John Cunningham

*John Templeton Foundation*

John Cunningham is the Director of the Public Engagement department at the John Templeton Foundation. In that role, he supports programs that advance the Foundation's mission within the broader public, with a particular emphasis on content creation, outreach to opinion leaders in the media and religious communities, and programs and curricular interventions in undergraduate institutions. Currently, he is in the process of creating a grant fund at the Foundation to support mission-aligned documentary films. Before joining the Foundation, Mr. Cunningham directed leadership development programs for undergraduate students at the University of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Office of the Chaplain. A graduate of John Brown University, he received a MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



## Chloe Gbai

*Netflix*

Chloe Gbai is an Emmy-nominated producer and Manager on the Original Documentary Films team at Netflix. She joined Netflix from IF/Then Shorts at Field of Vision, a program that identifies and supports original, standalone short documentaries made by filmmakers working in and representing their communities. Previously, as the POV Shorts and Streaming Producer, she launched POV Shorts, which in its first season earned a Documentary Short Oscar nomination, two Emmy nominations, and an IDA Awards nomination for Best Short Form Series. She is a proud member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia, a 2020 Impact Partners Producing Fellow, a DOC NYC New Leader, and a member-in-residence of the Meerkat Media Collective.



**Paola Mottura***Sundance Institute*

Paola is the Film Fund Director for the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program. The Sundance Documentary Fund awards up to \$2 million dollars per year to artists from around the world with a distinct voice and vision, and a meaningful connection to the work they create. We are especially keen to raise historically neglected and traditionally marginalized voices in the service of building a more equitable, free, and open society. Prior to joining Sundance in 2018, Paola worked for The Gotham, where she managed all nonfiction programs, and Cinereach, where she supported grantmaking and in-house productions. Paola started her career in London, working in both festival programming and documentary production. Over the past decade Paola has served as an industry adviser, panelist, guest lecturer, and jury member for domestic and international film festivals, pitch forums, funds and colleges. Paola holds a dual degree in Anthropology and Media from Goldsmiths, University of London, and is currently on the Advisory Board of DocLands (California Film Institute).

**Thom Powers***DOC NYC; Toronto International Film Festival*

Thom Powers is the founding Artistic Director of New York's documentary festival DOC NYC. He spent 12 years in that role, shifting to become its Director of Special Projects in 2022. He concurrently serves as the Documentary Programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival and the Miami Film Festival. He hosts the podcast *Pure Nonfiction* and WNYC's radio segment *Documentary of the Week*. He teaches producing at the School of Visual Arts in the MFA for Social Documentary program. He is a Co-Founder of the Montclair Film Festival, the Cinema Eye Honors, and the Garrett Scott Development Grant. He spent ten years as a documentary filmmaker and previously worked for the publisher Fantagraphics Books.

