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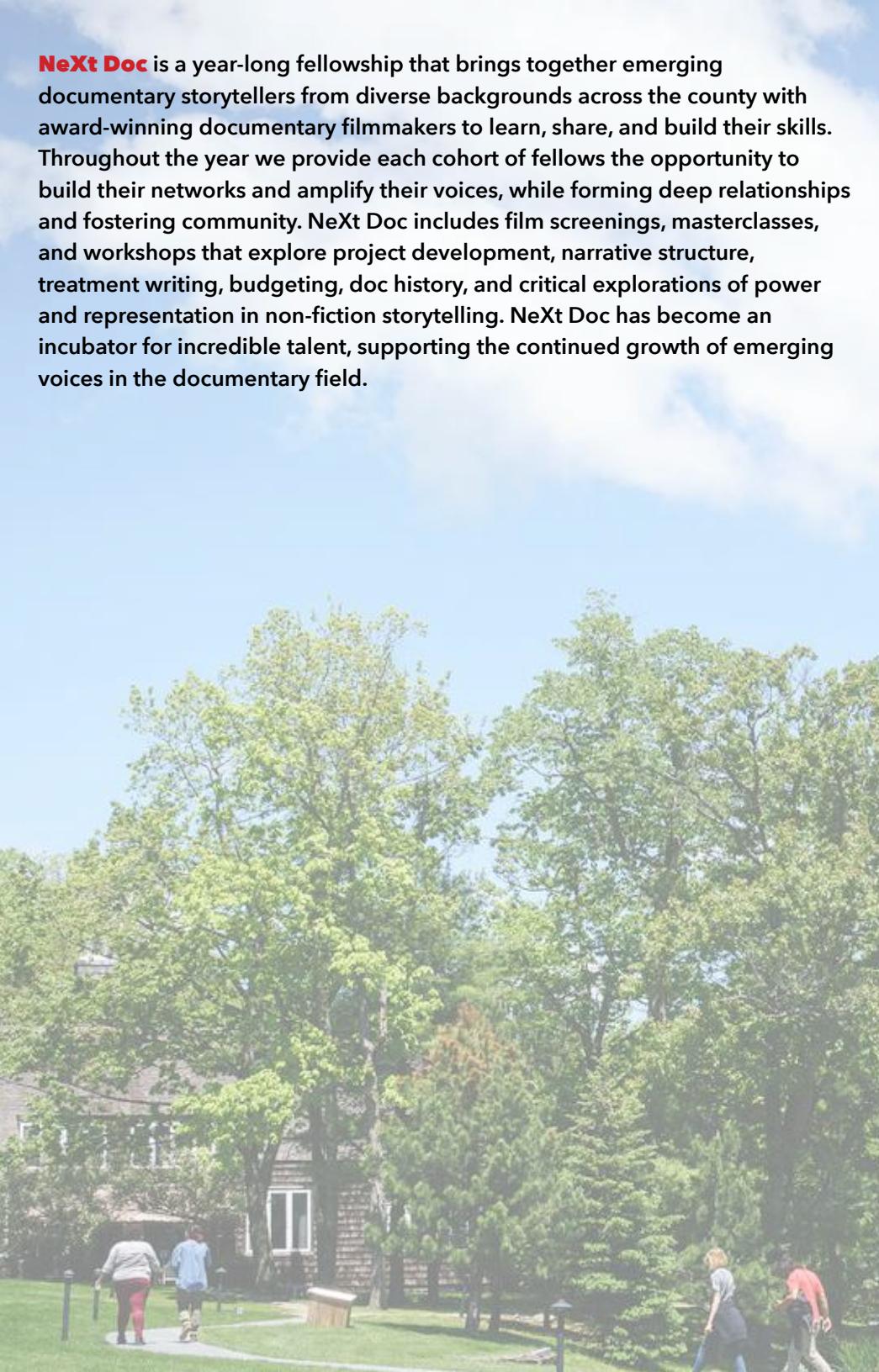
# NEXT DOC 2019

JUNE 1ST-JUNE 7TH, 2019

THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIVERSE  
DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLERS

[www.nextdoc.org](http://www.nextdoc.org)

**NeXt Doc** is a year-long fellowship that brings together emerging documentary storytellers from diverse backgrounds across the county with award-winning documentary filmmakers to learn, share, and build their skills. Throughout the year we provide each cohort of fellows the opportunity to build their networks and amplify their voices, while forming deep relationships and fostering community. NeXt Doc includes film screenings, masterclasses, and workshops that explore project development, narrative structure, treatment writing, budgeting, doc history, and critical explorations of power and representation in non-fiction storytelling. NeXt Doc has become an incubator for incredible talent, supporting the continued growth of emerging voices in the documentary field.



# 2019 NEXT DOC

## Presenting Filmmakers



**JACKIE OLIVE** is an independent filmmaker and immersive media producer with fifteen years of experience in journalism and film. Her debut feature documentary, *Always in Season*, premiered in competition at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Special Jury Prize for Moral Urgency. Jackie also co-directed the award-winning hour-long film, *Black to Our Roots*, which broadcast on PBS in 2009. Jackie has received artist grants and industry funding from Sundance Institute, Independent Television Service, Ford Foundation, Firelight Media, and more. She was recently awarded the Emerging Filmmakers of Color Award from IDA and the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation.



**MICHÈLE STEPHENSON** pulls from her Panamanian and Haitian roots to tell compelling, personal stories that are created by, for and about communities of color. Her work has appeared on a variety of platforms, including PBS and Showtime. Her film, *American Promise*, was nominated for three Emmys including Best Documentary. The film also won Jury Prize at Sundance, and was selected for New York Film Festivals' Main Slate Program. Her collaborative series with New York Times Op-Docs, *Conversations on Race*, won an Online Journalism Award. She was awarded the Chicken & Egg Filmmaker Breakthrough Award and is a Guggenheim Fellow and Skoll Sundance Storytellers of Change Fellow.



**YVONNE WELBON** is Senior Creative Consultant at Chicken & Egg Pictures, an award-winning filmmaker and founder of the Chicago-based non-profit Sisters in Cinema. She has produced over 20 films including *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @100*—winner of ten best documentary awards. Her work has been screened on PBS, Starz, TV-ONE, Bravo, BET, HBO, Netflix, iTunes and in over 100 film festivals around the world. Raised in an African American Latinx Honduran household, Welbon received a B.A from Vassar College, a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and is a graduate of the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women.



**ROSINE MBAKAM** Rosine Mfetgo Mbakam grew up in a traditional family in Cameroon. She chose cinema very early, training in Yaoundé thanks to the Italian NGO organization COE (Centro Orientamento Educativo) where, beginning in 2000 she was introduced to image making, editing and production. While there, she collaborated on and directed several films. After a meeting with Mactar Sylla in 2003, she joined the team of STV (Spectrum Television) where she directed and edited several audiovisual programmes. In 2014 she founded with Geoffroy Cernaix, Tandor Productions and directed *The Two Faces of a Bamileke Woman* (2017). Her second feature, *Chez Jolie Coffure* (2018) premiered at DOK Leipzig Film Festival and has played at dozens of international film festivals since its debut.



# 2019 NEXT DOC Visiting Fellows

As a new initiative to further bridge the gap between our fellows and industry, we're excited to welcome 2019 NeXt Doc Visiting Fellows **Jasmine Bowles** (co-director, Southern Documentary Fund) and **Natalie Erazo** (programmer, BAMCinétek) who will join us in deepening conversations on the intersections of filmmaking, funding and programming. This year, NeXt Doc also welcomes back one of our industry partners, **Kristin Feeley** from the Sundance Documentary Film Program, who will offer insights on pitching, funding and the art of non-fiction.



**JASMINE BOWLES** brings over 20 years of experience in business operations, human resources, budgeting, and event planning, along with database implementation and management to her role as the co-director of the Southern Documentary Fund. She is an experienced facilitator, and has crafted and led workshops in racial equity and media representation. In 2016, she was the Associate Producer to the Tribeca Film Festival's animated short selection *Fear* curated by Whoopi Goldberg. Jasmine is a momma bear to three dynamic little girls and spends the rest of her time advocating for their educational needs and empowering other African American parents to do the same.



**NATALIE ERAZO** is the Coordinator of Repertory and Specialty Film Programs at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAMCinétek). She has programmed film series for BAM, as well as organized screenings for youth audiences through The Repertory Project. Previously, she freelanced as a production assistant and coordinator on films, including Gillian Robespierre's *Landline* and Peter Brunner's *To The Night*. While studying film at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (c/o '16), Natalie served as Co-Director and Programmer for the Fusion Film Festival.



**KRISTIN FEELEY** Kristin Feeley is Director of Labs and Artist Support Programs for the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program (DFP). She oversees five Sundance Documentary Creative Labs, co-programs the Sundance Creative Producing Summit and the Fellows Program at Sundance Film Festival, which serves over 150 artists annually. She also oversees content production and also works on DFP Creative Partnerships such as the Stories of Change initiative. Kristen also serves as an advisor for Points North Institute at Camden International Film Festival and has worked at several international film festivals including Tribeca Film Festival and Edinburgh International Film Festival.



# 2019 NEXT DOC FELLOWS

Our **2019 NeXt Doc Fellows** represent a wide-wide-range of ethnic, racial, gender and regional diversity. Overall, we received 95 applications from 34 different states and 12 different countries. NeXt Doc has become an incubator for incredible talent and we look forward to welcoming the 2019 cohort and support their continued growth as artists, filmmakers, storytellers and emerging voices in the documentary field.



## ALEX Y. DING, Chicago, IL

Alex Y. Ding is an organizer, filmmaker, and journalist based in Chicago. She is the Dr. Aizik Wolf Fellow in Human Rights at Siskel/Jacobs Productions, where she supports feature-length documentaries *No Small Matter* and *The Road Up*. She is a video journalist at Free Spirit Media covering arts and culture on Chicago's West Side. Prior to that, Alex served on the steering committees of the National Prison Divestment Campaign and #CareNotCops, and has organized in Chicago around racial and economic justice for four years. Alex received a B.A. in Race and Ethnic Studies and Anthropology from the University of Chicago.



## AMBER LOVE, Chicago, IL

Amber Love is a filmmaker, documentary editor, and festival programmer based in Chicago. After interning with Kartemquin Films she has gone on to work as an editor on numerous documentary projects, and is currently directing an experimental documentary short concerned with Afrofuturism as a social justice tool. As a programmer, Amber works with the New Orleans Film Festival and manages South Pitch, their annual pitching competition for Southern-based filmmakers.



## ANDREA VILLANUEVA, Toronto, ON

Andy Villanueva is a director and currently works as Program Coordinator at POV 3rd Street which is a media training program for marginalized young people. She was born in Mexico in 1996 and at the age of 6 she moved to Toronto, Canada, where she lives and studies. Andy has directed several short films and documentaries and has participated in diverse cinematographic projects. In 2017, Andy received the Horizon Award at Sundance Festival and her film was invited to screen at the Cannes film festival in 2017. Her works aims to elevate and platform Latinx women and their stories.

**ASH GOH, Singapore/Brooklyn, NY**

Ash is a filmmaker from Singapore, based in Brooklyn, NY. She creates documentary and experimental-based work informed by the politics of abolition and autonomy; her filmmaking practice imagines future acts of collective liberation.

**BRIT HENSEL, Cherokee Nation**

Brit is a writer, historian, and filmmaker. She is a Colorado native and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Her work often focuses on underrepresented stories and communities, social justice and identity. She applies her passion for storytelling to her work as a screenwriter, journalist, and as an independent historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. Her most recent film, Native and American, will premiere at the Stronger than Fiction Film Festival in Columbia, MO in Spring 2019.

**DRAMA DEL ROSARIO, Manila, Philippines/Los Angeles, CA**

Drama Del Rosario is a Filipino documentary filmmaker based in Los Angeles. With over a decade of experience in film production, Drama uses documentary film to challenge the conservative Catholic background that he grew up in. His personal documentary film *In This Family* explores raw audio recordings of his parents' reactions to him being outed as a young teenager. It was subsequently shortlisted for the BAFTA Student Film Awards for 2018 and received the Loni Ding Award for Social Issue Documentary at CAAMFest 2019. Currently, Drama is directing his next personal documentary, which follows his year-long recovery from suicidal ideation and sexual assault, and how the trauma has indirectly affected the people closest to him.

**ELODIE EDJANG, Atlanta/France/Cameroun**

Elodie Edjang is a Chicago based documentary filmmaker by way of Georgia, France, and Cameroun. She works at Local Legend Films, a production company committed to employing young men at risk of gun violence. She is currently in pre-production for her first feature documentary that explores identity and celibacy among queer Christian women of colour.

**ERIN RAMIREZ, Brookline, NH**

Erin is a filmmaker originally from New Hampshire who comes from a mixed-race family of Jamaican-Chinese and Dominican origin. He moved to Los Angeles for undergraduate school where he concentrated in journalism and cinematic arts at USC. He most recently directed and produced a short documentary film for national organization Freedom For Immigrants and worked on a feature documentary film titled *Trans\*Formed* which received a 2018 Sundance Production grant. He is a 2017 Student Academy Award Semi-finalist and will be pursuing an MFA at Columbia University School of the Arts this fall.

**JEANETTE LAM, Virginia Beach, VA**

Jeanette Lam is an east coast filmmaker with a degree in Leadership Studies, Journalism, and Film Studies from the University of Richmond. Her latest projects include publishing her documentary short *The Last Hands* in Zellige in USA Today and working as co-cinematographer/assistant editor for New York Times journalist Aida Alam's feature documentary *France's Children*. Most recently, she produced a cinepoem titled *A Flower in a Dark Place* featuring the voices of incarcerated youth, a marginalized community she was privileged to connect with throughout her college career. Jeanette is passionate about creating empathetic connection through reflective storytelling.

**JEREMIAH RHODES, Fayetteville, NC**

Jeremiah Rhodes is a black student photographer and filmmaker at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, pursuing a degree in Photo and Video Journalism. Jeremiah uses filmmaking to encourage people to love the ways that humans are different and to embrace the things that make us the same. He is currently a Video Intern at NPR in the Music Department.

**LAN NGUYEN, Long Beach, CA**

Lan Nguyen grew up in Long Beach, California as the daughter of Vietnamese refugees. She studied journalism and education at Northwestern University and is currently attending UCLA in pursuit of her MA in Asian American Studies. She is a lecturer with California State University of Long Beach, where she teaches ethnic studies to high school students. Lan is active in community organizing with VietUnity-SoCal and utilizes filmmaking as a medium for social change.

**MARIALES DIAZ, Brooklyn, NY**

Mariales Diaz is Dominican immigrant who calls Brooklyn home, Mariales' pronouns are they/them. They are a filmmaker whose work involves the exploration of human relationships and dismantling the patriarchy. Mariales is a recent graduate of SUNY Purchase where they received their BFA in Film.

**ROBERTSOM MERCED AGOSTO, Carolina, PR**

Robertsom Merced Agosto is a Puerto Rican filmmaker and web developer. He is a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico's Film and Television program, where he founded and presided over the institution's Film Society. Apart from his production work in non-fiction and advertising, Robertsom's research on streaming platforms and digital media made him a lecturer on Puerto Rico's first National Conference on Mass Communication and Digital Technologies. He was recently admitted to the Graduate Film Program at The City College of New York, CUNY.

**SARA OSMAN, Minneapolis, MN**

Sara Osman is a Somali-American writer and storyteller from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Through her time as a community organizer, Sara has done work in restorative practices and education. In 2018, Sara and her friends launched The Qalano Project, a Somali arts education community org located in Minneapolis. Sara is interested in exploring identity, space and memory as it relates to the experiences of youth in the Somali diaspora and reimagining personal narratives.

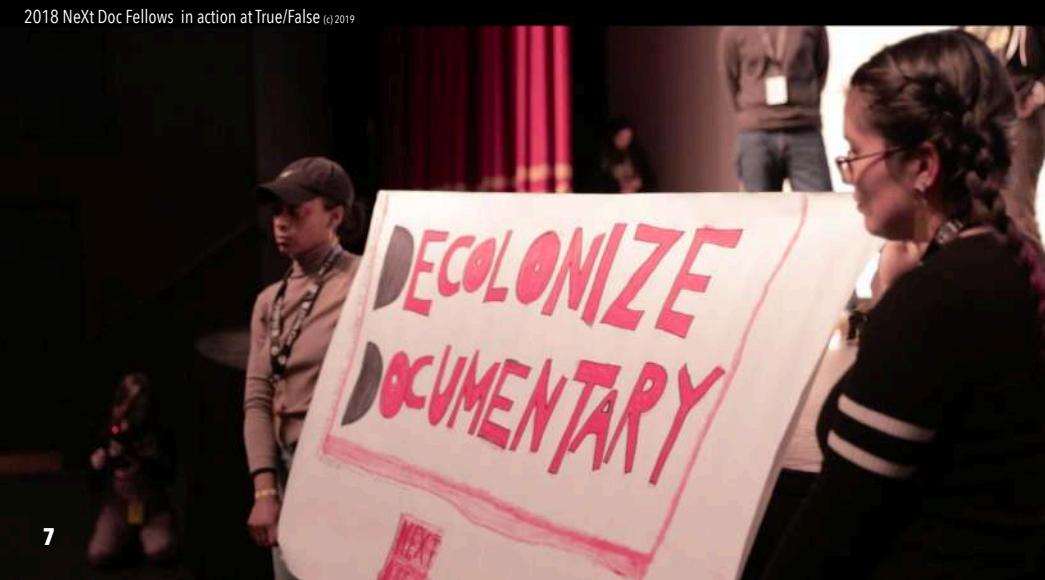
**SHILPA KUNNAPPILLIL, Burke, VA**

Shilpa Kunnappillil is a documentary filmmaker and editor based in New York and a recent graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She explores themes of identity and acceptance through her films, especially focusing on female-centric stories told from unrepresented perspectives. She is currently in post-production on her first feature-length documentary called The Road to Sabarimala. She has interned for a number of award-winning documentary filmmakers and currently works as an assistant editor.

**TENOCH AZTECATL, San Antonio, TX**

Tenoch Aztecatl is an Austin based filmmaker from San Antonio, Texas. He will be graduating from Texas A&M University in August with a B.A. in International Studies: Communications and Media Studies. He currently works as an intern at the Austin Film Society and has previously worked as a multimedia fellow for The Texas Tribune. Before working at The Tribune, he worked as the multimedia editor for The Battalion, Texas A&M's student-run newspaper. Through his work, Tenoch hopes to portray the reality of life in a globalized world and more importantly, the presence of beauty in everything.

2018 NeXt Doc Fellows in action at True/False (c) 2019



# Tentative Schedule

\*Subject to change. *Locations in red.*

## Saturday, June 1st

*Fellows arrival all day!*

- **TBA** - Arrive at the Wilburton Inn
- 6pm - 7pm Dinner
- 7pm - 8pm: Welcome to NeXt Doc

## Sunday, June 2nd

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\*
- 10am - 1pm: Intros + Decolonizing Documentary, Decolonizing Ourselves
- 1pm - 2pm: Lunch\*
- 2pm - 3:30pm: Peer to Peer Screening - Block #1
- 3:30pm - 3:50pm: \*Break\*
- 4pm - 7pm: Peer to Peer Screening - Block #2
- 7pm - 8pm: Dinner\*



## Documentary Shorts Screening

A program of award-winning short documentaries curated by NeXt Doc staff.

## Monday, June 3rd

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\*
- 10am - 12pm: Walk / Hike
- 12pm - 1pm: Lunch\*
- 1pm - 3pm: **MASTER CLASS: Michèle Stephenson + THE CHANGING SAME** (21 min)
- 3pm - 4pm: \*Open Block\*
- 4pm - 5pm **KICKBACK: Jasmine Bowles "Intro to Regional Funding"**
- 5pm - 6pm **KICKBACK: Natalie Erazo "Demystifying Programming"**
- 6pm - 7pm Dinner\*
- 7:30pm - 10pm: SCREENING of **CHEZ JOLIE COIFFURE** dir. Rosine Mbakam (71 min) + Q&A

**The Changing Same (2018) dir. Michèle Stephenson & Joe Brewster 21 min.**



In *Changing Same*, we follow Lamar as he runs 13 miles to retrace the same route Claude Neal took that fateful night. His sense of duty to shine a light on this past and love for his town motivates him to do this every year. With the help of three other residents, he works towards trying to heal a community that has paid a price for silence and denial.

## Tuesday, June 4th

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\*
- 10am - 12pm: **MASTERCLASS: Yvonne Welbon**
- 12pm - 1pm: \*Open Block\*
- 1pm - 2pm Lunch\*
- 2pm - 4pm: **DESIRED FUTURES: The NeXt Wave of Documentary - Green Mountain House**
- 4pm - 4:20pm: \*Break\*
- 4:20pm - 6pm **NEXT DOC PARTNER: Kristin Feely, "Intro to Sundance Documentary Fund & The Art of Non-Fiction" - Green Mountain House**
- 6pm - 7pm: Dinner
- 8pm - 9pm: **DOCUMENTARY SHORTS SCREENING**

**Chez Jolie Coiffure (2018) dir. Rosine Mbakam 71 min.**



An immigrant from Cameroon journeys first to Lebanon and then to Belgium, where she finds employment at a beauty salon, a place where undocumented immigrants can escape the daily difficulties and harsh realities of their lives.

(French and Pidgin with English subtitles)

## Wednesday, June 5th

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\*
- 10am - 12pm: **MASTER CLASS: Bhawin Suchak "The Jump off: Funding Your Project"**
- 12pm - 12:20pm *\*Break\**
- 12:20pm - 1pm **DESIRED FUTURES: Sustainability**
- 1pm - 2pm Lunch\*
- 2pm - 3:30pm: **ALWAYS IN SEASON** dir. Jackie Olive (89 mins)
- 4pm - 6pm: **KICKBACK: Jackie Olive**
- 6pm - 7pm Dinner\*
- 7pm - 9pm: *\*Open Block\**
- 9pm - 11pm: **GET DOWN** with DJ Intel Hayesfield

## Always In Season (2019) dir. Jackie Olive 89 min.



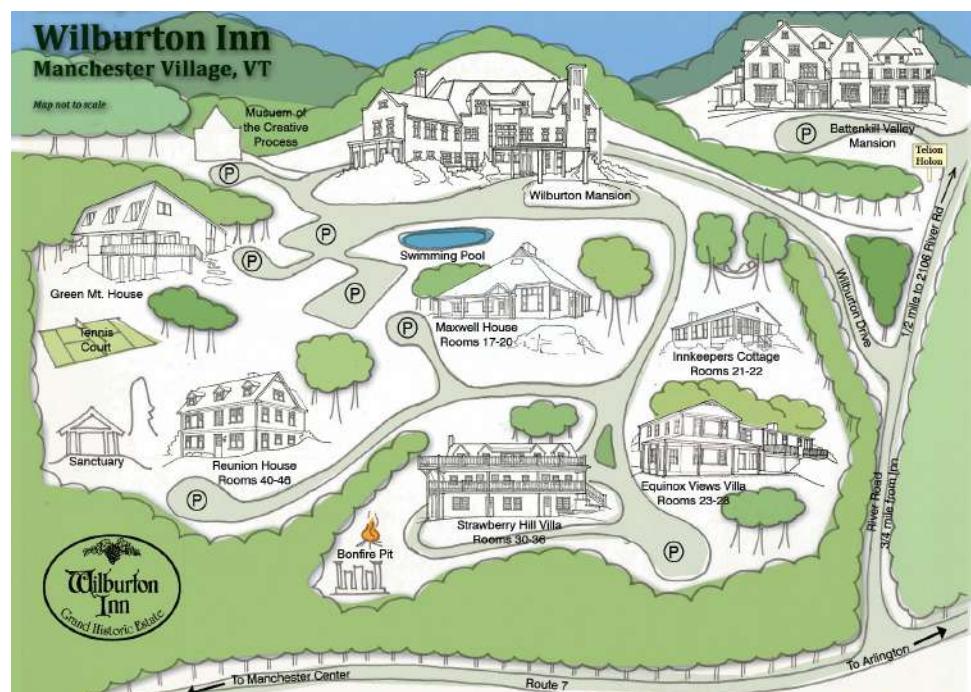
ALWAYS IN SEASON explores the lingering impact of more than a century of lynching African Americans and connects this form of historic racial terrorism to racial violence today. The film centers on the case of Lennon Lacy, an African American teen who was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, North Carolina, on August 29, 2014. Despite inconsistencies in the case, local officials quickly ruled Lennon's death a suicide, but his mother, Claudia, believes Lennon was lynched. Claudia moves from paralyzing grief to leading the fight for justice for her son.

## Thursday, June 6th

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\*
- 10am - 12pm: NeXt Steps: Block #1
- 1pm - 2pm: Lunch\*
- 2pm - 6pm: NeXt Steps: Block #2
- 6pm - 7pm: Dinner\*
- 7pm - 9pm: Closing Circle

## Friday, June 7th

- 9am - 10am: Breakfast\* - *Wilburton Inn*
- **TBA** - DEPARTURES



## THE NEXT DOC CURRICULUM IS BUT AROUND FOUR CORE PRINCIPLES:



### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through a series of master classes with professional filmmakers and hands-on workshops with Youth FX filmmaker/educators, students engage in topics ranging from concept development, filming and editing, to marketing and distribution. In addition to master classes **NeXt Doc** also features year-round live video workshops with filmmakers and industry professionals from organizations including: Sundance, POV, IDA, and Tribeca



### CREATIVE EXPLORATION

The week-long **NeXt Doc** opening retreat include outdoor excursions to boost creativity and time for self-reflection in an inspiring environment. This process enhances master class discussions and informal exchanges, encouraging **NeXt Doc** fellows to be fully present while facilitating the forming of deep relationships and community building.



### BUILDING NETWORKS

Equitable access to resources is a barrier to diversity in documentary filmmaking. Networking with others in the field and supporters of documentary film is critical to secure resources. **NeXt Doc** connects young filmmakers to mentors and advisors already established in the field. These connections form the beginning of their professional network providing a foundation to build upon after **NeXt Doc** ends.



### PEER-TO-PEER KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Through scheduled screening sessions of their work and informal exchanges, **NeXt Doc** challenges young filmmakers to talk about their work, give and receive critical feedback, learn from each other's experiences and brainstorm new ideas. These opportunities not only help to build skills and strengthen their storytelling techniques, but also create community, and provide a foundation for future collaborations as they develop careers.

## NEXT DOC PROGRAM TEAM



### BHAWN SUCHAK, Co-Founder | Program Director

Bhawn is an educator and filmmaker born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and now based in Albany, NY. In 2008 he founded Youth FX, a media arts organization focused on empowering young people of color in the South End of Albany by teaching them creative and technical skills in film and digital media. Bhawn is currently in early production on *Outta The Muck*, a feature length documentary supported by Sundance, ITVS and Southern Documentary Fund. He previously directed the award-winning documentary, *The Throwaways* (2014) and *Free to Learn* (2004).



### DARIAN HENRY, Co-Founder | Assistant Director

Darian Henry is a filmmaker, digital media educator, founding member and assistant director of the nationally renowned film and media organization Youth FX. She has shot, directed, and produced over 20 short documentary, narrative, and experimental films many of which have screened in festivals across the country and around the world. As an educator, Darian uses film as a means to build community, empowering youth from underrepresented communities in a wide range of Youth FX programs. Darian Henry was born in Hanover, Jamaica. She currently resides in New York.

## NEXT DOC SUPPORT TEAM



MAYA



MEJIA



EJANIIA



ADEN