



CATAPULT FILM FUND

Moving Documentary Films

39 Mesa Street, San Francisco, CA | catapultfilmfund.org



John Who Lives in the Dark (development grant 2021)

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All That Breathes (development grant 2019)

OUR MISSION

We support nonfiction filmmakers with critical early-stage funding and mentorship to launch distinctive, story-driven, and cinematic films.

Crip Camp (development grant 2016)





Our Co-Founders

Catapult was born from our common desire to fill the funding gap and to support artful films.



Lisa Kleiner Chanoff



Bonni Cohen

Looking back over the last decade since we started Catapult Film Fund, we could not be more thrilled with how far we have come. In the spring of 2010, we were introduced to each other by a mutual friend. We talked for a long time about documentary filmmaking and what was lacking on the funding landscape.

Bonni was an established documentary filmmaker who had made many films through her company, Actual Films. She understood firsthand the struggle to raise development funding for her projects. Lisa was a lawyer, more recently working in arts education, who wanted to start a fund for filmmakers where the need was greatest and modest grants could make an outsized impact.

We started with a soft launch by reaching out to trusted colleagues at other film organizations and received 40 applications. Today, we receive over a thousand applications a year through an open call. Much has changed over the years, except for our dedication to offering support for artful and cinematic nonfiction storytelling.

We are filled with admiration for the extraordinary talent of those we support; the opportunity to support and nurture artists at this early stage, who have something specific to say, is a privilege.



Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project (development grant 2017)

OUR APPROACH

We focus exclusively on early support, when funding and mentorship is the hardest to find and considered the riskiest to give.

Simple as Water (development grant 2017)



We believe in funding opportunity

ALL
FILMMAKERS



Cameraperson (development grant 2017)

ALL
NONFICTION
FILMS



Weiner (development grant 2014)

ALL
COUNTRIES



The White Doctor (development grant 2021)

ALL
WELCOME



The Flagmakers (development grant 2019)

ALL
FREE TO APPLY



Lift (development grant 2018)

We embrace creative risk-takers



“[A] rare and precious resource on the funding map for international filmmakers. Seed funding is seed faith and it is always a treasure. Your support helped us unlock additional funding.”

Shirley Abraham and Amit Madheshiya, Directors
Searching For Saraswati (development grant 2017)



“I was filming but putting the footage in a suitcase. I was not sure what the film could be. [Catapult] allowed me to cut a sample reel that raised a big chunk of production funding. It was a game changer.”

Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, Directors
Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project (development grant 2017)



“As a single working parent, Catapult's support was truly catalytic and came at a time when I really needed it.”

Loira Limbal, Director
Through The Night (development grant 2017)



“[Catapult was] the first foundation to fund us and it was very important for our lift off. Their funding made our trailer possible as our angel's money wasn't going to stretch that far.”

Nicole Newnham and Jim LeBrecht, Directors
Crip Camp (development grant 2016)



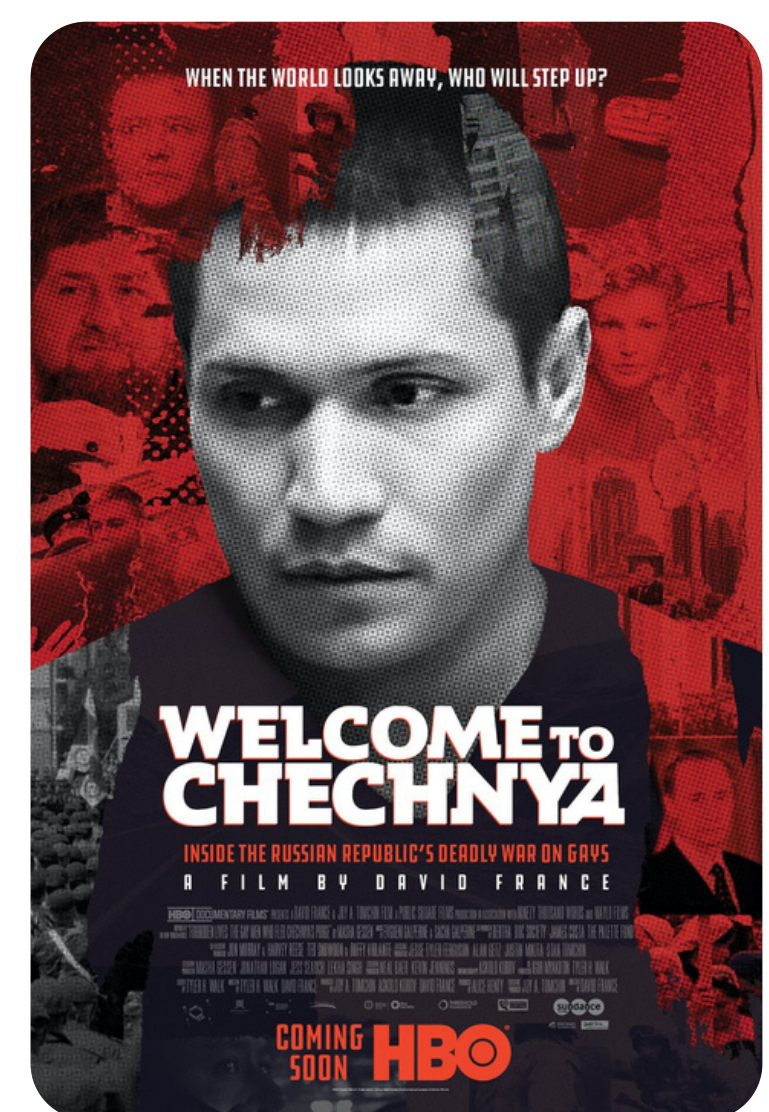
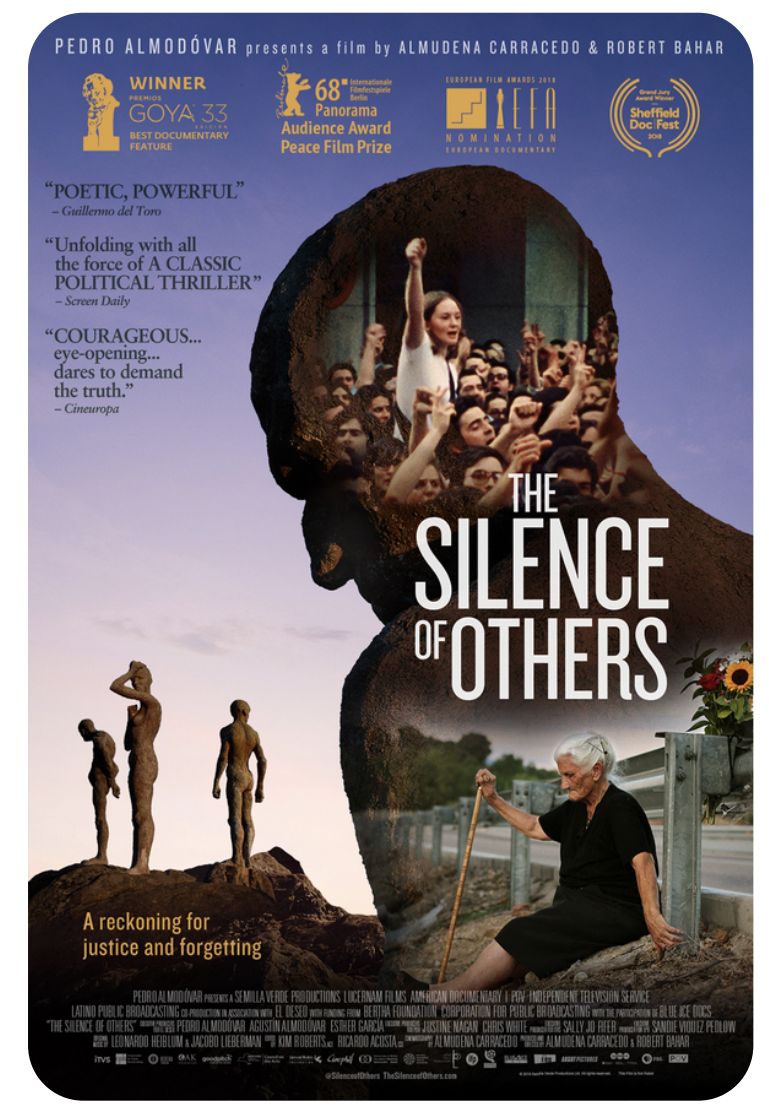
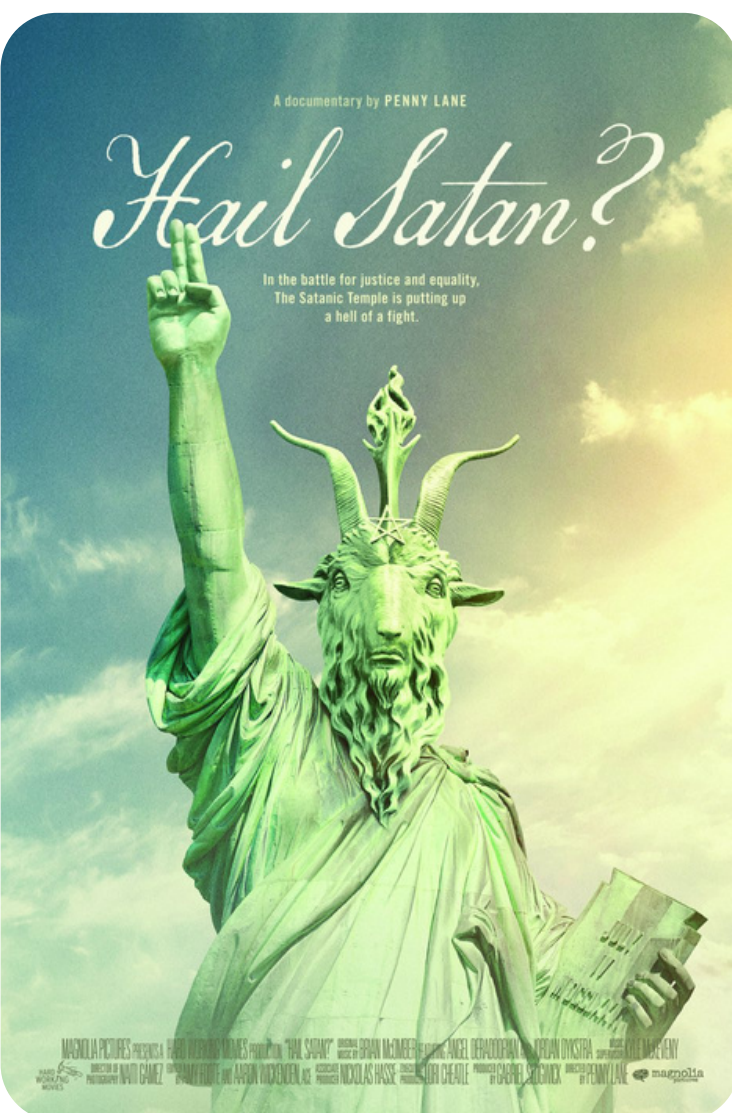
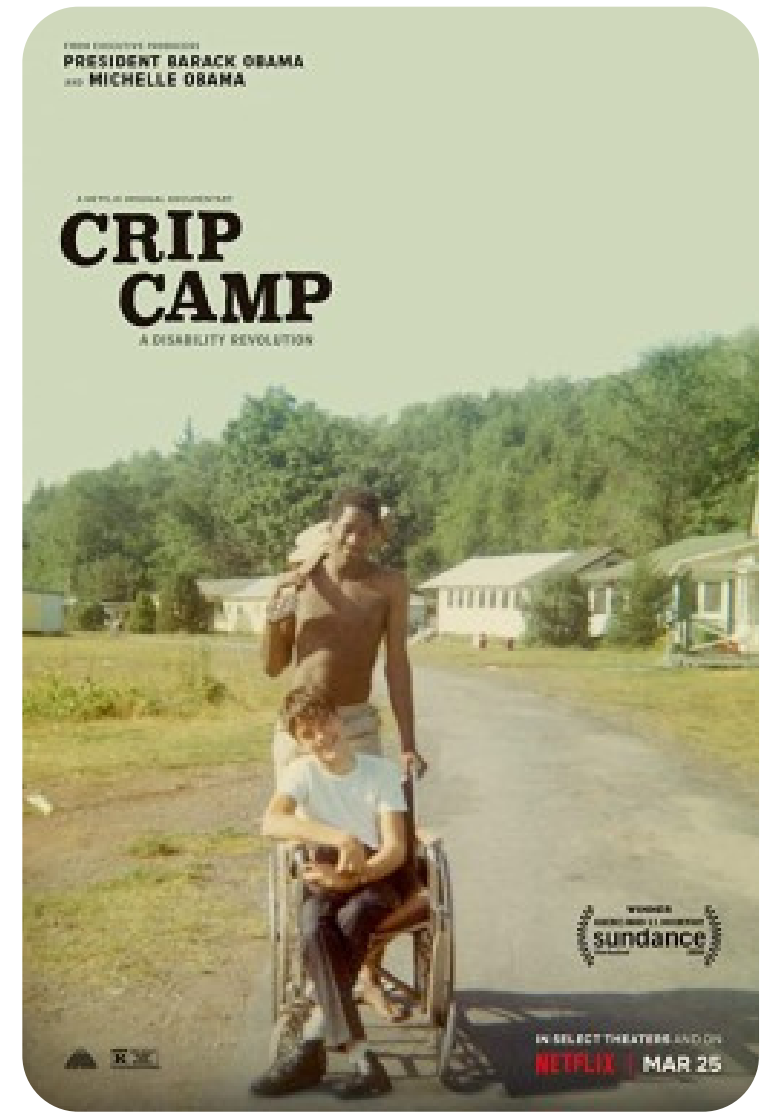
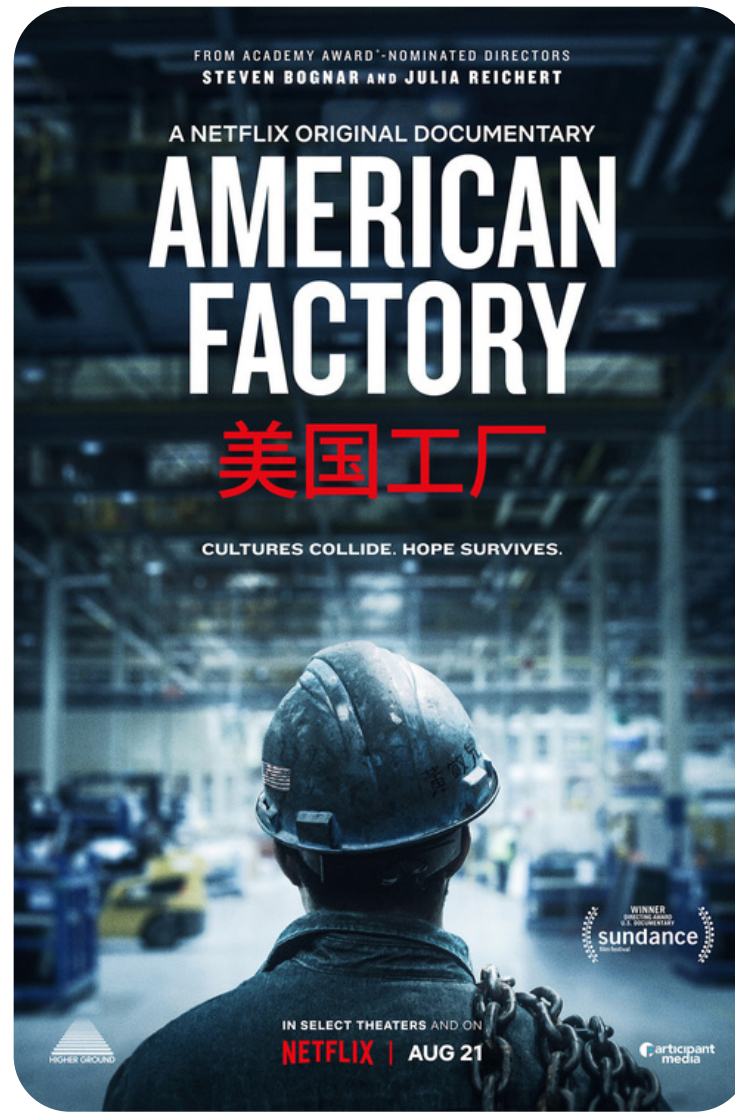
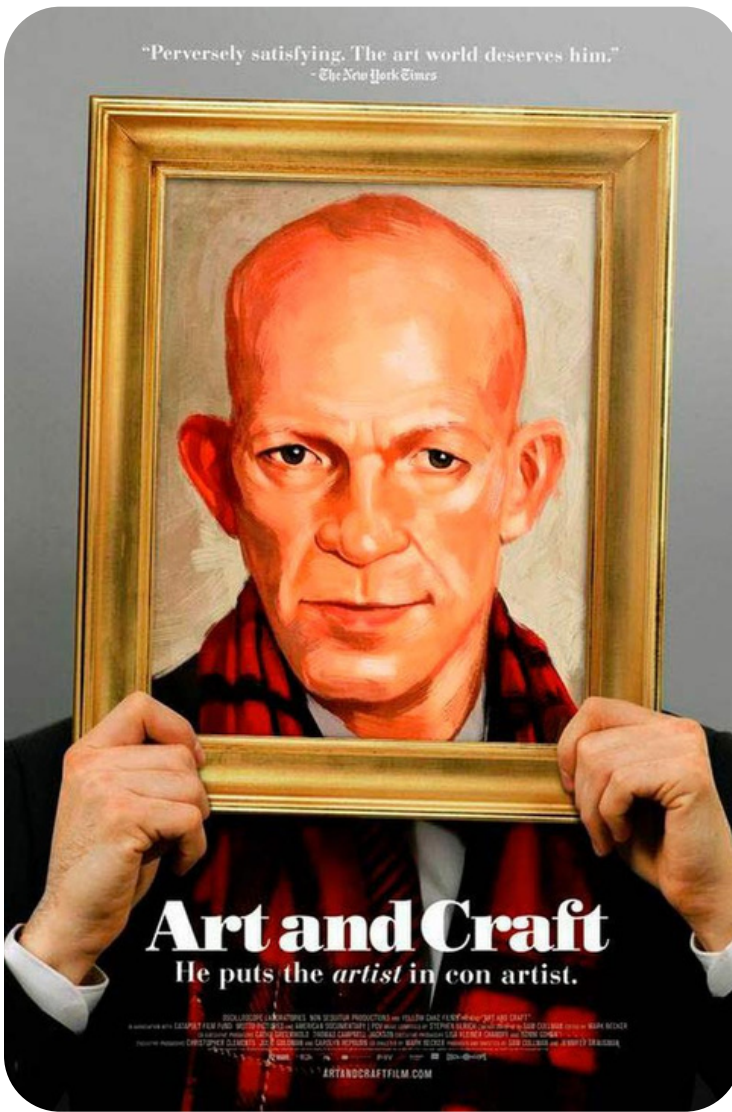
“[O]ne of the first funders to support my filmmaking... by far among the most thoughtful, responsive and artistically-minded funders in the U.S. documentary space today.”

Malika Zouhali-Worrall, Director and Rough Cut Retreat mentor
Call Me Kuchu (development grant 2010)

Film List



We launch distinctive nonfiction films





Searching for Saraswati (development grant 2017)

OUR PROGRAMS

We take a chance on filmmakers who have ideas for artful and compelling nonfiction films that make us think differently about the world.

The Territory (development grant 2019)



Development Grants

Our signature program awards 20 filmmakers with funding and mentorship when support is hardest to come by. Our Development Grants help filmmakers create pitch materials to unlock production support and additional opportunities.



“It was such a gift to have Catapult's support... from the first month I moved into production through the next ten years as I worked to finish the film, especially early on when funding was lean and I was still developing my vision for the story.”

Jacqueline Olive, Director

Always in Season (development grant 2010)

Momentum Grants

Our Momentum Grants are available to prior grantees when an infusion of funds can help them continue making progress. This grant is a reflection of our ongoing support of filmmakers throughout the lifecycle of the film.



“[A] tireless advocate for international stories, by international filmmakers... Both the initial development fund and the momentum grant enabled us to make significant progress in footage acquisition and to begin the editing process.”

S. Leo Chiang, Producer

Our Time Machine (development grant 2016)

Research Grants

Our newest initiative expands our commitment to supporting filmmakers at the earliest possible stage. Our Research Grants sustain filmmakers as they explore a new concept while also reducing barriers to entry for a diverse slate of voices.



“I am really grateful for the time and support that has really brought my project to life. I think this was more than I ever could have asked for. I am walking away with a solid core application, a clear idea of story, and potential partners as the film develops.”

Tracy Jarrett, Director
Ghost Dads (research grant 2022)

Mentorship

Catapult further expands the impact of the program grants by providing customized mentorship to supported filmmakers, which often continues until the film’s distribution. This ranges from one-on-one support to cohort-based peer groups.



“The mentorship aspect of the program is a shining light. With one of my projects, what I wanted even more than the financial support were the ideas and critiques of the Catapult team.”

Sara Archambault, Director
What Democracy Looks Like (development grant 2020)



OUR COMMUNITY

We partner with collaborators who share our mission of supporting independent filmmakers and the important stories they tell.





Rough Cut Retreat



*A Partnership with
True/False Film Fest*

Launched in 2016, Rough Cut Retreat (RCR) offers a one-of-a-kind mentorship experience for filmmakers who lack traditional support networks.

A partnership between Catapult Film Fund and True/False Film Fest, RCR was borne out of a shared mission of supporting ambitious, idiosyncratic approaches to nonfiction storytelling.

For a week each year, five film teams are paired with industry mentors to move films from rough cut to fine cut with an eye on winter festival deadlines. The result is a supportive and engaged atmosphere during a critical moment in the filmmaking process.



“A chance to gather with like-minded folks, spending our days (and nights) discussing the deepest layers of nonfiction filmmaking. It's five days of bliss.”

*David Wilson, Co-Conspirator
True/False Film Fest*



Advisors and Mentors

Here are some of our industry collaborators who share their knowledge of nonfiction storytelling and generosity of spirit.

RESEARCH ADVISORS



Jessica Devaney
Producer



Sahar Driver, PhD
Impact Strategist



Marilyn Ness
Director & Producer



Josh Penn
Producer



Yoruba Richen
Director & Producer



Rahdi Taylor
Executive, Concordia Studio



Noland Walker
Executive, ITVS



Nanfu Wang
Director & Editor

ROUGH CUT RETREAT MENTORS



Bonni Cohen
Director



Carla Gutierrez
Editor



Simon Kilmurry
Executive Producer



Omar Mullick
Director & Cinematographer



Peter Nicks
Director



David Teague
Editor



Jean Tsien
Editor



Roger Ross Williams
Director

getting
real '18

Getting In Early: Development Panel

MODERATOR
Bonni Cohen

PARTICIPANTS
Lisa Chanoff, Monika Navarro, Molly Thompson, Caroline von Kuhn,
Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs, Carrie Lozano



Field-Building Support

We are proud to support peer organizations whose content and aesthetics push boundaries and provoke dynamic discussion.



*Artist Emergency
Fund Sponsor*



*Festival
Sponsor*

BLACK
STAR
FILM
FESTIVAL

*Festival + Panel
Sponsor*



*Eggstended Run
Sponsor*



*Sustainable Artist
Grant Sponsor*



*Getting Real
Conference Sponsor*



*Documentary Fellowship +
Doc Stories Sponsor*



Once Upon a Time in Venezuela (development grant 2014)

OUR IMPACT

We create opportunities for independent filmmakers with meaningful resources at a critical moment in the life of their projects.

Ringside (development grant 2014)





Rebel Hearts (development grant 2017)

By The Numbers

We envision a world where filmmakers have the resources they need to create artful documentaries without compromise.

250+

**Film Teams Supported
Around the World**

\$5.5M

**Direct Grants
Distributed**

92%

**Projects
Completed**

La Bonga (development grant 2019)



“Catapult Film Fund fills a real gap for funding and mentoring talented documentary filmmakers telling extraordinary stories.”

Katy Barksdale, President
The Rockdale Foundation

Films Honored Around The World

FESTIVAL PREMIERES



GLOBAL PLATFORMS



CRITICAL ACCLAIM



PEABODY

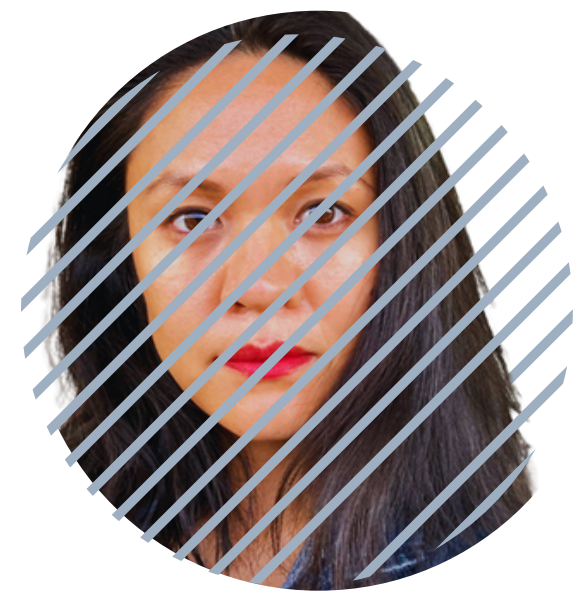


Our Future

Our commitment to early-stage support is more essential than ever.



Megan Gelstein
Chief Program Officer



Theresa Navarro
Chief Operations Officer

We know our programs are transformative for the documentary community. We also know that early support is critical for filmmakers to navigate the rapidly changing industry.

As we embark on this next chapter, we remain guided by our mission, approach, and community. We are excited to envision new ways to propel our essential work forward and strengthen the nonfiction landscape in the process.

Staff

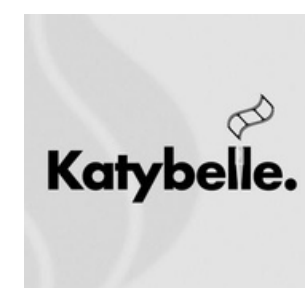
Emily Hoover-Finnigan, *Associate Director of Communications and Operations*

Miriam Garcia, *Program Officer*

Camille Creighton, *Intern*

Supporters

Catapult Film Fund is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (EIN 47-2942570)



Special Thanks

Bree Nieves
Thuy Tran
Marlea Willis
Caroline Von Kuhn

Lauren Kushner
Brett Kushner
Jenny Slatterly
Third Plateau

Film Still Credits

Cover (Clockwise)

- *American Factory*: directors/producers Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert; producers Jeff Reichert, Julie Parker Benello
- *The Territory*: director Alex Pritz; producers Darren Aronofsky, Sigrid Dyekjaer, Will N. Miller, Lizzie Gillett, Gabriel Uchida
- *The Silence of Others*: directors Almudena Carracedo, Robert Bahar
- *All That Breathes*: director/producer Shaunak Sen; producers Aman Mann, Teddy Leifer

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- *All That Breathes*: director/producer Shaunak Sen; producers Aman Mann, Teddy Leifer
- *Crip Camp*: directors Nicole Newnham, Jim LeBrecht; producer Sara Bolder

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- *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*: directors/producers Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson; producer Tommy Oliver
- *Simple as Water*: director/producer Megan Mylan, producer Robin Hessman

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- *Cameraperson*: director/producer Kirsten Johnson, producer Marilyn Ness
- *Weiner*: directors Joshua Kriegman, Elyse Steinberg; producers Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn
- *The White Doctor*: director Zippy Kimundu, producer Ciaran Cassidy
- *The Flagmakers*: directors Sharon Liese, Cynthia Wade
- *Lift*: director David Petersen, producer Mary Recine

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- *Art and Craft*: directors Jennifer Grausman, Sam Cullman; co-director Mark Becker (development grant 2011)
- *American Factory*: directors/producers Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert; producers Jeff Reichert, Julie Parker Benello (development grant 2016)
- *Crip Camp*: directors Nicole Newnham, Jim LeBrecht; producer Sara Bolder (development grant 2016)
- *Hail Satan?*: director Penny Lane, producer Gabriel Sedgwick (development grant 2017)
- *Midnight Family*: director Luke Lorentzen producer Kellen Quinn (development grant 2016)
- *The Silence of Others*: directors Almudena Carracedo, Robert Bahar (development grant 2011)
- *A Thousand Cuts*: director/producer Ramona S. Diaz; producers Leah Marino, Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn (development grant 2017)
- *Life Overtakes Me*: directors Kris Samuelson, John Haptas (development grant 2017)
- *Through the Night*: director Loira Limbal, producer Jameka Autry (development grant 2017)
- *Pray Away*: director Kristine Stolakis, producer Jessica Devaney (development grant 2018)
- *Storm Lake*: directors Jerry Risius, Beth Levison (development grant 2019)
- *Welcome to Chechnya*: director David France, producer Alice Henty (development grant 2018)

Credits (Continued)

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- *Searching for Saraswati*: directors Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya
- *The Territory*: director Alex Pritz; producers Darren Aronofsky, Sigrid Dyekjaer, Will N. Miller, Lizzie Gillett, Gabriel Uchida

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- *Always in Season*: director Jacqueline Olive, producer Jessica Devaney
- *Our Time Machine*: director Yang Su, producer S. Leo Chiang

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- *Ghost Dads*: director Tracy Jarrett
- *What Democracy Looks Like*: directors Sara Archambault, Margo Guernsey

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- *Once Upon a Time in Venezuela*: director Anabel Rodriguez, producer Sepp R. Brudermann
- *Ringside*: director Andre Hörmann; producers Ingmar Trost, Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn

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- *Rebel Hearts*: director Pedro Kos; producers Kira Carstensen, Judy Korin (image used with permission of the Corita Art Center, Immaculate Heart Community).
- *La Bonga*: directors Sebastián Pinzón-Silva, Canela Reyes; producer Gabriella Garcia-Pardo

Back Cover (Top to Bottom)

- *Without Arrows*: directors/producers Jonathan Olshefski, Elizabeth Day (Ojibwe) (development grant 2018)
- *Call Me Kuchu*: directors/producers Malika Zouhali-Worrall, Katherine Fairfax Wright (development grant 2010)
- *Grit*: directors Cynthia Wade, Sasha Friedlander (development grant 2013)
- *Alis*: directors/producers Nicolás van Hemelryck, Clare Weiskopf (development grant 2020)



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