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# WELCOME TO DOC STORIES 2023

We kick-off the ninth iteration of Doc Stories with a joyous bang, presenting **Matthew Heineman's American Symphony**, a profound and nuanced film about Grammy-winning musician, singer, and songwriter **Jon Batiste**. The documentary showcase is anchored by the Centerpiece presentation of **Copa 71**, a stunning archival excavation of the first Women's World Cup series that will leave you moved and inspired. Our 2023 program concludes with a special 3-D screening of **Anselm**—an immersive portrait of **Anselm Kiefer's** monumental career—and a conversation with its director, **Wim Wenders**. These three spellbinding documentaries join a select program of new films, which explore the powerful effect of institutional erasure and the unlimited possibilities of human determination. Crafted by some of the finest documentarians working today, SFFILM's Doc Stories includes in-person presentations from **Lisa Cortés, Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss, Kaouther Ben Hania, Roger Ross Williams**, and many more.

In addition, there will be a very special tribute to the late trailblazing filmmaker, **Julia Reichert**. A tireless advocate for women's rights, workers' rights, and mentor to a legion of filmmakers, Reichert's impressive and illuminating body of work and deep ties to the Bay Area will be honored during a free community celebration on Sunday.

We hope you will join us.

Jessie Fairbanks  
Director of Programming

# Attending

## Film Tickets

### IN PERSON + STREAMING

- \$16 Member
- \$20 General admission
- \$19 Senior (62+)/Student/Disabled

### OPENING NIGHT AND CLOSING NIGHT TICKETS

- \$30 Member
- \$35 General Admission

### **Story & Pictures By**

- \$11 Children (14 and under)

### CINEVISA

*The best way to experience Doc Stories. This all-access pass includes priority line entry at all screenings.*

- \$300 Cinevisa

### TICKET 6-PACKS

- \$95 Member
- \$115 General Admission

### TICKET 10-PACKS

- \$145 Member
- \$175 General Admission

*All tickets and ticket packs include an additional \$1.50 service fee*

Purchase online at [sffilm.org](http://sffilm.org)

## Accessibility

The most-up to-date information on accessibility resources including mobility, closed captions, audio description, and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation for specific programs and venues is available on our website. SFFILM communicates directly with studios, distributors, and filmmakers on accessibility features for all films. Our website will be updated on a rolling basis as we receive content and verify

accessibility features exist. Please note that accessibility features for films may be verified and updated after tickets go on sale to the public. If you have questions about accessibility or would like to request accommodations, please email [ada@sffilm.org](mailto:ada@sffilm.org).

### COVID-19

SFFILM recognizes that public health guidelines are constantly evolving and we may update safety protocols as needed leading up to our events. Your health and safety is our top priority and while we work closely with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, our policies may not always align with SFDPH guidelines.

### MASKS AND VACCINATIONS

Masks are recommended for in-theater events when not eating or drinking. We do not require proof of vaccination to attend our events.

## **Venues**

**Vogue Theatre**  
3290 Sacramento St

**Premier Theater at LDAC**  
1 Letterman Drive #B

## **Streaming**

Can't make it to a theater? Some programs will be available to stream online after their in-person screening. Films will be available to stream directly on [sffilm.org](http://sffilm.org) for 48 hours from Monday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 7. Tickets for online screenings are the same price as in-person screenings.

# Sponsors

## PRESENTING SPONSOR

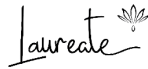
Katy Hall and Tom Knutsen

## LEAD SPONSORS

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## SPONSORS



# Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Venue	Runtime
THU NOV 2	3:00 PM PT	Community Screening: Little Richard: I Am Everything	Vogue	98 min
THU NOV 2	6:30 PM PT	American Symphony	Vogue	94 min
FRI NOV 3	3:30 PM PT	Richland	Premier	93 min
FRI NOV 3	6:00 PM PT	New York Times Op-Docs	Premier	92 min
FRI NOV 3	8:30 PM PT	The Mission	Premier	104 min
SAT NOV 4	12:30 PM PT	Sorry/Not Sorry	Vogue	90 min
SAT NOV 4	3:00 PM PT	Four Daughters	Vogue	107 min
SAT NOV 4	6:00 PM PT	Copa 71	Vogue	90 min
SUN NOV 5	8:30 PM PT	Stamped from the Beginning	Vogue	85 min
SUN NOV 5	10:00 AM PT	Story & Pictures By	Vogue	84 min
SUN NOV 5	1:30 PM PT	Shorts Block: Ideology vs. Identity	Vogue	95 min
SUN NOV 5	4:00 PM PT	A Tribute to Julia Reichert	Vogue	100 min
SUN NOV 5	7:30 PM PT	Anselm—Presented in 3-D	Vogue	93 min

# 2023 Doc Stories Program Descriptions

## **Little Richard: I Am Everything—Community Screening**

Thursday · Nov 2 · 3 pm PT · Vogue

**Lisa Cortés**, USA 2023, 98 min

Brilliant and complicated, Richard Wayne Penniman (aka **Little Richard**) has never received the full picture treatment...until now. In this rousing and kinetic film that definitively positions **Little Richard** as the true originator of rock and roll, **Lisa Cortés** explodes the music industry's whitewashing of a magnetic and singular performer while also presenting his contradictory life in all of its shades. Blending archival footage with insightful commentary from **Nona Hendryx**, **John Waters**, **Tom Jones**, and many others, the film takes viewers on a roller coaster ride of Richard's life. As he careens from obsessions including sex, God, and of course music, he also bristles against an industry that refuses to acknowledge his contributions to it. Thank goodness his legacy now has this film and the music he left behind to restore his place in history once and for all.

**Little Richard: I Am Everything** will be offered as a community screening, free and open to the public. Attendees must RSVP for tickets at [sffilm.org].

### Director Bio—Lisa Cortés

Lisa Cortés is an Academy Award®-nominated and Emmy-winning producer and director. She is celebrated for creating challenging, visionary stories while empowering inclusive voices. Cortés's work includes **Precious** (2009), **The Apollo** (Doc Stories 2019), and **All In: The Fight For Democracy** (2020). Cortés is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and serves on the Boards of the Film Society at Lincoln Center and ITVS.

Director **Lisa Cortés** is expected to attend.

**Little Richard: I Am Everything** is not available to stream.

## **Opening Night: American Symphony**

Thursday · Nov 2 · 6:30 pm PT · Vogue

**Matthew Heineman**, USA 2023, 94 min

Filmmaker **Matthew Heineman** is no stranger to complex topics, but his most recent documentary may be his most profound film to date. Profiling the creative polyglot **Jon Batiste**, this is not your typical music documentary. It is a complicated, joyous, and layered story about insurmountable challenges and awe-inspiring intimacy. It begins with Batiste at the peak of professional success, newly minted with an Oscar and preparing a bold composition for Carnegie Hall—a symphony that aims to deconstruct the historical canon of American music and revisit expunged sounds and artists. Just



as this sonic jubilation starts to coalesce, Batiste and his partner, writer and musician **Suleika Jaouad**, learn her leukemia has returned. As Batiste prepares for Carnegie and the Grammys and Jaouad navigates her treatment, the pair continues to create new art and find quiet moments of reflection. Heineman weaves together the public and the private in this cacophonous and illuminating tale of universal joy and personal triumph.

#### Director Bio—Matthew Heineman

Matthew Heineman is an Academy Award-nominated, six-time Emmy Award-winning, and two-time DGA Award winning-filmmaker. Heineman founded Our Time Projects, a New York Based production company that produced some of Heineman’s gripping and unprecedented films such as **City of Ghosts** (Festival 2017) and **Retrograde**. Heineman, a 2005 graduate of Dartmouth College, is currently based in New York City.

Director **Matthew Heineman** is expected to attend.  
**American Symphony** is not available to stream.

### **Richland**

Friday · Nov 3 · 3:30 pm PT · Premier  
**Irene Lusztig**, USA 2023, 93 min

Kaleidoscopic in form and wry in its content, **Richland** is about two small towns in southeastern Washington state that share an interesting history—they manufactured weapons-grade plutonium for over 40 years. Now decommissioned, the Hanford site is the largest environmental cleanup in the country, and the residents of the two cities nearby are dealing with (ahem) the fallout. From schoolkids mulling over whether or not their mascot should remain a mushroom cloud to a woman investigating a spate of neonatal deaths from the period of nuclear materials production, this wide-ranging doc is as much about community as it is about soil toxicity. Even as an older couple states that they don’t fish in local waters, they attest to the fact that it’s a wonderful place to live. And it’s also a testament to Lusztig’s talents that she has made such an entertaining and nuanced film about our country’s nuclear past.

#### Director Bio—Irene Lusztig

A feminist filmmaker, archival researcher, educator, and amateur seamstress, Irene Lusztig works in a space of mediation between people, their pasts, and the present-tense spaces and landscapes where unresolved histories bloom and erupt. Her work has been screened around the world and includes **Yours in Sisterhood** (2018), **The Motherhood Archives** (2013), and **The Samantha Smith Project** (2005). She is currently Professor of Film and Digital Media at UC Santa Cruz.

Director **Irene Lusztig** is expected to attend.  
**Richland** is available to stream.

## **New York Times Op-Docs**

Friday · Nov 3 · 6 pm PT · Premier  
92 min

Op-Docs is the **New York Times**' award-winning series of short-form documentaries showcasing some of the freshest new work by independent filmmakers. Curated from the current library of NYT Op-Docs titles, SFFILM hand-selects five films that thematically resonate with present circumstances. This year's group includes stories about the instrumental use of art as both a source of healing and a medium to understand one's place in the world. The block includes refugees of war-torn Ukraine and Somalia, a Detroit community displaced by climate catastrophe, twin brothers separated by their different perceptions of the world, and two nations divided by a sea of ideology. We hope you will join us for this beloved festival event.

### **Neighbour Abdi**

Delve into the creative process of a Somali immigrant's innovative way of addressing his past traumas.

Douwe Dijkstra (Netherlands 2022, 29 min)

### **Oasis**

A candid look at twin brothers and their relationship, with one coming to terms with his brother's cognitive disability.

Justine Martin (Canada 2022, 14 min)

### **Away**

Follows two teenage Ukrainian refugees who channel their grief through artistry.

Ruslan Fedotow (Hungary/Belgium 2022, 20 min)

### **Freshwater**

A fluid and poetic examination of the impact of climate change on a Detroit community.

dream hampton (USA 2022, 9 min)

### **Island In Between**

The international conflict between Taiwan and China, as seen through a peculiar vantage point on an island between both nations.

S. Leo Chiang (Taiwan 2023, 20 min)

Directors are expected to attend.

**New York Times Op-Docs** is available to stream.

## **The Mission**

Friday · Nov 3 · 8:30 pm PT · Premier

**Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss**, USA/India 2023, 104 min

“God has an adventure out there for me,” teenager John Chau writes in his journal. Growing up in the Pacific Northwest with a dedication to survival and adventure stories, Chau’s Christian fundamentalist ideology leads him on a very curious quest. Reading about the Sentinelese, a small tribe of people who live on the remote Andaman Islands and whose territory is off limits to visitors, John develops a plan to bring religion to their community. Featuring readings from John’s journal and animated renderings of some of the events of his life, this even-handed and empathetic documentary also profiles historians and former missionaries who comment on the complexities and pitfalls of missionary work. A poignant letter from John’s father (read by an actor) to the filmmakers comments on the difficulties of raising a child who one disagrees with but seeks to understand. And this seeking nature is the essence of what Moss and McBaine undertake in this dramatic and thoughtful film.

#### Director Bio – Amanda McBaine

Director and producer Amanda McBaine is a Sundance Award-winning filmmaker who made her feature directing debut with **Boys State** (2020). Co-directed with Jesse Moss, this prize-winning film was slated to be the Opening Night title of the canceled 2020 SFFILM Festival. As a producer, her films include **Ghosts of Attica** (2001), **Speedo** (2004), and **The Overnighters** (Festival 2014). Along with her husband and creative partner Jesse Moss, she is a partner in Mile End Films, a San Francisco-based production company.

#### Director Bio – Jesse Moss

Jesse Moss is an acclaimed documentary filmmaker. His films include **Full Battle Rattle** (2008), **The Overnighters** (Festival 2014), **The Bandit** (Festival 2016 Closing Night), and **Boys State** (2020). His collaborations with Alex Gibney’s Jigsaw Productions include work on two series for Netflix, the “Payday” episode of **Dirty Money** (2018-20), and **The Family** (2019), a five-part series about an influential Christian organization. He frequently works with his wife and co-conspirator Amanda McBaine.

Directors **Amanda McBaine** and **Jesse Moss** are expected to attend.  
**The Mission** is not available to stream.

### **Sorry/Not Sorry**

Saturday · Nov 4 · 12:30 pm PT · Vogue  
**Caroline Suh, Cara Mones**, USA 2023, 90 min

The “Me Too” movement resulted in numerous *mea culpas*, not all of which were heartfelt. **Louis C.K.’s** response to accusations is an interesting case in point. When the story of his sexual harassment broke, it initially seemed that the extremely successful comedian, who admitted that the stories were true, might actually be interested in learning and growing as a person. Nine months later, he returned to the stage with jokes that instead revealed a man doubling down on bad behavior. This powerful documentary gives voice to the nuanced experiences of three women who tried to

expose C.K.'s bad behavior and the backlash they faced. It charts how an open secret evolved into a national news item and features compelling and humorous interviews and comedy clips. With stark lucidity, the film also highlights that it is almost exclusively women who speak out about sexual misconduct, while their male peers often say little or nothing at all—a “sorry” state of affairs, indeed.

#### Director Bio – Caroline Suh

Caroline Suh is a Korean-American documentarian and producer for film and television whose credits include **What We Do All Day** (2023), made in partnership with President Obama and Higher Ground Productions; **Blackpink: Light Up the Sky** (2020); and **Salt Fat Acid Heat** (2018). **Sorry/Not Sorry**, co-directed with Cara Mones, is her latest film.

#### Director Bio – Cara Mones

Cara Mones is a producer for film and television whose credits include the upcoming documentary **Big Pharma**, **Blackpink: Light Up the Sky** (2020), and **Rolling Stone: Stories from the Edge** (2017). **Sorry/Not Sorry**, co-directed with Caroline Suh, is her latest film.

Directors **Caroline Suh** and **Cara Mones** are expected to attend. **Sorry/Not Sorry** is available to stream.

## **Four Daughters**

Saturday · Nov 4 · 3 pm PT · Vogue

**Kaouther Ben Hania**, France/Saudi Arabia/Germany/Tunisia/Cyprus 2023, 107 min

Innovative in form and piercing in content, **Four Daughters** tells the story of the titular Tunisian quartet and their unflinching, unforgiving, immensely complicated mother. This is a woman who used her husband's blood as proof of their sexual consummation while at the same time being a horrifically strict parent to her girls. Now young adults, the women reflect on their turbulent upbringing with laughter and tears, and director Ben Hania employs the radical device of sometimes having actresses play the daughters to enact difficult scenes from their lives. Where the story goes is utterly surprising, sometimes shocking, and always riveting while also being a potent reminder of the difficulties facing Arab women in conservative cultures. The film was the co-winner of the prestigious Golden Eye award for Best Documentary at Cannes.

#### Director Bio – Kaouther Ben Hania

Kaouther Ben Hania was born in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. She has directed the features **The Blade of Tunis** (13), **Zaineb Hates the Snow** (16), **Beauty and the Dogs** (17), and **The Man Who Sold His Skin** (20). **Four Daughters** is her most recent film.

Director **Kaouther Ben Hania** is expected to attend. **Four Daughters** is available to stream.

## Centerpiece: **Copa 71**

Saturday · Nov 4 · 6 pm PT · Vogue

**Rachel Ramsay**, James Erskine, UK 2023, 90 min

Rousing and infuriating, **Copa 71** unearths 50-year-old footage of the first forgotten women's World Cup series that took place in Mexico in 1971. Six countries participated—Argentina, Denmark, England, France, Italy, and Mexico—and the filmmakers interview representatives from each team to reflect on the difficulties they encountered as female athletes as well as the tremendous joy they got from playing. Interspersed with their recollections are thrilling sequences of the matches themselves as well as the sexist and short-sighted legislation and opinions of powerful organizations like FIFA that tried to keep the women off the field. Executive produced by Serena and Venus Williams, who understand a thing or two about women in sports, **Copa 71** reclaims and recenters a pivotal event in athletic history and will hopefully provoke change in a domain where white men still hold much of the power.

### Director Bio—Rachel Ramsay

Rachel Ramsay is an English producer and director. She has produced several sports-based films with director James Erskine including **Le Mans 3D** (2017), **Sachin: A Billion Dreams** (2017), and **The End of the Storm** (2020). **Copa 71** is her co-directorial debut.

### Director Bio—James Erskine

James Erskine is an English writer and director with multiple feature and documentary credits including **Le Mans 3D** (2017), **Sachin: A Billion Dreams** (2017), and **The End of the Storm** (2020) made with producer/director Rachel Ramsay. Additional credits include **One Night in Turin** (2010), **Shooting for Socrates** (2014), and **Billie** (2019). **Copa 71** is his latest film.

Directors **Rachel Ramsay** and **James Erskine** are expected to attend. **Copa 71** is not available to stream.

## **Stamped from the Beginning**

Saturday · Nov 4 · 8:30 pm PT · Vogue

**Roger Ross Williams**, USA 2023, 85 min

Adapting **Ibram X. Kendi's** National Book Award-winning history of the same name, **Roger Ross Williams** tackles the history of racist imagery, policies, stories, and institutions that deform American society. The film also dismantles several myths that deny Black people their own agency and legacy in artistic and political realms. From the origins of slavery to Black Lives Matter, Williams uses a comprehensive range of archival footage, animation, and reenactments alongside piercing interviews with academics, politicians, and Kendi himself to expose how racism demeans and

disfigures everyone. Portraits of Harriet Jacobs, who writes the first slave narrative by a woman, and Ida B. Wells, who conducts invaluable research on lynching while it's happening around her, are just two of the compelling stories portrayed. The film also points the way forward, proposing the active disposition required to develop an anti-racist mentality that could be key in healing our communities.

#### Director Bio – Roger Ross Williams

Filmmaker Roger Ross Williams was born in South Carolina, USA. His many documentaries include the Oscar-winning short **Music by Prudence** (2013), **God Loves Uganda** (Festival 2013), **Life, Animated** (Festival 2016), **American Jail** (18), **The Apollo** (Doc Stories Opening Night 2019), **High on the Hog** (21), **Love to Love You, Donna Summer** (23) and episodes of **The 1619 Project** (23). His narrative feature debut **Cassandra** was recently presented by SFFILM. **Stamped from the Beginning** is his latest work.

Director **Roger Ross Williams** is expected to attend.  
**Stamped from the Beginning** is not available to stream.

### **Story & Pictures By**

Sunday · Nov 4 · 10 am · Vogue  
**Joanna Rudnick**, USA/Mexico 2023, 84 min

Children's picture books have brought creativity, joy, and a deeper understanding of the world equipped for all ages. **Story & Pictures By**, presents the history of children's literature and how it has been a tool to both present a mirror of society and a dream of a limitless future. We follow three authors—Christian Robinson, Yuyi Morales, and Mac Barnett—who are pushing boundaries while also being at the forefront of a current “golden age” where stories and protagonists have greater diversity and broader representation. These authors reveal the magic and complexity of life by exploring topics of immigration, LGBTQ rights, race, incarceration, and class. Using charming animation and rare archival interviews of beloved authors, viewers will be delighted to rediscover timeless classics such as **Where the Wild Things Are** and **Goodnight Moon** in a new and dynamic light. Come enjoy with the whole family!

Recommended for ages 8 and up.

#### Director Bio – Joanna Rudnick

Joanna Rudnick is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and producer based in the Bay Area. Joanna spent a decade working for Kartemquin Films and produced **Bill T. Jones: A Good Man** (2011) and **Prisoner of Her Past** (2010). Her directorial debut **In the Family** (2008) was broadcasted nationally on PBS and nominated for an Emmy award. Recent work includes **On Beauty** (2017) and **Crossfire Hurricane** (2012).

Director **Joanna Rudnick** is expected to attend.

**Story & Pictures By** is available to stream.

## **Shorts Block: Ideology vs. Identity**

Sunday · Nov 5 · 1:30 pm PT · Vogue  
95 min

Featuring a unique group of shorts that explores the chasms in ideology and identity on national and personal level. Each film underscores how individual actions can challenge and reshape societal norms through five tales of inspiration. With intimately told stories, these films will take you on a journey through the kitchens of Mexico City, the snow-laden plains of the Alaskan wilderness, the electoral process in Arizona, the playgrounds of American cities, and the judicial halls that oversee womens' rights. Every short film is filled with voices that speak to the very fabric of the tumultuous times we live in and the ways in which the human spirit remains unconquerable.

### **Denial**

A Maricopa County Supervisor witnesses the crippling effects of election denialism and its impact on American democracy.

**Daniel Lombroso, Paul Moakley** (USA 2023, 22 min)

### **Black Girls Play: The Story of Hand Games**

The rhythmic hand games of Black girls across the US that have influenced the national music landscape and beyond.

**Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson** (USA 2023, 18 min)

### **Under G-d**

The nationwide struggle of Jewish communities and interfaith leaders as they challenge the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

**Paula Eiselt** (USA 2023, 23 min)

### **Apayauq**

**Apayauq Reitan's** races to become the first out trans woman in Alaska's legendary Iditarod sled dog competition.

**Zeppelin Zeerip** (USA 2023, 16 min)

### **La Chef**

A mouth-watering presentation of **Ana González Serrano's** Mexico City restaurant and her fight for equality in a male-dominant culinary landscape.

**Jessica De La Torre** (Mexico 2023, 12 min)

Directors are expected to attend.

**Shorts Block: Ideology vs. Identity** is available to stream.

## A Tribute to Julia Reichert: A Woman's Work

Sunday · Nov 5 · 4 pm PT · Vogue  
100 min

In December of 2022, the documentary community lost the brilliant, warm, and tenacious filmmaker **Julia Reichert**. A tireless advocate for women's rights, workers' rights, and mentor to a legion of documentarians, Reichert's influence and generosity of spirit cultivated a global network of social crusaders who continue to shape the documentary genre today. As a director she was nominated four times for the Academy Awards, and won an Oscar for **American Factory** (2019), which she co-directed with her life partner Steven Bognar. Reichert helmed **Growing Up Female** (1971), **Union Maids** (1976), and **Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists** (1983)—all with Jim Klein; also **A Lion In the House** (2006), **The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant** (2009), **9to5: The Story of A Movement** (2020) among many other projects. A champion of collective work with deep ties to the Bay Area, Reichert's life will be celebrated with clips of her films, guest speakers, and a special new work-in-progress presentation about Reichert from Bognar.

**A Tribute to Julia Reichert: A Woman's Work** is being offered as a community celebration, free and open to the public. Attendees must RSVP for tickets at [sffilm.org](http://sffilm.org).

## Closing Night: Anselm

Sunday · Nov 5 · 7:30 pm PT · Vogue  
**Wim Wenders**, Germany 2023, 934 min

**Anselm Kiefer** is one of our most important contemporary artists, and **Wenders's** stunningly beautiful portrait of the man and his work must be seen on the big screen—in glorious 3-D—to be fully appreciated. Called “A master of subtle irritation” by an early critic, Kiefer's talents were nevertheless recognized at an early age, and Wenders manages to portray the life and work in crisp and informative fashion. Keeping things in the family, the director uses his own grand-nephew to play Kiefer as a boy and the artist's son to play him as a young man, while in the present, Kiefer himself cycles around his enormous atelier, naming off artworks as he passes by. And what an astonishing breadth of artistry they represent, captured here in nearly tactile fashion. As he did with the masterful **Pina** (2011), also in 3-D, Wenders has found the perfect form to suit his subject, and the viewer is left gaping in admiration.

### Director Bio—Wim Wenders

Oscar-nominated writer, director, and producer **Wim Wenders** was born in Düsseldorf. Among his many films are **The American Friend** (1977), **The State of Things** (1982), **Wings of Desire** (Festival 1988), **Until the End of the World** (1991), and **The Buena Vista Social Club** (Closing Night, Festival 1999). **Perfect Days** and **Anselm** are his latest films. He was given the Silver Medallion Award at this year's Telluride Film Festival.

Director **Wim Wenders** is expected to attend.

**Anselm** is not available to stream. **Anselm** will be presented in 3-D