

## FILM NIGHT: AILEY (2021)

December 9, 2025



Alvin Ailey was a visionary artist who found salvation through dance. An immersive portrait told in his own words and through the creation of a new commission inspired by his life, *Ailey* fully profiles this brilliant and enigmatic man who—when confronted by a world that refused to embrace him—was determined to build one that would.

# ALLEY



Naiti Gámez is an award-winning director and cinematographer. Her film credits have screened at dozens of festivals worldwide including Festival de Cannes, Sundance Film Festival, Berlinale, Camerimage and many others. TV/Streaming credits include HBO Max, AppleTV+, Showtime, Hulu, PBS, ESPN, MTV, Discovery Channel and more. Naiti has also worked at nonprofit organizations, and as an educator. She holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies from Smith College, and an M.F.A. in Film Production from the University of Texas at Austin.

This film will be screened by Zoom on **Thursday, December 11, at 7pm**. Cinematographer Naiti Gámez will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81280173727>

Meeting ID: 812 8017 3727

*Coop Film Night is a monthly screening series where we showcase some of the amazing artistic talent within the Coop's member community. Directors, actors, producers, editors, cinematographers, and composers share their work via a Zoom screening, followed by a live q&a. We've screened everything from Academy Award winners to short Youtube films, all made or crewed by Coop members! Please join us for a fun and stimulating evening and help us to celebrate the incredible work of your fellow members.*

*To be added to our email listserv for future screening announcements, please send a request to [jlymiller@me.com](mailto:jlymiller@me.com).*

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## FILM NIGHT: SHORTS

December 9, 2025



*By Gabriel Rhodes and Jennifer Miller*

The Coop's Film Night is a monthly screening series where we showcase some of the amazing artistic talent within the Coop's member community. Directors, actors, producers, editors, cinematographers and composers share their work via a Zoom screening, followed by a live Q&A. We've screened everything from Academy Award winners to short YouTube films, all made or crewed by Coop members! Please join us for a fun and stimulating evening and help us to celebrate the incredible work of your fellow members.

## ANNIE (2023)

17 minutes

Annie and Simon are building a home and farm on an unoccupied property in Vermont. But the isolation and pressure inherent in their idealistic task begins to weigh on Annie and she starts to question whether she can stay in the relationship with Simon.

Director Niall Cunningham and Executive Producer Oliver Benezra will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

Niall Cunningham is an actor on TV and with the Wooster Group, and has a new short film, *Noumena*, coming out soon. Oliver Benezra is an editor, producer and filmmaker from New York City. Oliver's recent credits include seasons 2-4 of *The Bear* on FX/Hulu, and *Love Has Won* on HBO.

## DOLLA VAN (2023)

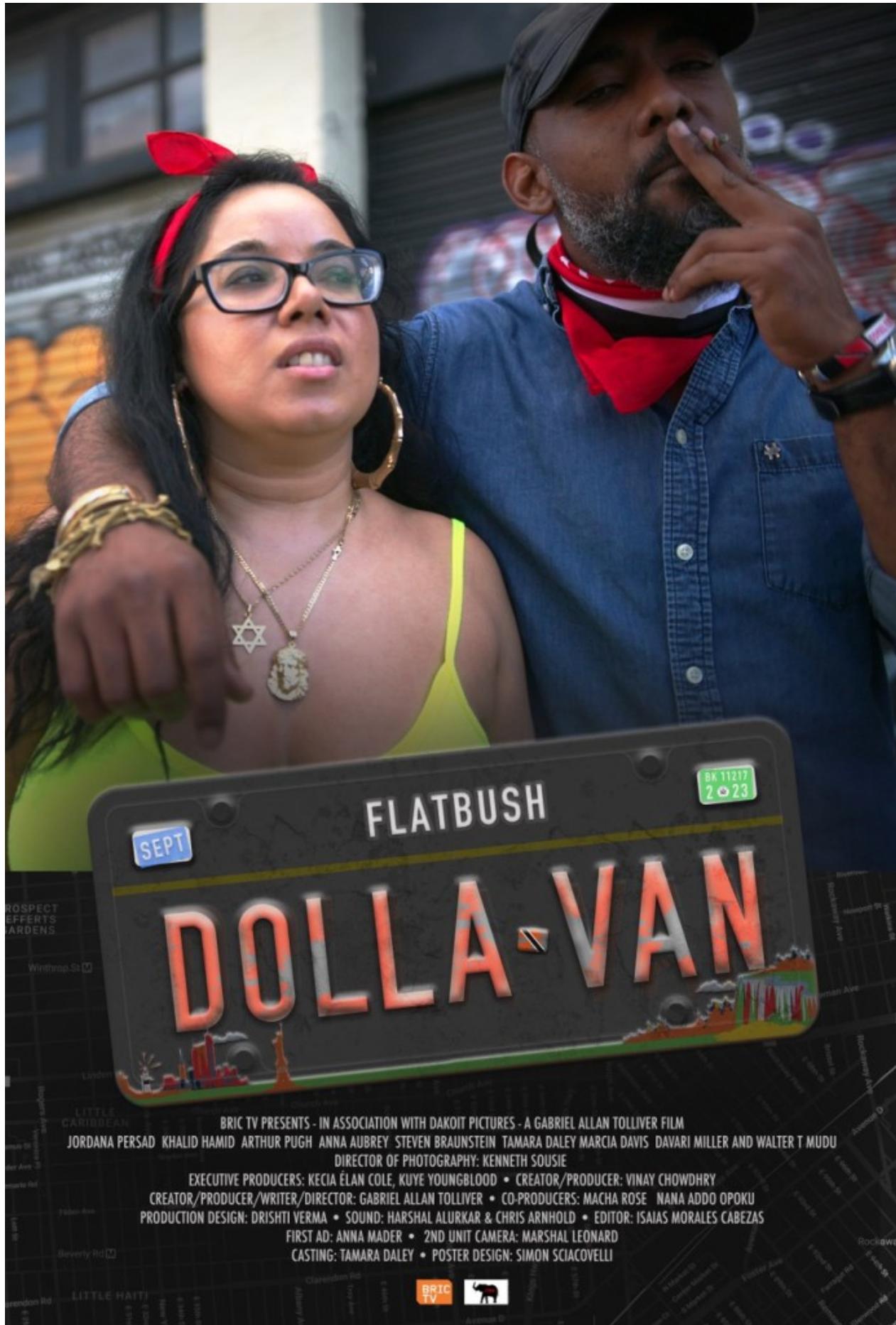
9 minutes

*Dolla Van* is a web series pilot about two Trinidadian siblings starting their own dollar van business. Despite much competition up and down Flatbush Avenue, Jordana has the distinction of being the first woman driver.

Director Gabriel Tolliver will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Gabriel Tolliver is a graduate of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and Long Island University's TV Writing and Producing Program. Gabriel is also a US Army Veteran who served as a video journalist (46R) from 2007-2011 which included deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (09-10). He currently curates a documentary YouTube series based on his trove of archival video footage called *Sidelines of History* and finishing a Brooklyn, NY web series pilot called *Dol-*

*La Van* for BRIC TV.



## *KELLY STREET GARDEN (2016)*

14 minutes

The *Kelly Street Garden* film explores the core mission of the garden to provide healthy food and community programming to our local South Bronx residents free of charge. The community's effort not only feeds people physically, but mentally and spiritually as well.

Producer Bruce Zeines and cast member Sheryll Durrant will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Bruce Zeines is currently the program director/general manager at Kelly Street Garden and co-founder of Earth to People Coalition Inc. During his tenure as program director he has overseen over 120 workshops at KSG since 2020.

Sheryll Durrant is a recognized leader in the urban farm community. An educator and food justice advocate, she has been the Resident Garden Manager at Kelly Street Garden since 2016 and serves as the Food and Ag Coordinator for NY New Roots, an urban farm and garden program of the International Rescue Committee.

# KELLY STREET GARDEN

A Short Documentary  
by Matt Kohn

Healing through food justice  
and community engagement



A community garden can be a place of abundance and joy.

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

Run time: 14 min.

## *THE MOTHER (2015)*

12 minutes

An unexpected visit provides a hardened widow with the opportunity to shed light on her husband's death.

Director and Writer Paulo Monico will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Born and raised in Italy, Paolo is a New York-based director and a member of the Directors Guild of America. Through his NY-based production company, Paolo directs, writes and produces films that explore socially relevant themes. His shorts have been official selections at numerous film festivals and have been featured on HBO/MAX and SHOWTIME.

## *NO PLAN PRESS (2022)*

4 minutes

After a career in graphic design and branding, Jesse Kirsch decided to branch out into letterpress, a process that allows him to put his art into people's hands.

Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor Shawn Bruce will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Shawn Bruce is a photographer and cinematographer based in Brooklyn, New York. His work explores the tools, practices and communities of athletes, artists and craftspeople, with a focus on the elements of consistency and repetition behind each subject's accomplishments.

**These films will be screened by Zoom on Thursday, October 30th at 7p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89921748471>

Meeting ID: 899 2174 8471

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*Film Night* is looking for movies to screen! Calling all directors, producers, editors, cinematographers and screenwriters: we are accepting submissions for films made or crewed by Coop members. Films of any length (features to shorts) and any genre will be considered for screening. If you'd like to submit a film, please send a link and a short synopsis to: [gabrielrhodes@me.com](mailto:gabrielrhodes@me.com)

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## FILM NIGHT: UNION (2024)

December 9, 2025



June 3, 2025

By *Jennifer Miller*

*Union* is an American documentary film directed by Brett Story and Stephen Maing. It follows former and current Amazon employees as they form the Amazon Labor Union and seek to unionize Amazon's JFK8 Warehouse in Staten Island.

This film will be screened via Zoom on Thursday, June 19, at 7 p.m. *Union*'s associate editor Katyann Gonzalez will be present for a Q and A after the screening.

Gonzalez is an editor working across documentary, narrative, and branded Content. Currently, she is first assistant editor on director Lance Oppenheim's new feature film for A24. She was a 2023-2024 Karen Schmeer Documentary Editing Fellow under the

mentorship of Penelope Falk and Toby Shimin. She also volunteers with the Alliance of Documentary Editors as lead organizer for a harm accountability working group to resolve conflict among the membership through a transformative justice lens.

"AN ESSENTIAL DOCUMENT OF THE 21ST-CENTURY LABOR MOVEMENT"

SAM ADAMS, SLATE



"ASTOUNDING, REBELLIOUS... BRILLIANT."

ALISSA WILKINSON, THE NEW YORK TIMES



# UNION

IMPACT PARTNERS presents in association with LEVEL GROUND PRODUCTIONS & FIDF FOUNDATION directed and produced by BRETT STORY & STEPHEN MAING produced by SABRINA CORLEY, MARC VERONE, MARTIN DICCCO  
executive producers JENNY BASKIN, LAUREN BAER, GEMALYN WHITE BENTON, THE VILLA FAMILY, DAVID LEVINE, JESSICA GROSHKIN, NICK SHAMAKER, DAWN BLAETZER  
co-executive producers KELSEY KIRKING, BARBARA & ERIC DODD, PAMELA FRIEDE & STEVE COHEN, MARSHA & DAVID BOLDE, MELISSA BETTEL, PIERRE KAUSER, PETER PALANDJIAN, CHELSEA HALLIGAN, RYAN PARKER, ALEXANDER CARPENTER, ANDREW NEEL  
associate producers BRIAN ELLIS, WHITTY WINSORINE editor BLAIR MCGINNIS, MALLAK ZOHALI-MORRALL & STEPHEN MAING cinematographer MARTIN DICCCO & STEPHEN MAING music ROBERT AND AUDREY LOWE

A FILM BY BRETT STORY AND STEPHEN MAING



Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 89227152302

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## FILM NIGHT: ELAINE STRITCH: SHOOT ME (2013)

December 9, 2025



# FILM NIGHT

April 22, 2025

At 87 years old, Elaine Stritch is taking her show on the road one last time. This uncompromising Tony and Emmy Award winner, playing cities across the U.S., is captured both on and off stage in this compelling chronicle of a true legend. Along the way, Stritch tells stories about her many Broadway roles (like *Mame*), shares secrets about her leading men and is brutally honest about aging. With interviews from Tina Fey, Nathan Lane, Hal Prince and others, director Chiemi Karasawa blends rare archival footage and intimate cinema vérité to reach beyond Stritch's brassy exterior to reveal a dimensional portrait of a complex woman and an inspiring artist. Shot over the course of a year, *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me* gives viewers a backstage pass to hilarious moments with this brash diva. With incredible access, Karasawa also captures the harsh realities of going on tour at 87. It is a poignant and delightful work.

FEATURING

ALEC  
BALDWIN

TINA  
FEY

JAMES  
GANDOLFINI

CHERRY  
JONES

NATHAN  
LANE

HAROLD  
PRINCE

JOHN  
TURTURRO  
AND  
GEORGE C.  
WOLFE

# ELAINE STRITCH SHOOT ME

A FILM BY CHIEMI KARASAWA

SMART BROAD FILMS PRESENT AN ISOTOPE FILMS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH PROVIDENCE PRODUCTIONS  
"ELAINE STRITCH: SHOOT ME" A FILM BY CHIEMI KARASAWA. MUSIC CONSULTANT JOE RUDGE. MUSIC SUPERVISOR KYLE NICKRENT. DIRECTOR OF MUSIC KRISTOPHER BOWERS  
SOUND MIXER DEBORA FRATZ SIEG. EDITED BY KIERSTIN ROSS. PROPS AND STYLING BY SHANE SIGLER. COSTUME DESIGNER JOSH WINSTEIN. PROPS AND STYLING BY ROD LAMBORN.  
PROPS AND STYLING BY GINA JULIA LOWRY. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY PIET SINTJOCHE. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ALEC BALDWIN, CHERRY JONES, NESTELEF  
PRODUCED BY CHIEMI KARASAWA, ELIZABETH HEMMER DANGER. DIRECTED BY CHIEMI KARASAWA. sundance

*"Inspiring and  
entertaining.  
A glorious portrait and  
A DEEPLY  
EWY  
DELIGHT!"*  
ROBERT KALLOH, CRITICISM.COM

Cinematographer Joshua Z Weinstein directed the feature film *Menashe*, which was released by A24 and nominated for a Gotham Award for “Breakthrough Director” as well as an Independent Spirit Award for “Best First Feature.” He has also directed the documentaries *Drivers Wanted*, *Flying On Engine* and *I Beat Mike Tyson*. As a cinematographer he has lensed *Sell/Buy/Date*, *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me* and *Bikini Moon*. Born in New York City, Joshua has been a Coop member on and off since 2008.

This film will be screened by Zoom on **Thursday, May 1, at 7pm**. Cinematographer Joshua Z Weinstein will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86838083289>  
Meeting ID: 868 3808 3289

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FILM NIGHT IS LOOKING FOR MOVIES TO SCREEN!

December 9, 2025



April 1, 2025

Calling all directors, producers, editors, cinematographers and screenwriters: We are now accepting submissions for films made or crewed by Coop members. Films of any length (features to shorts) and any genre will be considered for screening. The films are screened via Zoom, and we hold a Q&A after every screening so Coop members can engage with the filmmakers to learn more about their process and their work. If you'd like to submit a film, please send a link and a short synopsis to: [gabriel-rhodes@me.com](mailto:gabriel-rhodes@me.com).

And if you'd like to be on the email list for future Film Night announcements, send a request to join the email blast to: [jlymiller@me.com](mailto:jlymiller@me.com).

*Jennifer Miller and Gabriel Rhodes live in Brooklyn and have been Coop members for*

*20 years plus.*

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## FILM NIGHT: “RISK”

December 9, 2025



March 11, 2025

*By Jennifer Miller*

Filmed over six years, *Risk* is a complex character study of Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, colliding with a high-stakes election year and its controversial after-

math. Cornered in a tiny building for half a decade, Julian Assange is undeterred, even as the legal jeopardy he faces threatens to undermine the organization he leads and fracture the movement he inspired. In a new world order where a single keystroke can alter history, *Risk* is a portrait of power, betrayal, truth and sacrifice. Academy Award winner Laura Poitras directs and Sam Esmail, creator of *Mr. Robot*, is the film's executive producer.

This film will screen via Zoom on **Thursday, March 13, at 7pm.** Producer and Coop member Yoni Golijov will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

Yoni Golijov is an Academy Award-nominated producer. Recent films include *When We Fight*, about the Los Angeles teachers strike, and Poitras's feature film *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, about the artist Nan Goldin and P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now), a U.S.-based advocacy organization that Goldin created to respond to the opioid crisis. The film won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, only the second time a nonfiction film won the top prize in the festival's history.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85373774417>  
Meeting ID: 853 7377 4417

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FILM NIGHT: TIME Y2K

December 9, 2025



# FILM NIGHT

*By Jennifer Miller and Gabriel Rhodes*

January 28, 2025



As the clock counted down to the 21st century, the world faced a potential technological disaster: a bug that could cause computers to misinterpret the year 2000 as 1900. Crafted entirely from archival footage and featuring first-hand accounts from computer experts, survivalists, scholars, militia groups, conservative Christians and pop icons, *Time Bomb Y2K* is a prescient and often humorous tale about the power and vulnerabilities of technology.

This documentary will be screened by Zoom on **Thursday, Feb. 6th, at 7 p.m.** Editor Katyann Gonzalez and producer Peter Nauffts, both Coop members, will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

Katyann Gonzalez is a film editor and assistant editor working across documentary and narrative films. Her work has screened at international film festivals including Sundance, New York Film Festival and Berlinale as well as on major streaming platforms like HBO and Netflix. She is currently working on a docuseries about the Alabama Crimson Tide football team for Fox.

Peter Nauffts is a New York-based archival researcher and producer. He has conducted archival research on shows for Apple, ESPN, HBO and PBS. He is currently working on a documentary about Sun Ra for Firelight Films.

#### JOIN VIA ZOOM MEETING:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86444661891>
- Meeting ID: 864 4466 1891

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Editor's note: This film was initially supposed to be screened in November but we moved to February.

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December 9, 2025



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## FILM NIGHT: 32 SOUNDS

December 9, 2025



*32 Sounds* is an immersive feature documentary from Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Sam Green (*The Weather Underground*, *A Thousand Thoughts*) featuring original music by JD Samson (Le Tigre, MEN). The film explores the elemental phenomenon of sound by weaving together 32 specific sound explorations into a cinematic

meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us. Join us on a journey through time and space—exploring everything from forgotten childhood memories, to the soundtrack of resistance, to subaquatic symphonies—and experience in new ways the astonishing sounds of our everyday lives.

**\*\*We recommend watching with headphones for a completely immersive at-home experience\*\***



**"THE GREATEST  
DOCUMENTARY YOU'VE EVER HEARD."**

DAVID FEAR, ROLLING STONE

# 32 SOUNDS



A FILM BY  
**SAM GREEN**

MUSIC BY  
**JD SAMSON**

PRODUCED BY IMPACT PARTNERS, PEPPER INCUBATOR, WAVELENGTH PRODUCTIONS AND ARTYPE, A DEPARTMENT OF MOTION PICTURES AND FREE HISTORY PROJECT. PRODUCED BY MARK MANGINI. MUSIC BY JD SAMSON. EDITED BY NEIL BANGERTER. SHOT GREEN. CINEMATOGRAPHY BY YON BROOK. PROPS BY NORA WOLFGANG. CLOTHING BY CLAIRE HALEY. DESIGNER BY JENNIFER WESTPHAL. JOE PLUMMER, JENNY RUGON, CERAVIN WHITE, DEBORAH, LAUREN HUBER, NINA PALICKY, MAREN L.J. CROSSMAN, BILL & RUTH ANN WILHELM. THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION JUDE RICE, MICHAEL Y. CHOU, SUE TURLEY, JAMIE K. GUTHRIE, MITCHEL RENFREW & LISA THOMAS, NINA KNOYD & LUCILLE BERTONI. PRODUCED BY JOSH PENN, THOMAS D. KERESZTES, IMPACTPARTNERS, WAVELENGTH, ARTYPE, DEPARTMENT OF MOTION PICTURES. DIRECTED BY SAM GREEN. © 2010

Nora Wilkinson (she/her) is a documentary producer and nonfiction researcher. She was a coproducer on director Sam Green's Oscar-shortlisted *32 Sounds* (Sundance 2022), a producer on Green's short documentary *Annea Lockwood/A Film About Listening* (Telluride 2021), and an associate producer on the Emmy®-winning short film *Trans in America: Texas Strong* (SXSW 2018). She is currently producing Melissa Langer's feature debut, *In Excess*, and is collaborating with Little by Little Films, Praxis Films and Spectrascopic Films on features in production.

This documentary will be screened by Zoom on **Thursday, November 21st at 7pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367860531>

Meeting ID: 873 6786 0531

Producer (and Coop member) Nora Wilkinson will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

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FILM NIGHT: GIRLS STATE

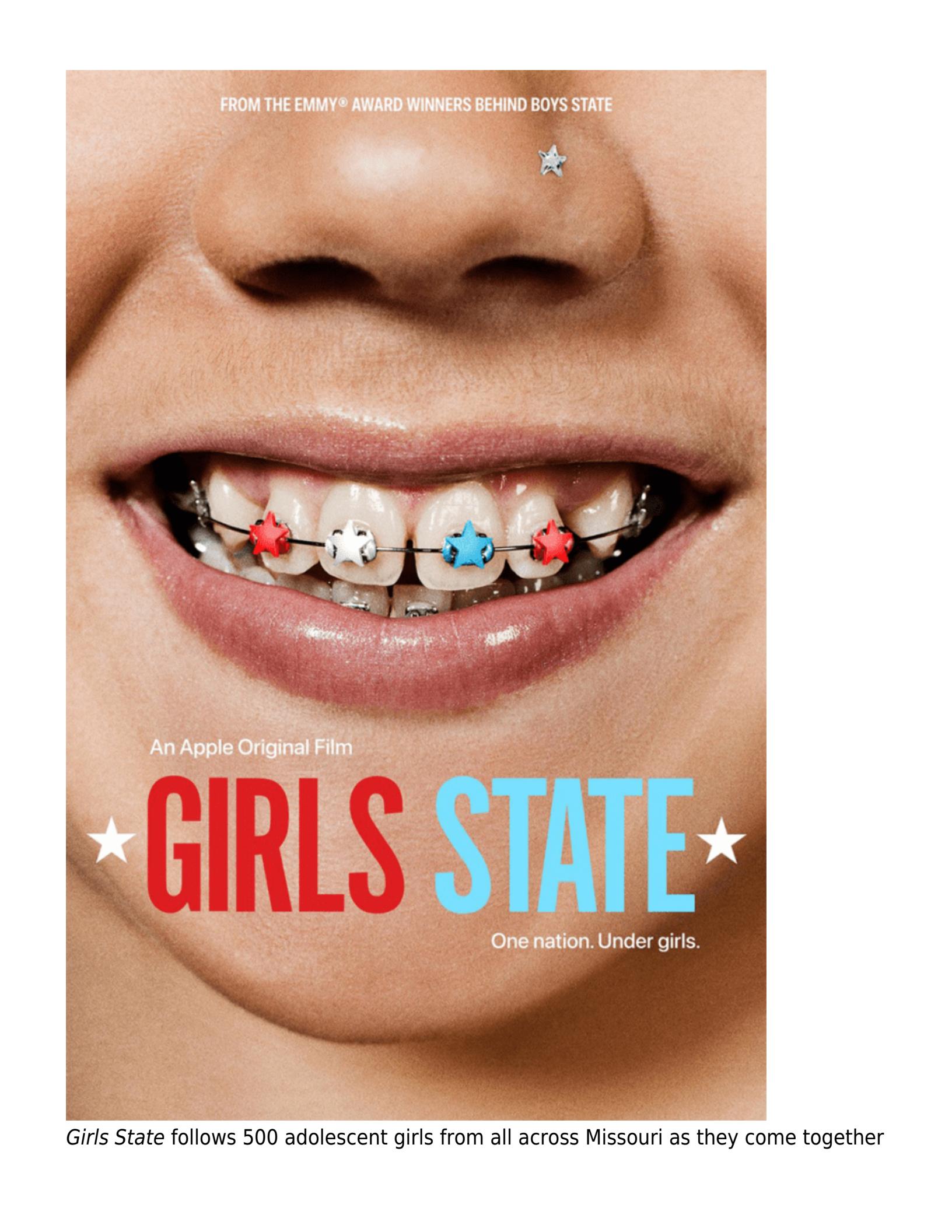
December 9, 2025



# FILM NIGHT

*By Jennifer Miller and Gabriel Rhodes*

October 15, 2024



FROM THE EMMY® AWARD WINNERS BEHIND BOYS STATE

An Apple Original Film

# ★ GIRLS STATE ★

One nation. Under girls.

*Girls State* follows 500 adolescent girls from all across Missouri as they come together

for a week-long immersion in a sophisticated democratic laboratory, where they organize a Supreme Court to consider the most contentious issues of the day. The film won Best Directing and Best Cinematography at this year's Emmy Awards.

Amy Foote is an Emmy Award-winning documentary editor based in Brooklyn. Some of her editing credits include Laura Poitras's most recent film *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* (Neon/HBO), Golden Lion Venice Film Festival; *Father Soldier Son* (Netflix/New York Times, Tribeca Film Festival Jury Award for Best Editing, News and Documentary Emmy for Best Editing, Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Sound); *Hail Satan?* (Magnolia); *The Work* (Grierson Awards for Best Single Documentary and Best International Documentary, Grand Jury Prize SXSW 2017, Gotham Award nominated for Best Documentary); Peabody award-winning *Mavis!* (HBO); *Fauci* (Nat Geo/Disney Plus); the Emmy-nominated and James Beard Award-winning film, *A Matter of Taste: Serving Up Paul Liebrandt* (HBO, BBC); *For Once in My Life*, (PBS Independent Lens, SXSW Audience Award 2010, IDA Best Music Documentary); and the Emmy-nominated film, *Finishing Heaven* (HBO). She lives in Sunset Park with her wife and daughter and has been a coop member for nearly 23 years!

Peter Bowman is a documentary editor from North Carolina. He was an additional editor on *Girls State* and has worked on features and series for Netflix, PBS, and Facebook Watch. He joined the Coop last year.

This documentary will be screened by Zoom on **Thursday, October 24th at 7pm.**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82073135562>  
Meeting ID: 82073135562

Editor Amy Foote will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

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*20 years plus.*

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## FILM NIGHT: “LISTENING TO KENNY G”

December 9, 2025

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BILL SIMMONS  
DIRECTED BY PENNY LANE



HBO ORIGINAL  
MUSIC BOX

LISTENING  
to KENNY G

NEW DOCUMENTARY  
STREAMING DEC 2

HBOMAX

Kenny G is the bestselling instrumentalist of all time, and arguably the most famous living jazz musician. *Listening to Kenny G* is about why that makes certain people so mad. This inventive and thought-provoking documentary, directed by Penny Lane (*Hail Satan?*), looks at how our artistic tastes shape our personal identities and signal our social belonging.

The film features intimate moments with Kenny as he works on his first album in seven years, rare archival footage of his four-decade-long career, and conversations with music critics, record executives, radio personalities, market researchers and Kenny's fans. Whatever your opinion, *Listening to Kenny G* will challenge your preconceptions about music.

WHATEVER YOUR OPINION, *LISTENING TO KENNY G* WILL CHALLENGE YOUR PRE-CONCEPTIONS ABOUT MUSIC.

Gabriel Sedgwick (producer) hails from the grim and frostbitten kingdom of Sweden but lives in New York City, where he has produced both fiction and documentary films that have screened at festivals including Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival, SXSW, Rotterdam, Full Frame and New Directors/New Films. His productions include *Hail Satan?*, *Listening to Kenny G*, *August the First* and *Somewhere in the Middle*. He's a Sundance Creative Producing Labs fellow, Berlinale Talent fellow, Anders Sandrew grantee and two-time Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program grantee.

Naiti Gámez (director of photography) is a NYC- and Miami-based filmmaker. Naiti has worked as a director and cinematographer on award-winning films and television series. Her film *Love, Sadie* premiered at the Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner. Her film credits have screened at festivals worldwide including Festival de Cannes, Sundance Film Festival, Berlinale, Camerimage, SXSW, Tribeca Film Festival, Festival du Cinéma de Paris and Festival de Cine Internacional de Barcelona, among others. Re-

cent feature-length documentary credits include *Listening to Kenny G*, *Ailey*, *Through the Night*, *Hail Satan?* and *Captivated: The Trials of Pamela Smart*.

*Listening to Kenny G* will be screened via Zoom on Wednesday, April 17th @ 7pm.

Gabriel and Naiti will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

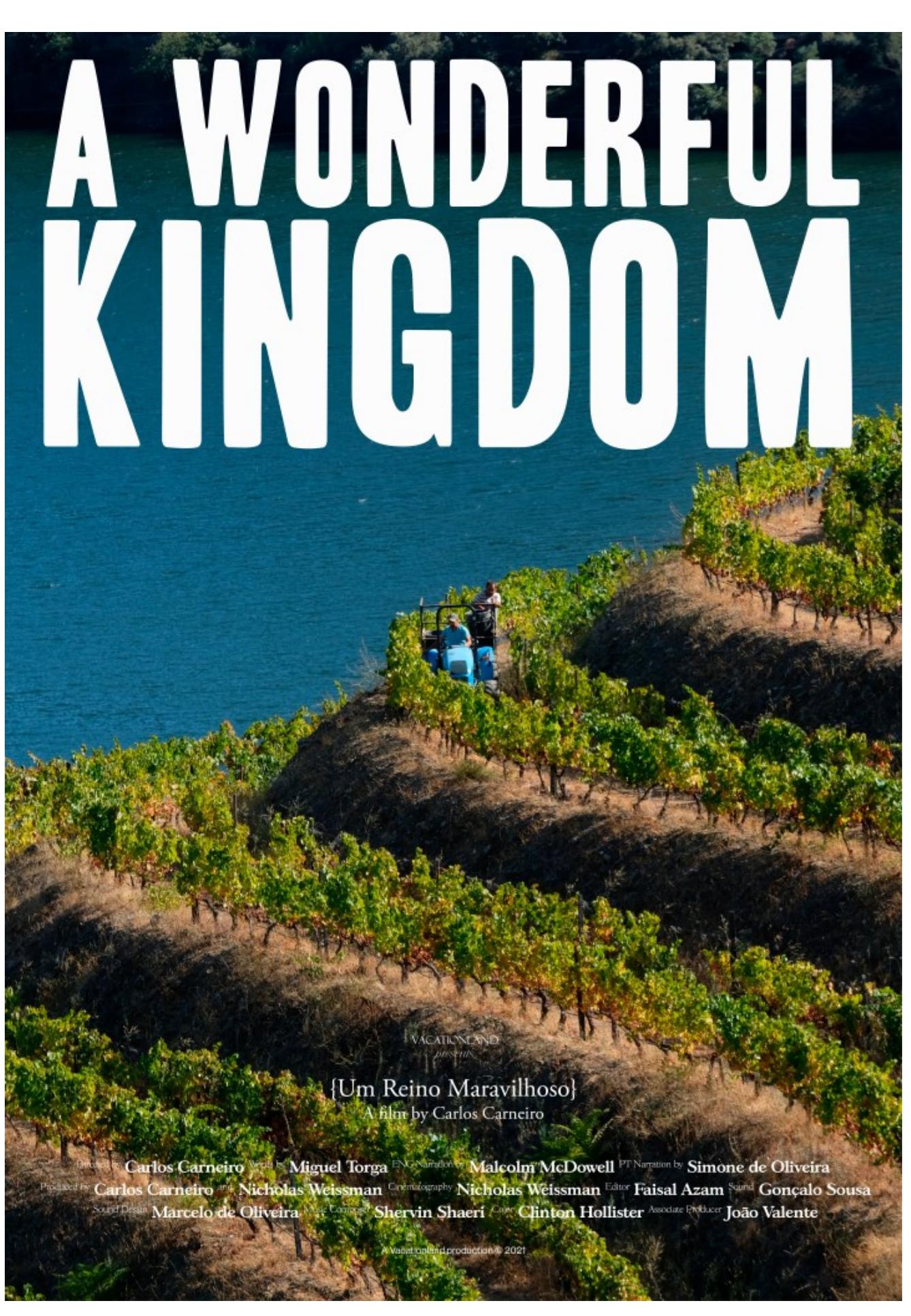
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## FILM NIGHT: A WONDERFUL KINGDOM

December 9, 2025

# A WONDERFUL KINGDOM



VACATIONLAND  
DOPPIA

{Um Reino Maravilhoso}  
A film by Carlos Carneiro

Directed by **Carlos Carneiro** Written by **Miguel Torga** ENG-Narration by **Malcolm McDowell** PT-Narration by **Simone de Oliveira**  
Produced by **Carlos Carneiro** and **Nicholas Weissman** Cinematography **Nicholas Weissman** Editor **Faisal Azam** Sound **Gonçalo Sousa**  
Sound Design **Marcelo de Oliveira** Music Composed **Shervin Shaeri** Color **Clinton Hollister** Associate Producer **João Valente**

A Vacationland production © 2021

In the mountains of Portugal, amid the stunning, timeless vineyards of the Douro Valley, lies the heart and soul of old-world winemaking. Once a year, a divine ritual begins: the season's grapes are harvested by the generations-old families who pick, carry and stomp their way through September with blood-red feet, stained by grape juice.

Celebrating tradition over mythology, *A Wonderful Kingdom* is an homage to these hard-working folks, the lifeblood of the region. Narrated by Malcolm McDowell and set to prose by the iconic poet Miguel Torga, this hypnotic, observational documentary unfurls across the epic beauty and austerity of both nature and humanity.

This documentary will be screened at this Zoom link on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

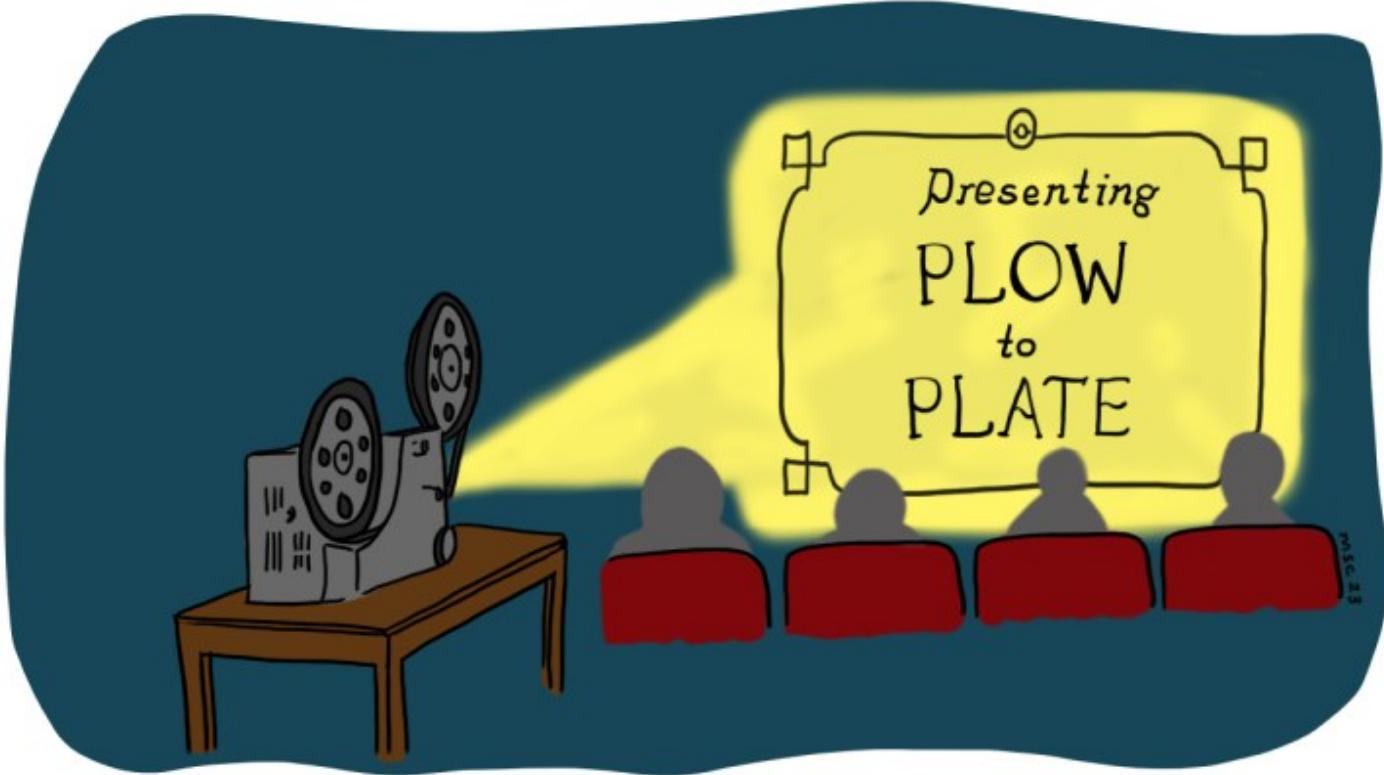
Director and Coop member Carlos Carneiro will be present for a Q and A after the screening.

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## PLOW TO PLATE FILM SERIES: PLANT PURE NATION

December 9, 2025



By Adam Rabiner

*Plant Pure Nation* (2015) serves as a companion film to February's feature, *From Food to Freedom* (2023). Writer and director Nelson Campbell is on the same mission—attempting to be the Johnny Apple Seed of the modern whole-food plant-based nutrition movement, along with his famous father, Dr. T. Colin Campbell.

Both films take a rigorous scientific approach to proving the benefits of the vegan diet. In last month's film, a crew of type 2 diabetics dined for ten days on a strictly controlled diet while living under the same roof. In this film, a series of similarly structured jump-starts were conducted, but the participants picked up their meals from a central location to take back to their homes. In theory, this may have allowed for more cheating, but pre- and post-medical testing showed that even under these less strict conditions, people lost weight, lowered their cholesterol and reduced their medications.

Despite these similarities, the films are complementary rather than redundant. *Plant Pure Nation* focuses much less on the human drama of those taking part in these jum-

p-starts but rather grounds itself in the political drama of simply trying to spread the good news and healthy benefits of plant-based eating, in barbecue-loving states like Iowa, Kentucky and North Carolina (sometimes referred to as the stroke belt), where agricultural interests hold a lot of power. Nelson Campbell's evangelism is often met with the question, "Why haven't I heard this before?" *Plant Pure Nation* attempts to provide that answer.

The answer, as Nelson discovers, is in political interests and pushback. This should not have surprised him, as his family has been experiencing this for decades. The film goes back fifty years to a 1977 McGovern Committee report that highlighted Dr. T. Colin Campbell's research into the relationship between disease and diet. Back then the meat, egg and sugar industries, along with the Salt Institute, actively undermined the nutrition committee's goals, portraying Dr. Campbell and his supporters as "purtanical do-gooders."

In reaction to this, Dr. Campell published his now-famous bestseller, *The China Study*, to get the word out to the masses directly since he was being stymied at the top. His son's films are drawn from the same populist model of direct engagement. But Nelson, like his father, first attempted to work within the political system.

#### THE FILM GOES BACK TO A 1977 MCGOVERN COMMITTEE REPORT THAT HIGHLIGHTED DR. T. COLIN CAMPBELL'S RESEARCH INTO DISEASE AND DIET.

At the request of state Representative Tom Riner, a Democratic member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, Nelson tried to craft House Bill 550, which would have funded a demonstration project on the benefits of a plant-based diet. At first, the bill had strong support, but the reality of politics set in behind closed doors, as agricultural lobbyists, the Kentucky Farm Bureau and other special interests undermined it. However, just as the powers that be could not silence his father, Nelson decided to conduct his pilot project anyway, starting in rural Mebane, North Carolina.

It was around this time that Nelson came up with the name, Plant Pure, which to him denoted nature, clarity and cleanliness. As he assembled his group of sixteen from a cross section of the community—a politician, a business executive, a journalist, and two local cattle farmers (a husband and wife)—the themes and talking points came into clarity. This experiment was not only about eating better, but about taking control away from the hands of industry and government. It was about independence, freedom and liberty. It involved bottom-up control, not top-down authoritarianism.

These five consecutive jump-starts, each a bit larger and more complex than the previous, eventually led Nelson back to Kentucky, where he and Tom Riner hoped to insert a finding of fact about plant-based nutrition into the record. Yet even this modest proposal forms the basis of a nail-biting political drama. While some legislators are clearly in favor, others are more skeptical. One asks if the word “meat” can be appended to the list of good foods which include vegetables, fruits, grains, legumes and nuts. Dr. T. Colin Campbell had been asked not to come; and Nelson has been relegated to the balcony.

Following the vote, you can see why Nelson Campbell, like his dad, is taking the message directly to the people. The rally for the *Plant Pure Nation* is underway.

*Plant Pure Nation*, March 12, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Screening link

*To be added to our mailing list for future screening announcements, please email a request to [plowtoplate@mail.com](mailto:plowtoplate@mail.com).*

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FILM NIGHT: DRIVERS WANTED

December 9, 2025



LOGO ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE CARRSON

Every day for the past 67 years, 90-year-old cab driver Johnnie "Spider" Footman has shown up for work at one of New York City's most eclectic communities—the taxi garage across from the river from the United Nations. The garage is a kind of a refugee camp in the heart of New York, a city where drivers have come for protection from human rights abuses, racism and economic instability.

But to be a cabbie demands reserves of patience and persistence, in the face of long hours, disrespectful customers, blinding blizzards and a host of other challenges.

Filmmaker Joshua Z Weinstein directed the feature film *Menashe*, which was released by A24 and nominated for a Gotham Award for "Breakthrough Director," as well as an Independent Spirit Award for "Best First Feature." He has also directed the documentaries *Drivers Wanted*, *Flying On Engine*, and *I Beat Mike Tyson*. As a cinematographer he has lensed *Sell/Buy/Date*, *Elaine Stritch: Shoot Me* and *Bikini Moon*. Born in New York City, Joshua has been a Coop member on and off since 2008.

This documentary will be screened on this Zoom link on Thursday, February 8th at

7p.m. Director Joshua Z Weinstein will be present for a Q+A after the screening.

To be added to our email listserv for future screening announcements, please send a request to [jlymiller@me.com](mailto:jlymiller@me.com)