



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 AM ET / 8 AM PT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

**FIVE DIRECTORS CHOSEN FOR THE 2018 CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES
BREAKTHROUGH FILMMAKER AWARD GIVEN TO ADVANCED-CAREER WOMEN
DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS**

**THE AWARD COMES WITH A \$50,000 UNRESTRICTED GRANT AND YEAR-LONG
INDIVIDUALIZED PROFESSIONAL MENTORSHIP DESIGNED TO SUPPORT
WOMEN FILMMAKERS IN “BREAKING THROUGH” TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF
THEIR CAREERS**

NEW YORK, NY (January 12, 2018)—Chicken & Egg Pictures, a leader in supporting women nonfiction filmmakers, announced today the recipients of their annual Breakthrough Filmmaker Awards: **Natalia Almada** (*Todo lo demás*, 2016), **Ramona Diaz** (*Motherland*, 2017), **Laura Nix** (*Inventing Tomorrow*, 2018), **Kimi Takesue** (*95 and 6 to Go*, 2016), and **Nanfu Wang** (*I Am Another You*, 2017). This award consists of a \$50,000 unrestricted grant and a year-long creative support and mentorship program tailored to each filmmaker’s individual goals.

The Breakthrough Filmmaker Award was designed to respond to the reality that only a few women nonfiction directors in the US are able to work full-time as independent storytellers. The program recognizes and elevates five experienced women directors with unique voices who are poised to reach new heights and become strong filmmaker-advocates for critical and timely issues. When so few women achieve the same visibility and access to resources and opportunities as men, the Breakthrough Filmmaker Award program is a resounding crack in the glass ceiling. By establishing the Award, Chicken & Egg Pictures is making a bold investment in women artists, and an equally bold statement about representation and gender parity.

"Chicken & Egg Pictures' Breakthrough Filmmaker Award recipients have often described their Breakthrough year as life altering," said Lucila Moctezuma, Program Director of Chicken & Egg Pictures. "Unlike any other award, it's not just a recognition of past accomplishments, but an investment in the future, both for the filmmakers' careers and for the film industry at large, which must do more to honor women's leadership and voices."

Finalists for the Chicken & Egg Pictures Breakthrough Filmmaker Award are chosen through an international, confidential nomination process. Past recipients have included Geeta Gandbhir (*I Am Evidence*, 2017), Kirsten Johnson (*Cameraperson*, 2016), Dawn Porter (*Trapped*, 2016), and Yoruba Richen (*The New Black*, 2013).

2018 BREAKTHROUGH FILMMAKER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Natalia Almada

Recipient of the 2012 MacArthur “Genius” Award, Natalia Almada’s debut feature narrative *Todo lo demás* premiered at the 2016 New York Film Festival and was nominated for an Ariel Award from the Mexican Academy of Film. Her three feature documentaries, *El Velador* (2011 Cannes Directors’ Fortnight), *El General* (2009 Sundance US Directing Award: Documentary), and *Al Otro Lado* (2005 Tribeca Film Festival), all broadcast on the award-winning program POV. Natalia lives between Mexico City and San Francisco.

Ramona Diaz

Ramona Diaz is an award-winning Asian American filmmaker best known for her compelling character-driven documentaries that combine a profound appreciation for cinematic aesthetics and potent storytelling. Her films have screened and won awards at Sundance, the Berlinale, and Tribeca, among others. All four of Ramona's films—*Imelda* (2003), *The Learning* (2011), *Don’t Stop Believin’: Everyman’s Journey* (2012), and *Motherland* (2017)—have broadcast on either POV or Independent Lens on PBS. Recently she was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and was inducted into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Laura Nix

Laura Nix is the director of the feature documentary *Inventing Tomorrow*, premiering in US Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival 2018. She previously directed *The Yes Men Are Revolting* (2014 Toronto International Film Festival; Berlinale), *The Light in Her Eyes* (2011 IDFA), and *Whether You Like it or Not: The Story of Hedwig* (2003), as well as the fiction feature *The Politics of Fur* (2002 Outfest Grand Jury Prize). In 2017 she was awarded the Sundance Institute/Discovery Impact Fellowship.

Kimi Takesue

Kimi Takesue is an award-winning filmmaker and recipient of Guggenheim and Rockefeller Fellowships. Her documentary and fiction films have screened at more than two hundred festivals and museums internationally including Sundance, Locarno, New Directors/New Films, SXSW, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and have aired on PBS, IFC, Comcast, and the Sundance Channel. Kimi’s documentary *95 and 6 to Go* was nominated for the 2017 European Doc Alliance Award and screened at CPH:DOX, DOC NYC, Doclisboa, and DOK Leipzig.

Nanfu Wang

Nanfu Wang is an award-winning filmmaker based in New York City. Nanfu’s feature debut *Hooligan Sparrow* (2016) was shortlisted for the 2017 Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature. Since its premiere at Sundance 2016, it has won over twenty awards internationally including two Emmy® nominations, a Peabody Award, a Cinema

Eye Honor, the George Polk Award, an IDA Documentary Award, and an Independent Spirit Award. Her latest feature documentary *I Am Another You* (2018) premiered at the SXSW Film Festival and won two special jury awards at the festival.

ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. Chicken & Egg Pictures envisions a world in which women nonfiction filmmakers, representing a range of diverse experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals and vision, build sustainable careers, and achieve parity in all areas of the film industry. Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$6 million in grants and provided thousands of hours of mentorship and creative support to over 250 films. Films supported by Chicken & Egg Pictures have won numerous awards, including Oscars® and Emmys®; they have shifted deeply entrenched attitudes; and they have changed policy on a variety of critical human rights and social justice issues. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>

PRESS CONTACT

Jenni Wolfson | jenni@chickeneggpics.org | (646) 460-3776
Cindy Choung | cindy@chickeneggpics.org | (646) 207-1540