

**CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES PROUDLY ANNOUNCES  
FIVE FILMMAKERS SELECTED FOR 2019 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD  
AND TEN PROJECTS PARTICIPATING IN 2019 (EGG)CELERATOR LAB**

**NEW YORK, NY (January 23, 2019)**—Chicken & Egg Pictures, a leader in supporting women nonfiction filmmakers, announced today its newest slate of grantees for two of their signature programs. Five filmmakers will receive the **Chicken & Egg Award** (*\$50,000 award and mentorship program*)—previously known as Breakthrough Filmmaker Award—which recognizes and elevates five experienced documentary filmmakers poised to reach new heights in their careers and become strong filmmaker advocates for critical and timely issues; and ten feature documentaries will participate in their **(Egg)celerator Lab** (*\$35,000 grant and mentorship program*)—previously known as Accelerator Lab—for emerging filmmakers. From first-time filmmakers to industry veterans, the participants of these two programs represent the spectrum of diverse talent the organization supports.

“Our programs support talented women filmmakers at critical junctures of their careers,” said Jenni Wolfson, Executive Director. “All too often an important film falls through the cracks because the filmmaker did not have the support needed to succeed in this tough industry. What makes Chicken & Egg programs so helpful to women in the industry is our strategic combination of financial support, creative mentorship, career development, and, most importantly, being introduced to a community of fellow industry professionals who make up a support system that will last beyond their program participation.”

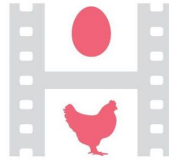
**This year’s (Egg)celerator Lab cohort is made up of 90% women directors of color;** six first-time filmmakers and four second-time filmmakers; includes three directors telling LGBTQ stories; hails from seven different countries, including Colombia, Pakistan, and South Africa; and consists of women who have worked across the documentary landscape—from audio producers to cinematographers.

**This year’s Chicken & Egg Award recipients are 80% women directors of color.** They are directors of Peabody Award- and Emmy® Award-winning films; the characters in their films—like a Yazidi human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner; a young woman in Gaza making a choice between love, family, and freedom; and a punk rocker-turned-Buddhist monk—have inspired hearts and minds; and their work has been featured at Tribeca, Sundance, Berlinale, and other international festivals.

With these two programs, Chicken & Egg Pictures is continuing to make bold investments in women’s stories and careers.

CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

45 Main St, Suite 506, Brooklyn NY, 11201 · 212.875.0456 · [info@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:info@chickeneggpics.org) · [chickeneggpics.org](http://chickeneggpics.org)



## 2019 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD

The Chicken & Egg 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 award comes with a \$50,000 unrestricted grant that gives its recipient more financial freedom in planning her career, and year-long individualized mentorship geared towards working to achieve the professional goals each filmmaker sets for herself. When so few women achieve the same visibility and access to resources and opportunities as men, the Chicken & Egg Award is a resounding crack in the glass ceiling.

Finalists for the Chicken & Egg Award are chosen through a closed nomination process. Past recipients have included Nanfu Wang (*One Child Nation*, 2019 Sundance Film Festival US Documentary Competition selection), Julia Reichert (*American Factory*, 2019 Sundance Film Festival US Documentary Competition selection), Dawn Porter (*Trapped*), Grace Lee (*American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*), Kirsten Johnson (*Cameraperson*), and Natalia Almada (*Todo lo demás*). This year's awardees include:

### **Julia Bacha**

Julia Bacha is a Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, Guggenheim fellow, and Creative Director at Just Vision. Her directing credits include *Budrus* (2009), *My Neighbourhood* (2012), and *Naila and the Uprising* (2017). Her work has played at the Berlin and Tribeca Film Festivals, as well as Palestinian refugee camps and the United States Congress. Julia is a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations, a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum, and a TED speaker.

### **Alexandria Bombach**

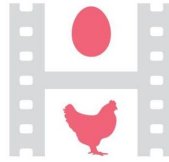
Alexandria Bombach is an award-winning director, cinematographer, and editor from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her feature-length documentary, *On Her Shoulders* (2018), won Best Directing in the US Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival, is nominated for two Spirit Awards, and was shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Her first feature-length documentary, *Frame by Frame* (2015) premiered at SXSW and went on to win over 25 festival awards. Alexandria is the founder of the Santa Fe Editing & Writing Residency and a 2019 Sundance Institute Momentum Fellow.

### **Stephanie Wang-Breal**

A first-generation Chinese American from Youngstown, Ohio, Stephanie Wang-Breal uses film as a tool to subvert the narrative. She's directed five feature length films: the award-winning *Wo Ai Ni Mommy* (2010), *Tough Love* (2014), and *Blowin' Up* (2018); and

CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

45 Main St, Suite 506, Brooklyn NY, 11201 · 212.875.0456 · [info@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:info@chickeneggpics.org) · [chickeneggpics.org](http://chickeneggpics.org)



directed commercials and short form content with talents and brands such as Tan Dun, Planned Parenthood, Minwax, ESPN, Tiffany & Co., Goldman Sachs, Verifone, and Apple. Stephanie's independent work has been supported and recognized by the Sundance Institute, the Ford Foundation, and featured in the Tribeca Film Festival.

### **Lana Wilson**

Lana Wilson is an Emmy® Award-winning and two-time Spirit Award-nominated director. Her most recent film, *The Departure* (2017), premiered at Tribeca, had a critically acclaimed theatrical release, and was nominated for the Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary. Her previous film, *After Tiller* (2013), premiered at Sundance and went on to win an Emmy® Award for Best Documentary. It was also nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, four Cinema Eye Honors, and the Ridenhour Prize.

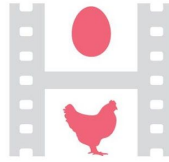
### **Malika Zouhali-Worrall**

Malika Zouhali-Worrall is an Emmy® Award-winning director and editor. Her directing credits include *Call Me Kuchu*, which premiered at the 2012 Berlinale and went on to win more than 20 festival awards, and *Thank You For Playing* (2015), which received an Emmy® for Outstanding Arts & Culture Documentary. Malika's work has been supported by Sundance, Tribeca, Firelight Media, and the United Nations. She is a San Francisco Film/Catapult Documentary Fellow and a Chaz and Roger Ebert Directing Fellow.

## **2019 (EGG)CELERATOR LAB**

The **(Egg)celerator Lab**, previously Accelerator Lab, program is focused on identifying and supporting women and gender non-conforming nonfiction directors working on their first or second feature-length documentary, with a special focus on underrepresented voices and unique stories. Each project receives a \$35,000 grant for the production of a film, and the filmmakers will come together at various points over the course of a year for an intensive period of professional development, tailored mentorship, and workshops with industry experts, creatively fusing the art and craft of filmmaking with industry and peer support.

The 2019 (Egg)celerator Lab cohort was chosen through an international open call. Past participants include 2019 Sundance Film Festival US Documentary Competition selection *Always In Season*, directed by Jacqueline Olive; Audience Award-winning film at 2018 Camden International Film Festival *The Feeling of Being Watched*, directed by Assia Boundaoui; and 2017 Hot Docs selection and HBO Documentary Film *32 Pills: My Sister's Suicide*, directed by Hope Litoff.



The 2019 (Egg)celerator Lab projects are\*:

### **Milisuthando (Working Title)**

Director: Milisuthando Bongela (SOUTH AFRICA)

In this coming-of-age story, Milisuthando—a black South African unaware of apartheid until it ended—explores how blacks and whites first lived together after 342 years of racial segregation.

### **An Act of Worship**

Director: Nausheen Dadabhoy (US/PAKISTAN)

*An Act of Worship* follows a new generation of Muslim-American women activists who have been galvanized into action while anti-Muslim sentiments are on the rise.

### **#Mickey**

Director: Betzabé García (MEXICO)

Born in Sinaloa, Mickey found in internet a platform where she can explore her transgender identity and deal with her homophobic environment.

### **Paths of Fire and Water**

Director: Viviana Gómez Echeverry (COLOMBIA)

Camilo is a young black man adopted by an indigenous family, who is now looking for his biological mother to understand who he really is.

### **We Are Inside**

Director: Farah Kassem (LEBANON)

Returning to Mustapha's house in radicalised Tripoli, Farah decides to join her father's all-male poetry club—a living memorial of past times.

### **Sara: A Fearless Dream**

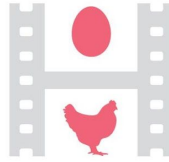
Directors: Sara Khaki, Mohammad Reza Eyni (IRAN/US)

Sara takes the first council seat as the first female in her native male-dominated Iranian village. *Sara: A Fearless Dream* captures her as she takes a dangerous road to success.

### **Untitled PRC Project**

Director: Jessica Kingdon (US)

*Untitled PRC Project* is a kaleidoscopic journey through China's industrial supply chain, revealing paradoxes born from prosperity of the world's emergent superpower.



### **Mama Bears**

Director: Daresha Kyi (US)

*Mama Bears* explores the many ways in which the lives of conservative, Christian mothers are utterly transformed when they decide to accept their LGBTQ children.

### **Silent Beauty**

Director: Jasmin López (MEXICO/US)

*Silent Beauty* is an autobiographical exploration of one woman's family history with child sexual abuse and a culture of silence.

### **Pray Away**

Director: Kristine Stolakis (US)

*Pray Away* tells the story of the history and continuation of the "pray the gay away" or ex-gay movement.

\* The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the directors' country or countries of origin.

The Chicken & Egg Pictures (Egg)celerator Lab for first- and second-time filmmakers is generously supported by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the NDL Foundation, Time Warner Foundation, and The Whickers.

## **ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES**

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. We envision an inclusive media industry in which women filmmakers, representing a range of experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals, and to build sustainable and fulfilling careers.

Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, the organization has awarded over \$7 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 300 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

## **PRESS CONTACT**

Jenni Wolfson | [jenni@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:jenni@chickeneggpics.org) | (212) 875-0456 ext. 112  
Cindy Choung | [cindy@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:cindy@chickeneggpics.org) | (212) 875-0456 ext. 115

CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

45 Main St, Suite 506, Brooklyn NY, 11201 · 212.875.0456 · [info@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:info@chickeneggpics.org) · [chickeneggpics.org](http://chickeneggpics.org)