



CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES AWARDS \$400,000 TO TEN DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECTS AS PART OF THEIR (EGG)CELERATOR LAB EMERGING FILMMAKERS PROGRAM

NEW YORK, NY (March 10, 2020)—Chicken & Egg Pictures announced today the ten grant recipients of their (Egg)celerator Lab emerging documentary filmmakers program. The filmmakers are set to receive a total of \$400,000 toward their first or second feature-length documentaries.

Since its founding in 2005, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$8 million in grants and thousands of hours of mentorship to over 320 women and gender non-conforming filmmakers. Now, in its 15th anniversary year, the organization has committed to granting over \$1 million for 2020 across its five main programs—more than they have ever given out in a single year—and increasing the (Egg)celerator Lab grant from \$35,000 to \$40,000 per film project.

“With the (Egg)celerator Lab, Chicken & Egg Pictures is proud to bring some exciting new voices to both the US market and to the international documentary stage,” said Executive Director Jenni Wolfson. “Our holistic model of support for filmmakers not only gives them a financial boost for their projects but also equips them with creative mentorship, professional coaching, and industry connections that will last them their entire careers.”

Past participants of the (Egg)celerator Lab include Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang, directors of the Oscar-shortlisted *One Child Nation*; Emmy-winning director Lyric R. Cabral (*The Rashomon Effect*); and Jacqueline Olive, director of the Sundance Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency winner *Always in Season*.

This year, participants hail from eight different countries including Brazil, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Spain, and include filmmakers such as Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund recipient Snow (Hnin Ei Hlaing), PitchBLACK winner Nailah Jefferson, and Emmy-winning producer Violet Du Feng. Several films in this cohort explore similar themes through vastly different subjects: *A Photographic Memory*, *Black Mothers*, and *Machtat* tell stories of motherhood through art and memory, racial injustice, and marriage in the context of patriarchy. *Commuted* and *Polaris* are both stories of women’s lives after incarceration, one taking place in New Orleans and the other between France and the Arctic.

The 2020 (Egg)celerator Lab projects are:

Hidden Letters

Directors: Violet Du Feng, Zhao Qing (CHINA)

Two young Chinese Millennials in rural and metropolitan China look toward the wisdom of an ancient, secret woman-only script in order to navigate their lives in a world still dominated by men.

Eskape

Director: Neary Adeline Hay (CAMBODIA/FRANCE)

The survival story of a mother and her daughter, the filmmaker, through the desperate flight from a crumbling Cambodia after the collapse of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Midwives

Director: Snow (Hnin Ei Hlaing) (MYANMAR)

Two midwives work side by side in a makeshift medical clinic.

Commuted

Director: Nailah Jefferson (US)

Commuted is an intimate look at the life of Danielle Metz and the familial impacts of long-term incarceration.

Stories from the Debris

Director: Jennifer Rainsford (SWEDEN/UK)

With the Japanese Tsunami of 2011 as a backdrop, *Stories from the Debris* assembles a collection of poetic stories about how humans and nature rebuild after trauma.

The Boy and the Suit of Lights

Director: Inma de Reyes (SPAIN/SCOTLAND)

Hoping to rescue his family from poverty, young Borja is torn between tradition and progress as he trains to fulfill his family's dream of him becoming a bullfighter.

Black Mothers

Director: Débora Souza Silva (BRAZIL)

Violence. Outrage. Impunity. Repeat. *Black Mothers* follows the journey of two women working to disrupt the cycle of racist police violence within our country's judicial system.

A Photographic Memory

Director: Rachel Elizabeth Seed (US)

A photographer attempts to piece together a portrait of her mother, Sheila Turner-Seed, a daring journalist and a woman she never knew. Uncovering the vast archive Turner-Seed produced, including lost interviews with iconic photographers, the film explores memory, legacy, and stories left untold.

Machtat

Director: Sonia Ben Slama (FRANCE/TUNISIA)

Machtat chronicles the daily life of Fatma and her daughters Najeh and Waffeh, wedding musicians in a small town in Tunisia.

Polaris

Director: Ainara Vera (SPAIN)

Polaris tells the story of two French sisters with opposite lives that reconnect with one another to support the life of a newborn baby.

Note: The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the directors' country or countries of origin.

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 \$8 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 320 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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