



## CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES NAMES 2022 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD RECIPIENTS AND FINALISTS

**NEW YORK, NY—JANUARY 25, 2022**—Chicken & Egg Pictures announced today their newest recipients and finalists for the 2022 Chicken & Egg Award, the only program of its kind that recognizes advanced-career women and gender nonconforming filmmakers with unrestricted funding. Six directors will receive a \$50,000 grant, and two directors will receive a \$15,000 finalist grant.

“The Chicken & Egg Award makes bold investments in the personal and professional wellbeing of visionary women and gender nonconforming documentary makers. Over the past seven years, we have given **unrestricted cash grants totaling \$1.9 million US dollars to 38 change-making directors,**” said Program Director Lucila Moctezuma. “Because filmmakers—especially those affected by roadblocks tied to their gender, race, class, and location—deserve financial freedom while they create new projects.”

This year’s Chicken & Egg Award recipients are: **Petra Costa, Beverley Ditsie, Anayansi Prado, Margreth Olin, Brett Story,** and **Tracy Heather Strain.** They are acclaimed storytellers, activists, thought leaders, and educators hailing from all over the world. Their previous films include a Brazilian citizen’s experience of rising authoritarianism and crumbling democracy (*The Edge of Democracy* by Petra Costa), a self-told story about being the first African lesbian to address the UN (*Lesbians Free Everyone* by Beverley Ditsie), a complex climate portrait of New York City and its inhabitants (*The Hottest August* by Brett Story), and the story of DACA students banned from attending top universities because of their citizenship (*The Unafraid* by Anayansi Prado).

In addition to career coaching and funding, 2022 Chicken & Egg Award recipients receive mentorship for the development of new projects. This year, developing projects include a hybrid documentary investigating African-descended peoples’ relationships with swimming (*Survival Floating* by Tracy Heather Strain) and a meditative nature film set in Norway and guided by the filmmaker’s 84-year old father (*Songs of Earth* by Margreth Olin). Films that previously received support through the program include **Michèle Stephenson’s** *Stateless* and **Julia Bacha’s** *Boycott*, as well as upcoming projects by **Maite Alberdi** (*The Infinite Memory*) and **Tatiana Huevo** (*El Eco*).

To select recipients each year, a group of diverse nominators—representing a range of positionalities, demographics, and geographic locations—are invited to present eligible filmmakers. This is followed by a rigorous deliberation and interview process that includes industry veterans, former Award recipients, and internal team members.

**Sonia Kennebeck** and **Ditsi Carolino** receive the first-ever Chicken & Egg Award Finalist Development Grant of \$15,000, which recognizes their artful filmmaking, daring new projects in development, and impressive Award applications.

## **2022 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD RECIPIENTS**

### **Petra Costa (BRAZIL)**

Petra Costa is a Brazilian documentary filmmaker whose work lives on the borderlines of the personal and political. She directed *The Edge of Democracy* (2019), which was nominated for the Academy Award® for Documentary Feature in 2020; *Undertow Eyes* (2009); *Elena* (2012); and *Olmo and the Seagull* (2015). Petra is associate producer of Barbara Paz's *Babenco* (2019), producer of Moara Passoni's *Ecstasy* (2020), and EP of Rebeca Huntt's *BEBA* (2021).

### **Beverley Palesa Ditsie (SOUTH AFRICA)**

Dr. Bev Palesa Ditsie (Hon) is a radical gender nonconforming lesbian activist and award winning filmmaker, disruptor and change agent who was instrumental in bringing LGBTIQ+ rights into focus in the late 80's and 90's in South Africa and the world. She is also a reality TV director whose credits include *Big Brother Africa*, *Survivor South Africa*, and *Project Runway South Africa*. Among her film credits are *Simon & I*, *A Family Affair*, and *The Commission. Lesbians Free Everyone* (2020), their latest work filmed during lockdown, takes you along their journey as the first African Lesbian to address the UN at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995.

### **Anayansi Prado (PANAMA, UNITED STATES)**

Born in Panama, Anayansi Prado is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has focused on issues of undocumented immigration, indigenous rights, and race identity. Her feature films have aired nationally on PBS including *The Unafraid* (2018), *Paraiso for Sale* (2010), and *Maid in America* (2005). Anayansi is a Rockefeller Media Fellow and a Creative Capital Artist; her work has been supported by the MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Chicken & Egg Pictures, amongst others.

### **Brett Story (CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM)**

Brett Story is an award-winning filmmaker and writer based out of Toronto. She is the director of the critically acclaimed feature documentaries *The Prison in Twelve Landscapes* (2016) and *The Hottest August* (2019), both of which have screened around the world. Brett has held fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and Sundance Institute, and she was named one of Variety's 10 Documentary Filmmakers to Watch 2019.

### **Margreth Olin (NORWAY)**

Margreth Olin is a director and producer with a large cinema audience in Norway. She has made 13 films, which have received critical acclaim, participated at numerous festivals abroad, and won several Norwegian and international awards. Margreth has managed to catalyze important dialogues with the topics her films shed light on. She

has personally received 26 honorary awards for her commitment and focus on human rights. Her credits include *My Body* (Tribeca 2002), EFA-nominated *Raw Youth* (2004), *The Angel* (TIFF 2010), *Nowhere Home* (IDFA 2012), *Cathedrals of Culture* (Berlinale 2013), *Self Portrait* (DOC NYC 2020).

### **Tracy Heather Strain (UNITED STATES)**

Tracy Heather Strain, a two-time Peabody Award-winning and Emmy-nominated filmmaker, explores stories about the ways diverse peoples have experienced life in the US. She won an NAACP Image Award for Motion Picture Directing for *Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart*, which premiered at TIFF and made its television debut on American Masters. She is presently developing *Survival Floating*, a hybrid documentary investigating African-descended peoples' relationships with swimming.

## **2022 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD FINALIST DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS**

### **Ditsi Carolino (PHILIPPINES)**

Ditsi Carolino studied filmmaking at the National Film & Television School in the UK on a Chevening Scholarship. Her past projects include *Life on the Tracks*, about a couple who live by the railway slums (IDFA World Premiere, BBC Storyville Broadcast); and *Bunso, The Youngest*, about three imprisoned boys from 11–13, which was used by child rights advocates to pass the juvenile justice law. Ditsi is a member of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### **Sonia Kennebeck (US, GERMANY, MALAYSIA)**

Sonia Kennebeck is an award-winning director and producer and has released three critically-acclaimed independent feature films: *National Bird* (Berlinale Special 2016), *Enemies of the State* (TIFF 2020), and *United States vs. Reality Winner* (SXSW 2021). She received the Adrienne Shelly Excellence in Filmmaking Award and Ridenhour Documentary Film Prize. She is a first-generation college graduate who was born in Malaysia, raised in Germany, and lives in the US.

**Note:** The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the filmmakers' nationalities and/or countries of origin.

###

## **ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES**

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women and gender non-conforming 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 350 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

**PRESS CONTACTS**

Jenni Wolfson | [jenni@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:jenni@chickeneggpics.org) | 718.619.4155

Matisse Bustos | [press@chickeneggpics.org](mailto:press@chickeneggpics.org) | 917.806.6181