



## **CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES' ANNOUNCES PROJECT: HATCHED 2023 AWARDS \$300,000 IN COMPLETION AND IMPACT FUNDING TO TEN FILMS**

**NEW YORK, NY (August, 17, 2023)**—Chicken & Egg Pictures announced today the newest grantees of **Project: Hatched, a program designed to support directors as they develop and launch strategic impact campaigns**. Ten films will receive \$30,000 each toward their completion funding and impact campaigns. This was the first year that the grant's criteria were expanded to include international projects and an increase in the number of projects supported, raising total funds disbursed from \$240,000 in 2022 to \$300,000 in 2023.

**The ten grantee films are:** *Bad Press, Big Fight in Little Chinatown, Freedom Hill, From the Shadows #missinggirls, Liquor Store Dreams, Now That We Are Together, PAY OR DIE, Suddenly TV, The Mind Game, and Twice Colonized.*

**Project: Hatched 2023** films showcase the work of courageous filmmakers who have uncovered powerful stories, through artful visual storytelling, and who have a clearly articulated impact plan to reach broad audiences. Chicken & Egg Pictures believes all nonfiction films, from the overtly political to the abstract or personal, hold the power to impact their viewers, their communities and beyond, and to continue conversations around important and timely topics.

The films selected as part of this cohort also open conversations on documentary impact practices and ethics in the collaboration between filmmakers and participants. In ***The Mind Game***, filmmakers Eefje Blankevoort, Els van Driel share power with their participant Sajid Khan Nasiri (SK), an unaccompanied minor seeking asylum in Belgium. In this intimate sequel to the prize-winning *Shadow Game*, SK is not only the participant of the story—he is also the director of his own narrative. Similarly, renowned Inuit lawyer Aaju Peter struggles with the ongoing painful effects of colonization while fighting for justice to create a better future for future generations in Danish filmmaker Lin Alluna's first feature ***Twice Colonized***. Alluna centered Peter in the development of the film, collaborated with Inuit producers, and will work on an impact campaign to support Aaju's efforts to create a permanent EU forum for Indigenous peoples.

"We are seeking filmmakers with a strategic vision for the impact they wish to achieve. However, we also value a willingness to embrace diverse interpretations of what constitutes impact and engagement for each individual filmmaker, and how this work can evolve throughout the life of a film," said **Associate Director of Program Sabine Fayoux Cantillo**. "All the films supported in this year's cohort have the potential to create meaningful and specific impact on the lives of the people most affected by the issues being portrayed. Each of them has thought deeply about developing their goals

and strategies in collaboration with their film's core audiences and participants, informed by mutually beneficial opportunities. We are proud to contribute to the larger ecosystem that enables filmmakers to carry this important work forward.”

The directors of the **Project: Hatched 2023** films represent a range of backgrounds, expertise, and experience: **Bad Press** director Rebecca Landsberry-Baker is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the executive director of the Native American Journalists Association. So Yun Um (**Liquor Store Dreams**) is a Korean-American director, producer, and 2022-2023 BAFTA Breakthrough USA participant. Her work has screened at Tribeca Film Festival, Busan International Film Festival, BFI London, and more. Resita Cox (**Freedom Hill**) holds a degree in journalism and her work has centered Southern, Black communities while exploring environmental justice, racial justice, among other topics.

“This year’s Project: Hatched filmmakers exemplify how to creatively engage with audiences to move them to action,” said **Program Director Kiyoko McCrae**. “The range of films, from the deeply personal to the political, inspire us to think about the many ways that documentary films have the power to create social change.”

Filmmakers in this program have used their films to advocate for legislative reforms, hold community gatherings, and engage in important conversations with targeted influencers. For instance, 2022 grantee Sally Rubin's *Mama Has a Moustache* is being shown in schools along with an impact guide to stimulate discussions around gender identity and youth. *Crossings*, directed by 2022 grantee Deann Borshay Liem, has held ongoing impact screenings and events that have motivated nearly 500 individuals to write to their representatives, urging them to support Korea-related bills.

Similar to the process in 2022, Chicken & Egg Pictures used a three-round review system for selecting projects. This included inviting previously supported filmmakers in their alumni community, AlumNest, and an internal committee made up of the Chicken & Egg Pictures team.

From 2019 to 2022, **Project: Hatched** has supported 27 short and feature-length films. Recent grantees include Peabody nominee *Storm Lake*, directed by Beth Levison and Jerry Risius; *Any Given Day*, directed by Margaret Byrne; *BEBA*, directed by Rebecca Hunt; and *Belly of the Beast*, directed by Erika Cohn.

This program is generously supported by The New York Community Trust.

### **The Project: Hatched 2023 grantees are:**

Note: The locations named in parentheses next to the films titles indicate the filmmakers’ nationalities and/or countries of origin.

#### ***Bad Press*** (US)

Co-directors: Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler

Producers: Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler

When the Muscogee Nation censors its free press, a rogue reporter races to expose her government's corruption in a historic battle with ramifications for all of Indian Country.  
*Sundance U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award: Freedom of Expression*

***Big Fight in Little Chinatown*** (CANADA)

Director: Karen Cho

Producers: Bob Moore, Katie McKay

Residents, businesses, and community organizers fight to save their Chinatown neighborhoods from erasure in this story of resistance and resilience.

*Premiered at DOC NYC 2022, Montreal International Documentary Film Festival (RIDM)*

*Women Inmate Jury Award 2022, Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival Honourable Mention Best Canadian Feature Film 2022*

***Freedom Hill*** (US)

Director: Resita Cox

Producer: Resita Cox

In North Carolina, residents of Princeville—the first town in America incorporated by formerly enslaved freed Africans—resist the steady erosion of both flooding and environmental racism.

*Premiered at Full Frame Documentary Festival 2022; acquired by WORLD*

***From the Shadows #missinggirls*** (INDIA)

Director/Producer: Miriam Chandy Menacherry

Producers: Sheena Matheiken, Aalia Furniturewala, Anand Ramayya, Gary Byung-Seok Kam

Impact Producer: Triparna Banerjee

An artist and an activist find glimmers of hope as they seek justice for survivors of India's rampant child sex trafficking.

*International premiere as a special International Women's Day 2023 screening hosted by South Asian House and Film Independent's Global Media Makers in Austin, acquired by TV2 Denmark and KBS (Korea)*

***Liquor Store Dreams*** (US)

Director/Producer: So Yun Um

Producer: Eddie Kim

Two Korean American children of liquor store owners in Los Angeles set out to bridge generational divides with their immigrant parents.

*Premiered at Tribeca Festival 2022, CAAMFest 2023 Honorable Mention for Best Documentary; acquired by POV*

***Now That We Are Together*** (MEXICO)

Director/Producer: Patricia Balderas Castro

Co-Producer: Claudia Ruiz Capdevielle

Impact Producers: Merle Iliná and Michelle Plascencia

After an unexpected encounter with a group of women taking back the streets, a filmmaker begins an intimate-yet-collective journey to understand her own experience with violence.

*Premiered at Morelia International Film Festival 2022, where it won Best Movie Directed by a Woman and Audience Favorite*

***PAY OR DIE*** (AUSTRALIA, CANADA, US)

Directors/Producers: Rachael Dyer, Scott Alexander Ruderman

Producer: Yael Melamede

Three families facing life-or-death decisions reveal the harrowing reality of America's insulin affordability crisis, where 2 million people are being held ransom to pharmaceutical profits.

*Premiered at SXSW 2023, acquired by MTV Documentary Films, streaming premiere launch on Paramount+*

***Suddenly TV*** (US)

Director/Producer: Roopa Gogineni

At a besieged protest in Khartoum, young revolutionaries create an imaginary television station to confront the violence of the regime and conjure a new Sudan.

*Premiered at IDFA 2022, SXSW 2023 Documentary Short Competition Special Jury Award, IndieLisboa Short Film Grand Prize*

***The Mind Game*** (AFGHANISTAN, CANADA, NETHERLANDS)

Directors/Impact Producers: Eefje Blankevoort, Els van Driel, Sajid Khan Nasiri

Producer: Laura Verduijn

Impact Producers: Tina Farifteh, Nienke Huitenga, Lara Aerts, Khadidja Benouataf

An Afghan teenager's first-hand, cell-phone filmed perspective reveals the psychological pressure facing unaccompanied minor refugees.

*Premiered at Movies that Matter Festival 2023, upcoming broadcast on Dutch public television KRO-NCRV*

***Twice Colonized*** (DENMARK)

Director: Lin Alluna

Producers: Emile Hertling Péronard, Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Bob Moore

Renowned Inuit lawyer Aaju Peter, who has led a lifelong fight for the rights of Indigenous people, delves into her own origins to mend the wounds of dislocation, colonization, and loss.

*Premiered at Sundance Film Festival 2023, Movies that Matter Festival 2023 Camera Justitia Award*

## **ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES**

Chicken & Egg Pictures provides a global community of women and non-binary documentary filmmakers with creative and financial support to realize their cinematic visions and build fulfilling careers in a gender inclusive media industry. Our work

responds to the reality that sexism, racism, classism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia can still slow or even halt too many people's careers. Our mission lays the groundwork to disrupt these barriers.

Since its inception, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$12 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 500 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

**PRESS CONTACT**

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