

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Investigative Film Festival

**DOUBLE EXPOSURE OPENS SIXTH EDITION
WITH 76 DAYS DIRECTED BY HAO WU**

**THE FESTIVAL CLOSES WITH THE U.S. PREMIERE OF
ENEMIES OF THE STATE DIRECTED BY SONIA KENNEBECK**

SAM POLLARD'S MLK/FBI IS THE FESTIVAL CENTERPIECE

Washington, DC — September 17, 2020 — The Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival and Symposium has announced the Festival lineup for the 2020 event taking place virtually October 14-18, 2020. The sixth edition will open with Hao Wu's *76 Days*, transporting audiences inside the attempts of a Wuhan hospital to cope with a perilous new virus that would overtake the world. Sam Pollard's acclaimed *MLK/FBI* is this year's festival centerpiece, which is the first film to uncover the extent of the FBI's surveillance and harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., aimed at disgracing the civil rights giant. The closing night film is Sonia Kennebeck's *Enemies of the State*, a cross-border cat-and-mouse pursuit of a questionable whistleblower. The film program is intertwined with a previously announced symposium program bringing together leading investigative journalists, filmmakers, producers and funders.

This year's main slate includes *The Art of Political Murder*, directed by Paul Taylor; *Baby God*, directed by Hanna Olson; *Belly of the Beast* directed by Erika Cohn; *Collective*, directed by Alexander Nanau; *Finding Yingying*, directed by Jiayan (Jenny) Shi; *Influence*, directed by Richard Poplak and Diana Neille; *Mayor*, directed by David Osit; *Missing in Brooks County*, directed by Jeff Bemiss and Lisa Molomot; *The Mole Agent*, directed by Maite Alberdi; *The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel*, directed by Joel Bakan and Jennifer Abbott; *A Thousand Cuts*, directed by Ramona Diaz; *Through the Night*, directed by Loira Limbal; *Til Kingdom Come*, directed by Maya Zinshtein; and *Welcome to Chechnya*, directed by David France.

The co-directors of the festival noted:

“This year’s slate suggests that we are in a golden age of investigative cinema, where the craft could not be more elevated, nor the issues uncovered more urgent,” said Sky Sitney, Double Exposure co-creator and co-director. “These films give us an opportunity to examine the past from a new perspective, witness issues unfolding now with an immediacy that is breathtaking, and look to the future with cautious optimism. It is in such films that we find the stories that bond us as a global community.”

“These remarkable films take audiences inside the stories that are shaping our times in powerful, often hidden, ways,” said Diana Jean Schemo, founder and co-director of Double Exposure. “Beyond drawing new audiences for traditional investigative journalism, these films are expanding the way we define this body of work. They underscore that investigative journalism and filmmaking are not only vital for democracy, but are becoming an increasingly powerful engine of our cultural life.”

OPENING NIGHT FILM

76 Days (USA, China)

Directors: Hao Wu, Weixi Chen, Anonymous

On January 23rd, 2020, China locked down Wuhan, a city of 11 million, to combat the emerging COVID-19 outbreak. Set deep inside the frontlines of the crisis, *76 Days* tells the indelible human stories of healthcare workers and patients who struggle to survive the pandemic in its earliest, most terrifying, days.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

Enemies of the State

Director: Sonia Kennebeck

An American family becomes entangled in a bizarre web of secrets and lies when their son is targeted by the U.S. government. *Enemies of the State* investigates the strange case of Matt DeHart, an alleged hacker and whistleblower, and his former Cold War spy parents who believe they are at the center of a government conspiracy and are ready to do anything to save their son from prison. (*U.S. Premiere*)

CENTERPIECE SCREENING

MLK/FBI

Director: Sam Pollard

MLK/FBI is the first film to uncover the extent of the FBI's surveillance and harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Based on newly discovered and declassified files, utilizing a trove of documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act and unsealed by the National Archives, as well as revelatory restored footage, the documentary explores the government's history of targeting Black activists, and the contested meaning behind some of our most cherished ideals.

FULL PROGRAM

The Art of Political Murder (USA, UK)

Director: Paul Taylor

A political thriller set in the murky world of post-war Guatemala, *The Art of Political Murder* uncovers the truth behind the brutal murder of Bishop Juan Gerardi, killed days after presenting a damning report implicating Guatemala's military in the atrocities of the Civil War. A team of brave, young investigators — assembled by the Church — unearth a web of conspiracy and murder, but as they edge closer to the truth, will the country's criminal underbelly succeed in silencing them?

Baby God

Director: Hannah Olson

Hailed a miracle worker, Las Vegas fertility doctor Quincy Fortier practiced for decades. Now, with the advent of commercial DNA testing, his secret is out. Dr. Fortier covertly inseminated his patients with his own sperm, without their knowledge or consent. *Baby God* follows the men and women who must grapple with the shattering discovery that Dr. Fortier is their biological father. As they seek the truth about the doctor's motives, they must also attempt to reshape their own identities.

Belly of the Beast

Director: Erika Cohn

When a courageous young woman and a radical lawyer discover a pattern of illegal sterilizations in California's women's prisons, they wage a near-impossible battle against the Department of Corrections. With a growing team of investigators inside prison working with colleagues on the outside, they uncover a series of statewide crimes - from inadequate health care to sexual assault to coercive sterilizations - primarily targeting women of color.

Collective (Romania)

Director: Alexander Nanau

In 2015, a fire at Bucharest's Colectiv nightclub left 27 dead and injured 180. Soon, more burn victims begin dying in hospitals from wounds that were not life-threatening, falling prey to corruption that turns routine hospital care into a matter of life or death. *Collective* follows a team of investigative journalists working to expose the deadly backdoor deals, and the efforts of a new health minister to clean up the system.

Finding Yingying

Director: Jiayan (Jenny) Shi

Yingying Zhang, a 26-year-old aspiring young scientist and graduate student came to the U.S. full of optimism, with dreams of marrying her long-time boyfriend and starting a family. Within weeks of her arrival, Yingying disappears from campus without a trace. Through exclusive

access to Yingying's family and boyfriend, *Finding Yingying* closely follows their search to unravel the mystery of her disappearance.

Influence (South Africa, Canada)

Directors: Diana Neille, Richard Poplak

Influence profiles the British reputation manager, Lord Timothy Bell. Co-founder of the legendary PR firm Bell Pottinger, Bell used his marketing prowess to fire racial, political and social divisions across the planet, in service of an unsavory cast of strongmen. *Influence* examines how Bell and his associates shaped and co-opted the very institutions on which our governance systems are premised, quietly entrenching one of the most sophisticated — and successful — business ventures of recent times: the weaponization of democracy.

Mayor

Director: David Osit

Mayor is a real-life political saga following Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, during his second term in office. Surrounded on all sides by Israeli settlements and soldiers, most people in Ramallah will never have the chance to travel more than a few miles outside their home, which is why Mayor Hadid is determined to make the city a beautiful and dignified place to live. *Mayor* offers a portrait of dignity amidst the madness and absurdity of endless occupation while posing a question: How do you run a city when you don't have a country?

Missing in Brooks County

Directors: Jeff Bemiss, Lisa Molomot

As the national debate over immigration policy simmers to a boil, its practical consequences are felt every day in Brooks County, Texas. Located 70 miles north of the border with Mexico, it is the site of an estimated 3000 deaths since 2008, as migrants try to circumvent the state's busiest interior immigration checkpoint and find themselves lost in the vast private ranch lands that surround it.

The Mole Agent

Director: Maite Alberdi

When a family grows concerned for their mother's well-being in a retirement home, private investigator Romulo hires 83-year-old Sergio to pose as a new resident and undercover spy inside the facility. *The Mole Agent* follows Sergio's struggle with his cloak-and-dagger assignment as his involvement with the aging residents deepens.

The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel

Directors: Joel Bakan, Jennifer Abbott (Canada)

The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel unveils the corporate takeover of society through the rebranding of corporations as socially conscious entities. From gatherings of

corporate elites in Davos, to climate change and spiraling inequality; the rise of ultra-right leaders to COVID-19 and racial injustice, the film looks at corporations' growing, and devastating power.

A Thousand Cuts

Director: Ramona Diaz (USA, Philippines)

Nowhere is the worldwide erosion of democracy, fueled by social media disinformation campaigns, more starkly evident than in the authoritarian regime of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. Journalist Maria Ressa, co-founder of Rappler, places the tools of the free press — and her freedom — on the line in defense of truth and democracy.

Through the Night

Director: Loira Limbal

To make ends meet, people in the U.S. are working longer hours across multiple jobs. This modern reality of non-stop work has resulted in an unexpected phenomenon: the flourishing of 24-hour daycare centers. *Through the Night* explores the personal cost of our modern economy through the stories of two working mothers and a child care provider, whose lives intersect at a 24-hour daycare center.

'Til Kingdom Come (Israel, UK, Norway)

Director: Maya Zinshtein

Pastors encourage an impoverished Kentucky community, “The forgotten people of America”, to donate to Israel in anticipation of Jesus' impending return. The film exposes the controversial bond between Evangelicals and Jews, in a story of faith, power and money, revealing how Trump's America is led by proponents of an End-Times apocalyptic countdown.

Welcome to Chechnya

Inside the Russian Republic's Deadly War on Gays

Director: David France

Welcome to Chechnya shadows a group of brave activists risking their lives to confront the ongoing anti-LGBTQ campaign in the Russian republic of Chechnya. With unfettered access and a commitment to protecting anonymity, this documentary from Academy nominated filmmaker, David France, exposes these underreported atrocities, while highlighting an extraordinary group of people confronting deadly brutality.

Public Tickets & Press Logistics

Passes are available at: <https://dxfest.com/attend/passes-and-tickets/>

Press Accreditation at: <https://dxfest.com/press-room/>

Double Exposure Event Statistics: <https://tinyurl.com/y5q3hvo6>

Full Symposium program: <https://dxfest.com/schedule/>

About Double Exposure

Double Exposure, a project of the nonprofit investigative news organization 100Reporters, showcases the best new films inspired by the investigative instinct, in a bid to raise public recognition of this vital form of reporting that doesn't just ask tough questions, but delivers answers. It pairs film screenings with a concurrent symposium for journalists and filmmakers to connect with each other, and with the producers, editors, funders, and experts who can advance their work.

Major supporters of Double Exposure include the Reva and David Logan Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Sachiko Kuno Foundation, with additional funding from the Park Foundation and the Democracy Fund.

More info at: <https://dxfest.com/>

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