Dawn Porter AFI DOCS 2021 Guggenheim Honoree

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

AFI Tradition Includes Honorees Spike Lee, Barbara Kopple, Martin Scorsese, Errol Morris, Lee Grant, Stanley Nelson

AFI DOCS Will Celebrate Award-Winning Filmmaker on June 23, 2021

AFI DOCS, the American Film Instituteâ??s documentary film festival, has announced that it will honor Dawn Porter as the 2021 Charles Guggenheim Symposium honoree.



Each year, the AFI DOCS Charles Guggenheim Symposium honors a master of the nonfiction art form. This yearâ??s virtual Symposium will include a free screening of Dawn Porterâ??s new documentary with National Geographic Documentary Films RISE AGAIN: TULSA AND THE RED SUMMER and an in-depth conversation with Porter, moderated by Varietyâ??s Clayton Davis.

â??Dawn Porterâ??s voice echoes with power by combining the political with the deeply personal,â?• said Bob Gazzale, AFI President and CEO. â??Her presence is imperative in todayâ??s world, and we are honored to shine a light upon her life and her work at AFI DOCS.â?•



AFI President, Bob Gazzale (Photo byTom Kochel)

Porterâ??s new film RISE AGAIN: TULSA AND THE RED SUMMER follows award-winning Washington Post journalist DeNeen Brown as her investigation into a mass grave in her home state of Oklahoma leads her to dig deeper into the racial violence of the early 20th century. The film comes one hundred years after the Tulsa Massacre of 1921, during which hundreds of Tulsaâ??s Black residents were murdered and thousands were displaced.

â??With each of her projects, Dawn Porter turns our attention to a previously unexamined topic or invites us to take a fresh look at something we thought we already knew â?? and she does that again with RISE AGAIN: TULSA AND THE RED SUMMER,â?• said Sarah Harris, AFI Festivals Director of Programming. â??This is the kind of film that embodies the spirit of AFI DOCS, and we are honored to have it as part of our programming.â?•

A University of Georgetown Law School alumna, Dawn Porter turned her career from law to film in the late 2000s, executive-producing documentary, and narrative films. Porter made her directorial debut with GIDEONâ??S ARMY (2013), a documentary about three Black public defenders in the South, which won best editing at Sundance and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and an EmmyÂ®. GIDEONâ??S ARMY is now part of the US Department of Stateâ??s American Film Showcase, the State Departmentâ??s cultural diplomacy program, and film collection.

Porterâ??s documentaries SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI (2014), about a secret, state-funded anti-civil rights movement, and TRAPPED (2016), exploring TRAP Laws (â??Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providersâ?•) that regulate abortion clinics in the South, both aired as part of PBSâ?? Independent Lens series. Additionally, TRAPPED won the Special Jury Prize for Social Impact Filmmaking at Sundance and went on to win a Peabody Award.

Throughout her career, Porter has been commissioned by the Center for Investigative Reporting, Time and Essence Magazines, The New York Times Op Docs, and Amazon to create and direct films. Her most recent works, all released in 2020, examine the lives of three varied Americans who made an impact on the political and social climates, including Obama White House photographer Pete Souza (THE WAY I SEE IT), Clinton advisor and Civil Rights leader Vernon Jordan (VERNON JORDON: MAKE IT PLAIN), and Civil Rights icon Congressman John Lewis (JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE).

Porterâ??s next major project will be an AppleTV+ documentary series with Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry about mental illness and mental well-being.

Porter joins a renowned list of Guggenheim Symposium honorees: Charles Guggenheim (2003), Barbara Kopple (2004), Martin Scorsese (2006), Jonathan Demme (2007), Spike Lee (2008), Albert Maysles (2009), Frederick Wiseman (2010), Chris Hegedus and D. A. Pennebaker (2011), Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky (2012), Errol Morris (2013), Alex Gibney (2014), Stanley Nelson (2015), Werner Herzog (2016), Laura Poitras (2017), Steve James (2018), Freida Lee Mock (2019), and Lee Grant (2020).

Passes to AFI DOCS 2021 are now available at DOCS.AFI.com. Early Bird pricing will be available until June 1. Tickets for individual and in-person screenings will be available June 8. To become an AFI member, visit AFI.com/join.

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