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# THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 2020 AFI DOCS FILM FESTIVAL

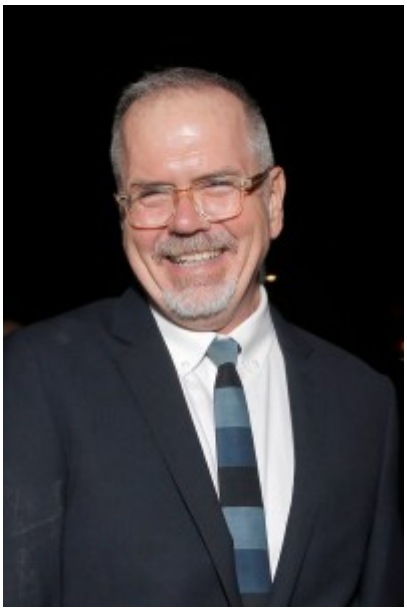
## Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

**AWARD-WINNING APPLE AND A24 FILM BOYS STATE TO OPEN ONLINE FESTIVAL ON JUNE 17**

**AT&T RETURNS AS PRESENTING SPONSOR**

**ON EMBARGO UNTIL 9 a.m. ET / 6 a.m. PT, MAY 6, 2020, WASHINGTON, DC â??** AFI DOCS, the American Film Instituteâ??s annual documentary celebration in the nationâ??s capital, has announced the festivalâ??s 18th annual edition is going virtual. With audiences eager to experience the best in documentary film, AFI DOCS will showcase current non-fiction fare in a re-imagined online film festival. The festival is proud to also announce the return of AT&T as Presenting Sponsor for the seventh consecutive year. AFI DOCS 2020 will open with BOYS STATE, directed by Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine. The festival will run June 17â??21 and films will be available to view on DOCS.AFI.com.



Michael Lumpkin

**â??AFI is committed to the documentary art form in the best of times and in the most challenging of times,â?• said Michael Lumpkin, Director of AFI Festivals. â??Now more than ever, we are dedicated to supporting extraordinary films because the world needs stories that educate, inspire hope and remind us of humanityâ??s strength. AFI DOCS is here to help.â?•**

The Opening Night screening of BOYS STATE will be held on June 17, followed by a Q&A. The Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning film follows a group of teenage boys at an annual civics program hosted by the American Legion in Austin, Texas, where attendees create a mock government and campaign for leadership and party platforms. Exploring politics through a coming-of-age lens, the result reveals American democracy and political division at its most hopeful and terrifying moments. BOYS STATE is an Apple and A24 release

The AFI DOCS 2020 program will be presented in the following sections: Special Presentations, Features, Cinemaâ??s Legacy and Shorts, as well as a virtual AFI DOCS Forum. Apple TV+, A24, Audience Network, HBO, National Geographic, PBS and The Atlantic will all have films in the festival. The full slate will be released on June 10.

Special Presentations will include the festivalâ??s unique slate of special evening events, available to a limited audience for one-time viewing and featuring conversations and Q&Aâ??s with the filmsâ??

directors and main subjects. Featuring exclusive films, many of which have not yet been publicly screened, the festivalâ??s Feature Film program will include over two dozen films from the US and around the world.

The festival will also include a Cinemaâ??s Legacy program, featuring historically notable non-fiction films that have made an impact on the documentary art form. In one of the most challenging general election years in modern times, this yearâ??s program will be dedicated to films documenting landmark moments in our nationâ??s political history.

AFI DOCS Shorts Program will feature more than 20 documentary shorts screening in four curated programs. Each shorts program will be available to screen from June 18 through June 21.

AT&Tâ??s continued support enables AFI DOCS to connect audiences, policymakers and storytellers across the nation.

*More information about AFI DOCS screenings and other special events will be announced in the coming weeks.*

## About AFI DOCS

AFI DOCS is the American Film Instituteâ??s annual documentary festival historically held in Washington, DC.  Presenting the yearâ??s best documentaries, AFI DOCS is the only festival in the U.S. dedicated to screenings and events that connect audiences, filmmakers and policy leaders in the heart of our nationâ??s government. The AFI DOCS advisory board includes Ken Burns, Davis Guggenheim, Chris Hegedus, Werner Herzog, Barbara Kopple, Spike Lee, Errol Morris, Stanley Nelson and Frederick Wiseman.  Now in its 18th year, the festival will be held online June 17-21, 2020. Visit DOCS.AFI.com and connect on Twitter.com/AFIDOCS, Facebook.com/AFIDOCS, YouTube.com/AFI and Instagram.com/AmericanFilmInstitute.

## About the American Film Institute (AFI)

Established in 1967, the American Film Institute is the nationâ??s non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring artists and audiences through initiatives that champion the past, present and future of the moving image. AFIâ??s pioneering programs include filmmaker training at the AFI Conservatory; year-round exhibition at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center and at AFI Festivals across the nation; workshops aimed at increasing diversity in the storytelling community; honoring todayâ??s masters through the AFI Life Achievement Award and AFI AWARDS; and scholarly efforts such as the AFI Catalog of Feature Films that uphold film history for future generations. Read about all of these programs and more at AFI.com and follow us on social media at Facebook.com/AmericanFilmInstitute, YouTube.com/AFI, Twitter.com/AmericanFilm and Instagram.com/AmericanFilmInstitute.

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wireless network.*** Weâ??re building FirstNet just for first responders and creating next-generation mobile 5G. With a range of TV and video products, we deliver entertainment people love to talk about. Our smart, highly secure solutions serve nearly 3 million global businesses â?? nearly all of the Fortune 1000. And worldwide, our spirit of service drives employees to give back to their communities. AT&T Communications is part of AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T). Learn more at att.com/CommunicationsNews.

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****GWS OneScore, September 2019.*

(Source: AFI DOCS Press release)

**Category**

1. #AFI
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