



THOM POWERS
Lead Programmer, TIFF Documentary
Toronto International Film Festival®

Thom Powers has been an International Documentary Programmer for the Festival since 2006. He's hosted most of the world's leading nonfiction filmmakers including Werner Herzog, Errol Morris, Barbara Kopple and Raoul Peck. As a programmer of music documentaries, he's moderated conversations with U2, Keith Richards, and Neil Young. He created and oversees TIFF Doc Conference, which has featured speakers such as Michael Moore, Shola Lynch and Jonathan Demme. For nine years, he programmed the Festival's Mavericks series, featuring conversations with the likes of Martin Scorsese, Chris Rock, and Julie Taymor.

Powers hosts the podcast Pure Nonfiction for which he's interviewed over 75 filmmakers including Agnès Varda, Ava DuVernay and Frederick Wiseman. He and his wife Raphaëla Neihäuser are co-founders of DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, and created its offshoot events DOC NYC Pro, Short List, Visionaries Tribute and the Documentary Preservation Summit. They run the weekly documentary screening series Stranger than Fiction at Manhattan's IFC Center, and host WNYC's Documentary of the Week that airs on New York's public radio station and as a podcast. They were founding directors of the New Jersey-based Montclair Film Festival and ran it for three years. Powers also programs for the Miami International Film Festival; and curated content for the digital platform Sundance Now. Prior to working in festivals, he spent 10 years directing and producing documentaries, primarily for HBO and PBS, and earlier he worked for the publisher Fantagraphics Books. He taught documentary producing at the School of Visual Arts MFA Social Documentary program for nine years and at New York University for 12 years.

He is a co-founder of the Cinema Eye Honors, an annual award for documentary excellence, as well as the Garrett Scott Development Grant which supports first-time filmmakers, including the directors of *Minding the Gap*, *Hale County This Morning, This Evening*, and *(T)ERROR*. He has served as a juror for Cannes L'Œil d'or award, Sundance, SXSW, CPH: DOX, Taiwan International Documentary Festival, It's All True and DocAviv, as well as the Emmy, IDA and Independent Spirit Awards. He has written on documentary filmmaking for Positif, The Boston Globe, Realscreen, Filmmaker Magazine, Criterion and STFdocs.com.

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TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film.