THE APOLLO
A FILM BY ROGER ROSS WILLIAMS

PREMIERING FALL 2019 ON HBO

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING SCHEDULE
Opening Night – Wednesday, April 24, 7:00pm – The Apollo Theater
Press & Industry Screening – Thursday, April 25, 9:30am – Village East Cinema
Saturday, April 27, 12:15pm – Regal Cinemas
Monday, April 29, 6:00pm – SVA

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SYNOPSIS

The HBO documentary THE APOLLO, helmed by Oscar- and Emmy-winning director Roger Ross Williams, chronicles the unique history and contemporary legacy of New York City’s landmark Apollo Theater. The feature-length film weaves together archival clips of music, comedy and dance performances; behind-the-scenes verité footage of the team that makes the theater run; and interviews with such artists as Jamie Foxx, Angela Bassett, Pharrell Williams, Common, Patti LaBelle and Smokey Robinson. While uncovering the rich history of the internationally renowned theater that has influenced American music and culture for 85 years, Williams also examines the current state of race in America, following a new multi-media adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates’ best-selling book “Between the World and Me” as it comes together on the theater’s grand stage.

THE APOLLO debuts this fall on HBO.

Long Synopsis

The HBO documentary THE APOLLO, helmed by Oscar- and Emmy-winning director Roger Ross Williams (LIFE, ANIMATED; GOD LOVES UGANDA; HBO’s MUSIC BY PRUDENCE), chronicles the unique history and contemporary legacy of New York City’s landmark Apollo Theater. Over the last 85 years, what began as a refuge for marginalized artists has emerged as a hallowed hall of black excellence and empowerment.

The feature-length film weaves together archival clips of music, comedy and dance performances from an astonishing list of legendary talents that includes Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Richard Pryor and Lauryn Hill; behind-the-scenes verité footage of the team that makes the theater run; and interviews with such artists as Jamie Foxx, Angela Bassett, Pharrell Williams, Common, Patti LaBelle and Smokey Robinson. Williams also examines the current state of race in America, following the 2018 multi-media adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates’ best-selling book “Between the World and Me” as it comes together on the theater’s grand stage. In the film, Williams explores not only the struggle of black lives in America, but the role that art plays in that struggle, and the essential part the Apollo continues to play in the cultural conversation, lighting the path forward.

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PRODUCTION NOTES

In 2012, producers Nigel Sinclair, Jeanne Elfant Festa and Cassidy Hartmann of White Horse Pictures (BOB DYLAN: NO DIRECTION HOME, UNDEFEATED, and FOO FIGHTERS: BACK AND FORTH) began to work closely with the team behind the Apollo Theater, including president Jonelle Procope, Laura Greer and then-executive producer Mikki Shepherd, to explore the idea of creating a documentary that would chronicle the unique history and contemporary legacy of the great New York City landmark. Having once been a refuge for marginalized artists, it has become a hallowed hall of black excellence and empowerment over the past 85 years, and a true sanctuary for the community of Harlem and beyond.

The Apollo Theater management entrusted the celebrated producers to find a director with uncompromising vision to tell this rich history. Joining the project in 2016, Oscar- and Emmy-winning director Roger Ross Williams (LIFE, ANIMATED; GOD LOVES UGANDA; HBO’s MUSIC BY PRUDENCE) had his own connection to the space. Calling on his vivid memories of the electric atmosphere of Amateur Night, which he attended as an NYU student, he knew the importance of capturing the life and essence of the building and its enthusiastic audience. Williams wanted to not only highlight history, but also show the continued vibrancy of its creative community at large. He augmented existing footage with a look at the present-day venue, spotlighting the 2018 multi-media stage adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates’ acclaimed book “Between the World and Me” at the Apollo.

Williams brought a kaleidoscope of voices together to tell the story of The Apollo, including members of the Harlem community; behind-the-scenes notables like Billy Mitchell, who has worked at The Apollo for more than 50 years and is now affectionately known as “Mr. Apollo,” Bobby Schiffman, former manager and son of co-founder Frank Schiffman, and such iconic artists as Jamie Foxx, Angela Bassett, Pharrell Williams, Common, Patti LaBelle and Smokey Robinson. Williams and the team unearthed archival footage of music, comedy and dance performances from an astonishing list of legendary performers – including Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Richard Pryor and Lauryn Hill, among many others – to show some of the seminal moments that have taken place on the theater’s grand stage. Williams and White Horse enlisted acclaimed producer and Harlem resident Lisa Cortés (PRECIOUS) to join as a producer; in turn, she brought her production experience and vast relationships in the entertainment business to the project. Emmy and Grammy-winning composer Robert Glasper blended jazz and gospel to create a sound anchored in the past and looking toward the future. Renowned editor Jean Tsien (SHUT UP & SING, MISS SHARON JONES!, MALCOLM X: MAKE IT PLAIN) and John S. Fisher brought their creativity and talent to the project as editors.

THE APOLLO debuts this fall on HBO.

The HBO Documentary Film, THE APOLLO is produced and directed by Roger Ross Williams. The producers of the film are Lisa Cortés, Jeanne Elfant Festa and Cassidy Hartmann. Executive producers are Nicholas Ferrall and Nigel Sinclair of White Horse Pictures, Dan Cogan of Impact Partners, Julie Goldman of Motto Pictures and the Apollo Theater’s Jonelle Procope. Jenny Raskin and Geralyn Dreyfous executive produce for Impact Partners, along with Ken Pelletier, the Embrey Family Foundation, and the Lagralane Group. Carlene C. Laughlin and Dave Knott also executive produce. Cynthia Sexton and David Blackman executive produce for Polygram Entertainment. MACRO’s Charles D. King, Kim Roth and Poppy Hanks executive produce, along with Jayson Jackson. For HBO: executive producers, Nancy Abraham and Lisa Heller.
In addition to HBO, financing for the film was provided by Impact Partners along with the Chicago Media Project, Universal Music Group’s Polygram Entertainment, MACRO, 164 OWR, Bert Marcus Productions, Another Chapter Productions, and the Ford Foundation.
DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

As a young NYU student, my friends and I would often go to Amateur Night at The Apollo Theater. It was a truly unique experience: you could yell, shout and most importantly, boo! It was the only theater where as an audience member you felt like an active participant in the show.

And what a show! The greatest talent of all time has graced The Apollo stage, from Stevie Wonder to Lauryn Hill; this platform made it an iconic establishment in black American culture. So, when I was approached about directing the film, I jumped at the chance. It was a no-brainer. I immediately enlisted the help of Harlem resident and former music executive turned film producer Lisa Cortes to produce the film. Lisa has been my close collaborator throughout the process.

Telling the story of The Apollo came with a lot of excitement, but also a huge sense of responsibility. First of all, how does one tell a story that spans 85 legacy-defining years in a way that goes beyond your average historical, archival documentary? Most of these stories are in the past, and while that past is glorious and important, I felt the story needed to be told in a way that engages with the present and ultimately excites a new generation.

I knew from the beginning that I wanted to focus on the people behind the scenes of The Apollo: the people who have maintained and continue to run this great institution. People like Joe Gray, the stagehand who became the “set it off man” and face of amateur night, and Billy Mitchell, who started out running errands there as a young Harlem kid 50 years ago, and carries so much history with him. And, of course, the people who are running the Apollo now: Jonelle Procope, who saved the Apollo from becoming only a memory and ensured its continued success and relevance as a black, cultural institution in the modern world. And Kamilah Forbes, who is creating innovative work there that could only be created through and nurtured on The Apollo stage.

The story of The Apollo is the story of black struggle: how African Americans have created and used music and art and hard work and ingenuity to pull ourselves up out of oppression and tell our truth to the world. And that struggle continues.

So, when I heard that Kamilah Forbes was developing Ta-Nehisi Coates’ book “Between the World and Me” into a multi-media stage production, I realized this was an opportunity to tell this continuing story through a modern lens.

When you start to dissect something like “Between the World and Me” (which asks the question: “How do you talk to your black son in the age of Trayvon Martin?”), you are forced to acknowledge that there are times when it feels as if nothing has changed. And you understand yet again the vital importance for black people of an institution like The Apollo. It is not just a theater; it is a town hall, it is a church – a place where the community goes to connect with each other.

Art has always been about taking your pain and expressing it in your work.

As I watched the early footage of those icons of black music performing at the Apollo, I would always remember that they were usually just back from the road, where they were often not allowed to stay or even eat at the places where they performed. You could feel their pain coming through their joy in those performances. It has been an honor, this time, to be able to make my work about their work. I hope this film serves as a reminder of who we are as a people, our power, our perseverance and our greatness.

-- Roger Ross Williams
FEATURED INTERVIEWS

Al Sharpton
Alan Leeds
Angela Bassett
Billy Mitchell
Bobby Schiffman
Charles Rangel
Chuck Jackson
Doug E. Fresh
Elinor Tatum
Eva Isaac
Farah Griffin
Guthrie Ramsey
Herb Boyd
Jamie Foxx
Jazz Hayden
Jerry Kupfer
Joe Gray
Jonelle Procope
Kamilah Forbes
Keisha Sutton
Lana Turner
Leslie Uggams
Maron J. Caffey
Mikki Shepard
Patti LaBelle
Paul McCartney
Pharrell Williams
Ray Chew
Richard Parsons
Savion Glover
Smokey Robinson
Ta-Nehisi Coates
Ted Fox

FEATURED PERFORMANCES FROM
“BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME” (rehearsals and staged reading)

Angela Bassett
Angela Polite
Black Thought
Common
Greg Alvarez Reid
Jason Moran (composer)
Joe Morton
Michelle Wilson
Morocco Omari
Nate Smith (musician)
Ta-Nehisi Coates
Wendell Franklin

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE:
Aretha Franklin  
Chuck Jackson  
Dave Chapelle  
Dionne Warwick  
Ella Fitzgerald  
Gladys and Bubba Knight  
James Brown  
Leslie Uggams  
Mary Wilson  
Percy Sutton  
Ralph Cooper  
Richard Pryor
BIOS

ROGER ROSS WILLIAMS, Director, Producer
Roger Ross Williams is an award-winning director, producer and writer and the first African American director to win an Academy Award®️, with his short film Music By Prudence.


Williams has directed a number of acclaimed films including Life, Animated, which won the Sundance Film Festival Directing Award, was nominated for an Academy Award®️ and won three Emmys in 2018, including the award for Best Documentary. He also directed God Loves Uganda, which was shortlisted for an Academy Award®️ and American Jail, which examined the U.S. prison system and premiered on CNN last July. Williams’ most recent project Traveling While Black, a VR documentary made for Facebook’s Oculus, premiered at this year’s Sundance Film Festival. His current film The Apollo, a documentary about Harlem’s legendary Apollo Theater, is the opening night film of the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival and he is currently in pre-production on his first narrative feature film for Amazon Studios.

His production company, One Story Up, is producing a variety of projects including two limited documentary series for Netflix. One Story Up specializes in creating documentary films, television, streaming series and specials, animation and VR.

Since 2016, Williams has been on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, serving as chair of the Documentary Branch and the documentary Diversity Committee. Williams serves on the Alumni Advisory Board of the Sundance Institute, the Advisory Board of Full Frame Festival, and the boards of the Tribeca Film Institute, Docubox Kenya, None On Record and the Zeitz Museum Of Contemporary Art Africa. He resides in New York and Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

LISA CORTÉS, Producer
Lisa Cortés is an Academy Award®️-nominated Producer whose credits include PRECIOUS, THE WOODSMAN, and SHADOWBOXER. Her work with trailblazing companies such as Rush Artist Management, Def Jam Records, and Lee Daniels Entertainment has been distinguished by her commitment to empowering inclusive voices, and giving light to challenging visionary stories. Her productions have received over 70 international awards and nominations, including the Academy Award®️.

Prior to her film career, Cortés worked with Russell Simmons and Rick Rubin to launch the iconic Def Jam brand. Later, as Vice President of Artists and Repertoire at Mercury Records, she signed many multi-platinum and Grammy®️ Award-winning artists, and founded the iconoclastic label, Loose Cannon Records.
Since launching her production company, Cortés Films, she has collaborated with directors including Ernest Dickerson and Gabourey Sidibe, producing innovative features, documentaries and short films that assert the centrality of diverse and untold stories while delighting audiences. She is producing and co-directing the documentary, THE REMIX: HIP HOP X FASHION.

Cortés is a Member of the Producers branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and serves on the Boards of the Film Society of Lincoln Center; ITVS; Yaddo, the celebrated artists’ community in Saratoga Springs; as well as the Trajal Harrell Dance Company. She mentors filmmakers affiliated with Sundance, the Tribeca Film Institute and the Academy’s Gold Mentorship Program.

JEANNE ELFANT FESTA, Producer

Jeanne is the Head of Documentaries & Director of Features at White Horse Pictures and oversees the company’s documentary slate. Before joining the White Horse creative producing team, she operated her own production company, Piper Cub Productions. With Piper Cub Productions, she had a first look deal with Exclusive Media and joined forces there with Nigel Sinclair, executive producing the Grammy-winning documentary Foo Fighters: Back and Forth, directed by James Moll.

Since joining White Horse Pictures, she has served on the producing team for the Grammy & Emmy winning, BAFTA-nominated, The Beatles: Eight Days a Week -- The Touring Years, directed by Ron Howard, and is currently producing Pavarotti, directed by Ron Howard, releasing in 2019.

Jeanne is also producing the forthcoming authorized Bee Gees documentary directed by Frank Marshall of Kennedy Marshall, as well as a number of other high-end documentaries and projects now on White Horse Pictures’ slate.

Jeanne serves on the board of Step Up a nation-wide non-profit organization that propels girls living or going to school in under-resourced communities to fulfill their potential by empowering them to become confident, college-bound, career-focused, and ready to join the next generation of professional women.

CASSIDY HARTMANN, Producer, Writer

Cassidy Hartmann is the Head of Development at White Horse Pictures and oversees the company’s television slate. She was a consulting writer and co-executive producer on the Grammy- and Emmy-winning, BAFTA-nominated, The Beatles: Eight Days a Week -- the Touring Years, as well as the upcoming Pavarotti documentary, both directed by Ron Howard. She also produced the feature documentary Mole Man for Tongal, which follows Ron Heist, a 66-year-old man on the autism spectrum, who is part of the “Lost Generation” of older adults who were never officially diagnosed.

Hartmann is an executive producer on the upcoming feature film The Queen Mary, inspired by the hauntings onboard the infamous ocean liner to be directed by Gary Shore (Dracula Untold), and is also a consulting writer and executive producer on White Horse’s upcoming documentary on the Bee Gees, directed by Frank Marshall. In a previous life, Hartmann was an award-
winning journalist. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and attended the Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California.

JEAN TSIEN, ACE, Editor, Writer

Jean Tsien, ACE is a veteran editor, producer, and consultant. Her notable editing credits include: the 2001 Academy Award nominee, Scottsboro: An American Tragedy; three Peabody Award-winning films: Malcolm X: Make It Plain, Travis, and Solar Mamas; Something Within Me, Dixie Chicks: Shut Up & Sing, and Miss Sharon Jones! All were shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Her most recent work The Apollo was the opening night film at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival.

Tsien was an executive producer and editor on Plastic China, the winner of the 54th Golden Horse Award for Best Editing; The Road to Fame and Please Remember Me. She also executive produced Our Time Machine, 2019 Tribeca Film Festival; All in My Family for Netflix; People’s Republic of Desire, Grand Jury Award winner, 2018 SXSW Film Festival; The Oslo Diaries, 2018 Sundance Film Festival; She co-executive produced Call Her Ganda and Blowin’ Up, which both premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival.


As a strong believer in mentorship and nurturing emerging talents, Tsien has served as an editing advisor at the Sundance Institute Edit and Story Lab, CNEX Chinese Documentary Forum, Hot Docs Blue Ice Lab, IFP Lab, Dare to Dream Asia, IDFAcademy, Chicken & Egg Accelerator Lab, Hot Docs Cross Currents Lab, and Camden/TFI workshop. She is a recipient of Mentor Award at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival.

JOHN STEVEN FISHER, Editor

John Steven Fisher is a New York based documentary editor. Prior to The Apollo, he previously worked as an editor on Roger Ross Williams and Kristi Jacobson’s Take Back the Harbor. The film had its World Premiere at DOC NYC in 2018 and was included in the 2018 DOC NYC Short List for Short Films.

John has worked on the editorial team for many documentary films including the academy award winning film, O.J. Made in America (ESPN), and the academy award nominated film, Life, Animated (A&E). Additional titles include The 50 Year Argument (HBO), Take Your Pills (Netflix), After Spring (Starz), and Hit It Hard (ESPN).

John holds a B.F.A in Film and Television from New York University. He has been working in editorial since 2009 and has worked with a wide range of directors including Martin Scorsese, Nancy Buirski, Amir Bar-Lev, Alison Klayman, and Ezra Edelman.
DONDI BASTONE, Music Supervisor

Grammy nominated music supervisor, Dondi Bastone, first cut his teeth on Barry Sonnenfeld’s Get Shorty nearly 25 years ago and has since supervised music for more than seventy-five film and television projects. His third film for director Alexander Payne, The Descendants, found them sharing the afore-mentioned Grammy nomination as soundtrack producers. That was followed up with Payne’s ambitious sci-fi satire Downsizing. Prior to those two films, they also collaborated on Sideways and Election. Dondi has also had the pleasure of working with Ed Harris on his decade-long labor of love, and directorial debut, Pollock, writer-director-star Matt Dillon’s City Of Ghosts, The Human Stain for legendary Oscar winning writer/director Robert Benton, Michael Dinner’s gangster spoof, The Crew, Emilio Estevez’ spiritual journey, The Way and the Chad Lowe helmed Beautiful Ohio. Dondi has also had the opportunity to be a part of some fine documentary projects including Kirby Dick’s This Film Is Not Yet Rated, the Morgan Spurlock produced doc, What Would Jesus Buy?, HBO’s Addiction Series, The Emmy winning documentary Series American High, And Its Follow-Up Freshman Diaries For RJ Cutler, And Sweet Micky For President For Producer Pras Michel of The Fugees. Also, among his recent projects is Low Down, a biopic of jazz legend Joe Albany, Starring John Hawkes, Elle Fanning, Glenn Close and Flea, and the recently released Saint Judy with Alfred Molina, Alfre Woodard and Common.

GILBERT M. ROSWELL, Music Supervisor

G. Marq Roswell is an American music supervisor and producer, based in Los Angeles. Roswell has contributed to the musical landscape of more than sixty feature films including ‘The Great Debaters’, ‘Spy Game, ‘The Hurricane’, Wild At Heart’ and ‘The Commitments’. He produced ‘I Saw The Light’, which portrays the life of legendary singer-songwriter Hank Williams. Roswell was an executive music producer on the highly acclaimed ‘Soundbreaking’, the eight hour documentary series for PBS that explores and celebrates the art and science of making records, conceived with and inspired by Sir George Martin. He has provided his expertise on many other award winning documentaries. Roswell is currently the Founder & CEO of TunesMap, a patented mobile and TV application that opens the cultural context around music.

NIGEL SINCLAIR, Executive Producer

Nigel Sinclair launched White Horse Pictures in 2014 with longtime business partner, Guy East. Prior to launching White Horse, Sinclair was the CEO and Co-Chairman of Exclusive Media, a global independent film company that financed, produced and globally distributed feature films and documentaries. Previously with East, Sinclair launched their independent feature film and television production company, Spitfire Pictures, in 2003, which signed a first-look development and production deal with the British horror studio, Hammer, in 2007. Prior to starting Spitfire, Sinclair and East co-founded Intermedia Films, in 1996, one of the world’s leading independent film producers.

Sinclair acts as lead producer on White Horse Pictures documentary projects. His documentary credits include Ron Howard’s Grammy-winning The Beatles: Eight Days a Week – The Touring Years; Martin Scorsese’s Emmy-winning George Harrison: Living in the Material World and Grammy-winning, No Direction Home: Bob Dylan; the Oscar-winning Undefeated; the Grammy-

Together with his partners at White Horse – Nick Ferrall, Jeanne Elfant Festa and Cassidy Hartmann – Sinclair is currently in production on the authorized feature documentary about the Bee Gees, directed by Frank Marshall of the Kennedy/Marshall Company; an authorized feature documentary on the life of opera great Luciano Pavarotti, directed by Ron Howard; and an elevated genre feature film about the legendary mysteries on the ship, *Queen Mary*, directed by Gary Shore.

With Exclusive, Sinclair produced *Parkland* starring Zac Efron, Billy Bob Thornton and Paul Giamatti; *Snitch*, starring Dwayne Johnson; and *End of Watch*, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Peña, Anna Kendrick and America Ferrera, and executive produced Ron Howard’s *RUSH*.

Sinclair’s extensive other film credits include *Sliding Doors*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow; *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger; Alan Parker’s *The Life of David Gale*, starring Kevin Spacey and Kate Winslet; *The Quiet American*, starring Michael Caine; and *The Wedding Planner*, starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey.

Sinclair attended Cambridge University in the U.K. and earned a Master of Law from Columbia University in New York. In 2000, Sinclair was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom in consideration of his service to the film industry.

**NICHOLAS FERRALL, Executive Producer**

Nicholas Ferrall serves as President of White Horse Pictures and manages the company’s slate of film and television projects through all stages of development, production and distribution.

Since the company launched in 2014, Ferrall has been an integral and leading production executive at White Horse Pictures whose executive producer credits include the Emmy, Critics’ Choice and Grammy Award-winning *The Beatles: Eight Days A Week– The Touring Years* directed by Academy Award-winner Ron Howard and David Gelb’s *A Faster Horse* based on the iconic Ford Mustang motorcar.

Ferrall is also an executive producer of Academy Award winner Ron Howard’s *Pavarotti*, based on the life of the celebrated tenor, as well as an authorized documentary about the legendary band *The Bee Gees*, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Frank Marshall. Ferrall is also producing the highly anticipated feature film *The Queen Mary*, inspired by the hauntings onboard the infamous ocean liner to be directed by Gary Shore (*Dracula Untold*).
Ferrall also produced the feature documentary *Mole Man* for Tongal, which follows Ron Heist, a 66-year-old man on the autism spectrum, who is part of the “Lost Generation” of older adults who were never officially diagnosed.

Ferrall has been collaborating with Nigel Sinclair since 2011 when he joined Sinclair’s Spitfire Pictures (an Exclusive Media company) as Vice President of Documentary Features. He began his entertainment career at Strike Entertainment during production and release of the acclaimed Alfonso Cuaron film *Children of Men*. Ferrall is a graduate of the Department of Film & Media Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara.

**DAN COGAN, Executive Producer**

Dan Cogan is the Academy Award®-winning producer of *Icarus* and the Co-Founder of Impact Partners, a fund and advisory service for investors and philanthropists who seek to promote social change through film.

Since its inception in 2007, Impact Partners has financed over 100 films, including: *Icarus*, which won the 2018 Academy Award® for Documentary Feature; *Won’t You Be My Neighbor?*, which won the 2019 Independent Spirit Award for Best Documentary; *Of Fathers & Sons*, which was nominated for the 2019 Academy Award® for Documentary Feature and won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival; *Dina*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and was named Best Feature by the International Documentary Association; *The Eagle Huntress*, which was nominated for the 2016 BAFTA Award for Best Documentary; *How to Survive A Plague*, which was nominated for the 2013 Academy Award® for Documentary Feature; *The Queen of Versailles*, which won the U.S. Directing Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival; *Hell and Back Again*, which was nominated for the 2011 Academy Award® for Documentary Feature and won the Grand Jury Prize and Cinematography Awards at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival; and *The Cove*, which won the 2010 Academy Award® for Documentary Feature.

In 2013, Cogan co-founded Gamechanger Films, which was the first for-profit film fund dedicated exclusively to financing narrative features directed by women. Its films included *The Tale* and *Land Ho!*

Cogan received his B.A. from Harvard University, magna cum laude, and attended the Film Division at Columbia University’s Graduate School of the Arts. In 2014, he was awarded the Leading Light Award at DOC NYC alongside filmmakers Albert Maysles and D.A. Pennebaker, as well as the America Abroad Media Award in Washington, D.C.

**JULIE GOLDMAN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Julie Goldman founded Motto Pictures in 2009. She is an Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning producer and executive producer of documentary feature films and series. She recently produced Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *One Child Nation* directed by Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang which was acquired by Amazon Studios and *Ringside* directed by André Hörmann which just had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. Julie is in production on *Untitled Velvet Underground Documentary* directed by Todd Haynes, and films by Maite Alberdi, Ramona Diaz and Ivy Meeropol. She produced Steve James’ Emmy Award-winning and Oscar-nominated *Abacus: Small Enough To Jail*, and *The Final Year*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, was released by Magnolia Pictures and broadcast on HBO.
Julie is the producer of *Life, Animated* and executive producer of *Weiner*, both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. *Life, Animated* won the US Documentary Directing Award, was nominated for the 2017 Best Documentary Feature Academy Award, and won three Emmys, including the award for Best Documentary in 2018. *Weiner* won the US Documentary Grand Jury Prize and was shortlisted for an Academy Award. Julie executive produced the Emmy-nominated Facebook series *Humans of New York*, Emmy Award-winning, Oscar-shortlisted *Best of Enemies*, and several Emmy-nominated films: *3½ Minutes, Ten Bullets, The Kill Team, Art and Craft* and *1971*. Julie also produced and executive produced: Emmy Award-winning *The Music of Strangers*, Emmy Award-winning *Solitary, Enlighten Us, Southwest of Salem, Gideon’s Army, Manhunt, God Loves Uganda, Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* and *Buck*. Julie received the Amazon Studios Sundance Institute Producer’s Award and the Cinereach Producer’s Award.
OPENING CREDITS
HBO Documentary Films
Impact Partners
and
the Apollo Theater Foundation
Present
In Association With
Polygram Entertainment
164 OWR
Chicago Media Group
Macro
In Association With
Bert Marcus Productions
JustFilms | Ford Foundation
Another Chapter Productions, LLC
Motto Pictures
A White Horse Pictures Production
THE APOLLO
A Film by
Roger Ross Williams

END CREDITS
Directed and Produced by
Roger Ross Williams
Produced by
Lisa Cortes
Produced by
Jeanne Elfant Festa
Produced by
Cassidy Hartmann
Executive Producers
Nigel Sinclair
Dan Cogan
Executive Producers
Nicholas Ferrall
Julie Goldman
Edited by
Jean Tsien, ACE
John S. Fisher
Written by
Cassidy Hartmann
Jean Tsien
Director of Photography
Michael Dwyer
Music Composed by
Robert Glasper
Music Supervision by
G. Marq Roswell
Dondi Bastone
Executive Producers for HBO
Nancy Abraham
Lisa Heller
Executive Producers
Jonelle Procope
Geralyn White Dreyfous
Jenny Raskin
Executive Producers
Ken Pelletier
Embrey Family Foundation
Lagralane Group
Executive Producers
David Blackman
Cynthia Sexton
Executive Producers
Charles King
Kim Roth
Poppy Hanks
Executive Producers
Carlene C. Laughlin
Dave Knott
Lynda Weinman
Jayson Jackson
Co-Executive Producers
Christopher Clements
Carolyn Hepburn