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The Full Frame Documentary Film Festival Announces 2018 Thematic Program and Tribute

**Joe Berlinger to Curate Thematic Program Around True Crime
Jehane Noujaim Honored with Full Frame Tribute
2018 Passes on Sale Wednesday, February 14**

Durham, N.C. – February 12, 2018 – Full Frame is proud to announce that renowned filmmaker Joe Berlinger will curate the 2018 Thematic Program, and the festival will honor Jehane Noujaim’s illustrious body of work with the 2018 Tribute. Delving into the fascinating genre of true crime, the Thematic Program will feature films that follow individual cases and consider the ways documentary uniquely represents the complexities, and limitations, of the American judicial system. For the Tribute, Full Frame will showcase Noujaim’s lauded films exploring themes of resilience, freedom, democracy, and free speech.

Academy Award®-nominated filmmakers Berlinger and Noujaim will both be in attendance at the 21st annual festival, April 5-8 in Durham, North Carolina. Specific titles for the Thematic and Tribute programs, along with additional attending guests, will be announced in early March with the full lineup of titles, including films in competition and other selected work. Festival passes are [available online](#) beginning this Wednesday, February 14 at 11 am.

Exploring themes of crime and punishment, Berlinger will draw from his own work on the subject, as well as influential work by other filmmakers. A leading voice in nonfiction film and television for the past two decades, Berlinger’s films include the landmark documentaries *Brother’s Keeper*, *Paradise Lost*, *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster*, *WHITEY: United States of America v. James J. Bulger*, and *Tony Robbins: I Am Not Your Guru*, among many others. *Crude*, about oil pollution in the Amazon Rainforest, won 22 human rights, environmental, and film festival awards and triggered a high-profile First Amendment battle with oil-giant Chevron. Berlinger’s *Under African Skies*, documenting the 25th Anniversary of Paul Simon’s *Graceland* album, was nominated for three primetime Emmy awards, including Outstanding Nonfiction Special. In addition to his feature documentary work, Berlinger has created many hours of crime-related unscripted series for television, including *Gone: The Forgotten Women of Ohio*, *Cold Blooded: The Clutter Family Murders*, and *Killing Richard Glossip*. Berlinger is currently in production on a narrative film, *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, about infamous serial killer Ted Bundy, starring Zac Efron, Lily Collins, and John Malkovich.

“Joe Berlinger brings unparalleled vision to the subject of true crime,” said Full Frame Artistic Director Sadie Tillery. “Examining complicated accusations of wrongdoing and the legal proceedings that follow, his films make palpable the intricacies and tensions involved in these cases, in both the courtroom and the surrounding communities. They’ve not only impacted the lives of the people involved and even the outcomes of cases, they’ve also shaped the documentary form itself. We are honored to have Berlinger curate this year’s Thematic Program and to see this subject matter through his lens.”

“Having had the honor of exhibiting many of my films at Full Frame since the festival’s inception, it’s tremendously gratifying to come back this year to curate the Thematic Program that I have so enjoyed as an audience member in years past,” said Berlinger. “It’s also very timely to put a spotlight on true crime. While much has (deservedly) been made about the explosion of interest in this genre in recent years due to such breakouts as *Serial*, *The Jinx*, and *Making A Murderer*, crime and punishment has been a staple of documentary storytelling from the earliest days of nonfiction filmmaking. There’s no better time than now to examine the evolution of the genre by presenting some its milestone films.”

Past curators of Full Frame’s Thematic Program include Amir Bar-Lev, R.J. Cutler, Chris Hegedus, Steve James, D A Pennebaker, and Lucy Walker.

For the 2018 Tribute, Full Frame will recognize Jehane Noujaim, presenting a retrospective from her distinguished career. Noujaim earned a B.A. in Film and Philosophy at Harvard, and lives in Cairo and New York City. Noujaim’s impressive proportion of award-winning titles includes Academy Award®-nominated film *The Square*, which was widely hailed as the definitive film about the Arab Spring, and earned the Audience Award at the Sundance and Toronto film festivals. Her explosive 2004 film *Control Room*, about Al Jazeera and its coverage of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, was one of the first documentaries to examine modern media bias. It was described by A.O. Scott of the *New York Times* as “an indispensable example of the inquisitive self-questioning democratic spirit.”

Noujaim's work has been nominated by the DGA, IDA, Independent Spirit Awards and several Critics Associations, and has exhibited at international festivals, has screened in theaters and been broadcast globally. In collaboration with Angelina Jolie, Noujaim most recently executive produced 2018 Academy Award®-nominated animated feature *The Breadwinner*. In 2006, Noujaim won the TED Prize, an annual award in which the recipients are granted a wish. Noujaim’s TED Prize wish, to create a day in which the world comes together through film, was the catalyst for the international multimedia event Pangea Day, broadcast live across the globe.

“We are thrilled to celebrate Jehane Noujaim’s work with our 2018 Full Frame Tribute,” said Tillery. “With intimacy and urgency, Noujaim’s films allow us to see global issues unfold through personal accounts. They introduce us to unforgettable people and bring new perspective to international events.”

“I am deeply grateful for this tribute, as Full Frame is such a special place for me,” said Noujaim. “I came to Full Frame in my twenties with my first film, *Startup.com*, co-directed with Chris Hegedus and produced by D A Pennebaker, they loved the festival, and introduced me to it. I felt I had found family. We came back to Full Frame with *Control Room* almost fifteen years ago. To return now, at a time when I feel we are living in an age of digital Control Rooms on steroids, feels right. There will be a lot to talk about!”

Most recently, Full Frame has honored filmmakers Kirsten Johnson, Marshall Curry, Steve James, and Stanley Nelson with the Full Frame Tribute.



About Full Frame

The [Full Frame Documentary Film Festival](#)'s 21st annual festival held April 5-8, 2018, will showcase nearly 100 documentary features and short films from around the world, some of which will make their World or North American premieres. Festival screenings, discussions, and panels will be held in historic downtown Durham, N.C., including venues within the iconic Carolina Theatre and the Durham Convention Center. Set within a few city blocks, the intimate festival landscape fosters community and conversation among filmmakers, film professionals, and the general public. The 2017 Full Frame Documentary Film Festival yielded over \$2 million for Durham's local economy and is a qualifying event for nominations for the Academy Award® for Best Documentary Short Subject and The Producers Guild of America Awards.

Serving the local Durham area as well as the documentary film community throughout the year, Full Frame also promotes the festival's mission by presenting documentary work in the Full Frame Theater and other venues both locally and nationally. Full Frame encompasses education and training opportunities such as the Full Frame Fellows Program, the School of Doc summer program for teenagers, the documentary

literacy program Teach the Teachers for local educators, and the annual Youth Screening, drawing hundreds of students and teachers to the Carolina Theatre for an immersive, instructive experience.

The Festival is a program of the [Center for Documentary Studies](#) at [Duke University](#), a nonprofit 501(c)3, and receives support from corporate sponsors, private foundations, and individual donors whose generosity endow the festival's foundation. To learn more about the mission of Full Frame, scheduled films, festival tickets, or how to support Full Frame, visit fullframefest.org.