

# SUBJECT

Directed by Jennifer Tiexiera & Camilla Hall

WORLD PREMIERE:  
Tribeca Film Festival 2022

Feature Documentary  
Not Rated  
Runtime: 93 mins  
U.S.A.



*Arthur Agee, participant of Hoop Dreams; photo by Zachary Shields*

## **SYNOPSIS:**

SUBJECT explores the life-altering experience of sharing one's life on screen through the participants of five acclaimed documentaries. As tens of millions of people consume documentaries in an unprecedented "golden era," the film urges audiences to consider the impact on documentary participants - the good, the bad, and the complicated.



*Margie Ratliff, participant of The Staircase; photo by Adriel Gonzalez*

## DIRECTORS STATEMENT:

As filmmakers, we have both seen the participants of our past films struggle through some of the darkest moments in their lives, and we have found ourselves often challenged and conflicted as to how best we can support them. The idea for *Subject* was born when we found ourselves asking the question: is our drive to tell stories overriding our ability to put those we are filming first? We realised the critical need for a better understanding of what it is like to be on the other side of the lens. What is it like to not be in control of your narrative, or to see others achieve fame, profit, or otherwise benefit from your story?

Since we began shooting in 2018, we've watched our industry transform as documentary storytelling has become increasingly motivated by money and awards. When asked the question: "are we in a golden age of documentary filmmaking?", interviewee Thom Powers quickly maintained that we are now in the "corporate age" of documentary. With the rise of global streaming platforms and audiences drawn to a more "docu-tainment" style of storytelling, we have seen filmmakers pushing the ethical limits of the genre's traditional "observational" mission. Interviewee Sonya Childress said it best: "As long as it's sexy, as long as it feels ripped from the headlines, as long as you can turn it around quick...you will be rewarded for it."

We came together to make this film to not only identify what we must do better individually, as filmmakers, but also as an industry. We believe accountability has to start from within and we believe that documentary audiences deserve to know more about what they are consuming. We want *Subject* to help start the necessary conversations.



*Mukunda Angulo, participant of The Wolfpack; photo by Zachary Shields*



## DIRECTOR BIOS:

Jennifer Tiexiera and Camilla Hall met at Tribeca in 2017 with the premieres of their films *A Suitable Girl* and *Copwatch*. They deeply connected over their filmmaking experiences and their feelings about the industry and decided to co-direct *Subject*. They formed Lady & Bird in 2021 alongside Rita Baghdadi.



Jennifer Tiexiera is an award winning documentary director, and producer. Most recently, she directed *P.S. Burn this Letter Please*— a film that begins with the impossible discovery of a box of letters that date back to the early 1950's and reveal an untold and secret history of New York's LGBT community. *P.S. Burn this Letter Please* made it's debut at the 2021 TriBeCa Film Festival and won the Audience Award for Documentary Feature at the 2020 OutFest Film Festival. In 2019, she completed *17 Blocks*— a documentary directed by Davy Rothbart and spanning over 20 years as it intimately follows the lives of a Washington DC family deeply affected by gun violence. *17 Blocks* premiered at the TriBeCa Film Festival where Tiexiera was awarded Best Editing in a Documentary Feature Film. In 2017, she both produced and edited the documentaries, *A Suitable Girl*, winner of the Albert Maysles Award at the TriBeCa Film Festival and *Waiting for*

*Hassana*, official selection of the Sundance, SXSW, and Toronto Film Festivals.

Her previous work also includes the documentary, *Salam Neighbor*, narrative film, *Road to Paloma* and the 2011 SXSW Documentary Grand Jury Winner, *Dragonslayer*. Some of her television credits include documentaries, *Oprah Builds a Network* and *Biggie : The Notorious Life of B.I.G.*, the Emmy-nominated ESPN film, *The Marinovich Project*, and short film *Woinshet*, directed by Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone for PBS. Tiexiera is a proud member of the Brown Girl Doc Mafia, the Documentary Producers Alliance, the International Documentary Association, LatinX Directors, Women in Film and Film Fatales. She is currently in post-production directing her next documentary feature, *Subject* and in production directing her first series for Jigsaw/HBO.





Subject is Camilla's third independent documentary feature film. She recently completed directing Kingdom of Dreams, a new documentary series produced by Misfits Entertainment for Sky and HBO Max. Her first documentary feature, Copwatch, premiered in Competition at the 2017 Tribeca Festival and her second, Garenne, was broadcast across Europe by BBC Storyville and Arte. Camilla has also produced films including Sirens (Sundance 2022) and Circus of Books (Tribeca, 2021 & Netflix). She taught the inaugural documentary filmmaking class at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. Prior to filmmaking, she was an award-winning journalist at the Financial Times.

## **CREDITS:**

### **DIRECTORS**

Jennifer Tiexiera and Camilla Hall

### **PRODUCERS**

Camilla Hall, Jennifer Tiexiera, Joe Caterini

### **WRITERS**

Jennifer Tiexiera, Camilla Hall, Lauren Saffa

### **EDITOR**

Lauren Saffa

### **CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Zachary Shields

### **EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS**

Kameela Mu'Min Rashad, Logan Snyder, Alex Lieberman, and Gary Lieberman

COMPOSER

Jonathan Kirkscey and Rafaël Leloup

CO-PRODUCER

Arthur Agee, Ahmed Hassan, Margie Ratliff, Mukunda Angulo, Jessie Friedman

Rita Baghdadi, Zachary Shields, Kelsey Oluk

CAST

Arthur Agee

Ahmed Hassan

Margie Ratliff

Michael Peterson

Mukunda Angulo

Jesse Friedman

Elaine Friedman

Lisa Walsh

Susanne Reisenbichler