

DOCFILM INSTITUTE

Fall 2026 | Stories, Screenings & What's Ahead 🍁

There's quite a bit happening around the DocFilm Institute this fall. We're celebrating this year's Humanitas Prizes, bringing *Dune* to the Marcus Hall Lawn, gathering for another edition of Pluralities, welcoming a new fellow, and taking a fresh look at some familiar places through our archives. We have moved to a new location in the Humanities Building rooms 220/221. 📍

Here's what we're looking forward to.

🎬 Celebrating the Stories Behind the Screen

The Humanitas Prizes — September 9

Some stories stay with us because they do more than entertain. They make us think about people, relationships, choices, and the world around us.

That idea is at the heart of the **Humanitas Prizes**, which have honored professional film and television writers since 1974. The organization recognizes work that explores the human condition through nuanced and meaningful storytelling. Past recipients include *The Pitt*, *Pachinko*, *Hidden Figures*, *Lady Bird*, *The Last of Us*, and *Good Will Hunting*, among many others.

This year's **Humanitas Prizes Award Show & Toast** took place **September 9 at Avalon Hollywood**. The evening will recognize the 2026 nominees and honorees, with writer and comedian **Ashley Nicole Black** serving as host. **Winnie Holzman**, creator of *My So-Called Life* and writer of *Wicked*, will receive this year's Kieser Award. This year's award for documentary feature was "The Tale of Silyan" 🎬

Soumyaa continues to serve on the **Nonfiction Feature Film Jury**, making this another year that connects the Institute's work in nonfiction storytelling with a broader community of writers and filmmakers.

Read the 2026 nominees →

<https://www.humanitasprize.org/2026-nominees>

🌵A Night, a Film & a Little Desert

GatorFLIX × DocFilm: *Dune*

September 23 · Marcus Hall Lawn 📅 17 📍

This fall, we're partnering with **LCA GatorFLIX** to take the movie experience outside.

On **September 23**, we'll screen David Lynch's *Dune* (1984) on the **Marcus Hall Lawn**.

Based on Frank Herbert's 1965 novel, Lynch's *Dune* follows Paul Atreides as his family takes control of Arrakis, the desert planet at the center of an intergalactic struggle over the universe's most valuable resource: "spice." The film stars Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, Virginia Madsen, Sting, and Patrick Stewart.

Originally released in the U.S. on **December 14, 1984**, the film runs **137 minutes**.

There's something fun about revisiting a film like *Dune* in this setting: a story built around vast landscapes and imagined worlds, now projected outdoors and shared with a campus audience.

DUNE (1984) 🎬

September 23 · Marcus Hall Lawn 📅 17 📍

Outdoor Cinema 🌙 🔦 🎟



[Event details](#)

🗺 Mapping the Stories We Create

Save the Date for the 6th iteration of the Pluralities Project and Conference 2026.

Program Announcements!

Exploring Mapping and Cartography in story development and Nonfiction Medias. Investigating how we make our archives and documentary evidence more accessible through mapping strategies.

In its sixth iteration the **Pluralities Project** hosts an interactive series focused on mapping and cartography in the archives and stories of our lives. The **Documentary Film Institute** presents this bi-annual program. This year in honor of understanding ourselves and our bodies of work. We will host a closing night screening and awards presentation on November 5.

We welcome **Nik Heftman** and **Caleb Rainey** (filmmaker and poet) to present their collaborative work, *"The Negro Artist"*. We will also present the **ACCOMPLICE AWARD**-a special recognition for artists, activists, and social disrupters who put themselves at risk to bring critical issues of our time to light. This year's awardees are posthumously delivered to honor the late beyond great pioneer of African-American women in journalism, **BELVA DAVIS (1932-2025)** and her longtime producer and partner-in-crime, **George Osterkamp (1943-2026)**. Belva was the first black woman

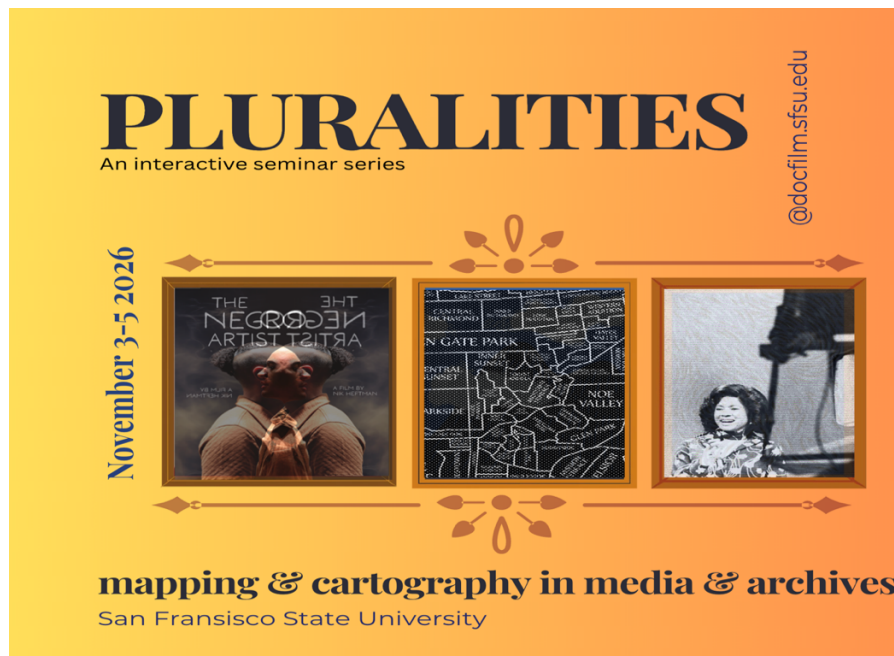
to be hired as a journalist and anchor a news show on the West Coast and brought stories to the forefront that could not gain traction without her tiresome efforts and the support of producers like George. We honor their collaborative contributions and their lives by presenting their family members with this award.

We also present an **ACCOMPLICE AWARD** to the late **Gregory Tate (1957-2021)**, cultural critic, musician, artist, and individual beyond any one category. Gregory generously appeared in person at an interactive panel during Pluralities 2nd Seminar in 2018. We honor him and his audacity and courage to speak truths to the evolution and hardships of the African American diaspora in real time (IRL) with overwhelming candor and coolness.

It proves to be an exciting and culturally significant event with support from LCA LIVE: GATORFLIX, Department of Anthropology, Shenson Foundation and others to be announced. Take a part in this moment where the past meets the present and meet the people behind the magic. More special announcements coming soon.

For information about the 6th Pluralities Seminar which runs from November 3-5 at SF State University please use this [link](#). It is a free seminar and open to the public.

WATCH NOW! [TRAILER](#)  



PLURALITIES
An interactive seminar series

November 3-5 2026

mapping & cartography in media & archives
San Francisco State University

@docfilm.sfsu.edu

November 3–5 · Pluralities Conference  17

Mapping and Cartography in Medias and Archives   

Coming Up at DocFilm

There's more ahead this fall, including a new fellow and more ways to explore the Institute's collections, archives, and community.

Follow along for updates, upcoming events, and stories from the DocFilm Institute.

Follow DocFilm on Instagram → @thetimemachine   

