

Press materials available [here](#).

# TRIBECA FESTIVAL

## TRIBECA FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2023 GALA EVENTS

FEATURING WORLD PREMIERES AND PERFORMANCES  
BY CARLOS SANTANA, CYNDI LAUPER, AND FRENCH MONTANA;  
LIVE CONVERSATION WITH MEGAN THEE STALLION,  
AT NEW YORK'S BEACON THEATRE

MATT DAMON-PRODUCED SARAJEVO DOCUMENTARY "KISS THE FUTURE"  
FEATURING U2 TO OPEN FESTIVAL;  
"A BRONX TALE" 30TH ANNIVERSARY IS CLOSING GALA

PLUS: DISNEY AND PIXAR'S "ELEMENTAL" ADDED AS CENTERPIECE FILM

Passes Available at [Tribecafilm.com](https://tribecafilm.com); Single Tickets on Sale May 2



**NEW YORK, NY – (April 27, 2023)** – The 2023 Tribeca Festival, presented by OKX, today announced its lineup of Gala events, along with Opening, Closing, and Centerpiece selections.

This year's Festival kicks off on Wednesday, June 7 with the North American premiere of *Kiss the Future*, a stirring documentary that follows the story of a community of underground musicians and creatives throughout the nearly four-year-long siege of Sarajevo, as well as the

1997 **U2** concert celebrating the liberation of the Bosnian capital. The film serves as a testament to art's enduring ability to cast light even in the darkest of circumstances and reflects Tribeca's founding mission of utilizing the power of storytelling to heal communities. *Kiss the Future*, produced by **Matt Damon**, **Ben Affleck**, and **Sarah Anthony**, and featuring **U2's Bono**, **The Edge**, and **Adam Clayton**, officially opens the 12-day festival and sets Tribeca's tone with its theme of artists-activists.

"We know U2's marquee is helpful in getting the lives of these local heroes to a wider audience, but even at my most puffed up I couldn't have imagined our tiny role being given so much care, attention, and screen time by Nenad Cicin-Sain," said **Bono**. "If defiance is the essence of romance, then the people of Sarajevo are the most romantic figures. Viva Sarajevo!"

"Ben and I are proud of this film and are honored that it has been selected to open the Tribeca Festival," said **Damon**. "We are grateful to the people of Sarajevo and to U2 for giving us the opportunity to help tell this special story. Though this event happened almost 30 years ago, we feel it has strong relevance to today's world, serving as a powerful reminder that human creativity can provide a powerful antidote to even the most horrific of situations."

To close the Festival, Tribeca is commemorating the 30th anniversary of *A Bronx Tale* with a special screening of the classic film on Saturday, June 17. After the movie, the film's director and star **Robert De Niro**, producer **Jane Rosenthal**, and writer and co-star **Chazz Palminteri** are participating in a live conversation with the editor of *The New Yorker* **David Remnick**.

"A Bronx Tale is a very personal project that marked my directorial debut," said **De Niro**. "I'm pleased to celebrate its 30th anniversary at Tribeca with my longtime producing partner and Festival co-founder Jane Rosenthal, the wonderful Chazz Palminteri, and a live New York audience at the iconic Beacon Theatre."

This year's Centerpiece Gala is the New York premiere of Disney and Pixar's *Elemental*. Set in Element City, where fire-, water-, earth- and air-residents live together, the film is about Ember, a fiery young woman, whose friendship with water-guy Wade challenges her beliefs about the world they live in and the person she wants to be. Directed by **Peter Sohn**, *Elemental* is voiced by **Catherine O'Hara**, **Leah Lewis**, and **Mamoudou Athie**.

The remaining Gala selections include the world premieres of music documentaries about Grammy-winning artists **Carlos Santana**, **Cyndi Lauper**, and **French Montana** with dedicated performances by each artist after the screenings. Additionally, Grammy-winning **Megan Thee Stallion** is participating in a live conversation. The Gala events, sponsored by City National Bank, take place at the Beacon Theatre on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

"Music is an instrumental form of storytelling, and the Tribeca Festival is thrilled to weave dynamic performances into our Gala events. Our lineup features the best of soul, rock & roll, pop, and hip-hop," said **Tribeca Festival Director and VP of Programming Cara Cusumano**.

“We hope our audiences are inspired by activism in art and riled up by the electrifying acts paired with the screenings.”

The Tribeca Festival is curated by Festival Director and VP of Programming Cara Cusumano, Artistic Director Frédéric Boyer; VP of Programming Sharon Badal and VP of Shorts Programming Ben Thompson; Senior Programmers Liza Domnitz, Faridah Gbadamosi, and Jarod Neece; Programmers José F. Rodriguez, Casey Baron, Jason Gutierrez, and Jonathan Penner; VP of Games and Immersive Casey Baltes and Immersive Curator Ana Brzezińska; Curator of Audio Storytelling Davy Gardner; Music Programmer Vincent Cassous; EVP of Artist Relations Nancy Lefkowitz and VP of Artist Relations Meredith Mohr; and Chief Content Officer Paula Weinstein, along with a team of associate programmers.

The Gala events are detailed below. For the latest updates on programming follow @Tribeca and #Tribeca2023 on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Purchase passes and ticket packages for the 2023 Tribeca Festival at [tribecafilm.com/festival](https://tribecafilm.com/festival).

### **ABOUT TRIBECA FESTIVAL**

The Tribeca Festival, presented by OKX, brings artists and diverse audiences together to celebrate storytelling in all its forms, including film, TV, music, audio storytelling, games, and XR. With strong roots in independent film, Tribeca is synonymous with creative expression and entertainment. Tribeca champions emerging and established voices, discovers award-winning talent, curates innovative experiences, and introduces new ideas through exclusive premieres, exhibitions, conversations, and live performances.

The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. The annual Tribeca Festival will celebrate its 22nd year from June 7–18, 2023 in New York City.

In 2019, James Murdoch’s Lupa Systems bought a majority stake in Tribeca Enterprises, bringing together Rosenthal, De Niro, and Murdoch to grow the enterprise.

### **ABOUT 2023 TRIBECA FESTIVAL PARTNERS**

The 2023 Tribeca Festival is presented by OKX and with the support of our partners: AT&T, Audible, Black Women on Boards, Canva, CHANEL, City National Bank, Diageo, Easterseals Disability Services, Expensify, Indeed, NBC4 and Telemundo 47, NYC Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, National CineMedia, Novartis, ServiceNow, Spring Studios New York, *The Wall Street Journal*, Tubi, and *Variety*.

### **PRESS CONTACTS**

Corey Wilson - [cwilson@tribecafilm.com](mailto:cwilson@tribecafilm.com)

Yunjung Seo - [yseo@tribecafilm.com](mailto:yseo@tribecafilm.com)

Rogers & Cowan PMK - [tribecapress@rcpmk.com](mailto:tribecapress@rcpmk.com)

## **2023 TRIBECA FESTIVAL GALA SELECTIONS**

**Kiss the Future**, (USA, Ireland) - North American Premiere. A stirring testament to art's enduring ability to cast light in even the darkest of circumstances, *Kiss the Future* follows an underground community who worked and created throughout the nearly four-year long Siege of Sarajevo. After an American aid worker makes a longshot pitch to U2 to help raise awareness about the Bosnian capital's plight, the band's live satellite interviews with local Sarajevans during their 1993 ZOO TV Tour help highlight the direness of the situation on the ground. And when U2 arrive to perform a long-promised concert after the city's liberation, the show becomes a monument to the strength and resilience of the people of Sarajevo as well as art's capacity to inspire and unite. Directed by Nenad Cicin-Sain, written by Bill Carter. Produced by Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Sarah Anthony. With Vesna Andree Zaimović, Senad Zaimović, Enes Zlatar, Alma Catal Hurem, Boris Siber, Gino Jevdjevic, Bono, The Edge, and Adam Clayton.

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 7

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center

**A Bronx Tale**, (United States). In Robert De Niro's stunning directorial debut, a devoted father battles a local mob boss for the life of his son. Growing up on the racially divided streets of 1960s New York, 9-year-old Calogero, or "C," idolizes sophisticated local gangster Sonny (Chazz Palminteri), despite stern warnings from his working-class father (Robert De Niro). But when "C" gets older, he finds himself torn between two worlds and must choose between earning respect like his father or commanding it like Sonny. Vividly evoking the sights and sounds of the iconic neighborhood, "A Bronx Tale" is a compelling story of love and loyalty. Directed by Robert De Niro. Written by Chazz Palminteri. Produced by Robert De Niro, Jon Kilik, Jane Rosenthal. With Robert De Niro and Chazz Palminteri.

**After the Movie:** A conversation with director and star Robert De Niro, producer Jane Rosenthal, and writer and co-star Chazz Palminteri. They will be joined in conversation by the editor of *The New Yorker* David Remnick.

**DATE:** Saturday, June 17

**TIME:** 3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Beacon Theatre

**Elemental**, (United States) – New York Premiere. Set in Element City, where fire-, water-, earth- and air-residents live together, the story introduces fiery young woman Ember, whose friendship with water-guy Wade challenges her beliefs about the world they live in and the person she wants to be. The voice cast includes Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie, Ronnie Del Carmen, Shila Ommi, Wendi McLendon-Covey, Catherine O'Hara, Mason Wertheimer, and Joe Pera. Directed by Peter Sohn, produced by Denise Ream, p.g.a., and executive produced by Pete Doctor, "Elemental" features a screenplay by John Hoberg & Kat Likkell and Brenda Hsueh with story by

Sohn, Hoberg & Likkel and Hsueh. Original score composed and conducted by Thomas Newman. *A Disney and Pixar release.*

**DATE:** Saturday, June 10

**TIME:** 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center

**Let the Canary Sing**, (United States, UK) - World Premiere. Alison Ellwood's boisterous documentary is a big-hearted and joyous look at the life and career of music icon Cyndi Lauper. From her humble beginnings in Queens to her ascension to global stardom the film celebrates Lauper's powerful voice, her dedication to advocacy, and staying true to her irrepressible, spunky self. Directed by Alison Ellwood. Produced by Alison Ellwood, Trevor Birney, Eimhear O'Neill, Andrew Tully.

**After the Movie:** A special performance by Cyndi Lauper.

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 14

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Beacon Theatre

**A Storytellers Conversation with Megan Thee Stallion** - Megan Thee Stallion is a three-time GRAMMY-winning recording artist, actor, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. Megan has been recognized for her musical achievements, including nine BET Awards and back-to-back Billboard Music Awards for "Top Rap Female Artist." Additionally, she has been honored for her advocacy efforts, having received the 2022 Special Achievement Award at The Webby Awards and the Trailblazer Award at the iHeartRadio Music Awards. Most recently, Megan made history in Nov. 2022, becoming the first Black woman to appear on the cover of *Forbes'* prestigious Under 30 issue. She was previously recognized as one of *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People of 2020 after publishing her monumental "Why I Speak Up For Black Women" op-ed for *The New York Times*.

**DATE:** Thursday, June 15

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Beacon Theatre

**For Khadija**, (United States, Morocco) - World Premiere. Moroccan-born and New York-bred Grammy-nominated, Diamond-certified recording artist, humanitarian, and entrepreneur French Montana gives a deeper look into his roots and globe-spanning upbringing, led by the sacrifices of his single mother. Directed by Mandon Lovett. Produced by French Montana.

**After the Movie:** A performance by French Montana, Triplets Ghetto Kids, and special guests.

**DATE:** Friday, June 16

**TIME:** 8:00PM

**LOCATION:** Beacon Theatre

**Carlos**, (United States) - World Premiere. The immersive and intimately-crafted documentary Carlos catapults us into rock icon Carlos Santana's life and musical trajectory. Filmmaker Rudy Valdez bolsters this personal narrative with pulsating, never-before-seen footage — guided by Santana himself, and in his own words. Directed by Rudy Valdez. Produced by Sara Bernstein, Justin Wilkes, Lizz Morhaim, Leopoldo Gout, Ashley Kahn, Sam Pollard, Rudy Valdez.

**After the Movie:** A performance by the legendary Santana.

**DATE:** Saturday, June 17

**TIME:** 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Beacon Theatre