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TRIBECA FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING NIGHT FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

World Premiere of Questlove’s “Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celestial VS That’s the Weight of the World)”, Followed by Live Performance from Earth, Wind & Fire and The Roots at the Beacon Theatre on June 3

2026 Festival Passes Available at [TribecaFilm.com](https://tribecafilm.com); Single Tickets on Sale on April 28



New York, NY — Tuesday, April 14 — The Tribeca Festival, presented by OKX, announced today its Opening Night selection for the 25th anniversary edition, marking the first programming reveal for this milestone year. True to its long-standing commitment to music storytelling and live

experiences—and championing artists who shape culture—the Festival will open with the world premiere of the HBO Original Documentary *Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celestial VS That's the Weight of the World)*, directed by Academy Award®- and GRAMMY Award®-winning filmmaker Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson. The screening will be followed by a live performance by nine-time GRAMMY Award-winning icons **Earth, Wind & Fire** and three-time GRAMMY Award-winning group **The Roots** at the Beacon Theatre on June 3. Tribeca Festival passes and ticket packages are on sale now at TribecaFilm.com, with the Hudson Pass offering the premier Festival experience, including VIP access and an invitation to either Opening or Closing Night. The 2026 Tribeca Festival Opening Night is presented by OKX and City National Bank.

“Opening Night is always a magical moment! This year, as we celebrate 25 years of the Festival, it is especially meaningful,” said **Jane Rosenthal, Tribeca Festival Co-Founder and Co-Chair**. “Tribeca was born in the wake of 9/11 with a belief: that storytellers have the power to bring communities together. For 25 years, we’ve seen artists, filmmakers, musicians, and audiences come together in New York City in ways that are inspiring, surprising, and deeply human. We are humbled by what’s been achieved and excited for the stories yet to come.”

Over the past two decades, Tribeca has become a home for music-driven storytelling and live performance, bringing artists and audiences together in ways that extend beyond the screen. From early community concerts in Lower Manhattan to premiere events that pair films with live performances and conversations, music has been part of the Festival’s DNA since its founding. In this milestone 25th year, that legacy comes full circle, as Earth, Wind & Fire returns to open the Festival after being a part of the Opening night celebrations in 2017, underscoring Tribeca’s enduring relationships with the artists who have shaped its history.

Tribeca’s history is rich with legendary music moments: David Bowie, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Taylor Swift, Bono, Metallica, Carlos Santana, KISS, Jon Bon Jovi, Jennifer Lopez, Cyndi Lauper, Miley Cyrus, Depeche Mode, Nas, Herbie Hancock, The Black Eyed Peas, Jennifer Hudson, Sheryl Crow, Billy Idol, Wizkid, The National, and many more have graced the Festival stage and screen, contributing to its enduring legacy at the intersection of film, music, and New York City. These moments, whether intimate post-screening sets or onstage conversations, have become a defining part of the Tribeca experience.

“We are thrilled to welcome Questlove to the Festival to premiere a film that represents everything Tribeca stands for: creative pioneers at the top of their game in front of and behind the camera, showcasing the joy and community that great art manifests,” said **Cara Cusumano, Tribeca Festival Director and SVP of Programming**. “Paired with a rare live performance from Earth, Wind & Fire and The Roots, Opening Night will be a once-in-a-lifetime New York event that reflects the energy, creativity, and communal experience that has defined Tribeca for 25 years.”

Following the premiere, members of Earth, Wind & Fire will take the stage alongside The Roots for a live performance, continuing a tradition that has become a hallmark of the Festival’s music

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PRESS CONTACTS

Tribeca

Annie Davis | adavis@tribecafilm.com

Nicole Elice | nelice@tribecafilm.com

PMK | tribeca2026@pmkentertainment.com

HBO

Veronica Van Pelt | veronica.vanpelt@wbd.com

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Earth, Wind & Fire (To Be Celestial VS That's the Weight of the World), (United States) - World Premiere. Academy Award winner Questlove kicks off the 25th Tribeca Festival with the boisterous, decades-spanning story of this legendary American band and its enigmatic founder, Maurice White. From humble beginnings to the epic, celestial, pyrotechnical stadium shows of their height, Questlove's celebratory doc showcases this iconic group's out-of-this-world music, visuals, metaphysics, and joy. Directed and produced by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson. Produced by Dave Sirulnick, Sam Grogin, KB White, Arron Saxe.

After the Premiere: A performance by Earth, Wind & Fire and The Roots.

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