MEDIACONTACT
Inge Colsen| inge@goldatl.as
Gold Atlas

SXSW London Announces UK Premiere Doppelgängers³ Documentary

Shot in Algeria, Armenia, USA, and Spain, Doppelgängers³ is a visual and sonic experience with music by Pussy Riot, Colin Self, Mirrored Fatality, and Asmodessa

Doppelgängers³ – UK Premiere
Venue: Rich Mix, London // 🎟 Screenings:

- **Monday, June 2nd at 9:00 PM – followed by a Q&A HERE**
- **Saturday, June 7th – *Time to be confirmed*, followed by a Q&A with: Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian** (film director and 2025 Berlinale Talents) **with Cast and Crew**

Stills from ***Doppelgängers³***, a film by **Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian** with photography by **Nick Ballón**.. **Press Images can be found here.**

CAN THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST HELP US IMAGINE NEW QUEER ECOFEMINIST FUTURES IN SPACE?

Doc Society's **'Doppelgängers³'**, the latest documentary feature film by **Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, announces its UK premiere as a part of the inaugural SXSW London for the opening night June 2nd 2025.**

'Doppelgängers³' is a freewheeling filmic essay/ documentary which takes questions of genders, history and free thinking to the frontiers of space exploration.
Doppelgängers³ premiered at **SXSW Film Festival 2024** (VISION category) and recently had its North American rights acquired by Frameline Distribution. Read more here.

Doppelgängers³ is Ben Hayoun-Stépanian's fifth feature documentary and takes to a new level their work to **integrate cultural consideration, pluralistic and queer thinking in space exploration**. Shot in Algeria, Armenia, USA, and Spain, Doppelgängers³ is a visual and sonic experience with **music by Pussy Riot, Colin Self, Mirrored Fatality, and Asmodessa**. It was made with the support of the **BFI Doc Society Fund, awarding National Lottery funding.** A Grant for This Film Was Generously Provided by the **Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program** with support from **Sandbox Films**. Read more about 'Doppelgängers³' in **WIRED Magazine**.

Doppelgängers³ is featuring **Trans Rights Activist Lilit Martirosyan**, **Aquanaut Sylvia Earle, Extraterrestrial Intelligence Hunter Jill Tarter, Political Scientist Uday Mehta, Quantum Physicist and Futurist Michio Kaku, Senior Astronomer and Entrepreneur Franck Marchis, Neurologist and Gene Master Kári Stefánsson, Astrobiologist and Terraforming Expert Chris McKay** and many more great minds. **DJ Lucia Kagramanyan**, **Cultural producer Myriam Amroun** and director **Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian** are **doppelgängers** in the film.

Through role-play, magic, encounters with doppelgängers and meetings with an extensive range of scientists, visionaries and cultural inventors, Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian's documentary offers an experimental vision and template for a future diaspora beyond Earth. Doppelgängers³ draws on the experience of diasporas to challenge the commercialisation of the moon and imagine pluralistic and ecofeminist futures.

"I'm beyond thrilled to premiere Doppelgängers³ as a part of the inaugural SXSW London —and in my beloved London, a city that has shaped my practice, and my imagination' says **Dr. Ben Hayoun-Stépanian**, **Doppelgängers³ director:** *"Doppelgängers³ is a visual and sonic experience on diasporic and ecofeminist futures in space at a critical time when the UK Supreme Court rules against trans inclusion and when billionaires race to colonise space enforcing oppressive and reactionary narratives, Doppelgängers³ inform resistances and confronts ideas of extraction, colonization and profiteering that have wrought so much damage on Earth—it urges a reconsideration of space exploration through a lens that centers inclusivity, queer, and transnational thinking"*

'*Doppelgängers³ is really a standout film, pluralistic in essence, with many diverse audiences planned from its inception, traversing the worlds of science, philosophy, future thinking and experimental cinema. The result is a unique sonic and visual experience. At Doc Society we are proud to have been a part of the journey to make this film happen as it speaks to our commitment to platforming genre expanding work that embraces multiple perspectives.*'says **Sandra Whipham, director of Doc Society**, Executive Producer Doppelgängers³

Notes for Editors:

Doppelgängers³ – UK Premiere Screenings at Rich Mix, London

📍 **Venue: Rich Mix, London**

🎟️ **Screenings:**

- **Monday, June 2nd at 9:00 PM – followed by a Q&A**
- **Saturday, June 7th – *Time to be confirmed*, followed by a Q&A**

Book to attend with Inge Colsen at inge@goldatl.as

Press Images can be found here.
Please see our website for a detailed synopsis, Trailer, Production Credits, Biographies, Photographs and Press. www.doppelgangers.space
You can find the Press Deck here.
A selection of press articles:
WIRED Magazine - New Doc Explores the Pitfalls of Colonizing Space
Komplex Magazine- How to not colonize the Moon
Sundance Institute - 23 Sundance Institute funded films to see at SXSW
Pitchfork - 18 films to see at SXSW
Geek Vibes Nation - Review New Experimental Documentary Will Make You Rethink The Potential of Space Travel
Lampoon Magazine- Interstellar Communication as Cultural Resistance
Geek Vibes Nation - Interview Director Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian On Rejecting Colonialist Space Travel and The Value of Plurality
Screen Zealots - Review "Doppelgängers³" is a nearly unclassifiable film about challenging the status quo, a documentary that provides a sensory experience in its celebration of all things visionary.

Doppelgängers³ Festival selection:
SXSW March 2024 Vision Award nominee (World Premiere)
Oak Cliff Film Festival - Dallas, nominated for best documentary.
FRAMELINE June 2024 Nomination for Outstanding feature doc award and audience award
Munich Film Festival July 2024 Cinerebels award category (European Premiere)
New Next Wave October 2024
Melbourne Queer Film Festival October 2024
Diametrale FilmFestival April 2025
International Competition, 60th International Festival of Science Documentary Films Academia Film Olomouc April 2025
SXSW London June 2025

For credits: All photographs, and images should be credited as "Doppelgängers³, A film by Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, Photography by Nick Ballón'.

All posters should be credited as 'Doppelgängers[3], A film by Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, Poster by Our Machine'.

Supporters:

Doppelgängers[3] was made with the support of the BFI Doc Society Fund, awarding National Lottery funding | A Grant for This Film Was Generously Provided by the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program with support from Sandbox Films | Doppelgängers[3] has been presented at CPH:FORUM of CPH:DOX – Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival 2020 | Red Moon Mission in Astroland was supported via a Karman Project Foundation Grant in support of Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian's Karman Fellowship | Scientific support was provided by the SETI Institute (The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute), NASA SSERVI (Solar System Exploration Research Institute), Astroland Interplanetary Agency, and The Committee for the Cultural Utilisation of Space (ITACCUS) at the International Astronautical Federation.

- Frameline the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival
- BFI Doc Society Fund
- Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program with support from Sandbox Films
- Karman Project Foundation Grant in support of Nelly Ben Hayoun- Stépanian's Karman Fellowship
- NASA SSERVI (Solar System Exploration Research Institute)
- Astroland Interplanetary Agency
- Pussy Riot
- The SETI Institute
- CPH:FORUM of CPH:DOX (Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival 2020)
- The Committee for the Cultural Utilisation of Space (ITACCUS) at the International Astronautical Federation
- RVNG Intl
- Eleven FifityFive

Image caption: Doppelgängers[3] , Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian (on right) and doppelgängers Lucia Kagramanyan (on left) and Myriam Amroun (in middle) in training at Astroland Interplanetary Agency. Photography by Nick Ballón.

Core Crew:
Director and creative: Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian | Director of Photography: Fiona Braillon | Editors: Xanna Ward Dixon, Rachel Roberts, Raluca Petre and David Potter | Assistant Editors: Beatrix Blaise, Gene Limbrick | Motion Graphics: Gene Limbrick | Producer: Sandra Leeming, Luke Moody, Victoria Adams, Amina Castaing and Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian | Cinematographer Algeria: Hamoudi Laggoune | Production advisor (Armenia): Tatevik Ayvazyan | Music Advisor: Lucia Kagramanyan and Myriam Amroun | Executive Producers: Sandra Whipham, Christopher Hird | Editorial consultant: Laura Ben Hayoun-Stépanian | Pictures by Nick Ballón

ABOUT SXSW London
SXSW London is the European edition of the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival, a global platform celebrating creativity, culture, and innovation. It will take place in Shoreditch, London from June 2-7, 2025, featuring a mix of film, music, technology, and art events. The festival aims to provide a launchpad for local and international artists and innovators, fostering collaboration and showcasing diverse creative talents.

https://www.sxswlondon.com/screen-festival

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR, NELLY BEN HAYOUN-STEPANIAN PH.D (she/they), 1985:
Nelly Ben Hayoun-Stépanian, Ph.D (she/they) is a multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, designer of experiences, and cultural activist. Her work has been showcased at major cultural institutions including **MoMA, V&A, MET, National Museum of China, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen**, and **Gaîté Lyrique**, and she has collaborated with **NASA, the UN, and** underground communities worldwide. Her artwork has flown aboard the International Space Station, where she continues to develop decolonial cultural initiatives focusing on demilitarisation.

Nelly is the founder of the tuition-free University of the Underground, NASA's International Space Orchestra, and the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute's Experiences department; she is the director of five acclaimed feature films (SXSW, BAFTA-nominated, LFF, etc.), and one of 79 Berlinale Talents 2025 directors selected globally.

In 2023, she led a lunar analogue mission in Spain exploring intergenerational trauma and space futures, resulting in the first academic paper on Intergenerational Trauma and Decolonial Futures in Space Exploration. This pioneering work offers a bold framework combining neuropsychology, epigenetics, and critical theory to challenge oppressive narratives in the field.

Recent projects include Art of London's takeover of Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square, culminating in *Piccadilly Un:Plugged*—a world-first event that broadcast human heartbeats and unreleased tracks by Massive Attack, with additional pieces by Pussy Riot, The Avalanches, Ayse Hassan, and noise artists Mirrored Fatality and Láwû Makuriye'nt, to the moon and back. The programme concluded with another global first: a 25-minute screening of Nelly's film From The Void To The Full on the Piccadilly Lights—a surreal, collage-based journey from the ocean's depths to the edges of space, exploring humanity's quest for discovery through fire and electricity.

An advocate for plurality and radical imagination, she documents and builds platforms that support freedom of thought, the creation of organised communities and public events, and expeditions with socio-political impact. They work from an artist collective—The Village Underground—based in a train carriage atop a nightclub in London. She has two doppelgängers who help her appear in multiple places simultaneously: a Barbie doll and a LEGO version of herself. www.nellyben.com

ABOUT FRAMELINE DISTRIBUTION

Frameline Distribution is the only nonprofit distributor dedicated solely to LGBTQ+ film, bringing diverse and groundbreaking stories to global audiences since 1981. The collection of over 300 films—including documentaries, shorts, features, and experimental works—is available for sale, rental, broadcast, and public exhibition. Frameline Distribution can be contacted for theatrical bookings, educational purchases, or screenings at distribution@frameline.org.

ABOUT SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

As a champion and curator of independent stories, the nonprofit Sundance Institute provides and preserves the space for artists across storytelling media to create and thrive. Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, the Institute's signature labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. Sundance Collab, a digital community platform, brings a global cohort of working artists together to learn from Sundance advisors and connect with each other in a creative space, developing and sharing works in progress. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences and artists to ignite new ideas, discover original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Through the Sundance Institute artist programs, we have supported such projects as Beasts of the Southern Wild, The Big Sick, Bottle Rocket, Boys Don't Cry, Boys State, Call Me by Your Name, Clemency, CODA,

Drunktown's Finest, The Farewell, Fire of Love, Flee, The Forty-Year-Old Version, Fruitvale Station, Get Out, Half Nelson, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Hereditary, Honeyland, The Infiltrators, The Last Black Man in San Francisco, Little Woods, Love & Basketball, Me and You and Everyone We Know, Mudbound, Nanny, Navalny, O.J.: Made in America, One Child Nation, Pariah, Raising Victor Vargas, Requiem for a Dream, Reservoir Dogs, RBG, Sin Nombre, Sorry to Bother You, The Souvenir, Strong Island, Summer of Soul (…Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Swiss Army Man, Sydney, A Thousand and One, Top of the Lake, Walking and Talking, Won't You Be My Neighbor?, and Zola. Through year-round artist programs, the Institute also nurtured the early careers of such artists as Paul Thomas Anderson, Wes Anderson, Gregg Araki, Darren Aronofsky, Lisa Cholodenko, Ryan Coogler, Nia DaCosta, The Daniels, David Gordon Green, Miranda July, James Mangold, John Cameron Mitchell, Kimberly Peirce, Boots Riley, Ira Sachs, Quentin Tarantino, Taika Waititi, Lulu Wang, and Chloé Zhao. Support Sundance Institute in our commitment to uplifting bold artists and powerful storytelling globally by making a donation at sundance.org/donate. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube.

ABOUT SANDBOX FILMS

Sandbox Films is a mission-driven Academy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning production company that specializes in creative and boundary-breaking documentaries rooted in scientific ideas that inform society and culture. Launched in 2020, our films include: NOCTURNES (2023 Sundance special jury prize winner); FIRE OF LOVE (nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature); ALL LIGHT, EVERYWHERE (Sundance 2021 special jury prize winner; released by Neon and Hulu); FIREBALL (co-directed by Werner Herzog; released by Apple); FATHOM (which won an Emmy Award for Best Sound in a Documentary); and HUMAN NATURE (which was nominated for three Emmys). Our films have premiered at top-tier festivals around the world –including Sundance (winning jury prizes in back-to-back years), SXSW, Telluride, Tribeca, Toronto, and CPH:DOX. Sandbox Films productions have gone on to be acquired and released globally by the world's leading platforms and distributors — including Netflix, National Geographic Documentary Films, Apple Original Films, NEON, BBC, and PBS, among others.

ABOUT BFI DOC SOCIETY FUND:

The BFI Doc Society Fund was launched in 2018, as Doc Society became the BFI's delegate partner for independent UK documentary filmmaking. To date, it has distributed over £5.3 million to UK independent documentary films, thanks to National Lottery funding. The Fund supports creative and hybrid feature documentaries with bold cultural and social ambitions, and short films by diverse, emerging voices from all over the UK.

In 2023 Doc Society was reaffirmed as the BFI's delegate partner for another three years with a further £6m commitment.

The fund has supported 192 independent documentary features and shorts since 2018, and disbursed £8.2m in National Lottery funding. Key features titles include A Bunch of Amateurs, Nothing Compares, Fashioned Reimagined, Kanaval: A History of Haiti in Six Chapters, Rebellion, Nascondino Maya, African Apocalypse, Locked In, Bank Job, Men Who Sing, PolyStyrene: I Am A Cliché. The films have screened internationally and secured a number of award nominations, winning at The Grierson Awards, BIFAs, BAFTA, and RTS.

Key partners include BBC Films, Doc Society's Climate Story Fund, Screen Scotland, Ffilm Cymru, Field of Vision and Northern Ireland Screen.
The BFI Doc Society Made of Truth fund for shorts in partnership with the BFI NETWORK has included BAFTA, Grierson and Emmy award winners, and have screened at international festivals including Sundance, London, IDFA, Sheffield, TIFF amongst others and been distributed and exhibited by Guardian Docs, Nat Geo, POV, Al Jazeera & the V&A.
The BFI Doc Society Fund supports and enables independent non-fiction film by UK filmmakers, prioritising expansive, director-led storytelling. It also facilitates a dedicated support programme aimed at building connections with documentary filmmakers across all corners of the UK and provides professional development opportunities for grantee filmmakers.
bfi.docsociety.org

ABOUT THE BFI:
The BFI is a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image.
Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers.
- Grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive.
- To offer the widest range of the UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in-venue.
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding.
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by the Royal Charter. Jay Hunt chairs the BFI Board of Governors.

ABOUT DOC SOCIETY:
Founded in 2005, Doc Society is a global non profit with teams based in Europe, East Africa, the Americas and Australia. For 20 years the organisation has opened up new resources for independent documentary filmmakers and over that period, granted a total of $22 million in production and impact funds. To date we have helped to fund more than 500 award winning documentary films including:CITIZENFOUR, An Insignificant Man, Hale County This Morning, This Evening, Edge Of Democracy, The Look Of Silence, The White Helmets, Whose Streets, Virunga, Softie, Roll Red Roll and The Silence of Others. Doc Society currently have 129 'live' projects on our slates, with storytellers from 19 countries including Kenya, Colombia, the UK, the U.S., the Philippines, Brazil. Doc Society has sharpened its global operations with two major narrative strategy initiatives: the Climate Story Unit and the Democracy Story Unit, focused on "unleashing transformative storytelling to advance a just future."

ABOUT BERLINALE TALENTS:
With over 10,000 alumni worldwide, Berlinale Talents is a global community that offers a unique opportunity to connect and collaborate on a world-wide scale, fostering connections and creativity beyond regional networks.

Berlinale Talents is a globally recognised project and talent development initiative that has shaped and created for 23 years the next generations of film makers and inspires the global film industry with new ideas and aesthetics. In recent years, Cate Blanchett, İlker Çatak, Geraldine Chaplin, Tsai Ming-liang, Lupita Nyong'o, Ruben Östlund, Euzhan Palcy, Martin Scorsese, Kristen Stewart, and many more participated in focused conversations with the selected filmmakers.
Berlinale Talents is supported by the Minister of State for Culture and Media, Creative Europe – MEDIA Programme of the European Union, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, German Federal Film Board, Mastercard and ARRI.
https://www.berlinale-talents.de

ABOUT KARMAN PROJECT:
The Karman Project is a globally recognised non-profit and independent foundation promoting peace and security in space through international cooperation. The foundation's unique convening power enables it to bridge geopolitical divides by bringing together global leaders, and working alongside them to build impactful projects that serve sustainability, education, science, security and capacity building efforts. To date, The Karman Project's community of entrepreneurs, astronauts, space executives, researchers, and artists from 65 nations have initiated projects servicing the immediate needs of 5M+ people worldwide. The foundation's vision is to enable the most consequential projects and cooperative missions to serve the future of space and humanity.
https://www.karmanproject.org/

For more on DOPPELGÄNGERS³ movie, please connect:
Gold Atlas - Inge Colsen - Inge@goldatl.as - 212-203-5240