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ALLIANCE OF DOCUMENTARY EDITORS RELEASES NEW GUIDE FOR DOCUMENTARY EDIT SCHEDULES

EDITORS PROVIDE BLUEPRINT FOR MORE HUMANE WORK CONDITIONS AND EDIT SCHEDULES

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The **Alliance of Documentary Editors**, a professional community of more than 1,000 Editors and Assistant Editors, publicly launched a new set of guidelines today at Doc NYC to promote better working conditions and realistic edit schedules.

The **Guide for Documentary Edit Schedules** lays out clearly, for the first time, what a realistic edit schedule looks like both for features and for episodic documentary. It details why some edits go off the rails while others stay on schedule, and how to create editing environments that work.

The Alliance's **Guide For Documentary Edit Schedules**, an 11 page, peer-reviewed memorandum, is now available online here: https://allianceofdoceditors.com/about/ade_scheduling_guide/

The Alliance's **Guidelines** were put together with input from hundreds of veteran documentary editors, and have been endorsed by the **Sundance Documentary Institute**, the **International Documentary Association**, and the **Documentary Producers Alliance**, along with other documentary film industry groups.

"Our edit room guidelines come at a pivotal moment, as our industry is openly and seriously discussing humane working conditions for the first time," states the Alliance. "Editors are rarely invited to the discussion when edit schedules are created, yet we're the ones who live with the consequences of unrealistic schedules."

The popularity of documentaries and docu-series is on the rise.* Yet while the demand for these shows goes up, the amount of time given to create these shows keeps shrinking. In ADE surveys, documentary Editors and Assistant Editors report increasingly unsustainable work conditions such as mandated 12 hour work days, weekend work, high stress working environments, and a lack of equity and access. Because documentaries are often low budget and non-union, there has been little opportunity to push back against the growing problems in the documentary industry.

As more producers, directors and network executives shift into documentaries from other genres, a new culture clash is emerging. "There's a fundamental lack of understanding about what the documentary editor does, and how this differs from reality tv, news programs, and other scripted non-fiction," states

the Alliance. "This misunderstanding is one of the key factors leading to increasingly short edit schedules, which affect not just editors, but also producers, directors, and executives when deadlines fall apart and budgets start shooting up."

"Helpful, practical, and ethical... These guidelines are not only an excellent community resource but an essential step toward making the edit process one that can reflect humane and fair labor practice."

-DOCUMENTARY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

"The last few years have seen a groundswell of activity in the documentary ecosystem. The scheduling guidelines by the ADE are an incredible contribution to the growing body of best practices codified by some of these grassroots groups. We at the IDA have been following the great work of the ADE since its inception and are so grateful to them for this offering to the whole field."

-INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION

"These are more than guidelines, this is a code of ethics and creative directive that when fully embraced will turn editing rooms -- be they face to face or virtual -- into spaces where deep, respectful, intergenerational mentorship is an expected part of workflow. This is required reading for all producers and directors and I hope becomes an instant classic canon text in film schools globally!"

-JUDITH HELFAND, Co-Founder & Senior Creative Consultant, Chicken & Egg Pictures

*The **Alliance of Documentary Editors** is a professional community with over 1,000 members that champions the role of editors and assistant editors in documentaries, and provides resources for our members and industry colleagues. Our first public initiative was the **BIPOC DOC EDITORS** database. This free web database allows documentary productions to expand their networks and find BIPOC editors and AEs around the country.*

***STATISTICS:**

"Demand for documentaries has started to outpace the supply of documentary series available to consumers. From Jan 2019 to March 2021, the number of documentary series increased by 63%. But demand grew by 142%".

Source: Parrot Analytics

"The number of annual documentary theatrical releases has more than tripled since 2000. Nonfiction programming on TV has experienced a similar upward trend. Likewise, nonfiction programming is an increasingly important content category on streaming platforms. Netflix's Tiger King (2020) was one of the most watched SVOD original series of 2020, outpacing The Mandalorian (2020) on Disney+ (Nielsen, 2020).

The documentary genre, up 120% from 2019 to 2020, was the fastest-growing genre on streaming in 2020."

Source: The Center for Media and Social Impact

