



**AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, NANCY BUIRSKI, DIES
FOUNDER OF FULL FRAME DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL**

New York, NY; August 30, 2023; It is with great sadness that Augusta Films announces the death of award-winning documentary filmmaker Nancy Buirski. Nancy's extensive and rich body of work delved into a wide range of social, cultural and historical issues with keen insight, humanity and above all, artistry.

Nancy's passion for the documentary form started in her early career as a photographer and editor at both *The New York Times* and Magnum. Nancy was an accomplished still photographer publishing the collection "Earth Angels: Migrant Children in America" in 1994.

Nancy made the leap from photography to film in 1998 when she founded the legendary **Full Frame Film Documentary Festival** where she served as Director until 2008. Under Nancy's leadership and vision Full Frame became known as a champion of independent documentary makers from around the world.

An avid supporter, producer, and curator of documentary films, Buirski stepped into the director's seat for the first time in 2011 with the award-winning **The Loving Story**, a documentary about the landmark Supreme Court Case of Loving v Virginia and the quiet, powerful love between the couple at the center of the case. Buirski's subsequent films would go on to reflect a unique style in both topic and composition, choosing subjects that were often hiding in the margins but profoundly relevant to modern cultural conversation and critique.

Her most recent film, currently in theatrical release from Zeitgeist Films, was **DESPERATE SOULS, DARK CITY AND THE LEGEND OF MIDNIGHT COWBOY**. The film premiered at the Venice and Telluride Films Festivals in 2022 and went on to play countless festivals in the US and internationally. In *Variety*, critic Owen Gleiberman wrote "Desperate Souls, Dark City" captures what a disarmingly intimate film "Midnight Cowboy" was, but the documentary is also an essay on how the movie acted as a kind of portal: a passage from the old world to the new one."

Her frequent collaborator and producer, Susan Margolin, said: “The field has lost a giant today. Nancy was a completely original thinker and a visionary. With every film she pushed the limits of the art form with her kaleidoscopic, unique approach to storytelling. She was an exceptionally generous supporter of other artists in the field, and will be mourned by so many. We are devastated by this loss.”

Nancy’s prior films include:

- **A CRIME ON THE BAYOU** (2021), World Premiere DocNYC, STARZ broadcast. 2 Critics Choice Awards noms.
- **THE RAPE OF RECY TAYLOR** (2017); World Premiere, Venice Film Festival; NA Premiere, New York Film Festival. Human Rights Nights Award at 74° Venice Biennale. NAACP Image Award and Peabody Award noms. Broadcast on STARZ/HULU.
- **BY SIDNEY LUMET** (2015); World Premiere, Cannes Film Festival, Tribeca, U.S. Theatrical release at Lincoln Plaza Cinemas. American Masters broadcast.
- **AFTERNOON OF A FAUN** (2013) World Premiere, New York Film Festival; International Premiere, 64th Berlinale; record-breaking U.S Theatrical release; American Masters broadcast.
- **THE LOVING STORY** (2011) Full Frame and Tribeca premieres. Oscar shortlisted, Peabody, Emmy Awards. HBO/HBO MAX.

Nancy also served as a producer on **LOVING** (2015) by Jeff Nichols, with Colin Firth. The film, featuring Oscar nominee Ruth Negga went on to win the PGA Stanley Kramer award. And she was a Special Advisor on **SUMMER OF SOUL** (2020), winner of Academy Award, Best Documentary.

Nancy was a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the Television Academy. She was represented by Jessica Lacy at Range Media and Boaty Boatwright at CAA.

Nancy is survived by her sister Judith Cohen and her niece and nephew Erica and Ted Rosen. The film and creative community mourns this great loss and will remember her indefatigable energy, optimism, passion, and her devotion to her art, family, friends, and collaborators.