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ALI'S STORY TO SCREEN AT AMDOCS 2026 IN PALM SPRINGS

Short documentary follows Brooklyn DJ whose life story reveals the hidden history of New York's anti-dancing law

Screening: Friday, March 27 – 2:30 PM
American Documentary and Animation Festival (AmDocs)
Palm Springs Cultural Center – Palm Springs, California

Palm Springs, CA – March 2026 – *Ali's Story*, a short documentary exploring music, memory, nightlife activism, and the legacy of New York City's infamous Cabaret Law, will screen at the 2026 **American Documentary and Animation Festival (AmDocs)** in downtown Palm Springs.

Directed by filmmaker and music supervisor **Benito Sinclair**, *Ali's Story* centers on Brooklyn DJ and nightlife advocate Ali Coleman, whose life unfolds through the records that shaped him. Told through Ali's intimate biographical lens, the film blends interpretive dance, original photography, and archival material to connect sound, memory, and identity.

The film's structure mirrors a DJ set: through sound, each record becomes a chapter in Ali's life, gradually revealing the rise of New York City's underground dance culture and the shadow cast by the Cabaret Law – a regulation that for decades allowed authorities to police dancing in New York City clubs and venues.

Through Coleman's story, the film traces how nightlife communities navigated decades of enforcement under the Cabaret Law, and how those experiences eventually helped fuel the grassroots movement that led to its repeal.

"The more voices you have, the more movement you can make," said Brooklyn DJ and nightlife activist **Ali Coleman**.

"It's about how the music people carry with them becomes a way of narrating their lives," said director **Benito Sinclair**.

At a moment when debates about cultural spaces, nightlife, and civil liberties continue across the country and the world, Ali's Story offers a firsthand perspective from someone who lived through the movement to change New York's laws.

Producer Jake Bradbury and editor Geneva García will attend the AmDocs screening and festival events March 25–28 and are available for interviews during the festival. Director Benito Sinclair and the film's subject Ali Coleman are available for remote interviews.

Ali's Story also serves as an early chapter in ***Movement***, an in-production feature documentary expanding on the history and repeal of New York City's Cabaret Law and the coalition of artists, organizers, and policymakers who ultimately helped overturn it.

Press Materials

Press kit, still images, and additional materials are available here:

https://sightlinesvisual.com/presskit/

Review screener included, and interview requests are available upon request.

Contact

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