

## **JOHN APPEL, Founding Partner& Mentor**

John Appel studied Classical Literature at the University of Amsterdam and graduated from the Netherlands Film Academy in 1987. He directed more than 40 films for cinema and television. He developed a personal style in documentary filmmaking, close to his protagonists, based on what he calls 'emotional research'. His films won many international awards, a.o. the IDFA Award for Best Feature Length Documentary for his film 'She believes in me' (1999). 'The Last Victory' (2003) was nominated for Best European Documentary. In 2009 he won the IDFA Award for Best Dutch Documentary for his film 'The Player', a personal film based on memories of his gambling father. 'Wrong time, wrong place' was the opening film of IDFA 2012. 'Voices of Holland' (2018), a film based on public speeches on weddings, funerals, etc. was awarded Critics Awards. Currently he is working on a series about the Covid Pandemic as a reflection on modern society. John Appel is a mentor at many international workshops, a.o. Close Up (since 2006), Binger Doclab in Amsterdam (2005 & 2010), Aristoteles Workshop in Romania (2010 - 2015). Guest-lecturer at UBB University of Cluj, Romania (since 2018). He gives masterclasses all over the world and has acted as a jury member in major festivals like IDFA, Karlovy Vary, and Visions du Reel.