

FILM FORUM

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MOYNIHAN, an Immersive Portrait and Timely Reappraisal of Brilliant Polymath Daniel Patrick Moynihan: Documentary Has US Theatrical Premiere Wednesday, October 3 at Film Forum

Film Forum is pleased to present the U.S. theatrical premiere of Joseph Dorman & Toby Perl Freilich's MOYNIHAN, beginning Wednesday, October 3. *"Everyone is entitled to his own opinion – but not to his own facts."* – Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1927 – 2003). His aristocratic demeanor and Harvard polish belied his Depression-era roots in NYC's Hell's Kitchen, the son of a single mother. Joseph Dorman (his documentary, ARGUING THE WORLD, which we opened in 1998, is a thrilling account of the 60-year battle among New York's 20th century intellectuals), with co-filmmaker Toby Perl Freilich (INVENTING OUR LIFE: THE KIBBUTZ EXPERIMENT), now give us a portrait of this longtime political luminary and 4-term New York senator – a complex man who struggled to alleviate poverty and racism, but who was maligned for his use of the expression "benign neglect."

Over the years, Moynihan's work has frequently been misinterpreted by both the left and the right. Ta-Nehisi Coates, Eleanor Holmes Norton, George Will, and Henry Kissinger – along with narration by award-winning actor Jeffrey Wright (*Westworld*) – give insight into this "connoisseur of statistics" who served four presidents, anticipated the breakup of the Soviet Union, and was as comfortable writing about philosophy, ethnicity, and architecture as he was rethinking the Social Security and welfare systems. By clarifying Moynihan's thought and offering it to a new generation – for whom he largely remains unknown – the film offers an all-too-timely perspective on today's debates over the issues that Moynihan began tackling over 50 years ago.

MOYNIHAN will have a 2-week engagement, October 3 – 16, at Film Forum, 209 W. Houston St. with daily showtimes at 12:30, 2:35, 4:45, 7:00 & 9:15.

Filmmakers Joseph Dorman & Toby Perl Freilich are available for interviews.

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"Daniel Patrick Moynihan...was always more a man of ideas than of legislation or partisan combat... For more than 40 years, in and out of government, he became known for being among the first to identify new problems and propose novel, if not easy, solutions, most famously in auto safety and mass transportation; urban decay and the corrosive effects of racism; and the preservation and development of architecturally distinct federal buildings... In the halls of academe and the corridors of power, he was known for seizing ideas and connections before others noticed... a bold, often brilliant synthesizer whose works compelled furious debate and further research... [His wife Elizabeth] often said she married him because he was the funniest man she ever met."

– From Moynihan's *New York Times* obituary by Adam Clymer

MOYNIHAN (2018, 104 mins.) Produced & Directed by Joseph Dorman & Toby Perl Freilich. Edited by Aaron Kuhn. Narrated by Jeffrey Wright. Written by Dorman. Director of Photography: Roger Grange. Music Composed by Mason Daring. Graphic Design by Amit Sethi. Executive Producer: Andrew Karsch. Special thanks to Maura Moynihan. Featuring Former Vice President Joseph Biden, Senator Charles Schumer, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Lawrence O'Donnell, George Will, and others. Supported by Just Films | Ford Foundation. USA. A First Run Features release.

For downloadable photos and press notes: www.filmforum.org/press.