

**2018 HOT DOCS AWARDS PRESENTATION SEES
\$85,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES GIVEN TO FESTIVAL FILMS AND FILMMAKERS**

\$50,000 ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY, MAY 6; HOT DOCS AUDIENCE AWARDS TO BE ANNOUNCED POST-FESTIVAL

Toronto, May 4, 2018 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce this year's award-winning Festival films and filmmakers. The Hot Docs Awards Presentation, hosted by Garvia Bailey, host of *Good Morning Toronto!* on Jazz.FM91, took place on Friday, May 4, at the Isabel Bader Theatre, Toronto. Thirteen awards and \$85,000 in cash and prizes were presented to Canadian and international filmmakers, including awards for Festival films in competition and those recognizing emerging and established filmmakers.

The Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award was presented to *A Little Wisdom* (D: Yuqi Kang; P: Yuqi Kang, Maro Chermayeff; Canada), an intimately observed film that explores an isolated Buddhist monastery in Nepal's breathtaking mountains through the eyes of a rambunctious five-year-old novice. Sponsored by the Documentary Organization of Canada and Telefilm Canada, the award includes a \$10,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: "Best Canadian Feature goes to Yuqi Kang's *A Little Wisdom* for her outstandingly crafted experience of young orphan monk, Hopakuli. This absorbing cinematic film captures the distinct and moving inner rhythms of a Tibetan monastery, welcoming us into a world that we never thought a mischievous child could reveal." *A Little Wisdom* screens again on Saturday, May 5, at 1:00 p.m. at the Revue Cinema.

The DGC Special Jury Prize – Canadian Feature Documentary was presented to *What Walaa Wants* (D: Christy Garland; P: Anne Köhncke, Matt Code, Christy Garland, Justine Pimlott; Canada, Denmark), about a young woman named Walaa who sets her sights on becoming one of the few women to join the Palestinian Security Forces. Sponsored by the Directors Guild of Canada and DGC Ontario, the award includes a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: "We award the DGC Special Jury Prize–Canadian Feature Documentary to *What Walaa Wants* for displaying an extraordinary bond between filmmaker and subject which then carries over to the audience. Christy Garland creates an exceptional emotional arc by focusing on Walaa's growth and transformation."

The Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award is given to a first or second-time Canadian filmmaker with a feature film in the Canadian Spectrum program. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs and was presented to Michael Del Monte for *Transformer* (Canada), which tells the story of a father, ex-marine and world-record powerlifter facing a singular feat of strength: transitioning from male to female. Jury statement: "The Jury awards Michael Del Monte with the Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award for *Transformer*, a film that formally and emotionally rises to the multidimensional nature of its subject, Janae Marie Kroczaleski, with great clarity of mind and with inner and outer beauty."

The Best International Feature Documentary Award was presented to *We Could Be Heroes* (D: Hind Bensari; P: Bullitt Film/Vibeke Vogel and Cinetelefilms/Habib Attia; Denmark, Tunisia, Morocco, Qatar), about a Paralympic gold medal-winning athlete who, when abandoned by his athletic federation after returning home to Morocco, finds the drive to defend his title by training a successor and protesting for social justice. Supported by the Panicaro Foundation, the award includes a \$10,000 cash prize courtesy of the Panicaro Foundation. Jury statement: "We award *We Could Be*

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Heroes with the Best International Feature Documentary Award for how it uses an intimate friendship to turn the sports film inside out, countering assumptions about masculinity, faith, and disability with warmth and affection." *We Could Be Heroes* screens again on Sunday, May 6, at 8:45 p.m. at the Aga Khan Museum.

Two films tied for the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary. Sponsored by A&E, the award includes a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs, which will be split between the following two winners: *Whispering Truth to Power* (D: Shameela Seedat; P: Francois Verster, Shameela Seedat, Neil Brandt, Brechtje Smidt, Millan Collin; South Africa), and *Wind of Swabia* (D: Corrado Punzi; P: Davide Barletti; Italy).

Whispering Truth to Power tells the story of one of South Africa's courageous yet controversial public protectors, who faces down corruption, state power abuses and the president himself, intent on bringing justice to a country still wrestling with its Apartheid past. Jury statement: "For its timely portrait of a bad-ass public servant who uses her office for good at a pivotal moment in South African politics, we co-award the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary to *Whispering Truth to Power*." *Whispering Truth to Power* screens again on Saturday, May 5, at 6:45 p.m. at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Wind of Swabia is an expertly shot, close-up observation of the disastrous effects of industrialization that come into clear focus in Brindisi, an Italian city sandwiched between two of Europe's largest coal and petrochemical plants. Jury statement: "With its epic sweep and personal details, this subtle exposé of environmental degradation wins viewers over with the unexpected power of elegant compositions and biting wit." *Wind of Swabia* screens again on Sunday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scotiabank Theatre.

The Emerging International Filmmaker Award is given to a first or second-time international filmmaker with a feature film in the International Spectrum program. It was presented to directors Elan Bogarín and Jonathan Bogarín for *306 Hollywood* (USA), a film in which two siblings dismantle their grandmother's home after her death to discover who she really was. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: "For its creative approach to issues of memory and legacy, exploring the universality of grief through the seemingly mundane relics left behind, we award the Emerging International Filmmaker Award to *306 Hollywood*." *306 Hollywood* screens again on Saturday, May 5, at 3:30 p.m. at the Scotiabank Theatre. In the Emerging International Filmmaker category, the jury would also like to acknowledge Jill Magid, director of *The Proposal*, with an honourable mention.

The award for Best Mid-Length Documentary was presented to *The Call* (D: Enrico Maisto; P: Riccardo Annoni; Italy), a droll observation of the jury selection process in Milan for one of Italy's infamous criminal cases. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: "This deceptively simple portrait of the Italian criminal justice system at work demonstrated a formal rigor and quiet intimacy that opened up broad questions about civic duty, justice, democracy and human nature."

The Best International Short Documentary Award was presented to *Haunted* (D&P: Christian Einshøj; Denmark), which recounts the story of an aging mother of four who encounters a ghost outside of her son's childhood bedroom. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: "With its stylized tableaux and dry, quirky sensibility, *Haunted* uniquely explores deeper

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universal truths about family, home, time and loss.” In the Best International Short Documentary category, the jury would also like to acknowledge *Zion* (D: Floyd Russ; P: Carter Collins; USA) with an honourable mention.

The Best Canadian Short Documentary Award was presented to *Prince’s Tale* (D&P: Jamie Miller; Canada), in which a young man who survives a fire that drastically changes his body, makes the bold, life-affirming choice to express himself through his arrestingly beautiful performance art and love for acting. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of Hot Docs. Jury statement: “*Prince’s Tale* is the kind of documentary we don’t see enough of—an honest portrait in which the subject has agency to choose where his story begins and where it doesn’t end.” *Prince’s Tale* will screen again on Sunday, May 6 at 2:45 p.m. at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. In the Best Canadian Short Documentary category, the jury would also like to acknowledge *Vika* (D&P: Christian Borys, Marta Iwanek; Canada) with an honourable mention.

Hot Docs is an Academy Award qualifying festival for short documentaries and, as winners of the Best International Short Documentary Award and the Best Canadian Short Documentary Award respectively, *Haunted* and *Prince’s Tale* will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the annual Academy Awards without the standard theatrical run, provided they complies with Academy rules.

The Scotiabank Docs For Schools Student Choice Award was presented to *On Her Shoulders* (D: Alexandria Bombach; P: Hayley Pappas, Brock Williams; USA), the story of a resilient young Yazidi woman who, having survived enslavement and genocide at the hands of ISIS, becomes the spokesperson for her people on the international stage. Chosen from among ten films, the winner was determined by audience ballot cast by students attending Docs For Schools screenings at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema during the Festival. Sponsored by Scotiabank, the award comes with \$5,000 cash prize, courtesy of Scotiabank. *On Her Shoulders* screens again on Saturday, May 5 at 4:00 p.m. at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

The Lindalee Tracey Award, which honours an emerging Canadian filmmaker with a passionate point of view, a strong sense of social justice and a sense of humour, was presented to Fazila Amiri and Tim Tracey. Each recipient will receive a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of the Lindalee Tracey Fund, \$5,000 in post-production services from Technicolor, and a beautiful hand-blown glass sculpture by Andrew Kuntz, specially commissioned to honour Lindalee.

The Hot Docs Board of Directors acknowledged Barbara Kopple as the recipient of the 2018 Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award, and Canadian filmmaker John Walker was honoured during the presentation as the recipient of this year’s Hot Docs Focus On retrospective.

Montreal-based producer Ina Fichman of Intuitive Pictures was presented with the Don Haig Award, which is given to an outstanding independent Canadian producer with a film in the festival in recognition of his/her creative vision, entrepreneurship and track record for nurturing emerging talent. The award comes with a \$10,000 cash prize courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation and Telefilm Canada. As part of the award, the recipient can name an emerging female documentary filmmaker to receive a \$5,000 cash prize, courtesy of Telefilm Canada, and professional development opportunities at the Hot Docs Festival to further her career path. Fichman named Montreal-based producers Fanny Drew and Sarah Mannering from Colonelle Films as the recipients of this prize.

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Earlier in the week, Cara Mertes, director of Ford Foundation's JustFilms, received the 2018 Doc Mogul Award at a special luncheon.

The 2018 awards for films in competition were determined by four juries.

The Canadian Feature Documentary Jury: Yung Chang (filmmaker), Bill Guentzler (Artistic Director of Cleveland International Film Festival), Magali Simard (Film Sector Development Officer for the City of Toronto).

The International Feature Documentary Jury: Gave Lindo (Chief of Staff & Senior Director of Programming for CBC), Justine Nagan (Executive Director of American Documentary, Inc.), B. Ruby Rich (Professor of Film and Digital Media and current Director of the Social Documentation MFA program at the University of California, Santa Cruz).

The Mid-Length Jury: Lisa Jackson (filmmaker), Brett Story (geographer and non-fiction filmmaker), Christoph Terhechte (head of Berlinale's Forum).

The Shorts Jury: Ian Daniel (filmmaker and co-host/Executive Producer of *Gaycation*), Gina Duncan (Associate Vice-President, Cinema at the Brooklyn Academy of Music), Raphaela Neihausen (Founder and Executive Director of DOC NYC).

The Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary will be announced on the final night of the Festival, Sunday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema before a free encore screening of the winning film. Generously established by the Rogers Group of Funds and determined by audience ballot, the award comes with a \$50,000 cash prize.

Hot Docs Audience Awards, and top twenty favourite audience films of the 2018 Festival, determined by audience ballot, will be announced on Monday, May 7.

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Hot Docs (www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, will present its 25th annual edition from April 26-May 6, 2018. An outstanding selection of over 200 documentaries from Canada and around the world will be presented to Toronto audiences and international delegates. Hot Docs will also mount a full roster of conference sessions and market events and services for documentary practitioners, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and the Doc Shop. Hot Docs owns the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood.

Visit the CraveTV Box Office at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, located at 506 Bloor Street West for ticket, package, and pass sales and ticket redemption. Tickets can be purchased in person, online at www.hotdocs.ca, or by phone at 416.637.3123. Single tickets to screenings are \$17 each, and \$19 - \$24 each to special events. Tickets to Food & Film are \$60-\$75. A Festival 6-Pack is \$99, a Festival 10-Pack is \$149, a Festival 20-Pack is \$249, and a Premium Pass is \$359. Hot Docs offers free same-day tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to seniors (60+) and students with valid photo I.D. at the venue box offices (subject to availability), courtesy of CBC Docs.

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Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; CBC Docs as its Signature Partner; Bell Media, Netflix, Rogers Group of Funds and Samsung as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

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