

11 PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY HOT DOCS INITIATIVES ARE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that 11 films selected for the 2021 Festival have been supported by Hot Docs, either through the Hot Docs' portfolio of funds or through participation in Hot Docs' market and industry initiatives, including the Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, and Doc Accelerator.

Two projects received Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund support, which helps support African filmmakers working on the continent.

Three films were selected as official pitch projects from past editions of the Hot Docs Forum, North America's largest co-financing market event for international documentaries, and three films participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, a one-on-one pitch-meeting program launched in 2013 for producers seeking financing from the international marketplace.

Three selected films received a grant from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, which supports Canadian documentary filmmakers, and one selected film received CrossCurrents Doc Funds support, which supports storytellers from within groups whose perspectives have been marginalized or historically underrepresented.

Two filmmakers with documentaries in this year's Festival went through Hot Docs' Doc Accelerator Labs, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (*Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy*) and Yasmine Mathurin (*One of Ours*).

Grant recipients and alumni projects and filmmakers are listed below.

BANGLA SURF GIRLS

Recipient of support from Hot Docs Fiscal Sponsorship

D: Elizabeth D. Costa | P: Lalita Krishna | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

Three working-class teenage girls in a port city in Bangladesh escape daily hardships and stifling family lives by riding waves on their surfboards and grabbing hold of the fleeting and thrilling sense of freedom that brings.

BLUE BOX

Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund

Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2017

D: Michal Weits | P: Ina Fichman, Assaf Amir, Eric Goosens, Uri Smoly, Frederik Nicolai | Canada, Israel | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

The Jewish National Fund's Blue Boxes were a global fundraiser to purchase land in Israel. Weaving a co-founder's diary entries with his descendants' memories, *Blue Box* investigates the myths that constructed a national icon.

THE COLONEL'S STRAY DOGS

Recipient of funding from Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund

D: Khalid Shamis | P: Steven Markovitz, Khalid Shamis | South Africa, Libya, Qatar | 2021 | 73 min | World Premiere

Recounting his father's dangerous life as an exile in London with a million-dollar bounty on his head, the director questions the cost of his decades-long opposition to Muammar Gaddafi and eventual return to an unrecognizable Libya on the brink of civil war.

FRUITS OF LABOR

Participated in Deal Maker, 2020

D: Emily Cohen Ibañez | P: Emily Cohen Ibañez | USA | 2021 | 76 min | International Premiere

Working in a food processing plant after class and in the fields on weekends, a California high school senior dreams of graduating while bearing the burden of being the family breadwinner and threats of separation as ICE raids increase in her community.

KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

Recipient of CrossCurrents Doc Fund - Short/Interactive Stream

Recipient of CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund

Doc Accelerator alumni, 2016

D: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers | P: David Christensen, Lori Lozinski, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers | Canada | 2021 | 125 min | World Premiere

Since 2014, the opioid crisis has claimed hundreds of lives on the Kainai First Nation in Alberta. Inspiring and urgent, this unflinching chronicle captures a community's efforts to heal by cultivating empathy through harm reduction.

THE LAST SHELTER

Recipient of funding from Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund

D: Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou | P: Estelle Robin You, Andrey S Diarra, Don Edkins, Tiny Mungwe | France, Mali, South Africa | 2021 | 85 min | North American Premiere

Weary refugees from Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin, in search of promising futures, stop over at the House of Migrants in Mali, where staff offer basic necessities, warm beds and legal advice for their long journeys ahead.

MISHA AND THE WOLVES

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2018

D: Sam Hobkinson | P: Jürgen Buedts, Poppy Dixon, Al Morrow, Matthew Wells, Gregory Zalcmán | UK, Belgium | 2020 | 88 min | Canadian Premiere

Misha Defonseca's 1997 Holocaust memoir about escaping the Nazis as a seven-year-old girl on foot across Europe with a pack of wolves took the world by storm. But when Hollywood comes knocking, an even more audacious story and darker deceptions come to light.

ONE OF OURS

Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund

Diverse Voices Fellow, 2017

D: Yasmine Mathurin | P: Laura Perlmutter, Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith | Canada | 2021 | 88 min | World Premiere

After a Haitian-born youth is racially profiled at an Indigenous basketball tournament, he wrestles with his shaken sense of belonging in his Indigenous adoptive family while attempting to heal from his past.

ONLY I CAN HEAR

Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2017

D: Itaru Matsui | P: Mayu Hirano, Kengo Toyoda, Paul Cadieux, Nancy Guerin | Japan, Canada | 2020 | 52 min | World Premiere

Inhabiting an in-between world where their hearing is both a gift and a curse, children of deaf parents share their struggles and joys and band together against a culture that privileges the spoken word.

REBEL LOVE

Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2018

D: Alejandro Bernal | P: Jaime Escallon-Buraglia, Ximena Sotomayor | Colombia, Canada, Brazil | 2020 | 77 min | World Premiere

Their relationship forbidden while in ranks of the FARC, two Colombian rebels have a chance at a fresh start for their young love after the peace accords. But new daily demands, estranged families and fears for their safety burden their burgeoning life together.

SUBJECTS OF DESIRE

Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2019

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 min | Canadian Premiere

A much-needed deconstruction of race and the power of beauty, this thought-provoking doc lifts up the experiences of Black women in a moment when beauty standards are undergoing a cultural shift towards embracing Black aesthetics and features.

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[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot

Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hotdocs.ca. Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

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

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