

**HOT DOCS AND R&M LANG FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE  
2021 CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL DOC FUND RECIPIENTS  
\$15,000 CDN GRANTED TO *THE THIRD SEASON* AND *ISAGANI***

Toronto, ON, October 20, 2021 – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the R&M Lang Foundation are pleased to announce that two films have been selected to receive a total of \$15,000 CDN in production funds from the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund in its ninth round of disbursements. The two chosen films are *The Third Season* (D: Stéphanie Saxémard, Zéphrine Royer | Martinique) and *Isagani* (D: Jeremy Luke Bolatag | Philippines). Established in November of 2013 by the R&M Lang Foundation, the CrossCurrents Doc Fund aims to support short, interactive and experimental documentaries from emerging filmmakers working within communities whose perspectives have been historically underrepresented or marginalized. Each year, the Fund has provided one successful applicant with a grant of \$10,000 CDN. This year, an additional \$5,000 CDN was awarded to support the production of an additional doc project.

“The entries were so strong this year we had difficulty selecting only one film. We’re so pleased to have been able to boost this year’s funding and contribute to these two remarkable projects,” said **Robert Lang**, Toronto-based documentary filmmaker and chair of the R&M Lang Foundation. “Each of these films shares a thoughtful story of resilience and perseverance from two altering perspectives—one an intimate discovery of self, the other a self-determined fight for stability after unimaginable tragedy.”

“Congratulations to both of these filmmaking teams—we’re so pleased to be able to support the development of their projects through this fund,” said Hot Docs’ acting industry programs director **Lisa Valencia-Svensson**. “Through thoughtful and incisive filmmaking, both of these projects share personal and intimate stories about identity, loss and a search for belonging.”

The CrossCurrents International Doc Fund was generously established by the R&M Lang Foundation and is administered by Hot Docs. In addition to this grant, directors Jeremy Luke Bolatag, Stéphanie Saxemard and Zéphrine Royer will receive a Hot Docs Fellowship, which includes accreditation to the annual Hot Docs Festival and enrolment in the Doc Accelerator program and mentorship initiatives.

Eligible projects were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Robert Lang (president and executive producer, Kensington Communications), Alex F. Bailey (Filmmaker), Hot Docs Industry (Julian Carrington, Distribution Manager & Industry Programmer, Funds).

**THE THIRD SEASON**

Directors/Producers: Stéphanie Saxémard, Zéphrine Royer

Production company: CREATIV SÜN FILMS

Production country: Martinique

The coming-of-age story of a boy in Dominica who fights to find a new normal after a monster storm.

**ISAGANI**

Director: Jeremy Luke Bolatag

Producers: James Beni Wilson, Jeremy Luke Bolatag

Production company: Huni't Pagaspas Films

Production country: Philippines

Thirty years after his adoption, a Filipino-American from Michigan traces his past and seeks out his biological family in the Philippines. He deals with intercultural gaps, time lost, and reconciliation of identity as he unearths an unsettling truth about his parentage.

The application dates for the tenth round of funding will be announced in the New Year.

For further information on the application process, eligibility requirements and deadlines, please visit <http://www.hotdocs.ca/i/crosscurrents-doc-fund>.

-30-

Hot Docs is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. During the annual Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, 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 documentary industry with a multi-million-dollar production fund and financing initiative portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

Media Contact:

Andrea Smitko

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

asmitko@hotdocs.ca

416-203-2155 ext. 292