

HOT DOCS FORUM ANNOUNCES 20 CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SELECTIONS

MORE THAN \$50,000 IN PRIZES TO BE AWARDED AT THIS YEAR'S ONLINE EVENT

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the 20 projects representing 16 countries that will be presented during this year's online edition of the Hot Docs Forum, North America's essential market for the international documentary community. After pivoting to present the Forum in an online format last year, one of the first major industry events to do so, Hot Docs would like to recognize the extraordinary generosity and enthusiasm of all the decision makers and artists who made it a great success. Building on this achievement, this year's Hot Docs Forum will take place on May 4 and 5 and will be published on the industry conference online platform for All-Access passholders to view starting on May 6 and May 7.

"The projects selected for this year's Forum reflect Hot Docs' unwavering commitment to uplifting emerging filmmakers who, due to industry-wide financial constraints, combined with a lack of access to festivals as meeting places to approach bubbles of resources such as collective support and funding, have been the most affected by the events of this past year," said **Dorota Lech**, Hot Docs Forum producer. "We are tremendously inspired by artists who persisted in finding creative approaches to filmmaking, persevered in shaping and sharing stories from around the globe, and who managed to break through countless barriers to submit inspired applications. Congratulations to all those selected! We believe in your visions and are proud to be on this journey by your side."

"The 2021 edition of the Hot Docs Forum is a bold and powerful mix of cinematic artistry and journalism, with 10 BIPOC and 20 women represented out of the 25 filmmakers," said **Lisa Valencia-Svensson**, acting industry programs director for Hot Docs. "The slate of projects gives us hope about the future of non-fiction filmmaking in its many forms, and excites us about films that are just over the horizon and will soon reach cinema audiences around the world."

The Hot Docs Forum will have pitch teams present their project live online via a remote conferencing service to top decision makers, who will then provide their comments and feedback. Afterwards, the video captured pitches and feedback will be posted on the Doc Shop for All-Access Online Industry pass holders to view. Participating decision makers confirmed to date include A&E Networks, A24, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, Al Jazeera English, American Documentary POV, ARD-NDR, ARD - SWR, ARD - WDR, ARTE France, ARTE G.E.I.E, Bell Media, BBC Storyville, CBC, Catapult, Chicken & Egg, CNN Films, Discovery Channel, Doc Society, EBS Korea, ESPN, Field of Vision, Ford Foundation, Fork Films, France Télévisions, The Guardian, Hulu, iQIYI, Impact Partners, ITVS, Knowledge Network, National Geographic, NBC Universal, Netflix, The New York Times – Op Docs, NHK, Participant Media, RAI, SBS, SVT, Sundance Film Institute, TVO, Vice Studios, YLE and ZDF/ARTE.

Participants in this year's Hot Docs *first look* program, which offers curated access for philanthropic supporters of and investors in documentary film, will again fund and award the *first look* Pitch Prize. Now in its fifth year, the prize provides cash awards to the top Forum pitches as determined by *first look* participants.

For the 13th consecutive year, the Canadian Forum Pitch Prize presented in partnership with DGC National and DGC Ontario, will be awarded to the best Canadian pitch, as determined by a committee of international (non-Canadian) commissioning editors in attendance. Winners will be announced during the online industry market.

This year's Hot Docs Forum selection committee includes Dorota Lech, Samara Chadwick, Heidi Fleisher and Stephanie Owens. Selected projects will also participate in Hot Docs Deal Maker, a curated one-on-one pitch meeting program. An additional 35 projects also selected for Hot Docs Deal Maker will be announced on April 14.

The following projects will be presented at this year's Hot Docs Forum:

AFRICAN MOOT

Production Companies: Undercurrent Film and Television CC (South Africa), Social Transformation and Empowerment Projects (South Africa)

Director: Shameela Seedat

Producers: Francois Verste, Shameela Seedat

AGAINST THE TIDE

Production Companies: Snooker Club Films Pvt Ltd (India), A Little Anarky Films (India)

Director: Sarvnik Kaur

Producers: Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur

THE AGE OF LONELINESS

Production Companies: Studio112 INC (Canada), Izi Films, LLC (USA)

Director: Jenni Morello

Producers: Leslie Norville, Bennett Elliott, Jenni Morello

BLACK MOTHERS

Production Companies: Dandara Productions LLC (USA), Topeka Pictures, LLC (USA)

Director: Débora Souza Silva

Producers: David Felix Sutcliffe, Débora Souza Silva

BLIX

Production Companies: Pink Productions, s.r.o. (Czech Republic), Sisufos Film Production AB (Sweden)

Director: Greta Stocklassa

Producers: Radovan Sibrť, Alžběta Karásková

BREAKING THE BRICK

Production Company: La Ventana Cine (Chile)

Director: Carola Fuentes

Producer: Rafael Valdeavellano

BRIGIDY BRAM: THE KENDAL HANNA STORY

Production Companies: Daydream Reels, LLC (USA), Best Yet Entertainment Ltd (The Bahamas), Metamension CC (South Africa)

Directors: Kareem Mortimer, Laura Gamse

Producers: Laura Gamse, Kareem Mortimer, Bernard Myburgh

FIRE OF LOVE

Production Company: Fire of Love Productions Inc. (Canada / USA)

Director: Sara Dosa

Producers: Shane Boris, Ina Fichman, Sara Dosa

A HAWK AS BIG AS A HORSE

Production Company: Les Steppes Productions SARL (France)

Director: Sasha Kulak

Producer: Louis Beaudemont

THE LAST NOMADS

Production Companies: Wake Up d.o.o. (Serbia), Cut-Up d.o.o. (Montenegro), Kinematograf d.o.o (Croatia)

Directors: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić

Producers: Biljana Tutorov, Veliša Popović, Dijana Mladjenović

LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN

Production Companies: Walking Productions, LLC (USA), Setting Sun Productions, LLC (USA)

Director: Vicky Du

Producers: Danielle Varga, Vicky Du

MADE IN ETHIOPIA

Production Companies: Made in Ethiopia, LLC (USA), Gobe Media Inc. (Canada)

Director: Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan

Producers: Tamara Dawit, Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan

MOTHER VERA

Production Company: She Makes Productions Ltd. (UK)

Director: Cécile Embleton, Alys Tomlinson

Producer: Laura Shacham

POSSESSING EINSTEIN

Production Company: Frequent Flyer Films Inc. (Canada)

Director: Michelle Shephard

Producers: Bryn Hughes, Carolyn Abraham

PROJECT X

Production Companies: Project X, LLC (Japan), Hanashi Films, LTD (UK), Cineric Creative, LLC (USA)

Director: Shiori Ito

Producers: Hanna Aqvilin, Eric Nyari, Shiori Ito

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

SWAN SONG

Production Companies: Visitor Media (Canada), Mercury Films Inc. (Canada)
Director: Chelsea McMullan
Producers: Chelsea McMullan, Sean O'Neill, Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier

UNTITLED MARJOLAINE GRAPPE FILM

Production Companies: Memento SAS (France), Sweet World Films, LLC (USA)
Director: Marjolaine Grappe
Producers: Thierry Marro, Dana Nachman

VARADO: THE CURSE OF GOLD

Production Companies: YUZU Productions SAS (France), Compass Films (Iceland)
Directors: Nicos Argillet, Stéphane Correa
Producers: Christian Popp, Heather Millard

WILFRED BUCK

Production Companies: Door Number 3 Productions (Canada), National Film Board of Canada (Canada)
Director: Lisa Jackson
Producers: Lisa Jackson, Alicia Smith

YOGA VILLAGE

Production Companies: Shanghai Jiemian Cailian Press Technologies Co., Ltd. (China)
Director: Rongfei Guo
Producers: Wenxin Zhong

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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.

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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