

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

**HOT DOCS AND R&M LANG AWARD \$15,000 CAD TO TWO PROJECTS
IN THE SHORT/EXPERIMENTAL/INTERACTIVE STRAND OF CROSSCURRENTS
INTERNATIONAL DOC FUND**

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs, in collaboration with the **R&M Lang Foundation** revealed today the recipients of \$15,000 CAD in production funds. This funding, allocated from the **CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Short/Experimental/Interactive** strand, is designed to bolster emerging filmmakers crafting documentaries within communities whose perspectives have been historically overlooked or marginalized. The two selected films are ***Everything I Am Not*** (D: Laura Dauden | Spain) and ***The Last Shaman*** (D: Susy Peña | Venezuela).

"These two projects by remarkable female filmmakers from Latin America stand as poignant testaments to resilience and courage," said **Heidi Tao Yang**, Hot Docs' Director of Funds & Labs. "Both narratives—though distinct—share a common thread of unyielding strength in the face of adversity, showcasing the indomitable spirit of these filmmakers and the rich tapestry of stories emerging from Latin America."

"The R&M Lang Foundation is proud to champion powerful storytelling from around the world through our continued support of the Hot Docs CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Short/Experimental/Interactive strand," shared **Robert Lang**, President and Producer at Kensington Communications. "There were many strong applicants this year, representing rich and diverse perspectives. We hope, through the support of these two short documentaries in collaboration with Hot Docs, to foster inclusivity and broader representation within documentary filmmaking."

Established in November of 2013 by the R&M Lang Foundation, the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund has since provided a total of \$110,000 CAD in grants to support 13 international short, experimental or interactive doc projects from 10 countries.

49 shortlisted projects from 21 countries were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Robert Lang (president and executive producer, Kensington Communications), Asia Youngman (filmmaker, Visceral Village Productions), and Hot Docs Industry (Winnie Wang, Industry Coordinator).

EVERYTHING I AM NOT

Director: Laura Dauden

Producer: Laura Dauden, Miguel Angel Herrera

Production company: Forward Films

Country: Spain

After facing false accusations of terrorism, enduring imprisonment, and escaping into exile, a Colombian lawyer and activist delves into her memoirs to expose the corruption and brutality of her nation's judicial system.

THE LAST SHAMAN

Director: Susy Peña

Producer: Patricia Mata

Production company: Gato Negro Media

Country: Venezuela

When Rufino, the shaman of a remote indigenous community in Venezuela, leads his people on a pilgrimage into the deep jungle, they must confront the encroachment of modernity, the pressures of Christianization, and the devastating allure of illegal mining.

###

About Hot Docs

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. Since its inception in 1993, Hot Docs has supported the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund, Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Hot Docs Incubator.

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano

Media Relations Manager

Hot Docs

jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca