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HOT DOCS-SLAIGHT FAMILY FUND SUPPORTS FIVE CANADIAN MUSIC DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS WITH \$121,000 IN FUNDING

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is honoured to once again provide much needed financial support to upcoming Canadian documentaries as part of the prestigious **Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund**, with five music-related projects announced today as recipients of a total of \$121,000 in production stage funding. The first of its kind in Canada, the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund was established in May 2020 to champion filmmakers committed to crafting compelling, high-quality stories that celebrate music in all its forms, while showcasing the profound impact of Canadian music on the global stage. The Fund also welcomes international music stories told through the distinctive lens of Canadian filmmakers. To date, the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund has supported 23 projects with a combined investment of over \$627,500.

“Finding the funding to get films made is as hard as it’s ever been, which is why partners like The Slaight Family Foundation and funds like the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund are so critical,” says **Diana Sanchez**, Executive Director, Hot Docs. “This unique Fund provides much needed financial support to projects that showcase Canadian talent on a global scale, helping films move forward with confidence while signalling a belief in our own stories. Our 2026 Opening Night Film, Michelle Mama’s *Antidiva: The Carol Pope Confessions*, was supported by the Fund and is a powerful example of how this investment helps bring important Canadian documentaries to audiences around the world.”

“The Slaight Family Foundation is delighted to continue our partnership with Hot Docs to provide production funding to five projects by Canadian filmmakers that spotlight the creative work of some of this country’s most interesting and talented music artists,” shared **Gary Slaight**, President & CEO of The Slaight Family Foundation. “I look forward to seeing these exceptional projects upon completion.”

Eligible projects were considered by the selection committee, which included María José Arauz (Hot Docs), filmmaker Tiffany Hsiung (Golden Nugget Productions) and Barnaby Marshall (Slaight Music).

Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund 2026 Production Funds Recipients

BRAMPTON UNDERGROUND

D: Anupa Mistry

P: Anupa Mistry, Radha Pithadia

Production company: Scenario Media

While navigating the pressures of Canada’s changing immigration policy, a group of international students form a grassroots Punjabi hip-hop scene in the parks and parking lots of Brampton, Ontario.

INTO THE NOW WITH BRUCE COCKBURN

D: Robert Lang

P: Kim Creelman, Robert Lang

Production company: Kensington Communications Inc

Into the Now is at once a road movie, musical exploration, and portrait of an artist deeply engaged with the present, accompanying Canadian music legend Bruce Cockburn as he sets out on a major concert tour through Canada and the eastern United States.

KING REIGN TO THE WORLD PRESENTS

D: David Click Cox, Kwame Mason

P: David Cox, Shana McCalla, Javiera Quintana, Stuart Henderson

Production company: CLK Creative Works Inc.

King Reign was a lyrical giant whose pen never received the recognition it deserved. When he died suddenly, he left behind unreleased music that was raw, honest, and unfinished. This film follows a group of famed hip-hop artists as they reunite to complete his final work, turning grief into music and memory into movement.

PISIksAQSIURLANGA: I'M SEARCHING FOR A SONG

D: Charlotte Qamaniq, Jamie Griffiths

P: Charlotte Qamaniq, Jamie Griffiths

Production company: Qamaniq Records Inc. (in co-production with Chickweed Arts)

Guided by an ancestral song from her family, Inuk artist Charlotte Qamaniq returns home to revitalize *pisiit*—an ancient Inuit musical form nearly erased by colonization—while composing new songs that carry the living tradition forward.

ROLLING WITH MAT THE ALIEN

D: River Jordan Easton

P: River Jordan Easton, Matt Pidutti

Production company: Notion Pictures

Legendary Canadian DJ Mat the Alien rebuilds his life and music after a spinal cord injury, as his community rallies around his return to music and the festival stage.

Previous recipients of funding from the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund include Hot Docs 2026 Opening Night Film and Top Ten Audience Favourite *Antidiva: The Carole Pope Confessions*, *The Blind Couple From Mali*, *Disco's Revenge*, *It's All Gonna Break*, and *Nash The Slash Rises Again!*

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About Hot Docs

Hot Docs (www.hotdocs.ca), North America's leading 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 presented its 33rd Hot Docs Festival April 23 to May 3, 2026, in Toronto. Since its inception in 1993, Hot Docs has supported the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and production fund portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Hot Docs Incubator.

About Slaight Family Foundation

The Slaight Family Foundation, founded in 2008 by Allan Slaight (1931-2021), proactively invests in a multitude of charitable initiatives focusing on healthcare, at-risk youth, international development, social services and culture. Allan's son, Gary Slaight, President and CEO of the Foundation, has led the establishment of an innovative philanthropic approach that brings sectoral groups together to address common issues. This unique approach has resulted in over \$300 Million invested to date in a variety of initiatives that has improved the lives of seniors, assisted youth suffering from mental illness, increased international aid to women and children in the world's most fragile countries and supported the development of Canadian artists, musicians and cultural institutions right across the country.

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