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35 DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS WILL PITCH TO INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKERS AT HOT DOCS DEAL MAKER 2023

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the selection of 35 documentary projects that will participate in the 2023 edition of **Deal Maker**, taking place during the 30th-anniversary Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, April 27 to May 7 in Toronto. Hot Docs Deal Maker is a specially curated one-on-one pitch meeting program for producers seeking financing and distribution from the international marketplace. Pitches will take place May 2 to May 4, with an additional day of online meetings on May 11. These projects come from 25 countries, are at all stages—development, production and post-production—and cover a vast range of stories and genres. Out of the 35 projects, 21 directors are BIPOC, and 20 projects are directed or co-directed by women. Twelve projects are directed by first-time filmmakers.

“The intense work of film funding happens in our Deal Maker meetings. These most critical connections are where films find the funding to get off the ground. We are thrilled to continue this program with these fantastic film project selections,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Industry Programs Director.

“We’re very excited to welcome our documentary community back to Toronto to participate in Deal Maker,” said **Lauren Clarke**, Deal Maker Industry Programmer. “After three iterations online, Deal Maker is back in full-force in-person and online. We’re extremely proud to invite 35 exciting projects from 25 countries from both new and established voices in documentary filmmaking. This year’s selected projects bring together an inspiring group of visionary artists exploring urgent stories and pushing boundaries of the form.”

Hot Docs plays a vital role in connecting documentary filmmakers with key broadcasters, online platforms, funds and foundations, distributors and sales agents, and other financiers in hundreds of valuable meetings during the festival. Last year, 35 projects representing 21 countries and territories were pitched in 800+ Deal Maker meetings with over 90 decision-makers. Since its inception, 469 projects and 637 filmmakers have pitched in almost 5000 Deal Maker meetings.

Notable projects that have pitched at Hot Docs Deal Maker in previous years include 2023 Festival official selections *Eat Bitter* and *Milisuthando*; the Academy Award-nominated *Fire of Love*; 2022’s *The Art of Rebellion*; 2020 Festival opening night film *Softie*; 2020’s *Downstream to Kinshasa*; 2019’s *Smog Town*, *The Disappearance of my Mother*, *Advocate*, and *The Forum*; 2018’s *Pick of the Litter*, *Laila at the Bridge*, *What Walaa Wants*, and *Love, Gilda*; 2017’s *Bill Nye: Science Guy*, *Quest*, and *Amal*; 2016’s *The Revolution Won’t Be Televised*; and 2015’s *My Enemy, My Brother*.

Projects that will participate in the 2023 Hot Docs Deal Maker are:

A Capitol Case

Director: Andrea Kalin

Producer: Andrea Kalin, Ethan Oser, Kate Woodsome

Production Companies: Spark Media (USA), Pulitzer Center (USA)

Aunty Untitled Film

Director: Haohao Yan

Producer: Guo Guo

Production Company: Aunty Untitled Film LLC (USA)

Company Of Steel

Director: Yuliia Hontaruk

Producers: Yuliia Hontaruk, Ivanna Khitsinska, Alexandra Bratyshchenko, Uldis Cekulis, Katarina Krnacova

Executive producer: Kenan Aliyev

Production Companies: Babylon`13 Production LLC (Ukraine), VFS Films (Latvia), Silverart (Slovakia), Current Time TV (USA)

Crimea, 5 AM

Director: Dmytro Kostiumynskyi

Producer: Anna Palenchuk

Production Company: 435 FILMS LLC (Ukraine)

Cynara

Director: Sherien Barsoum

Producers: Bryn Hughes, Sherien Barsoum Executive Producers: Bryn Hughes, Michelle Shephard

Production Company: 2715077 Ontario Inc. (Canada)

Emergent City

Directors: Kelly Anderson, Jay Arthur Sterrenberg

Producers: Brenda Avila-Hanna, Kelly Anderson

Executive Producer: Stephen Maing

Production Company: Emergent City, LLC (USA)

EVO: The Burnt Palace

Directors: Noah Friedman-Rudovsky, Martin Sivak

Producers: Justine Nagan, Irene Cajias

Executive Producer: Rebecca Lichtenfeld

Production Company: Actual Films (USA)

Finding Seyoum

Directors: Vanessa Tsehaye

Producers: James Costa, Simon Kilmurry
Production Company: Bird Street Productions LLC (USA)

Hannah Arendt: Thinking Is Dangerous

Directors: Tia Lessin, Carl Deal

Producers: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin, Birgit Rasch

Executive Producers: Jeff Bieber, Gunnar Dedio, Regina Bouchehri, Michael Kantor

Production Companies: Jeff Bieber Productions, LLC (USA), LOOKSfilm, GmbH (Germany),
WNET/American Masters (USA), Elsewhere Films (USA)

Hot Spot

Director: Karin Kainer

Producers: Karin Kainer, Osnat Saraga, Justine Henochsberg, Julie Guesnon Amarante

Production Companies: Ananey Studios (Israel), Kainer Films (Israel), Les Batelières Productions (France)

Im/migrant Buyers' Club

Director: Miru Yogarajah

Producer: Miru Yogarajah

Executive Producer: Miru Yogarajah

Production Company: Nothing Even Mattress Inc. (Canada)

Indígena

Director: Siku Allooooloo

Producers: Jessica Hallenbeck, Siku Allooooloo

Executive Producers: Helen Haig-Brown, Marie Clements

Production Companies: Lantern Films Inc. (Canada), Akia Films Inc. (Canada), Elagi Productions (Canada),
Marie Clements Media, Inc. (Canada)

Iris Chang: Power of One (working title)

Director: Kimberlee Bassford

Producers: Kimberlee Bassford, Lou Wang-Holborn

Executive Producers: Daniel J. Chalfen, Bill Guttentag, Kristina Wong

Production Company: Making Waves Films LLC (USA)

Is My Living In Vain

Director(s): Ufuoma Essi

Producer: Ufuoma Essi, Leah McGurk, Artina Michelle

Production Companies: Gasworks (UK), Le Magasin - Centre National d'Art Contemporain (France), Te
Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery (New Zealand), Arts Council England (UK)

Kamikaze: Unlocking the Truth

Director: Takayuki Oshima

Producers: Takahiro Hamano, Manuel Catteau

Executive Producer: Keisuke Saito, NHK

Production Companies: NHK Enterprises, Inc. (Japan), ZED (France), NHK (Japan)

The Lebanese Burger Mafia

Director: Omar Mouallem

Producers: Omar Mouallem, Dylan Rhys Howard

Executive Producers: Blake McWilliam, Kyle Johnson

Production Companies: Back Road Productions Inc. (Canada), Burger Mafia Films Inc. (Canada)

Life in the Shadows

Director: K.D.

Producers: Ilyas Yourish

Co-Producers: Anke Petersen, Lilian Tietjen

Executive Producer: Graeme Isaac

Production Company: Kamay Film (Afghanistan), Jyoti Film GMBH (Germany)

Name Me Lawand

Director: Edward Lovelace

Producers: Fleur Nieddu Lovelace, Sam Arnold, Beyan Taher, Neil Andrews, Marisa Clifford, Edward Lovelace

Executive Producers: Thomas Benski, Tim O'Shea, Diene Petterle, Lisa Marie Russo, Kwesi Dickson, Isabel Freer

Production Company: Pulse Films Limited (UK)

Olimpia

Director: Indira Cato

Producer: Indira Cato, Hugo Chávez Carvajal

Production Company: Chumbera Producciones S de RL de CV (México)

Once Upon a Time on Death Row

Director: Brendan J Byrne

Producers: Brendan J Byrne, Michael Quinn, Tina O'Reilly

Production Companies: Clean Slate Television Ltd (UK), Zo Zo & Aces Media Ltd (Ireland), Cyprus Avenue Films Ltd (UK)

Past Future Continuous

Director: Firouzeh Khosrovani

Producers: Fabien Greenberg, Bård Kjøge Rønning

Production Company: Antipode Films AS (Norway)

Rejeito

Director: Pedro de Filippis

Producers: Leonardo Mecchi, Bronte Stahl, Tarsila Nakamura

Production Companies: Enquadramento Produções (Brazil), Here and Elsewhere Films LLC (USA)

A Revolutionary/Mother

Director: Yuko Torihara

Producer: Lou Wang-Holborn

Production Company: Eternal Breasts LLC (USA)

Roberta

Director: Elena Kairyte

Producers: Ruta Jekentaite

Production Companies: Baltic Productions (Lithuania)

Silent House

Director: Farnaz Jourabchian, Mohammadreza Jurabchian

Producers: Farnaz Jurabchian, Mohammadreza Jurabchian, Elaheh Nobakht, Stephanie Lebrun, Jewel Maranan, Fatma Riahi

Executive producer: Anita Lee

Production Companies: F & M Productions (Iran), ELI Image (Iran), Babel Doc (France), Cinema Is Incomplete (Philippines), Al Jazeera Documentary Channel (Qatar), NFB (Canada)

Simon the Absurd (Simon el Absurdo)

Director: Felipe Monroy

Producers: Palmyre Badinier, Diana Bustamente Escobar, Alexandre Perrier, Kyza Terrazas

Production Companies: Rita Productions Sàrl (Switzerland), Burning (Colombia), Kidam (France), La Corriente del Golfo (Mexico)

Soviet Barbara, the story of Ragnar Kjartansson in Moscow (Soviet Barbara, sagan um Ragnar Kjartansson í Moskvu)

Director: Gaukur Úlfarsson

Producers: Gaukur Úlfarsson, Guðrún Olsen, Guðni Tómasson, Kristín Ólafsdóttir

Executive Producers: Gaukur Úlfarsson, Guðrún Olsen, Guðni Tómasson

Production Companies: Ofvitinn ehf (Iceland)

SpyWhale

Director: Regina Crosby

Producer: Inge Wegge

Production Company: Lofoten Film Collective AS (Norway)

The First Lady

Directors: Udi Nir, Sagi Bornstein

Producers: Udi Nir, Sagi Bornstein, Georg Tschurtschenthaler, Christian Beetz

Production Companies: udiVsagi production Ltd (Israel), gebrueder beetz filmproduktion GmbH (Germany)

Traces of Home

Director: Colette Ghunim

Producers: Colette Ghunim, Capella Fahoome

Production Companies: Kartemquin Films (USA), Defining Entertainment (USA)

unseen

Director: Set Hernandez

Producer: Set Hernandez, Félix Endara, Day Al-Mohamed

Executive Producer: Diane Quon

Production Companies: Pawikan Films, LLC (USA) QuonCo Productions, LLC (USA), Unseen Documentary, LLC (USA)

Untitled Cruise Tourism Film

Director: Catharine Axley

Producers: Catharine Axley, Lawrence Lerew

Production Company: Molt Films LLC (USA)

Warrior Spirit

Directors: Swaysen Will George, Gloria Pancrazi

Producers: Swaysen Will George, Gloria Pancrazi, Andrew Luba, Nicholas Castel

Production Company: 1375964 BC LTD (Canada)

We, the Women

Director: Emilce Quevedo Díaz

Producers: Emilce Quevedo Díaz, Susana Urrea, Paola Mendoza, Kelli Kieley, Javier Nuñez

Executive Producer: Emilce Quevedo Díaz

Production Company: Ojo x Ojo Producciones Limitada (Colombia), Rola Productions (USA), Unstoppable Urges Productions Ltd. (Canada), Javier Nunez Films LLC (USA)

Who Killed Alex Odeh?

Directors: Jason Osder, William Lafi Youmans

Producers: Jason Osder, William Lafi Youmans

Production Company: The George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs (USA)

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), 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 30th annual

edition from April 27 to May 7, 2023, in cinemas across Toronto, with a selection of films available online to audiences throughout Canada. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and The Doc Shop. In celebration of its 30th anniversary and a dedication to excellence in non-fiction storytelling, Hot Docs will present the Podcast Festival Showcase, featuring a slate of today's hottest podcasts live on stage; along with a dynamic line-up of industry panels and master classes featuring podcast game-changers. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film 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 28, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 4, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed online at www.hotdocs.ca or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with screenings). Single tickets are \$19 to regular Festival screenings and \$22 to Special Presentations screenings (\$17-19 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$199 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$279. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to those 60+ and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

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

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs
jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca