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## HOT DOCS FORUM UNVEILS DIVERSE SLATE OF PROJECTS FOR 2024

**Toronto, ON** – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the lineup of projects selected for the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Hot Docs Forum**, the acclaimed international financing event dedicated to securing co-productions and funding for feature-length documentaries. The Hot Docs Forum is scheduled to take place at Toronto’s historic **Hart House** on the mornings of **April 30** and **May 1**, as part of Hot Docs Festival 2024, running from April 25 to May 5. A diverse array of 19 projects representing 18 countries and featuring 21 filmmakers, 15 of whom are women and 11 of whom are BIPOC, will pitch to international decision makers and members of the documentary community. Additionally, a Wild Card pitch will be selected live at the Forum, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event. The Hot Docs Forum is generously supported by Presenting Forum Partner Canada Media Fund.

The Forum serves as the flagship industry event of Hot Docs Festival, offering a dynamic platform where carefully curated projects are pitched for co-production financing to a distinguished roundtable of leading commissioning editors, film fund representatives, financiers, programming executives, and angel investors. During the Forum, participating teams will have up to seven minutes to pitch their documentary project to the world’s leading commissioning editors, investors, and industry experts. Subsequently, each team will receive eight minutes of live feedback and, in some cases, on-the-spot financial commitments. Participating decision makers confirmed to date include A24, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, Amazon MGM Studios, ARTE France, ARTE G.E.I.E., ARTE - La Lucarne, BBC Storyville, Catapult Film Fund, CBC – Documentary Channel, CBC/Radio-Canada, Chicken & Egg, Doc Society, Doha Film Institute, EBS Korea, ESPN, Field of Vision, Firelight Media, Impact Partners, Independent Television Service, International Documentary Association, iQIYI North America, Knowledge Network, Minderoo Foundation, National Geographic, Netflix, NHK Enterprises, NY Times Op Docs, Paramount, PBS - POV, Points North Institute, Sandbox Films, SBS Australia, the Sundance Institute, The deNovo Initiative, The Redford Center, SVT, SWR, TVO, The Whickers, VRT, WORLD Channel WGBH, YLE, and ZDF

Selected projects will also partake in **Hot Docs Deal Maker**, an exclusive one-on-one pitch meeting program, which includes an additional 40 projects. The full list of Hot Docs Deal Maker 2024 projects will be revealed on March 20. Deal Maker is supported by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates, and the City of Toronto.

“In light of our marketplace realities, the security is in the Hot Docs Forum to discover talent and the next batch of films which are garnering momentum to propel into our audiences’ sphere. The projects in the Forum and Dealmaker are the next doc-stars. It is our collective commitment as a community to support the work and bring it to audiences around the world,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs Industry programs director. “A massive thank you to Dorota Lech and to this year’s Selection Committee, comprised of Yoko Imai, Jeff Seelbach, and Abby Sun, Leah Giblin, for an exceptional program and to Lauren Clarke, curator of Hot Docs Deal Maker.”

“In 2023, the Hot Docs Forum participants pitched to 70+ key commissioning editors and funders and over CAD 78,000 in cash prizes were awarded,” added **Dorota Lech**, Industry programmer and Forum producer. “At a time when politics cannot be separated from art and vice versa, we are thrilled to be presenting a powerful and timely programme for the 25th edition of Hot Docs Forum! Congratulations to all the artists who bravely contextualize and shape our world with their stories.”

The 2024 Forum will award two cash prizes to the top pitch teams: the prestigious **first look** prize—providing a minimum of CAD 25,000—funded by members of Hot Docs **first look**, a select access program for philanthropic supporters of and investors in documentary film; and the **CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize**, presented in partnership with the Canada Media Fund, providing a CAD 10,000 cash prize to the best Canadian pitch, intended to support the production and completion of the winning project.

The Hot Docs Forum wishes to thank Presenting Forum Partner Canada Media Fund and Founding Partner Telefilm Canada. The Hot Docs Forum receives additional support from Banff World Media Festival, Blue Ice Pictures, C21 Media, Canadian Media Producers Association, CBC, European Film Promotion, Front Row Insurance, Gardiner Roberts LLP, Italian Trade Commission, National Film Board of Canada, Netflix, Ontario Creates, Playback, Realscreen, Rogers, Scotia Wealth Management, SODEC, the City of Toronto, and Variety.

The following projects will be presented at the 2024 Hot Docs Forum:

**ANATOMY OF A LIFE**

Production Company: Anatomy of a Life LLC (USA)  
Director: Emma Francis-Snyder  
Producers: Tiffany Fisher Love

*Anatomy of a Life* is a hybrid film that explores the end of life, as imagined by the dying and as experienced by the ones they are leaving behind.

**ARREST THE MIDWIFE (WT)**

Production Company: Underdog Films, Inc. (USA)  
Director: Elaine Epstein  
Producers: Elaine Epstein, Robin Hessman, Ruth Ann Harnisch

The arrest of three midwives serving Amish and Mennonite communities spurs an unlikely group of activists to join the fight for reproductive rights.

**AUTUMN OF THE PATRIARCH**

Production Companies: Piraya Film AS (Norway), Little Big Story (France), IV Films (Finland), Nukleus Film (Croatia)  
Director: Anna Bogoliubova

Producers: Torstein Grude Ruwê Yuxinawá, Oddleiv Vik, Raphael Pélissou, Valérie Montmartin, Iikka Vehkalahti, Sinisa Juricic

A documentary dystopia that explores the survival strategies of people who live inside the modern Russian dictatorship which itself has become a formidable force of mass murder.

**BA'S BOOK**

Production Company: Intuitive Pictures Inc. (Canada)

Director: Ashley Da-Lê Duong

Producer: Ina Fichman

As a father writes a memoir to his daughter about his harrowing experiences of both the Vietnam War and the Iranian Revolution, the daughter responds by making a film. Through their creative dialogue, this hybrid documentary offers a disarming look at the legacy of war.

**IMAGO**

Production Companies: Triptyque Films SARL (France), Need Productions SPRL (Belgium)

Director: Déni Oumar Pitsaev

Producers: Alexandra Mélot, Anne-Laure Guégan, Géraldine Sprimont

I was offered land in Pankisi, Georgia, on the other side of Chechnya, my homeland. I contemplate building a house in this secluded region, known as the "Jihadists' valley."

**JARIPEO**

Production Companies: Jaripeo Documentary LLC (USA), BHD Films (Mexico)

Directors: Rebecca Zweig, Efraín Mojica

Producers: Sarah Strunin, Efraín Mojica, Rebecca Zweig

At the rural rodeos in Michoacán, México, a hypermasculine tradition is rife with hidden queer encounters. Guided by director Efraín, *Jaripeo* follows two rancheros as they navigate desire, machismo, and mass migration from one rodeo season to the next.

**LANDSCAPES OF MEMORY**

Production Companies: Space Time Films LLC (USA), Meerkat Media LLC (USA)

Director: Leah Galant

Producer: Elijah Stevens

Who do our memories belong to? Weaving personal essay and intimate character studies, *Landscapes of Memory* explores the weaponization of Holocaust memory, and those fighting against it.

**POWER & LIGHT**

Production Company: Actual Films (USA)

Director: Kelly Duane de la Vega

Producers: Jessica Anthony, Justine Nagan, Jon Shenk

In Miami, *Power & Light* follows two journalists embroiled in a top-secret investigation exposing how the state's largest utility ruthlessly undermined democracy and stalled climate action to protect profits.

**POWER, ELAINE (WT)**

Production Companies: Poppy Pictures doo (Serbia), Survivance (France)

Director: Mila Turajlić

Producers: Mila Turajlić, Carine Chichkowsky

Tracing more than half a century of the rise and fall of progressive struggle, Elaine Mokhtefi revisits her days of radical activism across the Third World in this memoir documentary.

**PÜLÖ; BLOODSTREAM OF THE KIRIKE**

Production Companies: IMBUU Media Limited (Nigeria), Ethnos Snc (Italy)

Director: Christina Ifubaraboye

Producers: Christina Ifubaraboye, Ufuoma Ogagarue, Olawale Ogundein, Elisa Mereghetti, Yvonne Welbon

Pülö means blood and oil. Oil is the blood of Kirike, it keeps the people going. Blood is the stream of life, what happens when this stream is poisoned? The Kirike people, who rely on the island's water, are under threat!

**RECKONING**

Production Companies: Insight Film Ltd. (UK), Come on Die Young Films (Brazil)

Director: Mauricio Monteiro Filho

Producers: Charlie Rosser, Clive Patterson, Hugh Davies, Mauricio Monteiro Filho

*Reckoning* follows a Brazilian federal prosecutor as he leads a landmark investigation into crimes against humanity, perpetrated by the previous Bolsonaro government against the Yanomami people of the northern Amazon.

**REHEARSING FOR JUSTICE**

Production Companies: Integral film og Litteratur as (Norway), Sirdab Studio Ltd (Palestine)

Director: Dalia Al-Kury

Producers: Ola K. Hunnes, Jørgen Lorentzen, Nefise Lorentzen

What is at stake when one Palestinian filmmaker from the diaspora takes on the challenge of imagining justice and reparations in a free Palestine?

**TEA WITH THE TALIBAN**

Production Companies: Faction Media Ltd. (UK), Nadcon GmbH (Germany)

Director: Ovidio Salazar

Producers: Rishi Ghosh-Curling, Peter Nadermann, Petra Wersch, Sylvia Stevens, Peter Day

As Taliban leaders strive to rebuild Afghanistan in their own image, pulled between the demands of The West and their own ideology, pressures mount on the ground for the people.

**THERE'S ONLY ONE SHIRLEY**

Production Company: That Girl Productions LLC (USA)

Director: Isadora Kosofsky

Producers: Isadora Kosofsky, Amanda Mustard

After three difficult marriages, inimitable octogenarian Shirley engages in internet dating and pursues a successful career in the porn industry. In this ten-year portrait, Shirley defies all conventions on her quest to find the love and meaning she has searched for her entire life.

**THIS LAND OF OURS**

Production Company: Oya Media Group Inc. (Canada)

Director: Ngardy Conteh George

Producers: Ngardy Conteh George, Alison Duke

The cost of paradise, but for whom?

**UNDER THE FLAGS, THE SUN**

Production Companies: Cine Mio / Ivana Urizar (Paraguay), MaravillaCine S.R.L. (Argentina), Sabaté Films S.R.L. (Paraguay), Juanjo Pereira (Paraguay)

Director: Juanjo Pereira

Producers: Paula Zyngierman, Ivana Urizar, Gabriela Sabaté, Leandro Listorti, Juanjo Pereira

Using film material found around the world, *Under the Flags, the Sun* reconstructs Paraguay's untold history, delving into Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship—among Latin America's longest—with traces still felt today.

**UNFILTERED**

Production Companies: Intensity Films LLC (USA), Himaphiliac CineLabs LLC (USA), Tell It Media INC (USA)

Director: Chelsi Bullard

Producers: Chelsi Bullard, Hima B., Jacqueline Olive

Generational trauma and unflinching courage collide in *Unfiltered*, a raw yet joyous coming-of-age story, where 15-year-old Tamia McArthur is determined to disrupt family cycles and reclaim her youth in a world that forces Black girls to grow up too soon.

**#WHILEBLACK**

Production Companies: Fathom Film Group Ltd. (Canada), WhileBlackFilm LLC (US)

Directors: Jennifer Holness, Sidney Fussell  
Producers: Ann Shin, Geeta Gandbhir, Tara Jan

Darnella Frazier, who filmed the death of George Floyd, steps forward in this ground-breaking documentary about viral videos that have ignited global movements. We hear the firsthand stories of Darnella and other citizen journalists as we dive deep into the technology platforms that deliver and profit from these images.

**WHO MOVES AMERICA (WT)**

Production Company: Sidereal Time LLC (USA)  
Director: Yael Bridge  
Producers: Yael Bridge, Jeremy Flood, Yoni Golijov, Mars Verrone

Weaving together intimate character-driven verité and essayistic narration, *Who Moves America* elucidates the theory and practice of solidarity through the organizing efforts of the Teamsters labor union.

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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 31<sup>st</sup> annual edition from April 25 to May 5, 2024, in cinemas across Toronto. 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 and Hot Docs Deal Maker. 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.

Starting Tuesday, March 26, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 2, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed [online](http://www.hotdocs.ca) at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://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 cinema screenings). Single tickets are \$20 to regular Festival screenings and \$23 to Special Presentations screenings (\$18-\$20 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$209 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$299. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to seniors 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 a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

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

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