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**HOT DOCS 2020 FEATURES 226 DOCUMENTARIES
AND 12 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS FROM 63 COUNTRIES**

Toronto, April 14, 2020– Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America’s largest documentary festival, conference and market, announces the program for its 2020 Festival. Showcasing the best in Canadian and international documentary, this year’s Festival features 226 amazing docs and 12 interdisciplinary projects from 63 countries, with 51 per cent of directors in the Festival program being women.

“We’re pleased to announce the official selection for this year’s Hot Docs Festival,” said **Brett Hendrie**, executive director of Hot Docs. “As we’re faced with these difficult times, we are committed to honouring the work of the filmmakers and our community by announcing this year’s slate, as well as show Toronto audiences that we have a fantastic lineup of films that’s worth waiting for.”

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Festival’s public screenings have been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. The industry market events and services will be held online.

Hot Docs 2020 will feature the following programs:

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored by Crave

Award-winning films, celebrated filmmakers, high-profile subjects and special screenings

MARKERS

A theme program celebrating work that challenges the documentary form

CANADIAN SPECTRUM

Sponsored by TVO

A competitive program of compelling Canadian stories and perspectives

FOCUS ON RAYMONDE PROVENCHER

Supported by K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation

Showcasing the work of award-winning Canadian filmmaker Raymonde Provencher

INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

Supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation

A curated competition of world and international premieres from around the globe

WORLD SHOWCASE

A popular global selection of the year’s finest docs

DOCX

An interdisciplinary section of the Festival celebrating documentary work that lives outside of the traditional format

MADE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Sponsored by Northern Ireland Screen

A selection of films celebrating Northern Ireland's finest contemporary non-fiction cinema

ARTSCAPES

A showcase for the arts, creativity, music and pop culture

PERSISTER

Presented in Partnership with Oxfam Canada

Presenting films about women speaking up and being heard

REVISIONARIES

Films that offer a new look at the past to re-imagine the future

TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT

Showcasing stories of people fighting for, and collaborating with, the planet

DEEP DIVE

Three long-form, compelling episodic stories

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Presented in Partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP)

A pan-European showcase examining the current cultural, geographic, economic and political factors affecting Europe today

NIGHTVISION

A program that highlights future cult classics and diverse, creative approaches to filmmaking

REDUX

A retrospective of films spotlighting revolutionary moments in history

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RETROSPECTIVE HONOURING STANLEY NELSON

A retrospective celebrating the documentary filmmaker's distinguished career

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Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

**CANADIAN PREMIERE OF *SOFTIE* ANNOUNCED AS OPENING NIGHT FILM
FOR HOT DOCS 2020**

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the Canadian premiere of Sam Soko's *Softie* (Kenya, Canada | 2020 | 96 min) has been announced as the opening night film for this year's Hot Docs Festival.

A complex portrait of an honourable man, *Softie* tells the story of Kenya's most provocative photojournalist, Boniface "Softie" Mwangi, as he campaigns against injustice, and the resulting impact this often has on his family. Determined to see an end to political corruption and the British-imposed colonial-era tribalism that has divided Kenyans since before the country's independence, Softie raises the stakes and decides to enter the regional election. As he tries to run an honest campaign in a pay-to-play political landscape, his ideals are tested as he must choose between country and those closest to him.

"This year's opening night film is a perfect example of the outspoken, outstanding filmmaking that Hot Docs was founded to champion," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "A beautifully crafted story from an emerging filmmaking team, *Softie* has been part of several Hot Docs industry programs and truly showcases our mission to promote and support excellence in documentary filmmaking."

Softie has received support from many Hot Docs Industry initiatives. The project received funds from the Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund and Hot Docs Partners, participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker in 2017, and pitched at the 2018 Hot Docs Forum.

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**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS SPOTLIGHTS GRIPPING WORLD STORIES, FAMOUS FACES,
AND REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTS IN POP CULTURE**

Special Presentations program sponsored by Crave

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – This year’s Special Presentations program features a captivating selection of world and international premieres, award winners from the recent international festival circuit and works by master filmmakers or featuring star subjects.

“Big ideas and bold filmmaking are a highlight of this year’s Special Presentations program,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “Championing globally important issues, compelling character studies and powerful personal stories, the films in this program are the documentaries the world will be paying attention to this year.”

This year’s *Special Presentations* program features profiles of renowned artists and famous faces, including Jamaican-American pop star Harry Belafonte, who takes over Johnny Carson’s seat to create a revolutionary moment in television history in the international premiere of *The Sit-In: Harry Belafonte Hosts The Tonight Show*. We discover the complex genius of American multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, and bandleader Frank Zappa with the Canadian premiere of *Zappa*; and the Canadian premiere of *Mucho Mucho Amor* will introduce audiences to eccentric Puerto Rican astrologer and psychic Walter Mercado. Equal parts Oprah, Liberace and Mr. Rogers, you’ll fall in with this over-the-top, gender nonconforming celebrity who charmed viewers for over 30 years before abruptly disappearing from the spotlight.

The Special Presentations program touches on a multitude of themes and subjects, including technology’s rapid reshaping of our lives, pressing political stories, examinations of power and corruption, and explorations of gender through the trans experience.

In the Canadian premiere of *The Social Dilemma*, director Jeff Orlowski (*Chasing Ice*) and crew turn their cameras on Silicon Valley, exposing how computer algorithms can alter our thoughts and corrode our humanity. Informative and cautionary, the international premiere of *Coded Bias* shows the drastic ripple effect that occurs when technology discriminates through the story of an MIT researcher, who discovers that advanced facial recognition technology doesn’t recognize Black faces.

An urgent report on democracy, the international premiere of *A Thousand Cuts* follows internationally acclaimed press-freedom fighter Maria Ressa as she navigates fake news punditry, bomb threats and arrest warrants to chronicle Philippine President Duterte’s extrajudicial war on drugs and weaponization of social media. And from Academy Award-winning director Bryan Fogel, docu-thriller *The Dissident* takes a chilling look at the role technology played in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Further exposing the unpredictability of politics, *Larry Flynt for President* takes viewers back to the early 1980s, when the *Hustler* publisher cranked his propaganda machine into high gear after deciding to run for president. The Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winner *Boys State* explores notions of masculinity, race and human rights as it delves inside an elaborate program where a thousand Texas high school seniors go head to head in a mock campaign to try and create their own government.

Notorious British public relations and reputation management firm Bell Pottinger is the focus of *Influence*. Known for taking on a list of disreputable clients, the film chronicles how the company used fake news, weaponized communication and interference to spin a story. The North American premiere of *The Forum* presents an inside look of the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the most powerful leaders and thinkers gather, spotlighting fascinating conversations between personalities like Al Gore, Jair Bolsonaro and Greta Thunberg.

Featuring a who's who of trans subjects, *Disclosure: Trans Live on Screen* enlists some of the biggest names in the community—Laverne Cox, Lilly Wachowski, Yance Ford and Chaz Bono—to explore how on-screen stereotypes simultaneously reflect and manufacture our deepest anxieties about gender. And the world premiere of *Transhood* follows four trans kids in Kansas as they redefine coming-of-age on their own terms. Filmed over five years, we watch as they navigate obstacles and celebrate personal triumphs, with each of their journeys revealing how gender is reshaping perceptions of “the family next door” in America’s heartland.

All films in the Special Presentations program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/specialpresentations.

ASSASSINS

D: Ryan White | USA | 2020 | 104 min | International Premiere

BOYS STATE

D: Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss | USA | 2019 | 109 min | Canadian Premiere

CODED BIAS

D: Shalini Kantayya | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

DISCLOSURE

D: Sam Feder | USA | 2020 | 112 min | Canadian Premiere

THE DISSIDENT

D: Bryan Fogel | USA | 2020 | 119 min | International Premiere

THE FORUM

D: Marcus Vetter | Germany, Switzerland | 2019 | 116 min | North American Premiere

FRIES!

D: Michael Steed | USA | 2019 | 82 min | International Premiere

HONG KONG MOMENTS

D: Bing Zhou | Hong Kong, Germany | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

IHUMAN

D: Tonje Hessen Schei | Norway | 2019 | 100 min | North American Premiere

INFLUENCE

D: Richard Poplak, Diana Neille | Canada, South Africa | 2020 | 106 min | Canadian Premiere

KINGS OF THE HILL

D: Mor Loushy | Israel | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

LARRY FLYNT FOR PRESIDENT

D: Nadia Szold | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

MEAT THE FUTURE

D: Liz Marshall | Canada | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

MUCHO MUCHO AMOR

D: Cristina Costantini, Kareem Tabsch | USA | 2020 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

ON THE RECORD

D: Amy Ziering, Kirby Dick | USA | 2020 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES

D: Laura Gabbert | USA | 2019 | 75 min | International Premiere

OWN THE ROOM

D: Cristina Costantini, Darren Foster | Canada, USA | 2019 | 94 min | WORLD PREMIERE

POWER TRIP

D: Jonathan Scott, Edward Osei-Gyimah (co-director) | Canada, USA | 2019 | 87 min | World Premiere

PRAY AWAY

D: Kristine Stolakis | USA | 2019 | 99 min | International Premiere

THE SIT-IN: HARRY BELAFONTE HOSTS THE TONIGHT SHOW

D: Yoruba Richen | USA | 2019 | 75 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

THE LOST ASTRONAUT

D: Ben Proudfoot | USA, Canada | 2019 | 13 min | Toronto Premiere

THE SOCIAL DILEMMA

D: Jeff Orlowski | USA | 2020 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere

THEY CALL ME DR. MIAMI

D: Jean-Simon Chartier | Canada | 2020 | 77 min | Canadian Premiere

A THOUSAND CUTS

D: Ramona S. Diaz | USA | 2020 | 120 min | International Premiere

TRANSHOOD

D: Sharon Liese | USA | 2020 | 96 min | World Premiere

WE ARE AS GODS

D: David Alvarado, Jason Sussberg | USA | 2020 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

WEED & WINE

D: Rebecca Richman Cohen | USA, France | 2020 | 89 min | World Premiere

WELCOME TO CHECHNYA

D: David France | USA | 2020 | 107 min | Canadian Premiere

ZAPPA

D: Alex Winter | USA | 2020 | 129 min | Canadian Premiere

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INTERDISCIPLINARY STORYTELLING TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN *DOCX* PROGRAM

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs' DocX program includes an exciting range of interdisciplinary documentary projects that live outside the traditional format. Featuring 12 projects, this year's program immerses viewers in the bustling heart of the Holy City in *Fragments of Jerusalem*, takes them inside the stunning Notre Dame cathedral before and after 2019's tragic blaze with *Rebuilding Notre Dame*, and transports people into amazing ecosystems across the world in the international premiere of *ecosphere*.

"This year's DocX program invites you to virtually travel the world—from forests to cities to the depths of the ocean—and who doesn't need to escape reality right now?" said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "The stunning experiences and events curated this year are a testament to the creativity and connection that is made possible with VR and interactive technologies."

All DocX projects are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the DocX program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/docx.

AZIBUYE – THE OCCUPATION

D: Dylan Valley | South Africa | 11 min | Canadian Premiere

A look at the lives of Masello and Evan, two homeless Black artists and activists who take up residence in a crumbling mansion that's been vacant for 20 years in an affluent part of Johannesburg.

THE BOOK OF DISTANCE

D: Randall Okita | Canada | 20 mins | Canadian Premiere

In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later, his grandson leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.

BREATHE

This mixed-reality 12-minute experience tracks body movement and breath through biometric sensors to immerse participants in the story of air. Breathe invites participants into an atmosphere of their own creation through their breathing.

THE CURIOUS LIFE OF BILL MONT

D: Andrea Patiño Contreras & Katrina Sorrentino | Canada | 9 min | International Premiere

Bill Mont, an 89-year-old self-made entrepreneur, reminisces about his life, including his most recent venture: sending people's remains to the moon. As he ruminates on love, loss and his entrepreneurial projects, we experience what it's like to have fun while aging.

DAUGHTERS OF CHIBOK

D: Joel 'Kachi Benson | Nigeria | 11 min | Canadian Premiere

Follow the story of Yana Galang, whose daughter, Rifkatu, was among the 276 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram in April 2014 from their school dormitory in Chibok, Nigeria.

ECOSPHERE

D: Joseph Purdam | Australia, USA, UK, Kenya, Indonesia, Malaysia | 45 min | International Premiere

A series of episodic encounters that transport people out into the natural world. Explore several awe-inspiring ecosystems across the world in this immersive VR experience that demonstrates how humanity and nature can come together and thrive.

FRAGMENTS OF JERUSALEM

D: Michal Conford | Canada | 18 min | North American Premiere

Explore the homes, shops, marketplaces and schools of Jerusalem, brought to life through intimate character portraits and conversations that reveal the diverse citizens who inhabit the ancient city.

LAGOS AT LARGE

D: Jumoke Sanwo | Nigeria | 10 mins | North American Premiere

History, colonialism, growth, nostalgia, decay and transformation all collide in this introduction to Lagos as three characters explore the identity of their megacity and where they belong in it.

LE LAC

D: Nyasha Kadandara | Chad, Kenya, Zimbabwe | 10 mins | Canadian Premiere

Step into the lives of Mahamat, a once-wealthy pastoralist, and Nassuri, a refugee-turned-fisherman, from the perspective of a lake that hopes for their survival amidst her scattered ponds.

MOTHER OF THE FOREST

D: Kylie Caraway | Canada, USA | 17 min

Experience a sequoia tree's ecosystem through the perspectives of various species. Move through and interact with the natural world, learning the history and beauty of these towering giants.

PERFORMING LIVES

Canada | World premiere

Featuring recent video works, *Performing Lives* boldly bridges the supposed gap between documentary and entertainment, information and spectacle, fact and fiction. Making references to and borrowing methods from TV, film, dance, and music, these videos represent various groups using strategies that venture beyond the expository approach characteristically associated with documentary cinema.

Commissioned by Trinity Square Video

REBUILDING NOTRE DAME

D: Chloé Rochereuil | France | 17 min | Canadian Premiere

Nearly a year after it caught fire, Notre Dame is not entirely saved, but still standing. Experience a unique and unprecedented immersion in the cathedral before and after the fire, narrated by the leaders who look after the iconic monument.

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NEW MARKERS PROGRAM RECOGNIZES DOCUMENTARIES PUSHING THE STRUCTURAL BOUNDARIES OF THE DOCUMENTARY FORM

Toronto, April 14, 2020– Hot Docs is pleased to announce the addition of the new film program Markers, which features boundary-pushing films taking liberties with the typical structure of documentary form. Named as a nod to the revolutionary work of acclaimed filmmaker Chris Marker, the program highlights filmmakers who are going against the grain and making their own mark on the genre with original projects. The Markers program includes four feature films, three mid-lengths and five shorts.

“An homage to documentary legend Chris Marker, and a celebration of filmmakers staking out new territory in non-fiction storytelling, the films featured in the inaugural Markers program push the documentary form in exhilarating, unpredictable ways,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs.

Films featured in this program include *Judy Versus Capitalism*, a bio doc about iconic second wave Canadian feminist, journalist and writer, Judy Reddick. With its six-part episodic framework, the film is shot in kinetic bursts of super 8 to reveal Reddick’s life story, her struggle for a woman’s right to choose and the challenge of neo-liberalism.

Making its Canadian premiere is the experimental film, *Trouble*. Taking an avant-garde approach to filming a documentary, the film follows director Mariah Garnett as she travels back to her native Ireland to reconcile her family’s past after an infamous documentary about her Catholic/Protestant home forced her father to leave. With Garnett voicing her father in re-enactments and a transgender actor playing her mother, *Trouble* is an unconventional take on doc film that draws connections between political struggles, rebuilds family ties, and highlights the complexities of representation and the construction of identity.

The North American premiere of *If It Were Love* follows choreographer Gisèle Vienne’s production *Crowd*, a radical, polyphonic dance show about the 90’s rave scene, as it tours the world. With trance-like performances and intimate backstage moments, the film pushes experimental documentary and blurs the lines between real life and theatre. Winner of the Teddy Award at this year’s Berlinale Film Festival, *If It Were Love* is an ecstatic exploration of love and violence, party and pain, raw emotions and queer sensuality.

The program will also feature the North American premieres of *Bile*, an experimental essay on disease and health that intertwines the director’s story of her mother’s cancer and death in post-Soviet Russia with a vast range of medical archives, establishing connections between physical disorders and fascism; and *Panquico*, which blends documentary and fiction to examine larger issues surrounding displacement and the effects of colonialism through the story of Cebaldo, an Indigenous man from a small village in Panama who returns home after working as a fisherman in Portugal for years.

All films in the Markers program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program, please visit www.hotdocs.ca/markers.

BILE

D: Ira A. Goryainova | Belgium | 2019 | 64 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

KACHALKA

D: Gar O'Rourke | Ireland | 2019 | 10 min | Canadian Premiere

THE GIVERNY DOCUMENT (SINGLE CHANNEL)

D: Ja'Tovia Gary | USA | 2019 | 41 min | Ontario Premiere

Screening with:

UMBILICAL

D: Danski Tang | China, USA | 2019 | 7 min | Canadian Premiere

&

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

D: Crystal Kayiza | USA | 2019 | 6 min | International Premiere

&

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

D: Caroline So Jung Lee | Canada | 2019 | 11 min | Ontario Premiere

IF IT WERE LOVE

D: Patric Chiha | France | 2019 | 82 min | North American Premiere

JUDY VERSUS CAPITALISM

D: Mike Hoolboom | Canada | 2020 | 62 min | North American Premiere

L.A. TEA TIME

D: Sophie Bédard-Marcotte | Canada | 2019 | 82 min | Toronto Premiere

PANQUIACO

D: Ana Elena Tejera | Panama | 2020 | 85 min | North American Premiere

TROUBLE

D: Mariah Garnett | USA, UK | 2019 | 82 min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

WELCOME TO A BRIGHT WHITE LIMBO

D: Cara Holmes | Ireland | 2019 | 11 min | Canadian Premiere

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**CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITIVE PROGRAM FEATURES VITAL
AND COMPELLING STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

Toronto, April 14, 2020– Hot Docs is pleased to announce the 12 feature films and 11 shorts programmed in Canadian Spectrum, a competitive program showcasing the work of Canadian directors. With themes encompassing families and relationships, immigrant communities struggling with gentrification, and speaking truth to power to expose deep-seeded corruption, this year's slate of films spotlights critical stories told by Canada's own.

"Canada continues to deliver as a force in documentary storytelling, and this year's Canadian Spectrum films beautifully exemplify that," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Showcasing an exceptional array of emerging talent, alongside seasoned filmmakers, the stories they tell are bold, curious, engaging and as diverse as the country itself."

Canadian Spectrum includes the world premieres of: *#Blessed*, a revelatory peek inside Canada's fastest growing millennial church in Toronto; *The Dawnsayer*, a tragic yet uplifting story about an eccentric old man whose plans to save humanity from nuclear disaster rest in a bunker of buried school buses; *There's No Place Like This Place, Anyplace*, a look at Toronto's gentrification told through immigrant stories affected by the closure of discount store Honest Ed's; *The Walrus and the Whistleblower*, which tells a stranger-than-fiction tale of a MarineLand trainer turned whistleblower who sparks an online movement to end marine mammal captivity; and *Under the Same Sun*, a skillfully balanced exploration of humanity and hatred in the South Caucasus, a region plagued by aggressive nationalist movements.

The program also features: the North American premiere of *Prayer for a Lost Mitten*, a touching look at those coming to claim their belongings at the Montreal Metro's lost and found; and the Canadian premieres of *Dope is Death*, a look at the Black activists in the 1970s who introduced acupuncture into their communities as a treatment for drug addiction; and *Stateless*, which looks at a young attorney's grassroots campaign to protect citizenship rights when anti-Black legislation in the Dominican Republic strips them from people of Haitian descent.

Films rounding out the program include: *Don't Worry, The Doors Will Open*, a meditation on the uncertainties of life in post-Soviet Ukraine as reflected through the daily train commute of its citizens; *Eddy's Kingdom*, a bizarre tale of an entrepreneur's obsessive dream to build a Middle Eastern-themed amusement park on an island in the Okanagan Valley; *A Woman, My Mother*, the filmmaker's touching exploration of his mother and her secretive life; and *The World is Bright*, which follows an elderly Chinese couple confronting Canadian Government bureaucracy as they unravel the mysterious truth behind the death of their son.

The Canadian Spectrum program is sponsored by TVO.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award, and the DGC Special Jury Prize – Canadian Feature Documentary Award. Directors in the Canadian Spectrum program with fewer than two previous feature film credits are also eligible to win the Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award.

All films in the Canadian Spectrum program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program, please visit www.hotdocs.ca/canadianspectrum

#BLESSED

D: Ali Weinstein | Canada | 2020 | 75 Min | World Premiere

Screening with:

BIBLE CAMP MEMORIES

D: Damien Ferland | Canada | 2020 | 14 min | Ontario Premiere

THE DAWNSAYER

D: Paul Marc Kell | Canada | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

DON'T WORRY, THE DOORS WILL OPEN

D: Oksana Karpovych | Canada | 2019 | 76 min | Ontario Premiere

Screening with:

ONCE THE DUST HAS SETTLED

D: Hervé Demers | Canada | 2020 | 15 min | Ontario Premiere

DOPE IS DEATH

D: Mia Donovan | Canada | 2020 | 78 min | Canadian Premiere

EDDY'S KINGDOM

D: Greg Crompton | Canada | 2019 | 85 min | Ontario Premiere

PRAYER FOR A LOST MITTEN

D: Jean-François Lesage | Canada | 2020 | 79 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

BROKEN ORCHESTRA

D: Charlie Tyrell | Canada | 2019 | 12 min | Toronto Premiere

STATELESS

D: Michèle Stephenson | USA, Canada | 2020 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 2020 | 75 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

WHEN I WRITE IT

D: Nico Opper, Shannon St. Aubin | USA | 2019 | 15 min | International Premiere

UNDER THE SAME SUN

D: François Jacob | Canada | 2020 | 97 min | World Premiere

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THE WALRUS AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER

D: Nathalie Bibeau | Canada | 2020 | 89 min | World Premiere

A WOMAN, MY MOTHER

D: Claude Demers | Canada | 2019 | 76 min | Ontario Premiere

Screening with:

IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES

D: Anne Koizumi | Canada | 2020 | 7 min | World Premiere

THE WORLD IS BRIGHT

D: Ying Wang | Canada | 2019 | 116 min | Ontario Premiere

SHORTS PROGRAM

DEAR DON

D: Pauls Dombrovskis | Canada | 2019 | 15 min | World Premiere

HOLLIE'S DRESS

D: Annie Sakkab | Canada | 2020 | 25 min | World Premiere

INVASION

D: Michael Toledano, Sam Vinal | Canada | 2019 | 18 min | Toronto Premiere

JO

D: Carmen Rachiteanu | Canada | 2019 | 13 min | Ontario Premiere

NANCY'S WORKSHOP

D: Aicha Diop | Canada | 2019 | 20 min | Toronto Premiere

THE TRIP

D: Mikizi Migona Papatie | Canada | 2019 | 5 min | World Premiere

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Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

HOT DOCS HONOURS CANADIAN FILMMAKER RAYMONDE PROVENCHER WITH *FOCUS ON* RETROSPECTIVE

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce this year’s Focus On retrospective, an annual program showcasing the work of a significant Canadian filmmaker, pays tribute to award-winning Canadian filmmaker Raymonde Provencher.

“Combining a journalist’s tenacity with deep humanism, Raymonde Provencher is a formidable filmmaker and storyteller, whose genuine care for, and interest in, her subjects arises from her profound commitment to women and human rights,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “We’re so thrilled to be able to spotlight her films with our Focus On program, a body of work that spans the globe and reflects some of its rarely covered stories with deep sincerity and compassion.”

Films part of this year’s Focus On retrospective include: *Café Désirs* (2015) a fascinating look at a generation of young, single Algerian men as they come of age in the ancient city of Constantine; *Crimes Without Honour* (2012), which follows four women of different faiths in Canada, Sweden and Germany who risk retaliation from family members and their immigrant communities as they challenge abusive patriarchal honour-based traditions used to justify violence against women; *Grace, Milly, Lucy...Child Soldiers* (2010), which tells the story of three girls who were abducted and forced into battle for the Lord’s Resistance Army in Uganda who are now fighting for peace; and *War Babies* (2002), in which a young man, searching for his roots, hears the atrocious and heartbreaking stories from women of babies born from rape during war.

The Focus On Raymonde Provencher retrospective is supported by K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation.

For more information on this year’s Focus On program, please visit www.hotdocs.ca/focuson.

With a passion for international affairs that has spanned her decades-long career, Provencher has been celebrated for her bold and honest approach to filmmaking. As a journalist and researcher, she helped launch Télé-Québec’s *Nord-Sud* in 1983, which opened a new chapter in international news programming in Quebec, and for which she produced over a hundred reports from across the globe. In 1995 she co-founded the private production company Macumba International, where she worked as a producer on the award-winning films *1973: The Last Stand of Salvador Allende*, *Images of a Dictatorship* and *Black Wave*.

Committed to uncovering stories about human rights and social injustice issues throughout the world, she began to devote most of her time to scriptwriting and directing in 2000. Provencher worked on the series *Extremis*, where she explored child labour in the Philippines with the film *Lost Childhood* (2000). Her 2002 film *War Babies*, about children born to victims of wartime rape, won four Géméaux Awards and the Audience Award at the Hot Docs Festival. She followed that with the docs *Une nouvelle vie pour Ramon Mercedes* and *Blue Helmets: Peace and Dishonour*, and 2008’s *A Senseless Death* about the Iraq war. In 2009, she co-produced with the NFB *Grace, Milly, Lucy...Child Soldiers*, which tackles the painful tragedy of children forcibly recruited by rebel troops in Uganda. In 2012 and 2015, she directed and produced two films, *Crimes Without Honour* and *Café*

Désirs, and in 2017 presented *Torn Apart*, a powerful film about forced marriages, which still exist in Quebec.

Past Focus On honourees include Julia Ivanova (2019), John Walker (2018), Maya Gallus (2017), Rosie Dransfeld (2016), Carole Laganière (2015), John Zaritsky (2014), Peter Mettler (2013), John Kastner (2012), Alan Zweig (2011), Tahani Rached (2010), Ron Mann (2009), Jennifer Baichwal (2008), Kevin McMahon (2007), Serge Giguère (2006), Larry Weinstein (2005), Nettie Wild (2004), Shelley Saywell (2003) and Zacharias Kunuk (2002).

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**HOT DOCS' INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM COMPETITIVE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
COMPELLING STORIES FROM COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD**

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – This year's International Spectrum program at Hot Docs features world or international premieres of nine feature films and one short. Spotlights stories captured in unique and interesting ways, this year's International Spectrum program highlights a multitude of important and compelling issues, including female activism and empowerment, negotiating fraught family relationships and the lasting impact of trauma.

"Resonant subjects and creative filmmaking are hallmarks of this year's International Spectrum program," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Featuring nine films and representing 14 countries, the stories presented are personal, poetic and profound, and made by filmmakers that are destined to be among the brightest stars in the documentary world."

World premieres in the International Spectrum program include: *Fadma: Even Ants Have Wings*, which follows a progressive woman who instigates a village-wide cooking strike in a small Berber community in Morocco's mountains; *The Wall of Shadows*, the heartfelt story of a Nepalese Sherpa family that breaks a taboo to desperately earn money for their son's education; and *Women of the Sun: A Chronology of Seeing*, a moving profile of six housewives in an Iranian desert who film their fight for gender equality, higher incomes and personal freedom.

International premieres in the program include: *499*, which explores the brutal legacy of colonialism in contemporary Mexico nearly five-hundred years after Cortez conquered the Aztec Empire; *All That I Am*, which sees a woman return from foster care to live with mother and stepsiblings, having been sexually abused by her now-incarcerated stepfather; *Bulletproof*, a meditation on fear and safety in the age of school shootings; *A Colombian Family*, which follows an estranged mother and daughter seeking reconciliation against the backdrop of their country's fraught peace treaty; *I Want You If You Dare*, an unsentimental and refreshing look at a young woman with cerebral palsy who longs for independence and her first sexual experience; and *Stray*, a lyrical, beautiful look at stray dogs roaming the streets of Turkey.

The International Spectrum program is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

All feature-length titles in the program are eligible for the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary. Emerging directors in the International Spectrum with two or fewer previous feature film credits are also eligible for the Emerging Filmmaker Award.

Hot Docs has been selected as an Academy Award® qualifying festival for feature documentaries. The recipient of Hot Docs' Best International Feature Documentary Award will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Feature Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Films in the International Spectrum program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/internationalspectrum.

499

D: Rodrigo Reyes | Mexico, USA | 2019 | 88 min | International Premiere

ALL THAT I AM

D: Tone Grøttjord-Glenne | Norway | 2019 | 75 min | International Premiere

BULLETPROOF

D: Todd Chandler | USA | 2020 | 85 min | International Premiere

A COLOMBIAN FAMILY

D: Tanja Wol Sørensen | Denmark | 2019 | 80 min | International Premiere

FADMA: EVEN ANTS HAVE WINGS

D: Jawad Rhalib | Morocco, Belgium | 2019 | 80 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

OIL & WATER

D: Anjali Nayar | Canada | 2020 | 13 min | World Premiere

I WANT YOU IF YOU DARE

D: Dagmar Smržová | Czech Republic | 2019 | 84 min | International Premiere

STRAY

D: Elizabeth Lo | USA | 2020 | 72 min | International Premiere

THE WALL OF SHADOWS

D: Eliza Kubarska | Poland, Germany, Switzerland | 2020 | 94 min | World Premiere

WOMEN OF THE SUN: A CHRONOLOGY OF SEEING

D: Hamed Zolfaghari | Iran, France | 2019 | 87 min | World Premiere

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PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

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

**WORLD SHOWCASE PROGRAM FEATURES A THRILLING SURVEY
OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE**

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to spotlight a multitude of global stories in its World Showcase program. Featuring 23 feature films, four mid-lengths and 14 short films, this year's World Showcase includes work from Chile, Kenya, Norway, Mexico, and more.

"Our program featuring the best in global documentary cinema, World Showcase is your entry point to the stories that matter in the world today," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Technology may connect us, but stories unite us, and this program brings together a stunning array of films that show not only the challenges we face, but the many ways we can overcome them."

Stories of families and familial relationships feature prominently in the program, including the international premiere of *Father Soldier Son*, which follows an injured army vet and single father over 10 years as he and his sons navigate life, and *The Earth Is Blue as an Orange*, which looks at the struggles of a single mother living under Russian occupation in the Ukraine who, with her children, creates a film of the surrounding conflict to both understand and transcend their reality.

The lives of seniors are examined in *Zero*, the heartfelt story of a beloved psychiatrist who, set to retire at 82 to care for his ailing wife, leaves his longstanding patients at a loss to build a bond with his replacement, and *The Mole Agent*, a touching observational doc-spy thriller mash-up that follows a Chilean octogenarian who goes undercover at a retirement home to investigate allegations of abuse and theft.

The immigrant experience is explored in *After the Crossing*, which profiles a smooth-talking migrant from Ivory Coast who, after surviving a Libyan prison and a treacherous Mediterranean crossing, struggles to adjust to his new life in Italy, and in the world premiere of *Mein Vietnam*, which looks at a family whose virtual connection to their old lives in Vietnam has prevented them from assimilating into the German community where they've lived for 30 years.

Other incredible stories include: *Mayor*, which tells the story of the charismatic Christian mayor of Ramallah who tends to the everyday needs of his citizens while also striving to end the occupation of Palestine; *Wood*, which goes undercover with an environmental spy operation to expose the trade in illegal timber by infiltrating a global syndicate working in remote Russian forests, Chinese factories and Romanian mills; and *Landfall*, an eye-opening look at Puerto Rico after 2017's hurricane Maria devastated the US territory, exposing the political systems that failed to step in to help the fallen people.

All films in the World Showcase are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/worldshowcase.

9/11 KIDS

D: Elizabeth St. Philip | Canada | 2019 | 88 min | Canadian Premiere

AFTER THE CROSSING

D: Joël Richmond Mathieu Akafou | France | 2020 | 76 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

HUNTSVILLE STATION

D: Jamie Meltzer, Chris Filippone | USA | 2020 | 14 min | North American Premiere

DADDY

D: Lars Emil Leonhardt, Brendan Cooney | Denmark | 2020 | 50 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

PUBERTY

D: Elena Kondrateva | Russia | 2019 | 29 min | North American Premiere

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

D: Iryna Tsilyk | Ukraine, Lithuania | 2020 | 74 min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

DOUMA UNDERGROUND

D: Tim Alsiofi | Lebanon | 2019 | 12 min | Ontario Premiere

EYES AND ARMS

D: Panahbarkhoda Rezaee | Iran | 2019 | 52 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

THE BROTHER

D: Jérémie Battaglia | Canada | 2019 | 28 min | Ontario Premiere

FATHER SOLDIER SON

D: Leslye Davis, Catrin Einhorn | USA | 2020 | 99 min | International Premiere

I AM SAMUEL

D: Peter Murimi | Kenya, Canada, UK, USA | 2020 | 70 min | World Premiere

LANDFALL

D: Cecilia Aldarondo | USA | 2020 | 91 min | International Premiere

A LOSS OF SOMETHING EVER FELT

D: Carlos Eduardo Lesmes Lopéz | Estonia, Colombia, Sweden | 2020 | 82 min | World Premiere

MAYOR

D: David Osit | USA, UK | 2020 | 89 min | Canadian Premiere

MEIN VIETNAM

D: Tim Ellrich, Thi Hien Mai | Germany | 2020 | 70 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

SHĀNZHÀI SCREENS

D: Paul Heintz | France | 2020 | 23 min | North American Premiere

MERRY CHRISTMAS, YIWU

D: Mladen Kovačević | Sweden, Serbia, France, Germany, Belgium, Qatar | 2020 | 94 min | North American Premiere

THE MOLE AGENT

D: Maite Alberdi | Chile | 2020 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

MOTHER-CHILD

D: Andrea Testa | Argentina | 2019 | 65 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

ALL HER DYING LOVERS

D: Anna Benner, Eluned Zoe Aiano | Germany, Czech Republic | 2020 | 6 min | World Premiere

ONLY THE DEVIL LIVES WITHOUT HOPE

D: Magnus Gertten | Sweden, Norway | 2020 | 95 min | North American Premiere

THE REASON I JUMP

D: Jerry Rothwell | UK | 2019 | 82 min | Canadian Premiere

RED HEAVEN

D: Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer | USA | 2020 | 87 min | Canadian Premiere

SHADOW FLOWERS

D: Seung-Jun Yi | South Korea | 2019 | 109 min | Canadian Premiere

SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS

D: Dongnan Chen | China, USA | 2020 | 96 min | North American Premiere

SOFTIE

D: Sam Soko | Kenya, Canada | 2020 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

SUMMERWAR

D: Moritz Schulz | Germany | 2019 | 78 min | North American Premiere

TENSION STRUCTURES

D: Feargal Ward, Adrian Duncan | Ireland, France | 2019 | 45 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

SPEAKING FOR THE DEAD

D: Peiman Zekavat | UK | 2019 | 14 min | North American Premiere

THINGS WE DARE NOT DO

D: Bruno Santamaría Razo | Mexico | 2020 | 71 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

THE FLAME

D: Nick Waterman | Australia | 2020 | 12 min | North American Premiere

TIME

D: Garrett Bradley | USA | 2020 | 81 min | Canadian Premiere

TWO GODS

D: Zeshawn Ali | USA | 2020 | 85 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

RUN FOR HIS LIFE

D: Sebastian Sdaigui | USA | 2020 | 10 min | World Premiere

WOOD

D: Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan, Michaela Kirst, Ebba Sinzinger | Austria, Germany, Romania | 2019 | 95 min | North American Premiere

ZERO

D: Kazuhiro Soda | Japan | 2020 | 128 min | Canadian Premiere

SHORTS PROGRAM

EGG CUP REQUIEM

D: Nick Mayow, Prisca Bouchet | New Zealand | 2019 | 12 min | Canadian Premiere

SUSANA

D: Laura Gamse | USA | 2020 | 5 min | International Premiere

TEARS TEACHER

D: Noemie Nakai | Japan | 2019 | 10 min | World Premiere

WELCOME STRANGERS

D: Dia Sokol Savage | USA | 2020 | 21 min | International Premiere

A YOUTH

D: Giorgio Bosisio | UK | 2019 | 40 min | Canadian Premiere

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Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
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info@vkpr.ca

MADE IN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CAPTIVATING DOCS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that this year’s country spotlight program Made In will feature recent works from Northern Ireland.

“Filmmakers from Northern Ireland are emerging as a force in documentary cinema, as they examine both the troubled history of their country, and bring us compelling stories from beyond their shores,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “Carefully-crafted and emotionally engaging, the films in our Made In Northern Ireland program will resonate with audiences far and wide.”

The Made In Northern Ireland program includes the world premieres of *Lost Boys: Belfast's Missing Children*, a fascinating investigation into the disappearance of two young boys from Belfast 50 years ago; *Our Lyra*, a beautiful portrait of reporter Lyra McKee, who died during riots in Derry, Northern Ireland, and a wake-up call to the dangers that confront journalists in pursuit of the truth; and *REFRAMING Andrew Sadek*, about a murder in a quiet North Dakota town that unravels a secret plot by law enforcement to wage a war on drugs. Rounding out the program is the North American premiere of *Lost Lives*, which enlists some of Ireland’s most well-known actors to narrate passages from the famed book *Lost Lives*, offering a requiem for the lives lost during the Northern Irish Troubles.

The Made In Northern Ireland program is sponsored by Northern Ireland Screen.

Past *Made In* programs have focused on films from Italy (2019), Mexico (2018), Japan (2017), Australia (2016), India (2015), Denmark (2014), Poland (2013), Southeastern Europe (2012), Italy (2011), South America (2010), South Korea (2009), Mexico (2008), Brazil (2007), Japan (2006), South Africa (2004) and Taiwan (2003).

All films in the Made In Northern Ireland program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/madein.

LOST BOYS: BELFAST'S MISSING CHILDREN

D: Des Henderson | Northern Ireland | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

LOST LIVES

D: Dermot Lavery, Michael Hewitt | UK, Ireland | 2019 | 93 min | North American Premiere

OUR LYRA

D: Alison Millar | Northern Ireland | 2020 | 59 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

HYDEBANK

D: Ross McClean | UK | 2019 | 17 min | North American Premiere

REFRAMING ANDREW SADEK

D: Trevor Birney | UK | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

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FILMS IN NEW *REVISIONARIES* PROGRAM OFFER REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce Revisionaries, a new theme program that offers stories that provide new lenses on the past that inform how to envision the future. These seven feature films and eight shorts delve into intimate and personal histories, as well as take wider, more expansive looks at complex stories and issues.

“A deeply thoughtful program, Revisionaries features personal and political stories that allow us to reimagine the future, by carefully examining the past,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “By taking another look, from a different perspective, these films show us new versions of stories we thought we knew, alongside those we’ve never seen before.”

Personal histories reexamined in the program include: *Finding Sally*, which tells the story of the filmmaker’s aunt, an idealistic aristocrat-turned-communist-rebel with the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Party who disappeared during the revolution’s tumultuous aftermath. A tender celebration of life and family, *Dick Johnson Is Dead* offers a lighter take on the passing of a parent as filmmaker Kirsten Johnson and her father Dick, who is suffering from the early stages of dementia, reenact possible death scenes for the camera. An exploration of the transformative power of parenting and our emotional attachment to “stuff”, the world premiere of *Love & Stuff* shows us how filmmaker Judith Helfand mourns the recent loss of her mother through a connection with her things while preparing to be a “new old” mom at 50; and the world premiere of *AKA Jane Roe* shares the unbelievable deathbed confession of Norma McCorvey, the real life “Jane Roe” from the landmark US *Roe v. Wade* abortion rights case.

Films that turn new lenses on broader social and political history include: *The Art of Fallism*, where you’ll meet the artists and activists of The Fallist movement in Capetown who want to revolutionize the country from its Apartheid roots and reclaim their culture; *Zlota Street*, in which a Polish Jew and his wife reclaim their history after inheriting a tenement that was within the walls of the Warsaw ghetto during WWII; and *Socialism, An American Story*, an examination of the stigmatized ideology’s history in America and its relevance today as told through the stories of two people from opposite sides of the country who turn to it to find their footing.

All films in the Revisionaries program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/revisionaries.

AKA JANE ROE

D: Nick Sweeney | USA | 2020 | 138 min | World Premiere

THE ART OF FALLISM

D: Aslaug Aarsæther, Gunnbjörg Gunnarsdóttir | Norway, South Africa | 2019 | 74 min | North American Premiere

DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

D: Kirsten Johnson | USA | 2020 | 89 min | Canadian Premiere

FINDING SALLY

D: Tamara Dawit | Canada | 2020 | 78 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

NOT JUST A MMIW

D: Ulivia Uviluk | Canada | 2019 | 4 min | World Premiere

LOVE & STUFF

D: Judith Helfand, David Cohen (co-director) | USA | 2020 | 80 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

DÍA DE LA MADRE

D: Ashley Brandon, Dennis Höhne | USA | 2020 | 6 min | Ontario Premiere

SOCIALISM: AN AMERICAN STORY

D: Yael Bridge | USA | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

THE CHIMNEY SWIFT

D: Frédéric Schuld | Germany | 2020 | 5 min | World Premiere

ZLOTA STREET

D: Tomasz Knittel | Poland | 2019 | 84 min | International Premiere

SHORTS PROGRAM

THAT JOKE ISN'T FUNNY ANYMORE

D: Hannah Currie | UK | 2019 | 13 min | Canadian Premiere

THE LAST MILLER

D: Juan Baquero, Felipe Macia | Colombia, Canada | 2019 | 16 min | Canadian Premiere

LHOMME'S DREAMS

D: Florent Morin | France | 2019 | 14 min | North American Premiere

PLAYBACK

D: Agustina Comedi | Argentina | 2019 | 14 min | North American Premiere

RECODING ART

D: Bruno Moreschi, Gabriel Pereira | Brazil | 2019 | 15 min | Canadian Premiere

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NEW THEME PROGRAM *TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT* SHARES FASCINATING STORIES THAT REFLECT ON HUMANKIND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce *To Conserve and Protect*, a new theme program that travels to the edges of this beautiful planet to discover histories and untold stories of people fighting for, and collaborating with, the natural world. With six feature films, *To Conserve and Protect* strives to understand the role humankind needs to play in maintaining and protecting the Earth and all its inhabitants.

"*To Conserve and Protect* shines a light on stories that connect us with the natural world," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Through protest, investigation and sometimes just listening, the films in this program take us on journeys into our relationship with nature that will help us reframe the way we engage with the planet."

The program offers three outstanding world premieres: *Borealis* goes deep into the heart of the mysterious boreal snow forest, observing it from diverse perspectives—from that of foragers and Indigenous healers to biologists and loggers—to gain a greater understanding of this natural wonder; *Cane Fire* dives into Hawaii's sugar cane industry, tracing the island's social history—and the various strategies by which Hollywood has represented it—to create a complex portrait of the struggles of native and working-class residents; and *First We Eat*, which transports audiences to Dawson City, Yukon, where filmmaker Suzanne Crocker eliminates all store-bought food from her home and challenges her family to eat locally for one full year.

Rounding out the program is the international premiere of *Akicita: The Battle of Standing Rock*, a detailed account of the Dakota Access Pipeline stand-off where young Native warriors led the charge to protect the land and water; *My Octopus Teacher*, which follows the remarkable story of a free diver who befriends a curious octopus while swimming off the tip of Africa; and *Once Upon a Time in Venezuela*, which reveals the environmental suffering of Congo Mirador, a small fishing village in Venezuela that is literally sinking from sedimentation.

All films in the *To Conserve and Protect* program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/toconserveandprotect.

AKICITA: THE BATTLE OF STANDING ROCK

D: Cody Lucich | USA, Canada, New Zealand | 2020 | 120 min | International Premiere

BOREALIS

D: Kevin McMahon | Canada | 2020 | 93 min | World Premiere

CANE FIRE

D: Anthony Banua-Simon | USA | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

FIRST WE EAT

D: Suzanne Crocker | Canada | 2020 | 101 min | World Premiere

MY OCTOPUS TEACHER

D: Pippa Ehrlich, James Reed | South Africa, Netherlands | 2020 | 90 min | North American Premiere

ONCE UPON A TIME IN VENEZUELA

D: Anabel Rodríguez Ríos | Venezuela, UK, Brazil, Austria | 2020 | 99 min | Canadian Premiere

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Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

**NEW DEEP DIVE PROGRAM SHOWCASES LONG-FORM EPISODIC SERIES
OFFERING DEPTH AND NUANCE TO DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING**

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce Deep Dive, a program showcasing long-form documentaries that examine complex and layered stories through multiple episodes. Allowing filmmakers to go deeper into their subjects and the fascinating stories behind them, *Deep Dive* features three doc series, each of which contains four episodes.

“The rise in long-form documentary storytelling has opened up unparalleled opportunities for filmmakers to examine subjects and tell stories with great depth and nuance,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “The three series presented in this program vary widely in the stories they tell, but all are equally engaging, unforgettable and entirely binge-worthy.”

After playing at Sundance earlier this year, *Love Fraud* will have its international premiere at Hot Docs. The film investigates a serial fraudster who woos middle-aged women online before robbing them of their money and their dignity. But the tables turn when his victims team up with a female bounty hunter to get revenge and serve justice.

The international premiere of *City So Real* by Oscar-nominated director Steve James (*Hoop Dreams*) is a fascinating and complex portrait of contemporary Chicago, and a multifaceted look into the soul of a quintessentially American city set against the backdrop of its history-making 2019 mayoral election.

The North American premiere of *Green Blood* follows a consortium of 40 global journalists who’ve banded together to continue the work of local reporters who’ve been threatened, jailed or killed because they were investigating the large-scale crimes committed by mining behemoths—including Canada’s own Barrick—in India, Guatemala and Tanzania.

All films in the Deep Dive program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/deepdive.

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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:
Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

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

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 402, Toronto On Canada M5S 2T9 416.203.2155

WWW.HOTDOCS.CA

PERSISTER PROGRAM RETURNS WITH INSPIRING STORIES OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the popular theme program Persister returns to this year’s Festival program. Consisting of 10 features and six shorts, the program spotlights an array of strong, inspirational female voices speaking up and being heard, and fighting for what they believe in.

“The outspoken and outstanding subjects featured in this year’s Persister program refused to be defined by limitations, whether societal, personal or patriarchal,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “Featuring powerful, creative portraits of women working to make a difference—for themselves, their communities, their world—this collection of female-driven and directed films will leave you energized and inspired.”

The struggle of women to both succeed in the business world and to confront the biases that world imposes are starkly seen in two films. The world premiere of *Lady Buds* profiles six savvy businesswomen excited to break into California’s newly legal cannabis trade. But as corporate mega-grows displace artisanal independents and excessive regulations aren’t applied equally, their optimism is replaced with uncertainty and fear. The international premiere of *The Dilemma of Desire* takes a hard look at the medical industry that has all but ignored female pleasure through the stories of four different women left to discover their bodies on their own.

Musical trailblazers are featured in *Shut Up Sona*, an inspiring look at Indian singer Sona Mohapatra, a feisty feminist who’s using her voice to fight back against misogyny and to create a space for herself in India’s patriarchal music industry that denies her value; and in the Crave Original Documentary *FANNY: The Right to Rock*, which tells the enthralling untold story of a 1970s Filipina-American garage band that morphed into the ferocious rock group Fanny, who are now on a comeback.

Stories of women fighting for control of their own bodies are found in the world premiere of *The 8th*, which reveals how the pro-choice movement overturned conservative Ireland’s strict 35-year anti-abortion ban by switching tactics to emphasize compassion; and in *Breaking the Silence*, which tells the story of an Indigenous women who, after learning the truth of her own genital mutilation, now joins forces with other Indigenous women in Colombia to end the inhumane practice.

New looks at motherhood are seen in the world premieres of *Her Mothers*, which shares the intimate story of a lesbian couple adopting a child against the backdrop of rising homophobia in Hungary; and *The School of Housewives*, which takes audiences inside The Reykjavík School of Housewives. Known for teaching students cooking, cleaning, sewing and home economics since 1942, the school stands as a timeless reminder that the domestic arts of the past are as applicable now as they were then. A hand-crafted and slyly feminist love letter to “women’s work” that breathes new life into making, sharing and caring for how things look and taste.

The Persister program is presented in Partnership with Oxfam Canada.

All films in the Persister program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/persister.

THE 8TH

D: Aideen Kane, Maeve O'Boyle, Lucy Kennedy | USA | 2020 | 94 min | World Premiere

BANGLA SURF GIRLS

D: Elizabeth D. Costa | Canada, USA | 2019 | 85 min | World Premiere

BREAKING THE SILENCE

D: Priscila Padilla | Colombia, Bolivia | 2020 | 83 min | North American Premiere

THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE

D: Maria Finitzo | USA | 2020 | 107 min | International Premiere

FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK

D: Bobbi Jo Hart | Canada | 2020 | 92 min | Canadian Premiere

FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND

D: Jennifer Maytorena Taylor | USA | 2020 | 92 min | International Premiere

HER MOTHERS

D: Asia Dér, Sári Haragonics | Hungary | 2020 | 75 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

ÊMÎCÊTÔCÊT: MANY BLOODLINES

D: Theola Ross | Canada | 2020 | 11 min | World Premiere

LADY BUDS

D: Chris J. Russo | USA | 2020 | 93 min | World Premiere

THE SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIVES

D: Stefanía Thors | Iceland | 2020 | 75 min | World Premiere

SHUT UP SONA

D: Deepti Gupta | India | 2019 | 85 min | North American Premiere

SHORTS PROGRAM

COUNTRY GIRL

D: Ellen Evans | UK | 2019 | 15 min | International Premiere

THEY'RE JUST FISH

D: Ana Serna, Paula Iglesias | Spain | 2019 | 17 min | Canadian Premiere

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

RADIA

D: Erica Beebe | UK | 2019 | 14 min | World Premiere

VILLA VILLEKULLA

D: Patricia Bbaale Bandak | Denmark | 2019 | 30 min | International Premiere

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE RETURNS TO EXAMINE POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE CONTINENT

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – For a third year, Hot Docs is pleased to collaborate with EFP (European Film Promotion) for The Changing Face of Europe, a pan-European showcase of fresh voices examining the current cultural, economic and political factors affecting the continent. With prominent themes exploring family, relationships and the strength gained from them, the program includes eight feature films, one mid-length and five shorts.

“For a third year, Hot Docs is honoured to partner with EFP to present a selection of documentaries offering unique perspectives and engaging stories that give us a glimpse of a Europe in transition,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “The program also introduces us to the talent behind the camera, skilled filmmakers destined to make their mark on the documentary world.”

The Changing Face of Europe continues EFP’s commitment of presenting outstanding creative documentaries from Europe to North American audiences. Filmmakers selected to take part in this program will also participate in a number of online industry market activities, expanding their professional development on an international scale, and increasing their film’s access to North American and international markets.

“We are very happy to continue our partnership with Hot Docs despite these difficult times, and to be able to offer the filmmakers who have been selected for The Changing Face Of Europe the opportunity to share their films digitally with key distributors, buyers and festival programmers, and later in the year, in front of Toronto’s enthusiastic audiences,” said EFP’s Managing Director **Sonja Heinen**.

The goal of EFP is to raise visibility and market opportunities for unique, strong and visionary documentaries from Europe. Since 2017, it has provided Film Sales Support for European world sales companies to market films selected for Hot Docs, increasing Europe’s presence at the Festival and helping to stimulate distribution of European films to North America and beyond.

This year’s program features the international premiere of ***Two Roads***, about Czech rock band The Tap Tap, whose members live with physical and neurological disabilities, but still party hard and own the rock star lifestyle.

The Polish film ***Lessons of Love*** follows the free-spirited Jola after she escapes her abusive marriage. Letting loose with her friends and finding herself in a new romance, the film is a joyful journey into a woman’s battle to reinvent herself at 69 years old.

Dead Souls’ Vacation from Georgia shows us the life of once popular bass player Tbilisi, who is now jobless and living in a small one-bedroom apartment with his elderly mother. It is an intimately absurd slice of post-Soviet life that provides an astute look at one family’s dysfunction.

The international premiere of Denmark’s ***Reunited*** reveals how the Syrian war split one family across three continents—a father in Canada and his two children in Turkey—and their formidable fight to reunite.

With stunning visuals, Iceland's nostalgic *The Last Autumn* takes us to a remote sheep farm bordering the Arctic Ocean that is facing its final season. After centuries of rural tradition, we watch as Farmer Úlfar, the last in a long line of farmers, accepts that his traditional way of life is coming to an end.

A Pleasure, Comrades! is a Portuguese film that takes us back to 1975, when many European foreigners came to post-Carnation Revolution Portugal to assist in newly formed co-ops. Today, the aging men and women return to play-act their memories, celebrating sexual freedom and hedonistic utopia.

The Changing Face of Europe is presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP).

All films in The Changing Face of Europe program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/europe.

ALWAYS AMBER

D: Hannah Reinikainen, Lia Hietala | Sweden | 2020 | 75 min | North American Premiere

DEAD SOULS' VACATION

D: Keko Chelidze | Georgia | 2020 | 67 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

CONSUMING CONTEMPORARY

D: Ana Aleksovska | Macedonia | 2019 | 34 min | International Premiere

IMMORTAL

D: Ksenia Okhapkina | Estonia | 2019 | 60 min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

THE FANTASTIC

D: Maija Blåfield | Finland | 2020 | 30 min | North American Premiere

THE LAST AUTUMN

D: Yrsa Roca Fannberg | Iceland | 2019 | 73 min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

LOLA

D: Miranda Carter-Watson | UK | 2020 | 21 min | World Premiere

LESSONS OF LOVE

D: Małgorzata Goliżewska, Kasia Mateja | Poland | 2019 | 75 min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

COMFORT ZONE

D: Jonas Egert | Germany | 2019 | 24 min | World Premiere

A PLEASURE, COMRADES!

D: José Filipe Costa | Portugal | 2019 | 106 min | North American Premiere

RES CREATA – HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

D: Alessandro Cattaneo | Italy | 2019 | 80 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

FAT KATHY

D: Julia Pelka | Poland | 2019 | 14 min | International Premiere

REUNITED

D: Mira Jargil | Denmark | 2019 | 78 min | International Premiere

TWO ROADS

D: Radovan Sibrt | Czech Republic | 2019 | 80 min | International Premiere

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info@vkpr.ca

UNDERGROUND MUSIC, INDIGENOUS ARTISTS AND THE CONNECTIVE POWER OF ART
FEATURE IN HOT DOCS' ARTSCAPES PROGRAM

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs' Artscapes, a program that highlights creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking, returns with 14 remarkable feature films, four mid-lengths and four shorts, all of which delve into the worlds of renowned artists, creative pursuits, music and pop culture.

"Art can heal, inspire, illuminate and entertain, and this year's Artscape's program offers an incredible range of stories by, about and inspired by the world's artists," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Whether taking us behind the scenes of the artistic process, reigniting the spark of creativity, or simply sharing stories of lives lived in the service of art, these unforgettable films remind us that inspiration and beauty are found not only in the results, but also in the journey."

The power of art to thrive and inspire in the most challenging circumstances is found in the international premiere of *Dark City Beneath the Beat*, which showcases Baltimore's creative scene as a positive subculture in a city overshadowed by trauma, drugs, and violence, and in *The Forbidden Reel*, which dives into Afghani film history to reveal a vibrant national cinema shaped through years of war and chaos that was almost lost at the hands of the Taliban.

Indigenous artists are featured in *Haida Modern*, a look at the life and career of world-renowned Haida artist Robert Davidson, and in the world premiere of *Love and Fury*, which follows award-winning Native American filmmaker Sterlin Harjo over a year as he visits Native American artists in the US and abroad, including musician and composer Laura Ortman, artist and composer Raven Chacon and poet, musician and author Joy Harjo, among others.

Unique creative perspectives feature in *Sanmao. The Desert Bride*, a captivating profile of famed Chinese-born, Taiwan-raised author Sanmao, whose commitment to her personal freedom and art inspired a generation of women, and in *The Painter and the Thief*, which looks at the unlikely friendship that evolves between artist Barbora 'Barbar' Kysilkova and the drug addict who stole two of her famous paintings from an Oslo gallery.

The feel-good film of the Festival, *We are the Thousand* shows how one man in a small Italian town rallied a thousand musicians together to play the Foo Fighters' hit *Learning to Fly* in an effort to woo the band to play in their city. A joyful film that rekindles connection to creativity and music.

All films in the Artscapes program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/artscapes.

BARE

D: Aleksandr M. Vinogradov | Belgium | 2020 | 94 Min | World Premiere

DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT

D: Tt The Artist | Usa | 2019 | 65 Min | International Premiere

Screening with:

UKWELI

D: Mike Ramsdell | Democratic Republic of the Congo, USA | 2019 | 20 min | World Premiere

THE FORBIDDEN REEL

D: Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2019 | 119 Min | North American Premiere

HAIDA MODERN

D: Charles Wilkinson | Canada | 2019 | 80 Min | Ontario Premiere

IN YOUR EYES, I SEE MY COUNTRY

D: Kamal Hachkar | Morocco, France | 2019 | 75 Min | International Premiere

KEYBOARD FANTASIES: THE BEVERLY GLENN-COPELAND STORY

D: Posy Dixon | Uk | 2019 | 63 Min | Canadian Premiere

THE LAST ARCHER

D: Dácil Manrique De Lara | Spain | 2019 | 75 Min | World Premiere

LOOKING FOR GILLES CARON

D: Mariana Otero | France | 2019 | 93 Min | North American Premiere

LOVE AND FURY

D: Sterlin Harjo | Usa, Uk | 2020 | 89 Min | World Premiere

Screening with:

NUXALK RADIO

D: Sits'lani (Banshee Hanuse) | Canada | 2020 | 3 min | World Premiere

MADE YOU LOOK: A TRUE STORY ABOUT FAKE ART

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 2020 | 96 Min | World Premiere

THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF

D: Benjamin Ree | Norway | 2019 | 102 Min | Canadian Premiere

SANMAO. THE DESERT BRIDE

D: Ana Pérez De La Fuente, Marta Arribas | Spain | 2019 | 86 Min | International Premiere

THE SONG OF THE BUTTERFLIES

D: Núria Frigola Torrent | Peru | 2020 | 65 Min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

HIRAETH

D: Jimmy Goldblum | USA | 2020 | 20 min | World Premiere

TALES FROM THE PRISON CELL

D: Ábel Visky | Hungary, Croatia, Uk | 2020 | 80 Min | North American Premiere

Screening with:

GUN KILLERS

D: Jason Young | Canada | 2019 | 11 min | Ontario Premiere

WE ARE THE THOUSAND

D: Anita Rivardi | Italy | 2020 | 76 Min | Canadian Premiere

WINTOPIA

D: Mira Burt-Wintonick | Canada | 2019 | 89 Min | Ontario Premiere

WOJNAROWICZ: F--K YOU F--GOT F--KER

D: Chris Mckim | Usa | 2020 | 108 Min | International Premiere

YOU ARE THE DAYS TO COME

D: Ronja Yu | Sweden | 2020 | 72 Min | World Premiere

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FUTURE CULT CLASSICS FEATURED IN HOT DOCS' NIGHTVISION PROGRAM

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the five feature films and six shorts in Nightvision, a program that highlights future cult classics and showcases diverse and creative approaches to filmmaking.

"Fearless, freaky and fascinating applies to both the films and filmmakers in this year's Nightvision program," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "This program of future cult classics will show you things you've never seen, offer insights you never could have imagined, and upend all you thought you knew about the world we live in."

The Nightvision program features the world premiere of *Once Upon a Time in Uganda*, about an indie-action-flick studio in Uganda that attempts to bring its movies to the world; the international premiere of *Glitch in the Matrix*, a mind-bending argument about simulation theory that will have you questioning if what you see is real; *Feels Good Man*, winner of the Sundance U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Emerging Filmmaker, reveals how the innocently created meme Pepe the Frog became a symbol of the alt-right; the stylized *I Love You I Miss You I Hope I See You Before I Die*, a sensory overload of symbols that shows the selflessness of motherhood through the life of a poor single mom in Colorado; and *LEAP OF FAITH: William Friedkin on the Exorcist*, which delves into the mind of the Oscar-winning director as he explains the genesis of the horror masterpiece.

All films in the Nightvision program are listed below. Please note that all premiere statuses are accurate at time publishing and may change at time of eventual screening. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/nightvision.

FEELS GOOD MAN

D: Arthur Jones | USA | 2020 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

GLITCH IN THE MATRIX

D: Rodney Ascher | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

I LOVE YOU I MISS YOU I HOPE I SEE YOU BEFORE I DIE

D: Eva Marie Rødbro | Denmark | 2019 | 76 min | Canadian Premiere

Screening with:

AT THE RIVER

D: A. Madsen Minax | USA | 2020 | 10 min | International Premiere

LEAP OF FAITH: WILLIAM FRIEDKIN ON THE EXORCIST

D: Alexandre O. Philippe | USA | 2019 | 105 min | CANADIAN PREMIERE

ONCE UPON A TIME IN UGANDA

D: Cathryne Czubek, Hugo Perez | USA, Uganda | 2020 | 93 min | WORLD PREMIERE

SHORTS PROGRAM

LIFE IS A BURGER

D: Patrick Sean O'Brien | USA | 2020 | 5 min | International Premiere

JUST A GUY

D: Shoko Hara | Germany | 2020 | 15 min | World Premiere

MODERN WHORE

D: Nicole Bazuin | Canada | 2020 | 12 min | World Premiere

SEX ASSISTANT

D: Andrés González Majul | Venezuela | 2019 | 22 min | North American Premiere

UNFORGIVABLE

D: Marlén Viñayo | El Salvador | 2020 | 35 min | World Premiere

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HOT DOCS' REDUX PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS TRAILBLAZING REVOLUTIONARIES

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce films in Redux: Revolution, a twist on the popular retrospective program that shares exceptional documentaries from the past. This year's program focuses on stories of revolution, featuring subjects who have pushed back against injustice and oppressive societal norms, and fought against corrupt governments, corporate greed and the abuse of power.

"This year Redux highlights the theme of revolution," said **Kiva Reardon**, programmer of the Redux program. "Varying in forms, eras and locales, the idea behind Redux: Revolution is to celebrate films that, while coming from a specific time and place, speak to the urgency of the present and the desire to work towards a better future."

This year's Redux program includes *The Boxing Girls of Kabul*, an award-winning film by Ariel Nasr, whose doc *The Forbidden Reel* is also part of this year's Artscapes program. The film is a dynamic profile of the Afghan women's boxing team as they face multiple challenges that range from lack of equipment to threats from the Taliban.

One of the most widely screened films of the NFB's Indian Film Crew initiative, *You Are on Indian Land* documents the 1969 uprising of the Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) of Akwesasne territory on the Canada-US border, which mobilized a new generation of Indigenous resistance movements. *An African Election* tells the story of Ghana's momentous 2008 election, as filmmaker Jarreth Mertz captures the fervour of campaigning and the anxious mood of voters as their democracy perilously strains through the turbulent process.

Redux: Revolution features filmmaker Jocelyne Saab's three short films *Beirut, My City*; *Beirut, Never Again*; and *Children of War*, an intensely powerful chronicle about the director's experience with the Siege of Beirut and the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War. Also in the program is *The Reluctant Revolutionary*, which looks at the 2011 revolt in Yemen through the eyes of Kais, a funny and charismatic local who wants nothing to do with the conflict, until he's drawn in.

This year, the Redux program also includes a memorial screening honouring Hot Docs award-winning director John Kastner, who passed away in November 2019. His film *Rage Against the Darkness: Bunny and Leona* is a beautiful film about old age, family and the transitions we must make in life told through the story of two elderly sisters forced to live apart for the first time in 30 years.

All films in the Redux program are listed below. For more information about this year's program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/redux.

AN AFRICAN ELECTION

D: Jarreth Merz, Kevin Merz (co-director) | USA, Switzerland | 2010 | 89 min

BEIRUT, MY CITY

D: Jocelyne Saab | Lebanon | 1982 | 37 min

Screening with:

BEIRUT, NEVER AGAIN

D: Jocelyne Saab | Lebanon | 1976 | 35 min
&

CHILDREN OF WAR

D: Jocelyne Saab | Lebanon | 1976 | 10 min

THE BOXING GIRLS OF KABUL

D: Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2011 | 52 min

Screening with:

SWELL

D: Charlotte Lagarde | USA | 1996 | 24 min

Special Memorial Screening

RAGE AGAINST THE DARKNESS: BUNNY AND LEONA

D: John Kastner | Canada | 2003 | 85 min

THE RELUCTANT REVOLUTIONARY

D: Sean McAllister | UK, Yemen | 2012 | 69 min

Screening with:

CAPE VERDE INDEPENDENCE JULY 5TH & 6TH 1975

D: Anthony D. Ramos | USA | 2005 | 13 min

SIX MILES DEEP

D: Sara Roque | Canada | 2009 | 44 min

Screening with:

YOU ARE ON INDIAN LAND

D: Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell | Canada | 1969 | 36 min

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MULTI-AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER STANLEY NELSON NAMED HOT DOCS 2020 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – The Hot Docs Board of Directors is pleased to announce it has chosen multi-award-winning director and producer Stanley Nelson as the recipient of its 2020 Outstanding Achievement Award.

“We’re honoured to recognize Stanley Nelson, one of the documentary world’s most important voices, with the Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award, and to feature a selection of films from Stanley’s impressive body of work,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “His contribution to documentary is unprecedented, with his powerful films providing incisive commentary on the African American experience, while restoring his subjects to their rightful place in history.”

Films included in Stanley Nelson’s Outstanding Achievement Award retrospective include *Freedom Summer* (2014), which takes the viewer back to Mississippi in 1964 at the height of the civil rights movement; 2005’s *Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice*, which looks into the world of the Grammy-winning all-women a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock; 2015’s *Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*, a definitive look at the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense; last year’s Festival favourite *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*, a captivating profile on the legendary jazz musician. Also, as part of the honour Mr. Nelson is given the opportunity to select a film to screen in the retrospective that complements or has inspired his own body of work. Mr. Nelson’s has selected Raoul Peck’s *I Am Not Your Negro*, which is based on an unfinished James Baldwin manuscript that explores the history of racism in America.

For more information about this year’s Outstanding Achievement retrospective please visit www.hotdocs.ca/OAA.

With a dense catalogue of thought-provoking documentaries chronicling the African American experience, Stanley Nelson is a celebrated filmmaker many times over. A MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, he received an individual Peabody Award in 2015 for his work, and the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts Sciences. He was awarded the National Medal in the Humanities from President Barack Obama, and his films *Freedom Riders* (2010) and *Freedom Summer* (2014), which look at multiracial efforts to register black voters and desegregate public transportation facilities in the Jim Crow South, received high praise, with the former awarded three primetime Emmy Awards and the latter earning Nelson a Peabody Award.

Combining compelling narratives with rich and deeply researched historical detail, Nelson’s films have shone new light on both familiar and under-explored aspects of the American past. Two of his recent films, *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* (2018) which chronicles the 150-year history and impact of historic black colleges and universities, and *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* (2016), a portrait of the iconic Black Panther organization, broke audience records for African American viewership on the PBS series Independent Lens and won the 2016 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Documentary Film.

His 2003 film *The Murder of Emmett Till*, about the brutal killing of a fourteen-year-old African American boy in Mississippi in 1955, received the Sundance Special Jury Prize that year, and his

latest film, *Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool*, premiered at Sundance in 2019, marking Nelson's tenth premiere at the prestigious festival in 20 years, the most of any documentary filmmaker.

In 2000, Nelson and his wife, Marcia A. Smith, founded Firelight Media, a non-profit production company dedicated to telling underrepresented stories, and to mentoring, inspiring and training a new generation of talented documentary filmmakers of color. Firelight received a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2016.

The Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award is presented annually by the Hot Docs Board of Directors in recognition of a filmmaker's enduring contribution to the documentary form.

Past recipients and Hot Docs guests include Julia Reichert (2019), Barbara Kopple (2018), Tony Palmer (2017), Steve James (2016), Patricio Guzmán (2015), Adam Curtis (2014), Les Blank (2013), Michel Brault (2012), Terence Macartney-Filgate (2011), Kim Longinotto (2010), Alanis Obomsawin (2009), Richard Leacock (2008), Heddy Honigmann (2007), Werner Herzog (2006), Errol Morris (2005), Michael Maclear (2004), Nick Broomfield (2003), Frederick Wiseman (2002), D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus (2000) and Albert Maysles (1999).

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Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

18 PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY HOT DOCS INITIATIVES ARE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS OF THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that 18 films selected for the 2020 Festival have been supported by Hot Docs, either through the Hot Docs' portfolio of production funds or through participation in Hot Docs' market and industry initiatives, including the Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, and Doc Accelerator.

Two projects received Hot Doc-Blue Ice Group Documentary Fund support, which helps fund African filmmakers working on the continent.

Four films were selected as official pitch projects from past editions of the Hot Docs Forum, North America's largest co-financing market event for international documentaries.

An additional five selected films participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, a one-on-one pitch-meeting program launched in 2013 for producers seeking financing from the international marketplace.

Four selected films received a grant from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, established to support Canadian documentary filmmakers, two selected films received CrossCurrents Doc Fund support, and three selected films received support from Hot Docs Partners, an initiative connecting a select group of committed investors to documentaries seeking financing.

Grant recipients and alumni projects and filmmakers are listed below.

BANGLA SURF GIRLS

D: Elizabeth D. Costa | Canada, USA | 2019 | 85 min | World Premiere

Fiscal Sponsored by Hot Docs

Three working-class teenage girls in a port city in Bangladesh escape daily hardships and stifling family lives by riding waves on their surfboards and grabbing hold of the fleeting and thrilling sense of freedom that brings.

FINDING SALLY

D: Tamara Dawit | Canada | 2020 | 78 min | North American Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2013

The remarkable story of the director's aunt, who at 23 was an idealistic aristocrat-turned-communist-rebel with the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party. After landing on the most-wanted list, she mysteriously disappears underground during the revolution's tumultuous aftermath.

FIRST WE EAT

D: Suzanne Crocker | Canada | 2020 | 101 min | World Premiere

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient, 2019

Putting food security to the test in Yukon, the filmmaker bans all store-bought groceries from her house in a year-long adventure in farming, fishing and foraging complicated by three skeptical teenagers, no caffeine and -40-degree temperatures.

THE FORBIDDEN REEL

D: Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2019 | 119 min | North American Premiere

Corus-Hot Docs Fund recipient, 2015

Creating amidst periods of war and chaos, Afghan filmmakers spawned an extraordinary national cinema that was nearly all lost to the Taliban. Marvelling in the magic of movies, this thrilling story celebrates the incredible films we almost never got to see.

THE FORUM

D: Marcus Vetter | Germany, Switzerland | 2019 | 116 min | North American Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2019

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the most powerful leaders and thinkers on the planet gather, astonishing conversations unfold between the likes of Al Gore, Jair Bolsonaro and Greta Thunberg during an event with so much at stake.

HOLLIE'S DRESS

D: Annie Sakkab | Canada | 2020 | 25 min | World Premiere

Doc Accelerator alumni, 2019

As 14-year-old Hollie sews her first dress with her mother, she faces the decision all Mennonite girls must make as they reach adulthood. Will she put on the dress, become a full member of the Mennonite church and assume her role as a mother, or will she join the wider world?

I AM SAMUEL

D: Peter Murimi | Kenya, Canada, UK, USA | 2020 | 70 min | World Premiere

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund recipient, 2014

Filmed over five years, this powerful tale follows Kenyan-born Samuel who, while dutiful to his family, finds his desire to live life as he chooses at odds with his conservative rural upbringing and must find a balance between the two.

INFLUENCE

D: Richard Poplak, Diana Neille | Canada, South Africa | 2020 | 106 min | Canadian Premiere

Hot Docs Partners recipient, 2019

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, 2018

Fake news, weaponized communication and political interference take centre stage in this story of spin, all charted through the rise and collapse of notorious British public relations and reputation management firm Bell Pottinger.

MADE YOU LOOK: A TRUE STORY ABOUT FAKE ART

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 2020 | 96 min | World Premiere

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient, 2019

Controversy erupts when the American art market is flooded with a slew of fake paintings valued in the millions. As the truth unravels and consequences mount, a reputed New York dealer unwittingly finds herself at the centre of an elaborate con.

MEAT THE FUTURE

D: Liz Marshall | Canada | 2020 | 90 min | World Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, 2018

Memphis Meats aims to go mainstream with its lab-grown “cultured meat” products, made without killing animals. But in a race to alter diets and save the planet, can this new approach to food win over omnivorous skeptics?

ONCE UPON A TIME IN VENEZUELA

D: Anabel Rodríguez Ríos | Venezuela, UK, Brazil, Austria | 2020 | 99 min | Canadian Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, 2018

Hot Docs Partners recipient, 2020

In Venezuela, corruption, pollution and political decay take their toll as the small fishing village of Congo Mirador is literally sinking from sedimentation. Confronting the crisis, two local women clash over the upcoming election, eyeing different paths forward.

REUNITED

D: Mira Jargil | Denmark | 2019 | 78 min | International Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, 2018

The Syrian war splits one family across three continents—a father in Canada, a mother in Denmark and their two children alone in Turkey. Navigating three asylum systems and endless paperwork, cameras capture their formidable fight to reunite.

SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS

D: Dongnan Chen | China, USA | 2020 | 96 min | North American Premiere

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2018

A Miao ethnic Christian choir, facing threat in the form of cultural exploitation, are transformed into national sensations when the Chinese government decides to showcase their singing talents. But will their voices really be heard?

SOFTIE

D: Sam Soko | Kenya, Canada | 2020 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund recipient, 2016, 2017

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2017

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, 2018

Hot Docs Partners recipient, 2020

Kenya’s most provocative photojournalist, Boniface Mwangi’s campaigns against injustice have always created turmoil for his family. Now, battling corruption as he runs for office, his ideals are tested as he must choose between country and those closest to him.

STATELESS

D: Michèle Stephenson | USA, Canada | 2020 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient, 2017

After the Dominican Republic Supreme Court strips citizenship from anyone with Haitian parentage—retroactive to 1929—200,000 people are rendered stateless due to anti-Black racism. In response, a young attorney ignites a grassroots campaign, relentlessly fighting to protect citizenship rights for all.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 2020 | 75 min | World Premiere

CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund recipient, 2018

Doc Accelerator alumni, 2018

Honest Ed's, Toronto's iconic bargain-hunter's paradise for over 60 years, is now a razed city block in the midst of development. Displaced community members are left to reconcile their future amidst a growing housing crisis.

TWO GODS

D: Zeshawn Ali | USA | 2020 | 85 min | International Premiere

CrossCurrents International Doc Fund recipient, 2018

Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2018

Doc Accelerator, 2018

After turning his own life around, a Muslim casket maker and ritual body washer from Newark mentors two young boys facing turbulent times at home and on the streets, poetically underscoring the importance of redemption and healing.

WINTOPIA

D: Mira Burt-Wintonick | Canada | 2019 | 89 min | Ontario Premiere

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient, 2018

A box of tapes uncovered. A father's obsession with Utopia. A daughter's attempt to reconnect through his unfinished film. The enigmatic path of filmmaker Peter Wintonick is traced by his daughter as she tries to decipher the map he left behind.

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Virginia Kelly

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HOT DOCS FORUM ANNOUNCES 22 CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SELECTIONS

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the 22 projects that will be presented during this year's online edition of the Hot Docs Forum. Selected from over 463 submissions, this year's projects represent 19 different countries, with women making up 18 of the 27 directors. Recognized as North America's essential market for the international documentary community, the Hot Docs Forum will take place on Tuesday, May 5, and Wednesday, May 6.

"We are incredibly proud of this year's slate of films and are humbled by the passion these filmmakers have for bringing their stories forward in our new online format," said **Dorota Lech**, Hot Docs industry programmer and Forum producer. "With an overwhelming response from decision makers to participate, this year's Forum will continue to meet the dynamic needs of our industry and empower storytellers to bring their cinematic visions to life."

"In the midst of this unprecedented global crisis, Hot Docs industry remains dedicated to the careers and stories told by our valued filmmakers," said **Elizabeth Radshaw**, industry programs director. "The decision to pivot the Hot Docs Forum to a digital offering was a difficult one but as always, we are committed to providing our community and the documentary industry with opportunities to network, pitch, learn, and support each other."

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's 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 – SWR, ARD – WDR, ARTE France, ARTE G.E.I.E, BBC Storyville, CBC, CNN Films, Catapult, Cinereach, DR, EBS Korea, ESPN, Field of Vision, Ford Foundation, Fork Films, France Télévisions, The Guardian, HBO Documentary Films, Impact Partners, ITVS, Knowledge Network, Lucas Film, National Geographic, Netflix, The New York Times – Op Docs, NHK, SBS, SVT, Sundance Film Institute, TVO, VICE Canada, VPRO, YLE, and ZDF ARTE.

Established to offer donors a chance to support documentaries that examine social justice issues, the *first look* Pitch Prize, which returns for a fourth year, will enable its partners to select and award their top three Forum pitches. For the 12th consecutive year, the Hot Docs Corus Pitch Prize 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.

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

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Production Company: Capital K Pictures LLC (USA)

Director: Nausheen Dadabhoy

ALIEN ISLAND

Production Company: Glacier Films SpA (Chile)
Director: Cristóbal Valenzuela Berríos

AMERICAN SAINT

Production Company: Satellite Pictures, Inc. (USA)
Director: Allison Berg

BELLA

Production Companies: 4th Row Films Inc. (USA); Field of Vision (USA)
Directors: Bella Graves, Adam Dietrich

CHILDREN OF THE MIST

Production Company: Varan Vietnam Co., Ltd. (Vietnam)
Director: Hà Lê Diễm

COMMUTED

Production Company: Commuted Film, LLC (USA)
Director: Nailah Jefferson

THE CURRENT

Production Company: Koi Studio LTD (Poland)
Director: Rafał Skalski

CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS

Production Companies: Gandom Production, LLC (Iran); inselfilm produktion UG (Germany)
Directors: Sara Khaki, Mohammad Reza Eyni

DREAMING WALLS

Production Companies: Clin d'oeil films SRL (Belgium); Media International SA (Belgium); Basalt Film BV (The Netherlands); Les films de l'oeil sauvage SARL (France); Momento Film AB (Sweden); Hard Working Movies Inc. (USA)
Director: Amélie van Elmbt

DRIVER

Production Companies: Goldfish Films, Inc. (USA); Hedgehog Films (USA)
Director: Nesa Azimi

ENERGYLANDIA

Production Company: Catbird Productions Inc. (Canada)
Director: Kinga Michalska

JUST A BAND

Production Companies: Ink & Pepper Productions, Ltd. (Canada); Afrobubblegum (Kenya)
Directors: Anjali Nayar, Mbithi Masya

IN THE SHADE OF LIGHT

Production Company: Dos Be Producciones Ltda. (Chile)
Directors: Ignacia Merino Bustos, Isabel Reyes

MASHA

Production Companies: ZED SAS (France); Vides filmu studija, SIA (Latvia); VšĮ Moonmakers (Lithuania)
Director: Giedrė Žickytė

THE NEW GREATNESS

Production Companies: Ethnofund NPO (Russia); Nukleus film d.o.o. (Croatia); Roast Beef Productions Limited (Great Britain)
Director: Anna Shishova-Bogolyubova

OJIIBIKAAN

Production Companies: Door Number 3 Productions Inc. (Canada); Clique Pictures Inc. (Canada); Earth City Films Inc. (Canada)
Directors: Rémy Huberdeau, Sean Stiller

THE ROULETTE PROJECT

Production Companies: Danish Documentary Production Aps. (Denmark); Motto Pictures Inc. (USA)
Director: Pernille Rose Grønkjær

SPEAK NO EVIL

Production Companies: Osaka Sunset Pictures Inc. (Canada); Submarine Entertainment (USA)
Director: Jason Lapeyre

Untitled Kristi Jacobson Film

Production Companies: McGee Media, LLC (USA); Moss Creative, LLC (USA); Catalyst Films, Inc. (USA)
Director: Kristi Jacobson

Untitled Jialing Zhang Film

Production Companies: CineMia LLC (USA); Little Lantern Company, LLC (USA)
Director: Jialing Zhang

Untitled Petra Costa Film

Production Company: Busca Vida Filmes e Produções Eireli (Brazil)
Directors: Petra Costa, Rodrigo Siqueira

WARPLAY

Production Company: Tangram Film EA (Sweden)
Director: Hemen Kurda

The Hot Docs Forum wishes to thank founding partner Telefilm Canada. The Hot Docs Forum receives additional support from A&E, Al Jazeera, Blue Ice Pictures, C21 Media, Canada Council for the Arts, Canada Media Fund, CMPA, Creative BC, Department of Canadian Heritage, DGC, DGC Ontario, Gardiner Roberts LLP, National Film Board of Canada, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Creates, Realscreen, SODEC, City of Toronto, and Toronto Arts Council.

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HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES 2020 FESTIVAL JURY MEMBERS

Toronto, April 14, 2020 – Hot Docs proudly announces the 12 filmmakers, industry professionals, journalists and others distinguished members who will sit on the 2020 Hot Docs Festival Jury. It is the jury members' duty to preside over the awards selection for the films in the official competition, determining the winners in the categories of Best Canadian Feature (selected from the Canadian Spectrum program), Best International Feature (selected from the International Spectrum program), Best Mid-Length Documentary and Best Short Documentary. Jurors will also select special jury prizes and emerging filmmaker awards in the Best Canadian Feature and Best International Feature categories.

The 2020 Hot Docs Festival Jury members are:

CANADIAN FEATURES

Amar Wala
Lisa Valencia Svensson
Rada Sestic

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES

Justine Pimlott
Orwa Nyrabia
Chris Hegedus

MID-LENGTH FILMS

Monika Navarro
Joao Federici
Denae Peters

SHORT FILMS

Sami Khan
Elle-Maija Tailfeathers
Kathleen McInnis

Juror Biographies

CANADIAN FEATURES

AMAR WALA

Producer/Director Amar Wala was born in Mumbai but makes his home in Toronto. His debut feature, *The Secret Trial 5*, established him as a daring new voice in Canadian cinema. Using his work to deconstruct notions of race, class, and identity, Amar has also directed award-winning series for CBC, Viceland and Shopify Studios. He is currently Director and Consulting Producer on CBC's acclaimed Arts series *In The Making*. In 2018, Amar received the Vanguard Award from DOC.

LISA VALENCIA SVENSSON

Lisa is an Emmy award winning producer and Head of Operations at Multitude Films. She co-produced *Always In Season*, which won the Special Jury Award for Moral Urgency at Sundance 2019. She produced *Call Her Ganda* (Tribeca 2018), nominated for the GLAAD Award for Outstanding Documentary and broadcast on POV. Her first documentary *Herman's House* (Full Frame 2012) won an Emmy for Outstanding Arts & Culture Programming, and broadcast on POV. Her second feature *Migrant Dreams* (Hot Docs 2016) won the Canadian Hillman Prize, Canadian Association of Journalists award, and broadcast on Al Jazeera. Other credits include *The World Before Her* (Tribeca 2012) and *Laila At The Bridge* (CPH:DOX 2018).

RADA SESIC

Festival programmer, film lecturer, film director. Born in former Yugoslavia, lives in The Netherlands. Sestic is Head of the Documentary Competition at the Sarajevo Film Festival and takes part in selection of IDFA. Is a program advisor of IFFRotterdam and takes part in selection of Hubert Bals Fund, is a reader for DOHA fund. Teaches at the Master of film in Amsterdam and is mentor at various documentary workshops in Europe in Asia. Artistic director of Eastern Neighbours FF in The Hague.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES

JUSTINE PIMLOTT

Justine Pimlott is a multi-award-winning producer based at the National Film Board of Canada's Ontario Studio. With over 25 years in the industry she has a long history of bringing stories that are often marginalized to the screen. Some of her NFB producer credits include: *What Walaa Wants* (Berlin, Hot Docs 2018 Jury Prize Best Canadian Feature Documentary, TIFF Top Ten Film, CSA nominee for Best Feature Length Documentary); *A Better Man* (Hot Docs 2017, Doc NYC 2017), the LGBTQ2+ shorts series *Five @ 50* and the upcoming feature documentaries *Inconvenient Indian* and *Borealis*.

ORWA NYRABIA

Orwa Nyrabia is the Artistic Director of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. He was born in Syria where he worked as actor and as a journalist, before starting up the first independent documentary-specialized production company in the country, in 2002, together with his partner Diana el Jeiroudi. Later in 2008, Nyrabia and El Jeiroudi co-founded the independent documentary film festival DOX BOX, which quickly became the Arab region's leading documentary festival. Nyrabia moved to Egypt in 2012, then to Germany in 2013, where he continued producing award-winning international co-productions such as *Dolls*, *A Woman from Damascus* (IDFA 2007), *Return to Homs* (IDFA 2013 and Sundance 2014) and *Silvered Water* (Cannes 2014). Nyrabia tutored many up and coming filmmakers from around the world and served as juror for some of the world's most influential film funds and festivals. He is a member of AMPAS, IDA, EDN. His films earned a long list of awards including a Sundance Grand Jury award and a Grierson Award and his work earned him accolades such as the George Polk Award, the Nestor Almendros Award and the Katrin Cartlidge Award. His work has been highlighted by media outlets such as 60 Minutes, NYT, WP, and Le Monde.

CHRIS HEGEDUS

Chris Hegedus has directed, shot, and edited documentaries for over forty years. In 2002 she won the DGA Award for Startup.com. With DA Pennebaker, Hegedus directed the 1992 Academy Award-nominated *The War Room*. Other films include *Elaine Stritch at Liberty* (Emmy Award), *The Energy War* (series), *Town Bloody Hall*, *Moon Over Broadway*, *Depeche Mode 101*, *Kings of Pastry* and Emmy-nominated *Unlocking the Cage*. Career awards include Hot Docs, IDA, Critic's Choice and Doc NYC.

MID-LENGTH FILMS

MONIKA NAVARRO

Monika Navarro recently joined Firelight Media as the Senior Director of Artist Programs. Monika comes to Firelight from the Tribeca Film Institute, where she oversaw documentary, scripted, education, shorts, and interactive programs. Prior to that, she was at the Independent Television Service (ITVS), where she managed content and funding initiatives, oversaw a development portfolio, and was a consulting producer on *Las Sandinistas* (SXSW 2018), *The First Rainbow Coalition* (Independent Lens), and *A Woman's Work: The NFL's Cheerleader Problem* (Tribeca 2019). Monika has more than a decade of experience producing for public media, from directing her debut film *Lost Souls* (Animas Perdidas) which premiered on Independent Lens, to producing for World Channel, American Documentary and the Peabody-award winning PBS series *Latino Americans*.

JOAO FEDERICI

Joao Federici - Brazilian, based in California, USA, Federici is a BA graduate in Arts. He is the World Cinema Programmer of Mill Valley Film Festival (California|US) and Director of Programming of MixBrasil Festival (São Paulo|Brazil). He has collaborated and also served on numerous juries and film festival selection committees. Federici's background is in theatre, film production and film festival operations; his productions won the most prestigious awards in Brazil and overseas. A successful fundraiser, with in-depth experience in grant fund management, and program development.

DENAE PETERS

Denae Peters is a Program Officer at Perspective Fund, a grant-making organization supporting nonfiction media, where she oversees media impact infrastructure and field-building initiatives. Previously, she led the strategy and implementation of non-theatrical impact campaigns at impact firms Picture Motion and Film Sprout. She recently served as the TIFF 2019 documentary programming associate and programmer for TIFF 2019 Doc Conference. She has served on selection committees for the Human Rights Watch Film Festival, the National Endowment for the Arts, DOC NYC and the Tribeca Film Festival.

SHORT FILMS

SAMI KHAN

Sami Khan is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker whose work has screened at the Toronto, Tribeca, Hot Docs, and Mumbai Film Festivals and been supported by the Sundance and Tribeca Film Institutes, Rooftop Films, IFP, the NBC/Universal Director's Fellowship, and the Berlinale. *The Last Out*, Sami's first feature documentary, was slated to premiere at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. The film tells the harrowing tale of four Cuban baseball players and their dangerous journeys out of their homeland and into the United States.

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ELLE-MAIJA TAILFEATHERS

Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers is a filmmaker, writer, and actor. She is Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) from the Kainai First Nation (Blood Reserve) as well as Sámi from northern Norway. Tailfeathers was the 2018 Sundance Institute Merata Mita Film Fellow and is an alumnus of the Berlinale Talent Lab, the Hot Docs Accelerator Lab, the CFC/NFB/Ford Foundation Open Immersion Virtual Reality Lab, the Whistler Film Festival Aboriginal Film Fellowship, and the International Sámi Film Institute Indigenous Film Fellowship. Her short documentary *Bihttoš* was included in the TIFF Top Ten Canadian Shorts and was also nominated for a Canadian Screen Award and a Leo Award for Best Short Documentary. Her narrative feature-length directorial debut *The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open*, co-written and co-directed with Kathleen Hepburn, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in the Generation Program and won numerous awards including both the Toronto and Vancouver Film Critics Best Canadian Feature Award. She is currently directing a feature-length documentary about the opiate crisis in her home community of Kainai with the support of the National Film Board of Canada as well as the Hot Docs Cross Currents Fund.

KATHLEEN MCINNIS

Kathleen McInnis (See-Through Films) consults with emerging World Cinema filmmakers to strategically merge their creative and business development. Kathleen has over 30 years of experience in programming at festivals such as Seattle, Palm Springs, Aspen and TIFF, and is a strategic publicist and producer for films premiering at Sundance, Berlin, Karlovy Vary, Toronto, and Cannes. She currently also curates the New Works-in-Progress Forum at Seattle Int'l Film Festival.

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Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Docs as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada as its Major Supporter.

Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly
V Kelly & Associates, Inc.
416-839-9239
info@vkpr.ca

HOT DOCS BY NUMBERS: QUICK FACTS ON THE 2020 FESTIVAL

- Hot Docs received a total of 3068 submissions
- Hot Docs 2020 official selection includes 226 documentary films and 12 interdisciplinary projects in the following 17 screening programs and DocX:
 - Special Presentations (29; 28 features; 1 short)
 - Canadian Spectrum (23; 12 features, 11 shorts)
 - Focus On Raymonde Provencher (4; 3 features, 1 mid-length);
 - International Spectrum (10; 9 features, 1 short);
 - World Showcase (41; 23 features; 4 mid-lengths; 14 shorts);
 - Made In Northern Ireland (5; 3 features; 1 mid-length; 1 short);
 - Artscapes (22; 14 features; 4 mid-length; 4 shorts)
 - Persister (15; 10 features; 5 shorts);
 - Markers (12; 4 features; 3 mid-length; 5 shorts)
 - Revisionaries (14; 7 features; 8 shorts)
 - To Conserve & Protect (6; 6 features)
 - Deep Dive (3; 3 features)
 - The Changing Face of Europe (14; 8 features; 1 mid-length; 5 shorts);
 - Nightvision (12; 6 features; 6 shorts);
 - Redux (11; 3 features; 2 mid-lengths; 6 shorts);
 - Outstanding Achievement Award Retrospective honouring Stanley Nelson (5; 5 features);
 - DocX (12 projects)
- Hot Docs 2020 includes a combined total of documentary and interdisciplinary projects of:
 - 61 world premieres; (2 DocX projects)
 - 46 international premieres (2 DocX projects);
 - 41 North American premieres (2 DocX projects);
 - 49 Canadian premieres (5 DocX projects);
 - 15 Ontario premieres
 - 6 Toronto premieres
 - 20 retrospective titles

Hot Docs drew selections for its film programs and DocX from 63 countries. Documentaries and projects were produced and/or co-produced by the following countries:

- 72 from the USA
- 57 from Canada
- 13 from the United Kingdom
- 8 from Germany
- 7 from France
- 5 from Denmark
- 4 from each Belgium, Lebanon, Norway, Poland and Sweden
- 3 from each Ireland, Kenya, Spain and Switzerland

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

- 2 from each Argentina, Australia, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Venezuela
- 1 from each Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Croatia, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Korea, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe