

RECIPIENTS OF CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL DOC FUND
THEATRICAL STRAND ANNOUNCED
\$30,000 CAD AWARDED TO *AGAINST THE TIDE* AND *CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS*

Toronto, November 11, 2020 – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the Panicaro Foundation are pleased to announce that *Against the Tide* (D: Sarvnik Kaur | India) and *Cutting Through Rocks* (D: Sara Khaki & Mohammad Reza Eyni | Iran) are the grant recipients of the CrossCurrents Doc Fund International/Theatrical Stream. Launched at the 2016 Festival by the Panicaro Foundation, the theatrical stream allocates \$30,000 CAD each year to one or more full-length feature projects in production by emerging filmmakers.

“Through incisive storytelling and compelling narrative, both of these films share deeply captivating and intimate stories that speak to current global issues and invite us into obscure realities,” said **Caroline Birks**, treasurer/board member of the Panicaro Foundation. “We’re so proud to be able to support these talented filmmakers and contribute to the production of these projects with this year’s round of funding.”

In addition to funding, grant recipients will participate in professional development activities throughout the year, including labs with direct access to industry mentors, a set curriculum of workshop activities, access to the Hot Docs Forum, and access to networking opportunities.

“Despite the unprecedented disruption the pandemic has caused to productions around the world, we received applications from a record number of countries this round. This year’s grantees are both remarkable for their striking cinematic visions and for the rich humanity they each bring to their timely topics,” said **Heidi Tao Yang**, acting industry programs director for Hot Docs. “These projects come to us from communities rarely represented on international screens, and we’re delighted to support two emerging production teams who are poised to make their marks on the global stage.”

Eligible projects were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Caroline Birks (treasurer/board member, Panicaro Foundation), Deepti Gupta (filmmaker, Omgrown Music), and Hot Docs (Julian Carrington, distribution manager & industry programmer, funds, and Heidi Tao Yang, acting industry programs director).

AGAINST THE TIDE

Director/Producer: Sarvnik Kaur

Producer: Koval Bhatia

Production company: Snooker Club Films Pvt Ltd.

Country: India

A tale of love, brotherhood and resentments against the backdrop of an adoring sea, which is turning adverse under the menacing effects of an all-pervading calamity called climate change.

CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS

Directors/Producers: Sara Khaki & Mohammad Reza Eyni

Production company: Gandom Films Production

Country: Iran

Logline withheld.

The application dates for the fifth round of funding will be announced in the New Year.

For further information on the application process, eligibility requirements and deadlines, please visit <http://www.hotdocs.ca/i/crosscurrents-doc-fund>.

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Hot Docs is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. During the annual Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international documentary industry with a multi-million-dollar production fund and financing initiative portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

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