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CANADIAN PRODUCER BONNIE THOMPSON HONOURED AT HOT DOCS WITH THE 2023 DON HAIG AWARD

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is pleased to announce veteran Canadian media producer **Bonnie Thompson** as this year’s recipient of the prestigious **Don Haig Award**. Thompson is the producer behind *Echo of Everything* (D: Cam Christiansen), a feature length documentary exploring the universal power of music, which will have its world premiere at Hot Docs’ 30th-Anniversary Festival, on now until May 7.

The Don Haig Award is presented to an outstanding Canadian independent producer with a feature-length film at the Festival, with the recipient being selected by a jury of independent filmmakers. The Award recognizes creative vision and entrepreneurship, as reflected in the recipient’s body of work, as well as a track record of mentoring emerging Canadian filmmakers. Thompson will be presented with a \$5,000 cash prize, courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation.

“This is a wonderful honour which I share with the filmmakers, producers and crews with whom I’ve collaborated in the past 34 years,” shared **Bonnie Thompson**. “As a producer, it’s been a privilege to experience incredibly diverse worlds and communities and help bring these stories to screens for audiences. It’s especially meaningful to have worked again with filmmaker Cam Christiansen, who has created a striking documentary of stunning images and emotional power in *Echo of Everything*.”

Bonnie Thompson produces independently with her company Dreaming Bird Productions, in collaboration with Canadian film/media makers and producers. She worked with the Northwest Studio of the National Film Board of Canada – producing from 2001 to 2018 – on documentary, animation, and interactive projects. Thompson has a commitment to productions that have strong social issue components, push boundaries in both form and content, and which give voice to under-represented communities.

Her productions have been screened by national and international broadcasters, streamers, prestigious festivals around the world, and online – receiving numerous awards and nominations, including the feature length documentary *Radiant City* (D: Gary Burns, Jim Brown), winner of the Best Feature Documentary at the 2008 Genie Awards; the animated short *Wildlife* (D: Wendy Tilby, Amanda Forbis), nominated for a 2012 Academy Award; the ground-breaking interactive documentary *Bear 71* (D: Leanne Allison, Jeremy Mendes), winner of a 2013 Webby Award, the 2012 FWD Site of the Year Award, and the 2012 CSA Award for Best Web Program; the feature documentary *Angry Inuk* (D: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril), winner of the 2016 Hot Docs Audience Award, Best Documentary Award at imagineNATIVE, and TIFF People's Choice Award; the PBS NOVA *Transplanting Hope* (D: Niobe Thompson), nominated for an Emmy; and *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* (D: Tasha Hubbard), Opening Night film and winner of Best Canadian Documentary at Hot Docs 2019, and winner of the 2020 CSA Best Feature Length Documentary.

Most importantly, Thompson's productions have had hundreds of community screenings across Canada. She is currently producing the feature documentaries *Echo of Everything* (D: Cam Christiansen) and *Insanity* (D: Wendy Hill Tout), as well as executive producing *Singing Back the Buffalo* (D: Tasha Hubbard). She is a Board Member of the Alberta Media Producer's Industry Association, from which she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

The award will be presented at the Hot Docs Awards presentation on Saturday, May 6, at TIFF Bell Lightbox at 10:30 am.

Past winners of the Don Haig Award include producers Mila Aung-Thwin (2022), Lalita Krishna (2021), Bob Moore (2020), Peter Raymont (2019), Ina Fichman (2018), Daniel Cross (2017), Ed Barreveld (2016), Anne Pick (2015), Michael McNamara (2014), Merit Jensen Carr (2013), Mia Donovan (2012), Rama Rau (2011), Philip Lyall and Nimisha Mukerji (2010), Brett Gaylor (2009), Yung Chang (2008), Hubert Davis (2007), and Guylaine Dionne (2006).

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 30th annual edition from April 27 to May 7, 2023, in cinemas across Toronto, with a selection of films available online to audiences throughout Canada. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and The Doc Shop. In celebration of its 30th anniversary and a dedication to excellence in non-fiction storytelling, Hot Docs will present the Podcast Festival Showcase, featuring a slate of today's hottest podcasts live on stage; along with a dynamic line-up of industry panels and master classes featuring podcast game-changers. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 28, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 4, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed [online](http://www.hotdocs.ca) at www.hotdocs.ca or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with cinema screenings). Single tickets are \$19 to regular Festival screenings and \$22 to Special Presentations screenings (\$17-19 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$199 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$279. Hot Docs offers free



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tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to those 60+ and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

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

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: HD23Media

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