

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

**HOT DOCS DEAL MAKER 2025:
52 INSPIRING DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS SEEKING FINANCING AND
DISTRIBUTION TO PITCH TO INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY EXPERTS**

**10 DEAL MAKER PROJECTS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 FESTIVAL'S
WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SCREENINGS**

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is excited to unveil the selection of 52 documentary projects for the 2025 edition of **Deal Maker**, with 10 of the projects also selected for the **Works-In-Progress** screenings, both of which will take place during the 2025 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, April 24 to May 4 in Toronto. Hot Docs Deal Maker is a specially curated one-on-one pitch meeting program for producers seeking financing and distribution from the international marketplace. Deal Maker pitches will take place April 29 and April 30, with an additional day of online meetings on May 2. Deal Maker is supported by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the City of Toronto. Works-In-Progress screenings, showcasing 10 projects in various stages of production, will take place on April 28, providing a valuable platform for filmmakers to gain feedback and attract further investment and support. All Works-In-Progress projects will participate in Deal Maker meetings to further create connections with decision makers.

Hailing from 45 diverse countries, these projects span the spectrum of storytelling, encompassing various stages of development, production, and post-production. Among the selection, 14 projects represent Canada, while 21 boast BIPOC directors, and 32 are helmed or co-helmed by women. Notably, 14 projects mark the directorial debut of promising talents. Five of the projects participating in this year's round of Deal Maker meetings come from Hot Docs Incubator—an initiative designed for documentary filmmakers who are seeking to grow their careers, with a project that demonstrates creative and market potential. Hot Docs Incubator is generously supported by Netflix as part of the Canadian Storytellers Project.

“At Hot Docs, we are passionate about fostering the growth of the documentary industry by not only supporting filmmakers’ creative journeys but also connecting them with the key partners and resources to take their projects to the next level,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs’ Industry Programs Director. “The 2025 Deal Maker and Works-in-Progress projects showcase an exciting range of innovative and impactful filmmaking from around the world. These programs are pivotal in advancing projects closer to audiences. Congratulations to all the selected projects!”

Hot Docs is key in linking documentary filmmakers with crucial industry players, including broadcasters, online platforms, funds, distributors, sales agents and financiers. The Festival facilitates hundreds of meaningful meetings that open doors to collaboration, funding and distribution opportunities. In 2024, 58 projects representing 31 countries and territories were pitched in 900+ Deal Maker meetings with

over 100 industry leaders and financiers. Since its inception, 543 projects and 785 filmmakers have pitched in almost 7000 Deal Maker meetings.

Hot Docs Festival 2025 will also feature premieres of distinguished Deal Maker alumni projects, encapsulating a full-circle journey.

Notable projects that have pitched at Hot Docs Deal Maker in previous years include the recent Oscar-nominee *Black Box Diaries*; 2023's *The Lebanese Burger Mafia*, *Cynara*, and *Eat Bitter*; 2020's *Downstream to Kinshasa*; 2019's *Smog Town* and *The Forum*; 2018's *Love, Gilda*; 2017's *Bill Nye: Science Guy*, and *Quest*; and 2015's *My Enemy, My Brother*.

Projects that will participate in Deal Maker 2025 and Works-In-Progress:

Becoming A Landscape

Director: Emily Graves

Main Producer: Aeyliya Husain

Production Company: November Films Inc. (Canada)

Blue Sweater with a Yellow Hole

Director: Tetiana Khodakivska

Executive Producers: Josh Penn, Kevin Macdonald, Maxym Asadchyi

Producers: Elena Saulich, Tetiana Khodakivska

Co-producers: Martin Vandas (Maur Film, Czech Republic), Michael Grotenhoff, Anna-Luise Dietzel (Filmtank, Germany), Johann Chapelan (Girelle Production, France)

Production Companies: Pronto Film LLC (Ukraine), Maur Film s.r.o (Czech Republic), Girelle Production (France), Filmtank GmbH (Germany)

Fillos do Vento: A RAPA

Director: Brais Revalderia

Producers: Maria Ordonez, Alberto José Rey Basteiro

Executive Producers: Pedro Revalderia, Ignacio Linares

Production Companies: Cinexin Studios LLC (USA), Evernia Media S.L. (Spain), 100 Sutton Studios LLC (USA), WECOM (Spain)

Gawlo

Director, Co-Producer: Aïcha Diop

Producer: Jessica Hallenbeck

Production Companies: Lantern Films Inc. (Canada), Studio Tokosel Inc. (Canada)

Hands Before Time

Director: Elizabeth Mirzaei

Producer: Ina Fichman

Production Companies: Intuitive Pictures (Canada), Mirzaei Films (US)

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

Land of No Pain

Director, Producer: Émilie Martel
Production Companies: Kannon Films Inc. (Canada)

Olanakwe Sa Ba'alako (Children of Honey)

Director, Producer: Jigar Ganatra
Co-Director, Producer: Natalie Humphreys
Production Companies: JG Creative Ltd (Tanzania), Storyboard Studios Limited (Scotland)

Sega: The Music of the Indian Ocean (Working Title)

Director: Vincent Toi
Producer: Guillaume Collin
Production Company: Arpent Films Docs Inc. (Canada)

Untying the Knot

Director, Producer: Chona Mangalindan
Executive Producer: Félicie Roblin
Production Companies: Amaya Film Productions (Philippines), Zadig Productions, SARL (France)

Walk by Me: An Unexpected Sequel

Director, Producer: Lisa Leeman
Production Companies: Loka Pala Productions (U.S.A)

Projects that will participate in Deal Maker 2025:

The 1948, Forgotten Soldiers

Director: Wook Steven Heo
Producer: Hee Yang
Associate Producers: Yun Daniel Heo, Gye-Joong Kim
Production Company: Wook & Hee Film Inc. (Korea)

Abyss of the Wind

Director: Wanda López Trelles
Producer: Carolina Arias Ortiz
Production Companies: Mito Films Ltd (Costa Rica), Fundación Ixcanel, Wanda López Trelles

Belonging

Director: Yaser Talebi
Producers: Setareh Lundgren (Executive Producer), Yaser Talebi (Co-Producer)
Production Companies: Meritis Film AB (Setareh Lundgren - Sweden), Sunrise Ltd (Yaser Talebi – Iran)

Betrayal

Director: Lena Macdonald
Producer: Lena Macdonald
Production Company: Ferocious Films Inc. (Canada)

Big in Gazi Baba

Director: Pauline Blanchet
Producers: Pauline Blanchet, Kreshnik Jonuzi (US Co-Producer), Avdi Thachi, James Collie, Jan Dunn, Aymeric Isnard
Production Companies: Aral Sea Productions LTD. (UK), Lumiere Films LLC (MK), Top Neck Films LLC (USA)

Breaking the Silence (Working title)

Director: Ivan MacDonald
Producers: Elizabeth Unger, Ivan MacDonald
Production Companies: Hold The Map Productions LLC (USA), Residential School Project LLC (USA)

Clones In Heat

Director: Andrew Moir
Producers: Andrew Moir, Jessica Adams
Executive Producer: Ann Shin
Production Companies: Hands Up Films Inc., JA Productions Inc., Fathom Film Group (Canada)

Confessions of a Female Gamer

Director: Dolya Gavanski
Producers: Dolya Gavanski, Martichka Bozhilova
Co-Producer: Alex Tondowski
Production Companies: THEA FILMS LIMITED (Dolya Gavanski - UK and Bulgaria), AGITPROP (Martichka Bozhilova - Bulgaria), TONDOWSKI FILMS GbR (Germany)

Derek's Ark (aka Fields Apart)

Director: James Damer Dawson
Producers: Serena Kennedy, David Broder
Executive Producer: Adam Wishart
Production Companies: The Slate Works Ltd, Damer Films Ltd (UK), Loupe Films Ltd

Dreaming in Blue

Director: Gunjan Menon
Producer: Saiyam Wakchaure
Co-Producers: Noel Kok, Pragna Parsotam-Kok
Production Companies: Beyond Premieres (Canada), Nature, Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) (South Africa)

Fakel

Director: Kornii Hrytsiuk

Producers: Anna Palenchuk (Producer), Aki Takabatake (Executive Producer)

Production Company: 435 FILMS LLC (Ukraine)

Far From Home

Director: Kristi Tethong

Producers: Kristi Tethong, Losel Tethong

Production Company: Hunt + Gather Films Inc. (Canada)

Fighting for Women's Lives

Director: Julia Lemos Lima

Producer: Mariana Genescá

Production Companies: Amana Cine (Trade Name), TVa2 Produções LTDA (Legal Name - Brazil)

From Fire, Comes Light

Director: Chad Galloway

Producers: Currently Developing

Production Company: Trail Films Inc. (Canada)

The Gold Diggers

Director: Décio Pereira de Matos Junior

Producers: Eduardo Rezende Lima (Executive Producer - CAPURI FILMES PRODUÇÕES LTDA, Brazil),

Mario Henrique Peixoto (Executive Producer - DELICATESSEN PRODUÇÃO DE FILMES LTDA, Brazil),

Gabriel Yoshio Fleming Uchida (Producer - TOZZO FILMES LTDA, Brazil), Décio Pereira de Matos Junior (Producer - Big Sur Produções Artísticas Ltda, Brazil)

Production Companies: CAPURI FILMES PRODUÇÕES LTDA (Brazil), Big Sur Produções Artísticas Ltda (Brazil), DELICATESSEN PRODUÇÃO DE FILMES LTDA (Brazil), TOZZO FILMES LTDA (Brazil)

The Half Truths

Director: Hemal Trivedi

Producers: Cynthia Kane, Laurence Uebersfeld, Amelia Hanibelsz

Production Company: Manjusha Films LLC (USA)

Home Again -Living in China

Director: Xiaoyue Qin

Producers: Xiaoyue Qin (main), Haixia Yu (executive)

Production Companies: Xinyuan Cultural Communication (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (China), Heart to Heart Media Limited (Hong Kong), Shenzhen Hehecha Technology Co., Ltd. (China)

How to Die

Director: Robin McKenna

Producer: Robin McKenna

Production Company: Gaudete Films Inc (Canada)

How To Save a Shark

Director: Sascha Ettinger Epstein

Producers: Bettina Dalton p.g.a (Producer), Michael Tear (Executive Producer), Alan Erson (Executive Producer)

Production Company: WildBear Entertainment Pty Ltd (Australia)

The Incredible Story of a Film We Never Saw

Directors: Christine Mladic Janney, Claudia Chavez Levano

Producers: Christine Mladic Janney (Main), Claudia Chavez Levano (Main)

Production Companies: Amazona Producciones (Peru), Eleven Hands Productions (US)

Indira

Director: Tynymgul Eshieva

Producers: Tynymgul Eshieva, Adilet Karzhoev

Production Companies: IE Eshieva T., IE Karzhoev A. (Kyrgyzstan)

An Insignia of a Forced Winter

Director: Ajimesh Saha

Producers: Bauddhayan Mukherji, Monalisa Mukherji

Production Company: Little Lamb Films Pvt. Ltd. (India)

In the Winds of the Icefields

Director: Mihkel Oksmann

Producer: Hõbe Ilus

Production Company: Sui OÜ (Estonia)

Justice in the Land of Fog

Director: Laura Dauden Kocourek

Producers: Laura Dauden Kocourek, Miguel Angel Herrera Becerra (Main Producers), Valentina Romero López (Co-Producer)

Production Companies: Forward Films SL (Spain), Uno Uno Films SAS (Colombia)

Kikuyu Land

Director: Andrew H. Brown, Bea Wangondu

Producers: Bea Wangondu, Andrew H. Brown, Mike Morrisroe, Joseph Njenga

Executive Producer: Amanda Brown

Production Companies: Trifilm Studios (USA), Ragtag Collective (USA), The Bea Company (Kenya)

The Murmur of the Cicadas

Director: Gabriela Domínguez Ruvalcaba

Producer: Alex Noppel Briseño

Production Company: Bosquenegro (Mexico)

The Perfect

Director: Laura Liventaal

Producers: Hõbe Ilus (Main Producer - Estonia), Oona Saari (Co-Producer - Finland)

Production Companies: Sui Ltd (Estonia), Illume Ltd (Finland)

The Plant Diaries

Director: Andrea Pellerani

Producers: Sarah Schiesser (Main Producer - Amka Films Production SA, Switzerland), Amel Soudani (Main Producer - Amka Films Production SA, Switzerland)

Production Companies: Amka Films Production SA (Switzerland)

Saints and Warriors

Director: Patrick Shannon

Producer: Michael Tanko Grand

Executive Producers: Gaagwiis Jason Alsop, Desi Collinson, Patrick Shannon, Vinay Virmani, Connor Ritchie

Co-Executive Producer: Hayley Morin

Production Companies: Grand Scheme Productions Inc., INNONATIVE, UNINTERRUPTED Canada Inc.

Searching for SmarterChild

Directors: Lindsey Sitz, Zan Gillies

Producers: Lindsey Sitz, Zan Gillies

Production Companies: Dance Pizza Dance Productions (U.S.A.), Deep Structure Productions LLC (U.S.A.)

Shape of Silence

Director: Varun Trikha

Producers: Varun Trikha, Marie-Michèle Cyr

Production Companies: Sitara Productions Inc (Canada), Parabola Films (Canada)

Since I Left

Director: Mina Saidi Sharouz

Producers: Laurence Milon (Main Producer), Mahnaz Tafaghi (Executive Producer)

Production Companies: LA HUIT (Laurence Milon - France), AYVISIONS (Mahnaz Tafaghi - Iran)

Sister Senators

Director: Emily Harrold

Producers: Robin Hessman (Producer), Rachel Denny (Co-Producer), Ruth Ann Harnisch (Executive Producer), Ann Lovell (Co-Executive Producer)

Production Companies: Lynnwood Pictures (USA), Global Neighborhood

Si vas para Chile (Unwelcomed)

Directors: Amilcar Infante, Sebastian Gonzalez Mendez

Producers: Sebastian Gonzalez Mendez (Main Producer / Executive Producer), Amilcar Infante (Producer), Esteban Sandoval (Executive Producer), Terry Bean (Executive Producer)

Production Companies: Amilcar Films / PRODUCTORA AMILCAR FILMS AMILCAR INFANTE CORNEJO E.I.R.L. (Amilcar Infante - Chile), Someday Productions / SOMEDAY PRODUCTIONS SPA (Sebastian Gonzalez M. - Chile), Pejeperro Films / PRODUCTORA AUDIOVISUAL FORNO, FUENTES Y SANDOVAL LIMITADA (Esteban Sandoval - Chile)

This Too Shall Change

Director: Natalja G. B. Jacobsen

Producer: Ola Hunnes

Executive Producer: Knut Kollandsrud

Co-Producer: Karl Emil Rikardsen

Production Companies: True Stories Production AS (Norway), Relation04 Media AS (Norway)

Timetracker

Director: Pete Quandt

Producers: Ike Rofe, Jack Powers (Creative Producer), Jack Parkes (Executive Producer), Jun Stinson Yamagichi (Supervising Producer, ITVS)

Production Companies: Timetracker Films LLC (Ike Rofe, USA), Good People Company Inc. (Jack Powers), Independent (Jack Parkes), ITVS (Jun Stinson Yamagichi)

Umbrellas of the Acrobats

Director: Mukesh Subramaniam

Producer: Ponvishal Chidambaranathan

Executive Producers: Alejandro Valdes-Rochin, Miriam Chandy Menacherry

Production Companies: Elsewhat LLC (USA), Potato Eaters Collective (India)

Uncomfortable Body

Director: Estefanía Martínez

Producers: Juan Manuel Solé (Executive Producer, Uruguay), Josefina Recchia (Executive Producer, Argentina), Katia Klock (Executive Producer, Brazil), Licia Brancher (Executive Producer, Brazil)

Production Companies: Región Cinema (CINESUR SAS, Uruguay), RióCine (RECCHIA JOSEFINA, Argentina), Contraponto (CONTRAPONTO SRL, Brazil)

Under the Arbor

Director: Hayley Morin

Producers: Mackenzie Stannard, Hayley Morin

Production Companies: Sentio Films Inc, Under the Arbor Films Inc (Canada)

Untitled Vietnam Film

Director: Ashley Duong

Producers: Ina Fichman, Ashley Duong
Production Companies: Intuitive Pictures (Canada), Da-Lê Films

Welcome to Our Bathhouse

Directors: Tommaso Barbetta, Setsuya Kakinuma
Producers: Setsuya Kakinuma, Sanae Abe, Ina Fichman
Production Companies: double tommy LLC (Japan), Eizensha Co., Ltd. (Japan), Intuitive Pictures (Canada)

Yusra

Director: Salim Abu Jabal
Producers: Yasmin C. Rams, Salim Abu Jabal
Co-Producer: Virginia Subramaniam
Production Companies: Perennial Lens GmbH (Yasmin C. Rams - Germany), Boujabel Productions (Salim Abu Jabal - Palestine), Les Poissons Volants & Bachibouzouk (Virginia Subramaniam - France)

###

[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's leading 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 32nd annual edition from April 24 to May 4, 2025, in cinemas across Toronto. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Deal Maker and Works-in-Progress screenings. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

Starting Tuesday, March 25, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 1, 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 \$20 to regular Festival screenings and \$23 to Special Presentations screenings (\$18-\$20 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$209 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$299. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 4:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability.

Hot Docs is proud to include Rogers as its Founding Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters. Full list of sponsors and partners: <https://hotdocs.ca/about/partners>

Media Contact:

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