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HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES DIANA SANCHEZ AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Toronto, ON – The Hot Docs Board of Directors is pleased to announce **Diana Sanchez** as the organization’s new **Executive Director**. With over 25 years of experience in the international and Canadian film industry, Sanchez brings extensive industry expertise, dynamic leadership and a lifelong devotion to cinema. She succeeds Interim Executive Director Janice Dawe, whose steady leadership helped the organization navigate a period of challenges and transition. Dawe will remain to support a seamless transition and to ensure that the new Executive Director is properly positioned and well-supported throughout this period.

Starting March 31, Sanchez will oversee the strategic direction and management of the annual Hot Docs Festival, conference and market, as well as Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema and the organization’s year-round industry and public facing programs and activities.

Her appointment marks a renewed commitment to Hot Docs’ mission—to amplify powerful documentary storytelling, serve audiences with bold and diverse programming and support filmmakers at all stages of their careers. With a track record of innovation and transformation, she will lead Hot Docs into a period of rebuilding and reimagining, championing new initiatives and expanding the Festival’s global impact. Sanchez was selected for the position following an extensive search. The Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to the hiring committee for their dedication and leadership throughout the process.

“On behalf of the Board, we are thrilled to welcome Diana to Hot Docs. We are confident that her leadership will usher in an exciting new era for the organization,” said Hot Docs’ Board Co-Chair **Nicholas de Pencier**. “Diana brings passion, vast experience in the industry, and an unwavering commitment to the power that film has to bring people together and effect positive change. We look forward to her vital contribution in reshaping Hot Docs’ future, strengthening our Festival and Cinema, and continuing to champion filmmakers in Canada and beyond. Her vision will help Hot Docs amplify diverse voices, connect audiences with vital stories, and foster meaningful dialogue that sparks empathy and understanding.”

“I’m thrilled to be joining the Hot Docs team at such a pivotal moment. Storytelling has the power to rediscover, reimagine, and bring fresh perspectives to the world around us. In that same spirit, Hot Docs is stepping into an exciting new chapter—one of growth, transformation and renewed vision. As documentary cinema continues to evolve, I’m eager to champion bold voices, embrace fresh ideas and foster meaningful connections—both within our local community and across the global documentary landscape. I look forward to collaborating with the talented team at Hot Docs to shape a dynamic and inclusive future for documentary storytelling,” shared **Diana Sanchez**.

Sanchez has held key positions at prominent international festivals, including the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)—where she served as Senior Director of Film and International Programmer—the Miami Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival and the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF). As a Founder of the International Film Festival of Panama, she recognized the need for a festival dedicated to Central American and Caribbean films. IFF Panama became a launchpad for the region’s cinema, as described by Variety as “one of the world’s most rapidly growing festivals.”

A lifelong advocate for film education and accessibility, Sanchez holds an MA in Cinema Studies from the University of Toronto and has lectured extensively. Most recently, she led the first season of the University of Toronto’s ‘Pop-Up’ Cinematheque, developing a partnership between the Media Commons Archives and the Cinema Studies Institute to showcase the Archives’ collection and offer access to students and diverse audiences for campus programming.

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[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>



PRESS RELEASE

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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.