

**HOT DOCS FORUM WRAPS SUCCESSFUL 2021 ONLINE EDITION
\$10K CAD CANADIAN FORUM PITCH PRIZE PRESENTED TO *WILFRED BUCK***

Toronto, ON, May 6, 2021 – The Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs’ key international co-financing market event, has wrapped after two successful days of pitching. The Forum saw a total of 20 projects representing 16 countries, with women representing 20 of the 25 directors and 36 of the 58 producers, pitch to a virtual roundtable of more than 50 key funders and decision makers, as well as filmmakers and prize juries. Select Forum pitches are now available for viewing by All Access Pass holders in the Hot Docs online conference platform at hotdocs.ca, along with other industry content, until May 31. Curated one-on-one pitch meetings arranged through Hot Docs Deal Maker and Distribution Rendezvous programs continue throughout the month.

“We are deeply humbled by the success of this year’s Forum,” said **Lisa Valencia-Svensson**, acting industry programs director. “Thanks to the tenacious filmmakers and bold decision makers who made the 22nd edition—and our second annual online event—a huge success!”

“While we were not expecting to mount another edition while physically disconnected from our international documentary community, we are tremendously inspired by the artists who persevered in finding creative approaches to filmmaking,” said **Dorota Lech**, Hot Docs industry programmer and Forum producer. “Congratulations to all the filmmakers—we are in awe of your perseverance!”

The Canadian Forum Pitch Prize, presented in partnership with DGC National and DGC Ontario, was awarded to ***Wilfred Buck*** (D: Lisa Jackson | P: Lisa Jackson, Alicia Smith | Door Number 3 Productions (Canada), National Film Board of Canada (Canada)), which follows a man who has been called the Indiana Jones of Indigenous star knowledge, weaving his harrowing past and present to explore colonization’s impact on Indigenous ways of knowing. The \$10,000 CAD cash prize is awarded to the best Canadian pitch at the Forum as voted on by attending international buyers. This year, the jury gave an honourable mention, with a \$2,000 CAD cash prize, to ***Made in Ethiopia*** (D: Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan | P: Tamara Dawit, Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan | Made in Ethiopia, LLC (USA), Gobez Media Inc. (Canada)), which tells the story of three trailblazing women who navigate the bumpy expansion of the biggest Chinese industrial park in Ethiopia.

The winners of the *first look* Pitch Prize and \$110,000 in cash awards, along with the recipient of the SunnySide of the Doc Pitch Prize, will be announced on May 10.

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[Hot Docs](#), 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 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which 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 industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production 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.

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

Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

Telephone: 416-839-9239

Email: info@vkpr.ca