

For Immediate Release: Monday, April 28, 2025

**ACCLAIMED CANADIAN PRODUCER CORNELIA PRINCIPE
RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2025 HOT DOCS DON HAIG AWARD**

HOT DOCS DON HAIG AWARD CELEBRATES ITS 20TH YEAR OF HONOURING OUTSTANDING
CANADIAN PRODUCERS DURING ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is proud to honour Oscar®, Emmy and Peabody nominated Canadian producer **Cornelia Principe** with the prestigious **Hot Docs Don Haig Award** at the 2025 Festival, on now until May 4. Principe is the producer behind *Shamed* (D: Matt Gallagher | P: Cornelia Principe | Canada | 2025 | 90 min), in which an online vigilante, self-described as the “Creeper Hunter,” seeks out potential sexual predators and ambushes them in videotaped confrontations, exposing them to the court of public opinion.

The Hot Docs Don Haig Award, celebrating its 20th anniversary at this year’s Festival, 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. Principe will be presented with a \$5,000 cash prize, courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation.

“For many reasons, this recognition is particularly special for me,” said Cornelia Principe, 2025 Hot Docs Don Haig Award Recipient. “I attended the very first Hot Docs back in 1994 as a newbie to this industry and have attended each year since – Hot Docs has been an annual touchstone for my growth as a filmmaker and as a person. I even met my husband at Hot Docs. Don Haig left an indelible impression on me as I was starting out. So, to now receive an award in his name, at Hot Docs, and to be included in a group of producers whose work I respect and admire is a huge honour. Thank you.”

Cornelia Principe is an independent producer whose documentary films have collectively screened at well over 100 national and international film festivals, been broadcast all over the world, and garnered numerous awards and distinctions, including: an Academy Award® nomination for Best Feature Documentary; Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Coverage of a Current News Story; Peabody nomination for Documentary; Best Documentary Feature, Jury Award Winner, Tribeca Film Festival; Best Canadian Documentary, Hot Docs; Audience Choice Award, Hot Docs; TIFF’s Canada’s Top Ten; Ted Rogers Best Feature Documentary, Canadian Screen Awards, and Sundance Film Forward Program.

Principe is currently releasing the feature documentaries *Shamed*, which premieres at Hot Docs 2025, and *Russians at War*. *Russians at War* had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival 2024, followed by the North American premiere at TIFF. Other credit highlights include *To Kill a Tiger* (2022), which premiered at TIFF 2022 where it won the Amplify Voices Award for Best Canadian Feature Film, and was

subsequently nominated for an Academy Award® and a Peabody, and won the CSA Ted Rogers Best Feature Documentary; the award-winning feature *Prey* (2019); the Emmy-nominated documentary *The World Before Her* (2012); and the award-winning documentary series *Diamond Road* (2008).

Principe will receive the 2025 Hot Docs Don Haig Award at the Hot Docs Awards Presentation on Friday, May 2. The jury for this year's Hot Docs Don Haig Award consisted of last year's winner Alison Duke, 2023's winner Bonnie Thompson, and Hot Docs board co-chair Nicholas de Pencier.

Past winners of the Hot Docs Don Haig Award include producers Alison Duke (2024), Bonnie Thompson (2023), 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 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.

Tickets and 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>.

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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

balexander@hotdocs.ca

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