

RECIPIENTS OF CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL DOC FUND
THEATRICAL STRAND ANNOUNCED
\$80,000 CDN AWARDED TO FOUR DOC PROJECTS

Toronto, ON, October 20, 2021 – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the Panicaro Foundation are pleased to announce that four doc projects have received a total of \$80,000 CDN in funding from the CrossCurrents Doc Fund International/Theatrical Stream. The selected films are: *Concrete Land* (D: Asmahan Bkerat | Jordan), *Out of Place* (D: Mohammed Al Majdalawi | Sweden), *There Was, There Was Not* (D: Emily Mkrtichian | Armenia), and *A Woman's Path* (D: Marjan Khosravi | Iran, Germany). Launched at the 2016 Festival by the Panicaro Foundation, the international/theatrical stream of the CrossCurrents Doc Fund has allocated \$30,000 CDN each year to one or more full-length feature projects in production by emerging filmmakers. This year, given the overwhelming number of applications and the burden on filmmakers created by the pandemic, Hot Docs was pleased to top up the Fund by \$50,000 CDN to support even more filmmakers and their doc projects.

“We’re so pleased to be able to provide funding to these four doc projects,” said **Caroline Birks**, treasurer/board member of the Panicaro Foundation. “Each of these filmmakers shares a truly compelling story through artful and deliberate filmmaking, and we’re looking forward to seeing these films come together and watching these stories unfold.”

In addition to funding, grant recipients will participate in professional development activities throughout the year, including labs with direct access to industry mentors, a set curriculum of workshop activities, access to the Hot Docs Forum, and access to networking opportunities.

“We’re thrilled to have been able to top up this fund to support more doc projects through this round of disbursements,” said Hot Docs’ acting industry programs director **Lisa Valencia-Svensson**. “Each of these projects shares a beautifully honest and sincere story about family, personal growth and connectedness. We’re so pleased to be able to support the work of these visionary filmmakers, and to help them share their stories.”

Eligible projects were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Caroline Birks (Board Member, Panicaro Foundation), Zeshawn Ali (filmmaker, Homegrown Homies Productions), Hot Docs (Julian Carrington, Distribution Manager & Industry Programmer, Funds).

CONCRETE LAND

Director: Asmahan Bkerat
Producer: Sahar Yousefi
Production company: TBC
Country: Jordan

An intimate look at the lives of a Bedouin family in its struggle to hold onto its traditional life under the pressures of urbanization. Their only wish as a family is to stay together, with their loyal yet eccentric pet sheep Badrya firmly by their side.

OUT OF PLACE

Director: Mohammed Al Majdalawi
Producers: Manolo Diaz Rämö & Beatrice P. Garcia
Production company: TBC
Country: Sweden

A coming-of-age story built on unique material filmed throughout 20 years following young Palestinians, who have now successfully settled in Europe. An intimate dialogue about personal growth spiced with humor and brutal honesty.

THERE WAS, THERE WAS NOT

Director: Emily Mkrtichian
Producers: Mara Adina & Emily Mkrtichian
Production company: There Was There Was Not LLC
Country: Armenia

The first line of every Armenian fairy tale, *There Was, There Was Not* tells the collective myth of a homeland nearly lost to war—and four women’s resistance to that loss.

A WOMAN’S PATH

Director: Marjan Khosravi
Producers: Milad Khosravi, Mahdiah Mehvar & Stephanie Von Lukowicz
Production company: Lukimedia, Seven Springs Pictures
Country: Iran, Germany

Golbahar and her family are among the last members of the nomadic Bakhtiari people. She wishes to live in harmony with nature and tradition in a small Iranian village, but her family are eager to embrace the modern comforts of city living.

The application dates for the sixth round of funding will be announced in the New Year.

For further information on the application process, eligibility requirements and deadlines, please visit <http://www.hotdocs.ca/i/crosscurrents-doc-fund>.

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Hot Docs is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. During the annual Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, 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 documentary industry with a multi-million-dollar production fund and financing initiative portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

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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.



PRESS RELEASE

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