

**HOT DOCS AND R&M LANG FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE  
2020 CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL DOC FUND RECIPIENT  
\$10,000 CAD PRODUCTION GRANT AWARDED TO MALAYSIAN FILM *SHH...DIAM***

Toronto, November 11, 2020 – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the R&M Lang Foundation are pleased to announce that *Shh...Diam* (D: Yihwen Chen | Malaysia) has been chosen to receive a \$10,000 CAD production grant from the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund in its eighth round of disbursements. The CrossCurrents Doc Fund was established in November of 2013 by the R&M Lang Foundation, and aims to support short, interactive and experimental documentaries from emerging filmmakers working within communities whose perspectives have been historically underrepresented or marginalized.

“We’re thrilled to be supporting a project from Malaysia for the first time, especially one that showcases fearless artists passionately promoting values of tolerance and empathy,” said **Heidi Tao Yang**, acting industry program director for Hot Docs. “Yihwen’s ties to the community have provided her with wonderfully intimate access and her dynamic filmmaking style is perfectly suited to capturing her boldly irreverent characters.”

“It was a difficult decision, but in the end, we selected *Shh...Diam* as this year’s funding recipient,” said **Robert Lang**, Toronto-based documentary filmmaker and chair of the R&M Lang Foundation. “A bold and unapologetic film championing self-expression and artistic freedom, we’re very pleased to be able to support this film, further propagating its message of inclusivity and acceptance.”

The CrossCurrents International Doc Fund was generously established by the R&M Lang Foundation and is administered by Hot Docs. Each year, the Fund provides one successful applicant with a grant of \$10,000. In addition to this grant, director Yihwen Chen will receive a Hot Docs Fellowship, which includes accreditation to the annual Hot Docs Festival and enrolment in the Doc Accelerator program and mentorship initiatives.

Eligible projects were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Robert Lang (president and executive producer, Kensington Communications), Hot Docs (Julian Carrington, distribution manager & industry programmer, funds, and Heidi Tao Yang, acting industry program director), and Robinder Uppal (filmmaker, Lost Time Media).

**SHH...DIAM**

Director: Yihwen Chen

Producer: Alex Lee

Production company: Locke Films Sdn Bhd

Production country: Malaysia

In a predominantly Islamic Malaysia, a Muslim queer punk band *Shh...Diam!*, led by transman Faris Saad, are rebels with a cause, fighting for acceptance and a space to exist through their music against conservative traditions and religious boundaries.

The application dates for the ninth 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>.

-30-

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.

Media Contact:  
Andrea Smitko  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[asmitko@hotdocs.ca](mailto:asmitko@hotdocs.ca)  
416-203-2155 ext. 292