

FIVE CANADIAN DOC PROJECTS TO RECEIVE A TOTAL OF \$145,000 CDN IN SECOND ROUND OF DISBURSEMENTS FROM HOT DOCS-SLAIGHT FAMILY FUND

Toronto, ON, November 3, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that five Canadian music documentary projects will receive a total of \$145,000 CDN in the second round of funding from the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund. Established in the spring of 2020, this production and development fund was created through a gift from The Slaight Family Foundation. The first of its kind in Canada, the Fund is committed to filmmakers telling engaging, high-quality stories that embrace musical forms and artists and demonstrates Canadian music's role in the world.

"From unveiling the story of an unsung guitar virtuoso to the meteoric rise to fame for Canada's Broken Social Scene, this year's fund recipients really showcase the nuances of Canada's exciting music scene, shining a light the wealth of talent, as well as the curiosity and love that Canadians have for music, in all its forms," said Hot Docs' acting industry programs director, Lisa Valencia-Svensson.

"We're so pleased to be able to support these filmmakers tell these unique music stories through this second round of funding," said Gary Slaight, president & CEO of The Slaight Family Foundation.

"Canada has such a strong music scene and culture, with so many driven and inspired by its multiple genre-defying and ground-breaking artists. We're really looking forward to seeing these films and discovering even more stories to that contribute to this country's musical legacy."

To date, the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund has funded 11 projects and disbursed \$262,500 CDN.

"The power and magic of creativity are on full display in this year's selections. In a time when music documentaries are having their moment, Hot Docs is proud to support these stories that celebrate Canadian artists," said Olena Decock, funds manager for Hot Docs."

Eligible projects were considered by the selection committee, which included Jennifer Baichwal (Mercury Films), Daniel Cross (EyeSteelFilm), Hot Docs (Olena Decock and Lisa Valencia-Svensson) and Barnaby Marshall (Slaight Music).

Development Funds

IN SEARCH OF...DIVINE STYLER

D: Peter Mishara & Omar Majeed

P: Christina Piovesan

Production company: First Generation Films

Province: Ontario

In 1996, a young writer from London, Ontario decides to launch a hip-hop zine to discover what happened to his favourite rapper who disappeared from the music biz. He ends up uncovering a story that unites hip-hop heads the world over.

YOUNG CANADIAN

D: Alan Zweig

P: David York

Production company: 52 Media Inc.

Province: Ontario

Art Bergmann, the godfather of '70s Vancouver punk, wrote songs about hookers, junkies and the victimized. But by 2000, Art was broken—addicted, and arthritic, unable to walk or play guitar. Now, Art must overcome his biggest challenge yet.

Production Funds

GODDESS OF SLIDE

D: Alfonso Maiorana

P: Alfonso Maiorana, Agata De Santis

Production company: Soul Flicker Films Inc.

Province: Quebec

Goddess of Slide is a spirited musical journey of Ellen McIlwaine, a slide guitar virtuoso whose unbreakable faith in her talent propelled her into a rebellious life in rock and blues.

SMOKE & GIFTS

D: Stephen Chung

P: Ann Shin, Hannah Donegan, Michelle Mama

Production company: Fathom Film Group

Province: Ontario

Filmmaker Stephen Chung pulls back the curtain on the community of musicians and friends centred around the trailblazing band Broken Social Scene. This stunning POV documentary features never-before-seen archival footage and pays tribute to the power of indie music and the artists who started out in Toronto bars before rocketing to global fame.

LHASA

D: Sophie Leblond

P: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre

Production company: Metafilms inc.

Province: Quebec

From Lhasa de Sela's nomadic childhood in Mexico to her artistic life in Montreal, this film will follow her life and career, as a woman and as an artist, until her untimely death from cancer at age 37. With Lhasa's narration as our guide, this film is an intimate collage of her writings, drawings and paintings, alongside the family's archives, visiting the places and people she loved.

The Slight Family Foundation was established in 2008 by John Allan Slight. Allan Slight is known as Canada's broadcast pioneer, music leader and a prominent Canadian philanthropist. Through his

generosity, the Foundation proactively supports charitable initiatives in the areas of healthcare, at-risk youth, international development, social services and culture.

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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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