

FIVE CANADIAN DOC PROJECTS TO RECEIVE \$85K IN FUNDING FROM HOT DOCS TED ROGERS FUND

Toronto, October 14, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that five 2020 documentary projects will receive \$85K total in funding from the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund. Chosen from 43 applicants, three of the five projects are from Quebec and two are from British Columbia. Established in 2016 with a gift from the Rogers Foundation, the \$1-million fund provides financial support to Canadian documentary filmmakers.

“From captivating stories about landmark pop culture moments, shocking discoveries about dinosaur bones, and a riveting look into people’s obscure hobbies and obsessions, we’re so pleased to support these five Canadian projects with funding from the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund this year,” said **Heidi Tao Yang**, acting industry programs director for Hot Docs. “Thanks very much to the Rogers Foundation, whose continued support of Canadian doc film enables these talented filmmakers to share these eye-opening and moving stories.”

2020 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipients are:

THE BONES

Director: Jeremy Xido

Producer: Ina Fichman

Production company: Intuitive Pictures Inc.

A stunning, cinematic exploration of the high-stakes business of dinosaur bone trading, where obsessive collectors compete with museums, scientists and high-end auction houses to own a piece of the past. A thrilling story of intrigue at the collision of science and commerce.

THE CONCERT THAT BROKE UP THE BEATLES

Director: Ron Chapman

Producers: Trish Dolman, Ron Chapman

Production company: Screen Siren Pictures, Chapman Productions

Toronto, 1969. A Beatle in crisis. A concert promoter with a crazy idea. A renowned documentary filmmaker fighting for access. All these stories collided at one of the greatest rock concerts in history, which changed the music world forever.

EXPLORE: AN UNDERGROUND JOURNEY

Director: Francois-Xavier De Ruydts

Producer: Jenny Rustemeyer

Production company: Peg Leg Films Inc.

Two gritty teams of hobbyist cavers are poised to break records for the longest and deepest caves in Canada. Discover an office worker who becomes obsessed with her return to dive a flooded underground chamber, while an eclectic group of weekend warriors dig into what could be a monumental discovery.

JUST A BAND

Director/Producer: Anjali Nayar

Production company: Ink & Pepper Productions

Four nerdy Nairobians form the Afro-electric-pop group Just A Band, a counter-narrative to family expectation. Borrowing from a cultural mishmash of Sun Ra, Hip Hop, and a thousand other bits of detritus, this film is a fantastical coming-of-consciousness story.

ROJEK, ONE DAY

Director: Zaynê Akyol

Producers: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre, Sylvain Corbeil and Zaynê Akyol

Production Company: Metafilms Inc.

An intimate conversation with some of the most important members of the Islamic State (IS), who are currently being detained in Syria. A powerful film set against the backdrop of a country trying to stay vigilant as it struggles to recover from years of war.

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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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