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**HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF CROSSCURRENTS INTERNATIONAL DOC
FUND THEATRICAL STRAND, WITH \$30,000 CAD IN AWARDS TO
TWO DOC PROJECTS**

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and the Panicaro Foundation are pleased to announce the two international doc projects receiving a total of \$30,000 CAD in funding from the CrossCurrents Doc Fund International Theatrical Stream, a fund for filmmakers who are members of—or have a deep connection to—underrepresented and marginalized communities. The two selected films are ***My Missing Aunt*** (D: Juyeon Yang | South Korea) and ***Redlight to Limelight*** (D: Bipuljit Basu | India).

“As ever, this round of the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund attracted an abundance of highly competitive applications, each offering a timely and compelling window onto a lesser-seen community,” said **Heidi Tao Yang**, Hot Docs’ Director of Funds & Labs. “This year’s worthy grantees are vivid reminders that the struggle for women’s rights is ongoing the world over and assumes many forms. We’re delighted to support the fund’s first South Korean grantee, while the vibrancy of documentary filmmaking emerging from India continues to demand global attention.”

“It is not an easy task to select grantees from such a strong pool of applications,” added **Caroline Birks** from the Panicaro Foundation. “These two films bring a noteworthy creativity in their approaches to storytelling. The Panicaro Foundation is honoured to support and contribute to these projects.”

The Panicaro Foundation launched the CrossCurrents Doc Fund International Theatrical Stream at the 2016 Hot Docs Festival to help develop understanding and appreciation of unheard voices by encouraging projects that aim to reach not only members within the community, but also expanded audiences. Since then, the Fund has allocated \$260,000 CAD to 15 full-length feature projects in production by emerging filmmakers from 12 countries. 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 to networking opportunities.

25 shortlisted projects from 11 countries were considered by the CrossCurrents International Doc Fund Committee, which included: Caroline Birks (board member, Panicaro Foundation), Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing (filmmaker, Snow Films), Samir Ljuma (filmmaker, Diverse Film Production), Hot Docs Industry (Julian Carrington, Distribution Manager & Industry Funds Programmer).

MY MISSING AUNT

Director: Juyeon Yang

Producers: Duhyun Ko, Sarah Kang

Production company: Keumyoil Film Production

Country: South Korea

In trying to understand her aunt's decision to take her own life over 40 years ago, director Juyeon Yang begins to question the place of women in Korean society as well as in her own family.

REDLIGHT TO LIMELIGHT

Director: Bipuljit Basu

Producers: Nilotpal Majumdar (India), Max Tuula & Maria Gavrilova (Estonia), Uldis Cekulis (Latvia)

Production company: Bindubot Communication (India), Touch Narrative (India) Marx Film (Estonia), VFS Film (Latvia)

Country: India

A group of sex workers form a film production house in Kolkata, India. Despite opposition, they are determined to become filmmakers, resist prostitution among the second generation, and aspire to transform the redlight district into a professional film colony.

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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About Hot Docs 30

Celebrating 30 years as North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, [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. Since its inception in 1993, Hot Docs has supported the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano

Media Relations Manager

Hot Docs

jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca