

## HOT DOCS FORUM ANNOUNCES LINEUP OF 2022 PROJECT SELECTIONS

NORTH AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY MARKET RETURNS ONLINE,  
PRESENTING 20 PROJECTS FROM 19 COUNTRIES

Toronto, March 16, 2022 – Hot Docs announces the selected projects for the 23rd edition of the Hot Docs Forum, the renowned international financing event aimed at securing co-productions and funds for feature length documentaries. 20 projects representing 19 countries and featuring 26 filmmakers, 14 of whom are women and 15 of whom are BIPOC, will pitch to decision-makers from around the world. The presentations and decision-maker feedback will be made available to registered delegates to stream during the Festival. The Forum is the flagship industry event of Hot Docs Festival, taking place April 28 to May 8 in Toronto.

Called "the world series of documentary financing," by Indiewire, the Hot Docs Forum is a dynamic live online event where pre-selected projects are pitched for co-production financing to a roundtable of leading commissioning editors, film fund representatives, financiers, and angel investors. Selected projects will also participate in **Hot Docs Deal Maker**, a curated one-on-one pitch meeting program.

"The 2022 selected Hot Docs Forum projects are a celebration of a breadth and dynamism of documentary film styles. Also, celebrated are the cultural bounty of storytellers and story perspectives. Hot Docs is proud and excited to feature these talented teams and their film projects at the 2022 Hot Docs Forum," said **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs Industry Programs Director. "A massive thank you to Dorota Lech and to this year's Selection Committee, comprised of Meghan Monsour, Jannet Nuñez, and Rupeshi Shah, for an incredible programme and to Madelaine Russo, curator of the Deal Maker programme, which includes an additional 35 projects that will also pitch to a wide array of decision makers in pre-arranged one-on-one meetings during Hot Docs, to be announced on Wednesday, April 13, 2022."

"Last year, the Hot Docs Forum participants pitched to 50+ key commissioning editors and funders and over \$122,000 in cash prizes was awarded, added **Dorota Lech**, Industry Programmer and Forum Producer. "Taking place online, the 23rd Hot Docs Forum is a continuation of Hot Docs' commitment to supporting independent filmmakers and their art. Congratulations to all those selected!"

Millions in deals from connections will be made and various cash prizes will be awarded to top Forum pitchers, including the reputable first look prize. Participants of first look, a curated access program for philanthropic supporters of and investors in documentary film, will award over \$100,000 to up to three projects of their choice. The CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize, presented in partnership with Canada Media Fund, is a \$10,000 cash prize that is awarded to the best Canadian pitch.

During the online event, pitch teams will present their 7-minute pre-recorded pitches to the world's leading commissioning editors, financiers, and industry professionals. Following the pitch, each team

receives eight minutes of live feedback and, in some cases, on-the-spot financial commitments. Participating decision-makers confirmed to date include Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, Al Jazeera English, Amazon, American Documentary POV, ARD-NDR, ARD - SWR, ARD - WDR, ARTE France, ARTE G.E.I.E, Bell Media, BBC Arabic, BBC Storyville, CBC, Catapult, Channel 8, Chicken & Egg, Discovery Channel, Disney+, Doc Society, EBS Korea, ESPN, Field of Vision, First Look Media, Ford Foundation, Fork Films, France Télévisions, The Guardian, HBO Europe, Hulu, Impact Partners, ITVS, Knowledge Network, National Geographic, Netflix, The New York Times – Op Docs, NHK, Participant Media, Perspective Fund, PTS, RAI, The Redford Center, RTS, SBS Australia, SVT, Sandbox Films, SBS Australia, Sony Picture Classics, Sundance Film Institute, TRT World, TVO, TVP, The Whickers, yesDocu, YLE and ZDF/ARTE.

The following projects will be presented at the 2022 Hot Docs Forum:

**A WOMAN'S PATH**

Production Company: Seven Spring Pictures (Iran), Lukimedia (Spain)

Director: Marjan Khosravi

Producers: Milad Khosravi, Stephanie Von Lukowicz

Golbahar is betrayed by her family and forced to abandon her nomadic lifestyle. Climate change, personal and political issues make the traditional migrating activities of the Bakhtiari tribe diminish drastically.

**BRIEF TENDER LIGHT**

Production Company: One Day I Too Go Fly Inc. (USA)

Director: Arthur Musah

Producers: Arthur Musah, Brook Turner

At the elite MIT, four African students strive to graduate into agents of change for their home countries. But what changes come from living in two different worlds?

**GABRIEL**

Production Companies: CHUNK Filmproduktion GmbH (Germany), Avalia Studios GmbH (Germany),

Tantor Films LTDA (Chile), Saboteur Media LLC (USA)

Director: Daniel Carsenty

Producers: Nicklas Krüger, Laia Gonzalez, Ingrid Bragemann

Executive Producer: David Kennedy

The new 36-year-old president of Chile, Gabriel Boric, will never be able to change his country by himself, but if he installs hope, the courage of his people to change their society will be without limits.

**HEAVEN THROUGH THE BACKDOOR**

Production Company: Mirabel Pictures 501(c)3 (USA)

Directors: Anna Fitch, Banker White

Producers: Heidi Fleisher, Sara Dosa

Part myth, part documentary, *Heaven Through the Backdoor* explores the mystery of death through the unconventional friendship of Anna and Yo, two kindred spirits born 49 years apart.

**UNTITLED LABOR UNION DOCUMENTARY**

Production Company: Level Ground Productions LLC (USA), Oh Ratface Films (Canada)

Director: Brett Story, Stephen Maing

Producers: Mars Verrone, Samantha Curley

From the perspective of a single Amazon fulfillment center, an intimate portrait of workers taking on one of the world's most powerful companies in the fight to unionize.

**LET'S PLAY SOLDIERS**

Production Company: Let's Play Soldiers LLC (Qatar)

Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani

Producer: Mohammed Al-Jaberi

Nasser is a child-soldier from Yemen who tries to find his place in his community in Yemen, where the on-going war forced him to become the guardian of his younger siblings' fate.

**LIFE AFTER**

Production Company: Multitude Films LLC (USA)

Director: Reid Davenport

Producers: Jessica Devaney, Colleen Cassingham

*Life After* interrogates the contradictory political ideologies surrounding death and disability, while coalescing the missing voices of the disabled community in the contemporary debate around medically-assisted suicide.

**MATABELELAND**

Production Company: LBx Africa (Kenya), EyeSteelFilm (Canada)

Director: Nyasha Kadandara

Producers: Sam Soko, Bob Moore

A struggling migrant truck driver is torn between two worlds, a hostile foreign country or a return to the country that killed his father.

**METEORITE**

Production Company: Vindelfilm AB (Sweden)

Directors: Isabel Andersson, Johan Palmgren

Producer: Johan Palmgren

What happens when a million-dollar space rock hits the earth? How does mankind respond to this magic? With war and hate!

**MILISUTHANDO**

Production Company: The Good Black Project (Pty) Ltd (South Africa), Viso Producciones SAS (Colombia), Multitude Films LLC (USA)

Director: Milisuthando Bongela

Producers: Marion Isaacs, Sonia Barrera, Viviana Gómez Echeverry

Executive Producers: Jessica Devaney, Anya Rous

Set in past and present South Africa, *Milisuthando* is a poetic coming-of-age personal essay on love and what it means to become human in the context of race.

**NOOR**

Production Company: Iota Production S.A. (Belgium), Tag Film SAS (France)

Director: Jérôme le Maire

Producer: Isabelle Truc

In the Moroccan desert, torn between tradition and the promise of modernity, a young nomad witnesses the construction of the largest solar power station in the world.

**OUT OF PLACE**

Production Company: Filmilia AB (Sweden), Mohammed Al-Majdalawi EF (Sweden)

Director: Mohammed Al-Madjalawi

Producers: Manolo Diaz Rämö, Beatrice Pourbagher Garcia, Mohammed Al-Majdalawi

A coming-of-age story of Palestinians from Jabalia refugee camp who have now settled in Europe. Filmed throughout 20 years, the film reflects upon universal questions of personal change.

**QUIET THE RIVER**

Production Company: Shanghai Jiemian CLS Technologies Co., Ltd. (China)

Director: Tiantian Wang, Zhizhe Chai

Producer: Kit Chung

China is implementing a 10-year fishing ban in the Yangtze River. Both fishers and law enforcement officers are thus caught in a whirlwind of rediscovering their place in life.

**RED HERRING (WT)**

Production Company: Good Kid Films Ltd. (United Kingdom), Astrae Productions (Switzerland), Bungalow Town Productions Ltd. (United Kingdom)

Director: Kit Vincent

Producers: Ed Owles, Dea Gjinovci, Kit Vincent

Executive Producers: Rachel Wexler, Jez Lewis

After a young filmmaker is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he enlists his family on an intimate and darkly humorous journey to help them come to terms with his illness.

**THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE**

Production Company: Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) (Japan), Cineric Creative LLC (USA)

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki

Producer: Eric Nyari

Intimately following 1st and 6th graders at a public elementary school in Tokyo amidst the coronavirus pandemic, we observe kids learning the traits necessary to become part of Japanese society.

**THE QUEENDOM**

Production Company: Oscura Producciones S.A. de C.V. (Mexico)

Director: Otilia Portillo

Producers: Paula Arroio Sandoval

Executive Producer: Elena Fortes

Three Mexican indigenous scientists —all women—partner with mushrooms to fight for their territories. This film combines documentary and science fiction to follow their struggle from both human and fungal perspectives.

**THE WHITE DOCTOR**

Production Company: Afrofilms International Limited (Kenya), Little Wing Films Limited (Ireland)

Director: Zippy Kimundu

Producer: Ciaran Cassidy

An American missionary stands accused of pretending to be a doctor in Uganda and being responsible for the deaths of children in her care.

**THERE WAS, THERE WAS NOT**

Production Company: VernonFilms Ltd (United Kingdom)

Director: Emily Mkrtychian

Producer: Mara Adina

There Was, There Was not tells the collective myth of a homeland nearly lost to war - and four women's resistance to that loss.

**TIME HUNTER**

Production Company: Waypoint Pictures LLC (USA), Topeka Pictures LLC (USA)

Director: Daniel Chein, Mark Mushiva

Producers: David Felix Sutcliffe, Daniel Chein, Mark Mushiva

A revolutionary agent is dispatched to steal technology from his colonial oppressors to use against them. Can he help his people without losing himself in the maze of the diaspora?

**WITHOUT ARROWS**

Production Company: Without Arrows LLC (USA)

Director: Elizabeth Day, Jonathan Olshefski

Producers: Elizabeth Day, Jonathan Olshefski

Filmed with verité intimacy over the course of ten years (2011 - 2022), *Without Arrows* chronicles the choices, events, and relationships that shape a Lakota family's legacy.

The Hot Docs Forum wishes to thank founding partner Telefilm Canada. The Hot Docs Forum receives additional support from A&E, Banff Media Festival, Blue Ice Pictures, C21 Media, Canada Media Fund, Canadian Media Producers Association, Chiledoc, the City of Toronto, Crave, the Department of Canadian Heritage, European Film Promotion, Front Row Insurance, Goldenberg Nahmias LLP, Italian Trade Commission, the National Film Board of Canada, Netflix, Playback, Ontario Creates, Realscreen, Rogers Group of Funds, Scotia Wealth Management and SODEC.

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[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 29th annual edition from April 28-May 8, 2022, during which 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 industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Cineplex and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

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