

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

HOT DOCS DEAL MAKER 2024: 40 COMPELLING DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS SET TO PITCH TO INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKERS

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs proudly unveils the selection of 40 documentary projects that will participate in the 2024 edition of **Deal Maker**, taking place during the 2024 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, April 25 to May 5 in Toronto. Hot Docs Deal Maker is a specially curated one-on-one pitch meeting program for producers seeking financing and distribution from the international marketplace. Pitches will take place April 30 to May 2, with an additional day of online meetings on May 9. Deal Maker is supported by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates, and the City of Toronto.

Hailing from 31 diverse countries, these projects span the spectrum of storytelling, encompassing various stages of development, production, and post-production. Among the selection, nine projects represent Canada, while 22 boast BIPOC directors, and 28 are helmed or co-helmed by women. Notably, 13 projects mark the directorial debut of promising talents.

“Hot Docs Industry is committed to fostering a vibrant marketplace for documentaries, offering a vital platform where films can take significant strides towards fruition by connecting with crucial partners and funders. These compelling projects are poised to captivate audiences worldwide. Many congratulations to all the gifted talented filmmakers selected for Deal Maker 2024!” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs’ Industry Programs Director.

“We’re extremely proud to congratulate this year’s Deal Maker line-up bringing together 40 inspiring and innovative projects from 31 countries, 13 of which are first features. This year’s selected projects showcase the work of extraordinary artists exploring urgent stories that underpin our society,” added **Lauren Clarke**, Hot Docs’ Industry Programmer, Deal Maker. “With the current state of the world and documentary marketplace, building deep authentic relationships, and finding your partners, collaborators and co-conspirators is more essential than ever.”

Hot Docs plays a vital role in connecting documentary filmmakers with essential players such as broadcasters, online platforms, funds, distributors, sales agents, and financiers. Through the Festival, they facilitate hundreds of invaluable meetings that pave the way for collaboration, financing, and distribution opportunities. In 2023, 35 projects representing 25 countries and territories were pitched in 900+ Deal Maker meetings with over 110 decision-makers. Since its inception, 504 projects and 706 filmmakers have pitched in almost 6000 Deal Maker meetings.

Hot Docs Festival 2024 will feature premieres of distinguished Deal Maker alumni projects, encapsulating a full-circle journey. Among these noteworthy productions are *My Sextortion Diary*,

Standing Above the Clouds, Yintah, Adrienne & The Castle, The Fabulous Gold Harvesting Machine, and Singing Back the Buffalo. Notable projects that have pitched at Hot Docs Deal Maker in previous years include 2023's *The Lebanese Burger Mafia, Cynara, and Eat Bitter*; 2020's *Downstream to Kinshasa*; 2019's *Smog Town and The Forum*; 2018's *Love, Gilda*; 2017's *Bill Nye: Science Guy, and Quest*; and 2015's *My Enemy, My Brother*.

Projects that will participate in the 2024 Hot Docs Deal Maker are:

#NunsToo

Director: Lorena Luciano

Producer: Filippo Piscopo

Executive Producers: Mariska Hargitay, Trish Adlesic

Production Companies: Film Take Productions, Inc. (USA), Mighty Entertainment, Inc. (USA)

Acid: Who Stopped the Rain?

Director: Victoria Lean

Producers: Victoria Lean, Jonas Prupas

Executive Producer: Michael Kronish

Associate Producer: Jade Blair

Production Companies: Parrhesia Films (Canada), Muse Entertainment (Canada)

Barbara Forever

Director: Brydie O'Connor

Producer: Elijah Stevens

Executive Producers: Christine Vachon, Claire Edelman

Production Companies: Barbara Forever LLC (USA), Space Time Films (USA), Killer Films (USA), Kartemquin Films (USA)

Breaking The Cycle

Directors: Aekaphong Saransate, Thanakrit Duangmaneepon

Producers: Komtouch Napattaloong, Tanwarat Sombawattana

Production Company: Pop Pictures (Thailand)

Breaking the Wall

Director: Weichao Xu

Producer: Yiqian Zhang

Production Company: Touchstone Productions Inc. (Canada)

Brücher. Unheard of Botanical Chronicle

Directors: María Camila Menéndez, Mariana Elena Guzzante

Producers: Silvana Díaz Coppoletta y Cristina Escobar

Production Companies: Curandero Producciones (Argentina), El Gatoverde Producciones SRL. (Spain)

Camionero

Director: Francisco Marise
Producers: David Pérez Sañudo, Agustín Delgado, Kevin Iglesias
Executive Producer: Elena Maeso
Production Company: Amania Films SL (Spain)

Curl Power

Director: Josephine Anderson
Producers: Mike Johnston, Josephine Anderson
Executive Producers: Mike Johnston, Josephine Anderson, Ken Tsui
Associate Producers: Diana Parry, Andy Alvarez, Martin Calvo, Alex Bohs, Claire Sanford
Production Companies: Studio 104 Entertainment Inc. (Canada), Secret Bench Films Inc. (Canada)

Dreams of the Wild Oaks

Director: Marjan Khosravi
Producers: Milad Khosravi
Co-Producer: Stephanie von Lukowicz
Executive Producers: Milad Khosravi, Stephanie von Lukowicz
Production Companies: Seven Springs Pictures (Iran), Lukimedia, sl (Spain)

En Garde

Director: Mateusz Majda
Producers: Paweł Ziemilski, Łukasz Długołęcki, Mateusz Majda
Production Company: MX35 Wajda Ziemilski sp. j. (Poland)

Girl Island: The Sandy Stone Story

Director: Marjorie Vecchio
Producers: Susan Stryker, Marjorie Vecchio
Executive Producer: Zackary Drucker
Consulting Producer: Marc Smolowitz
Production Companies: MJV Productions, LLC (USA), 13th Gen, Inc (USA)

Holder of the Sky

Director: Tsanavi Spoonhunter
Producers: Ciara Lacy, Cristina Costantini
Line Producer: Christian Lee Collins
Production Company: Mahebe Media LLC (USA)

Holloway

Directors: Daisy-May Hudson, Sophie Compton
Producers: Alice Hughes, Polly Creed
Executive Producer: Claire O'Neill
Production Companies: Beehive Films Limited (UK), Power Play Productions CIC (UK)

Kind Ones

Director: Max Lowe

Producers: Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Ann Rogers

Production Companies: Fishbowl Films (USA), Humble Heart Films (USA)

La Pietà

Directors: Pepe Andreu, Rafa Molés

Producers: Pepe Andreu, Rafa Molés, Ólafur Rögnvaldsson, Arunas Matelis

Production Companies: SUICA Productions S.L. (SUICAFilms) (Spain), Axfilms ehf (Iceland), Ultra nominum, UAB (Studio Nominum) (Lithuania)

Land of My Dreams

Director: Nausheen Khan

Producer: Nausheen Khan

Production Company: Nausheen Khan (India)

Matininó

Director: Gabriela Díaz Arp

Producers: Karla Claudio Betancourt, Wendy Muñiz, Guillermo Zouain

Production Companies: Matininó, LLC. (USA, Puerto Rico), Rabbit Raccoon (USA), Viewfinder (Dominican Republic)

Memento Mori

Directors: Briar March, Alyx Duncan

Producers: Briar March, Alyx Duncan

Executive Producer: Alex Behse

Production Companies: On the Level Productions Limited (New Zealand), Monsoon Pictures International Ltd (New Zealand)

My Dream to Fly

Director: Asmaa gamal Elgafrie

Producer: Asmaa gamal Elgafrie

Production Company: REC & Roll (Egypt)

Saints and Warriors

Director: Patrick Shannon

Producer: Michael Grand

Executive Producers: Patrick Shannon, Vinay Virmani, Scott Moore

Production Companies: Grand Scheme Productions Inc. (Canada), Ball is Life Entertainment Inc. (Canada), First Take Entertainment Ltd. (Canada)

The Sharp Edge of Peace

Director: Roya Sadat

Producers: Leslie Thomas, Ana Ramic, Christy Denes, J. Matthew Jacob, Aziz Deldar, Alka Sadat Executive Producers: John Ptak, Jamie Wolf Co-Executive Producer: Nathalie Seaver Production Companies: MIRA Studios LLC (USA), Roya Film House (Afghanistan/USA), Foothill Productions (USA)

Singing Back the Buffalo

Director: Tasha Hubbard

Producers: Tasha Hubbard, George Hupka, Jason Ryle
Executive Producer: Bonnie Thompson
Production Company: Buffalo Song Productions Inc. (Canada)

Streets Loud with Echoes

Director: Katerina Suvorova

Producers: Aruan Anartayev, Viktoriya Kalashnikova
Production Company: Tihy Svet (Quiet Light) (Kazakhstan)

The Art of War (El Arte de la Guerra)

Directors: Grecia Barbieri, Gonzalo Benavente Secco

Producer: Carolina Denegri

Executive Producers: Grecia Barbieri, Gonzalo Benavente Secco, Carolina Denegri, Jaén Mujica Coronado
Production Companies: Autocinema SAC (Peru), Animalita EIRL (Peru)

The Golden Door

Director: Robinder Uppal

Producer: Marc Serpa Francoeur

Production Company: Lost Time Media Inc. (Canada)

The Good Man of Pachalum (working title)

Director: Renato Borrayo Serrano

Producer: Inés Nofuentes, Jorge Lopez, Nacho LaCasa

Executive Producer: Inés Nofuentes

Associate Producer: Mo Scarpelli

Production Companies: Curuxa Cinema SL. (Spain), Cronopio Cinema (Guatemala), Capitán Araña (Spain), Rake Films (USA)

The Most Important Prisoners

Director: Zakaria Rahmani

Producers: Arne Birkenstock, Michael Mallie

Production Companies: Fruitmarket Arts & Media GmbH (Germany), Ard Mhacha Productions (Ireland)

The Sandbox

Director: Kenya-Jade Pinto
Producers: Shasha Nakhai, Kenya-Jade Pinto
Executive Producers: Rich Williamson, Jennifer Baichwal, Bob Moore
Production Company: 1000543880 Ontario Inc. (Canada)

The Soldier's Journey

Director: Helena Maksyom
Producers: Adrian Privu, Yasmin C. Rams, Renko Douze, Dea Gjinovci
Production Companies: Privu A. Adrian PFA (Romania), Perennial Lens GmbH (Germany), Een Van de Jongens (Netherlands), Astrae Productions (Switzerland)

Together (working title)

Director: Yasmin Mistry
Producers: Yasmin Mistry, Thu-Huong Hoang
Consulting Producer: Jin Yoo-Kim
Production Company: idesygn creative LLC (USA)

Until Our Hearts are on the Ground

Directors: Dawn Lavell Harvard, Pam Palmater
Producers: Jeanette Vivian Corbiere Lovell, Mark Peachey
Executive Producers: Dawn Lavell Harvard, Alanis Obomsawin, Pam Palmater (producer)
Production Companies: Warrior Life Studios, Inc. (Canada), The Digitalist (1044667 Ont. Inc) (Canada)

Untitled Eitaro Project

Directors: Koodae Kim, Teruhisa Yoshida
Producers: Michael LaPointe, Koodae Kim, Teruhisa Yoshida
Consulting Producer: Doug Block
Production Companies: Pointe Media, LLC (USA), TenFrames, LLC (USA)

Untitled Chilean Documentary

Director: Carola Fuentes
Producer: Rafael Valdeavellano
Executive Producers: Simon Kilmurry, Ina Fichman
Production Companies: La Ventana Cine Ltd. (Chile), Drymen Pictures, LLC (USA), Intuitive Pictures (Canada)

Untitled Middle East Project

Directors: Janay Boulos, Abd al-Kader Habak
Producers: Sonja Henrici, Janay Boulos, Abd al-Kader Habak
Production Companies: Habak Films Ltd. (UK), Sonja Henrici Creates Ltd. (UK)

The Noble Half (working title)

Director: Khaula Haider Malik

Producers: Afnahn Khan, Brit Fryer, Khaula Malik

Production Companies: Forest Ave Films (USA), Third Cousin Pictures, Inc. (USA)

War on Women

Director: Maris Salumets

Producer: Elina Litvinova

Co-producer: Volia Chajkosukaya, Tereza Nvotova

Production Companies: Three Brothers OÜ (Estonia), Allfilm OÜ (Estonia), Talking Stones s.r.a (Slovakia)

Wild Gleaming Space (Luminoso Espacio Salvaje)

Director: Mauro Colombo

Producers: Abner Benaim, Arturo Méndiz, Isabella Gálvez

Production Companies: Apertura Films, S.A. (Panamá), Bastian Films 2 S.L. (Spain)

Will They Ever Come Back?

Director: Ángela Carabalí

Producers: Sandra Tabares-Duque, Ángela Carabalí

Productions Companies: Sandelion Productions S.A.S (Colombia), Carabalí Films & New Media S.A.S (Colombia)

XiXi

Director: Fan Wu

Producers: Fan Wu, Venice de Castro Atienza, Sona Jo, Yoonsoo Her

Production Companies: Svemirko Audiovisual Art Productions (Taiwan), Svemirko Film Productions (Philippines), Sona Films (Republic of Korea)

###

[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), 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 31st annual edition from April 25 to May 5, 2024, in cinemas across Toronto. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum and Hot Docs Deal Maker. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film 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.

Starting Tuesday, March 26, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 2, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed [online](#) at www.hotdocs.ca or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with cinema screenings). Single tickets are \$20 to regular Festival screenings and \$23 to Special Presentations screenings (\$18-\$20 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$209 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$299. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers as its Founding Partner; CBC as its Signature Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters.

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano
Senior Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs
jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca