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**PIONEERING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER CHRISTINE CHOY TO RECEIVE
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY HOT DOCS
FESTIVAL**

- HOT DOCS WILL CELEBRATE CANADIAN FILM RESEARCHER ELIZABETH KLINCK WITH *FOCUS ON* PROGRAM AT 2023 FESTIVAL
- HOT DOCS 2023 *MADE IN* PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT RECENT DOCS FROM UKRAINE

Toronto, ON – The Hot Docs Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of trailblazing Chinese American filmmaker, educator, and artist Christine Choy (Chai Ming Huei) as the recipient of its 2023 **Outstanding Achievement Award**. The 30th Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, April 27 to May 7 in Toronto, will also celebrate prolific Canadian film producer, researcher and clearance specialist **Elizabeth Klinck**'s contribution to documentary cinema with its **Focus On** program. The Festival's popular **Made In** program will put the spotlight on recent documentaries from **Ukraine**.

"Christine Choy is a trailblazer, and her body of work broke new ground in shining a light on diverse and unheralded stories," said **Shane Smith**, Hot Docs artistic director. "For decades, she has advocated for freedom and justice while giving a voice to the forgotten and neglected and capturing the unvarnished realities of life, whether in rural China or in the American Midwest. It is our great pleasure to honour her with a much-deserved Outstanding Achievement Award at our upcoming 30th-Anniversary Festival."

Originally trained as an architect at Columbia University, Christine Choy went on to earn a certificate in directing at AFI (American Film Institute). Since then, she has produced, directed, and photographed more than 85 films and has received over 60 international awards, including an Oscar nomination for her sophomore feature documentary *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* (1987). Choy's latest collaborative documentary film, *The Exiles* (2022), had its International Premiere at Hot Docs Festival 2022 and won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival.

In addition to her work as a documentary filmmaker, Choy is a celebrated professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she served as Chair of Tisch's Graduate Film & Television Program from 1994 to 1997, and again from 2002 to 2005. She is the founding director of Third World Newsreel, one of the oldest alternative media arts organizations in the U.S., and the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong; a member of the Project Vetting committee of the Film Development Fund, Hong Kong; and served as an International Trustee Member of the Asia Society from 1995 to 2002.

As part of the honour, Hot Docs will screen a curated retrospective of Choy's fearless films during the 2023 Festival, celebrating her illustrious filmmaking career and her ardent activist spirit. Christine Choy

will attend the Festival and participate in a public in-conversation event, as well as several Q&As after her film screenings. Films in the 2023 Outstanding Achievement Award Retrospective program will be announced in March.

Past recipients of the Outstanding Achievement Award include Anand Patwardhan (2022), Stanley Nelson (2020), Julie Reichert (2019), Barbara Kopple (2018), Tony Palmer (2017), Steve James (2016), Patricio Guzmán (2015), Adam Curtis (2014), Les Blank (2013), Michel Brault (2012), Terence Macartney-Filgate (2011), Kim Longinotto (2010), Alanis Obomsawin (2009), Richard Leacock (2008), Heddy Honigmann (2007), Werner Herzog (2006), Errol Morris (2005), Michael Maclear (2004), Nick Broomfield (2003), Frederick Wiseman (2002), D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus (2000) and Albert Maysles (1999).

Hot Docs Festival 2023 will also pay tribute to Canadian film producer, researcher and clearance specialist **Elizabeth Klinck** with its annual **Focus On** program, featuring the work of Canadian filmmakers and craftspeople who have made a significant contribution to the documentary landscape.

“Elizabeth Klinck is nothing short of an icon of Canadian documentary Cinema,” shared **Shane Smith**, Hot Docs artistic director. “Her remarkable work as a visual and archival researcher can be seen in an astounding number of our most important docs. Elizabeth’s expertise and passion for her craft make her one of the most sought-after collaborators for producers and directors from Canada and around the world, and we are delighted to celebrate her at this year’s Festival.”

Elizabeth Klinck has worked as a producer, researcher and clearance specialist on hundreds of international documentary films that have garnered BAFTA, Emmy, FOCAL, Canadian Screen Awards, Peabody, and Oscar awards. A graduate of Queen’s University, she has presented hundreds of masterclasses and workshops at numerous international festivals, markets, universities, and film schools. Elizabeth was nominated for an Emmy in the Craft of Research in 2006 for her work on HBO’s *Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She* (2005) and has received three nominations for Best Footage Researcher at the FOCAL UK Awards.

She has been the recipient of six Best Visual Research Awards at the Canadian Screen Awards, and Gemeaux and Gemini Awards, and in 2008 she was the first Canadian to be awarded the FOCAL International Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2014 she was awarded the inaugural DOC Star Award by the Documentary Organization of Canada in recognition of her mentoring and leadership in the Canadian documentary community. The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television gave Elizabeth the prestigious Board of Director’s Tribute in 2019 for her body of work and volunteerism in the Canadian and international documentary film communities. Elizabeth has served on the board of WIFT (Women In Film & Television), Canada’s Audio Visual Trust, World Congress of Historymakers, and is the founding chairperson of the Visual Researchers’ Society of Canada. She presently serves on the Executive Committee for FOCAL International (UK) and is a member of DOC Toronto and WIFT.

Past *Focus On* honourees include Raymonde Provencher (2022), Julia Ivanova (2019), John Walker (2018), Maya Gallus (2017), Rosie Dransfeld (2016), Carole Laganière (2015), John Zaritsky (2014), Peter

Mettler (2013), John Kastner (2012), Alan Zweig (2011), Tahani Rached (2010), Ron Mann (2009), Jennifer Baichwal (2008), Kevin McMahon (2007), Serge Giguère (2006), Larry Weinstein (2005), Nettie Wild (2004), Shelley Saywell (2003) and Zacharias Kunuk (2002).

Hot Docs has also revealed that its acclaimed annual **Made In** program will highlight recent documentary films from **Ukraine** at the 2023 Festival, with a primary focus on stories being told on the ground by filmmakers working in the country since the war began. The program is presented in collaboration with Docudays UA.

“This is the first time Ukraine is the spotlight country, so we are making Hot Docs history!” shared **Myrocia Watamaniuk**, Hot Docs senior international programmer. “*Made In* programs are meant to show audiences what documentary looks like at one point in a nation’s cinema, but this year, Hot Docs is showing what documentary can actually do—define a country’s history. Bringing together films of this calibre, work made at the risk of artists’ lives, is an honour.”

“We’re incredibly grateful for having Hot Docs as our partner,” said **Victoria Leshchenko**, Docudays UA program director. “These films are telling some of the country’s most urgent stories, but they also demonstrate the talent that is at risk. Connecting these artists with Canadian audiences is so important.”

Past *Made In* programs have focused on films from Chile (2022), Colombia (2021), Northern Ireland (2020), Italy (2019), Mexico (2018), Japan (2017), Australia (2016), India (2015), Denmark (2014), Poland (2013), Southeastern Europe (2012), Italy (2011), South America (2010), South Korea (2009), Mexico (2008), Brazil (2007), Japan (2006), South Africa (2004) and Taiwan (2003).

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Hot Docs (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 30th annual edition from April 27 to May 7, 2023, in cinemas across Toronto, with a selection of films available online to audiences throughout Canada. 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, Hot Docs Deal Maker and The Doc Shop. 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, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Full film line up will be announced on March 28. Ticket packages are currently on sale at hotdocs.ca. A Festival 12-pack is \$199 and a 20-pack is \$279.

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; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

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