

SEVEN CANADIAN DOC PROJECTS TO RECEIVE \$127,500 IN INAUGURAL ROUND OF DISBURSEMENTS FROM NEW HOT DOCS-SLAIGHT FAMILY FUND

Toronto, November 11, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that seven Canadian music documentary projects will receive a total of \$127,500 in the first round of funding from the new Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund. Selected from 97 applications, four of the films are from Ontario, two are from British Columbia and one is from Quebec. Established in the spring of 2020, this production and development fund was created through a gift from The Slaight Family Foundation. The first of its kind in Canada, the Fund is committed to filmmakers telling engaging, high quality stories that embrace musical forms and artists and demonstrates Canadian music's role in the world.

"We're so pleased to support these incredible Canadian music docs through this first round of funding," said **Gary Slaight**, president & CEO, The Slaight Family Foundation. "A mosaic of musical styles and influences from across the country, each of these films shares a fascinating music story from a uniquely Canadian perspective, showcasing the ingenuity and passion of Canada's music scene and cementing its history through documentary film."

"We were elated by the response to the inaugural year of the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, the first fund in Canada dedicated to catalyzing music docs," said **Heidi Tao Yang**, acting industry programs director for Hot Docs. "This year's grantees showcase a wide range of musical talents—from Canadian legends and chart-toppers to lesser-known gems—leveraging sound as an entry-point to universal and timely themes. We're so excited for international audiences to discover these artists and the worlds they open us up to."

Eligible projects were considered by the Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund committee: Barnaby Marshall (Slaight Music), Robin Mirsky (Rogers Group of Funds), Hot Docs (Olena Decock and Heidi Tao Yang) and Jennifer Shin (Banger Films).

Development Funds:

FIGHT THE POWER

Director: Sam Pollard

Producers: Ed Barreveld, Robert Kraft, Nick Ware

Production company: Storyline Entertainment

With hits in six consecutive decades, The Isley Brothers influenced the sound of America. Despite their seminal importance, race determined where music was played. *Fight the Power* is one family's odyssey to win the mainstream recognition they have long deserved.

I NEVER FOLLOW THE RULES

Director: Stephen Dunn

Producer: Ina Fichman

Production Company: Intuitive Pictures

Jazz, pop, ballads, some Judy Garland, composing operas—forty-six-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright *never* follows the rules. Born into a musical family, Rufus sings from the heart about love, loss, politics and his relationships. *I Never Follow the Rules* is a creative documentary about this master showman as he enters a new phase of his life and career.

UNTITLED MARY MARGARET O'HARA PROJECT

Director: Sean O'Neill

Producers: Sean O'Neill, Christina Carvalho

Production Company: Visitor Media

A surreal cinematic riff, weaving together the real and unreal to create an off-centre portrait of an artist whose work eludes classification and, always, drifts toward life.

Production Funds:

ANNE MURRAY: FULL CIRCLE

Director: Morgan Elliott

Producer: Lynn Fuhr

Production company: Network Entertainment Inc.

An exploration of the extraordinary life of Anne Murray, the Maritime girl who, on the path to becoming a Canadian icon and international superstar, shattered the glass ceiling for today's most adored female voices to follow in her footsteps.

THE BEAUTIFUL SCARS OF TOM WILSON

Director: Shane Belcourt

Producer: Corey Russell

Production company: Cream Productions Inc.

The remarkable story of a rock star who spent most of his life trying to find himself only to find out, in the most surprising way, that his entire life was a lie.

THE CONCERT THAT BROKE UP THE BEATLES

Director: Ron Chapman

Producers: Trish Dolman, Ron Chapman

Production companies: 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.

NASH THE SLASH RISES AGAIN!

Directors: Kevan Byrne, Tim Kowalski

Producers: Colin Brunton, Leanne Davies

Production company: Side Three Media Inc.

A celebration of artistic integrity and courage—and the price-tag that comes with it—*Nash the Slash Rises Again!* explores the lost art of mystique, and is a compelling look into the fine line between public image and private identity.

The Slight Family Foundation was established in 2008 by John Allan Slight. Allan Slight is known as Canada's broadcast pioneer, music leader and a prominent Canadian philanthropist. Through his generosity, the Foundation proactively supports charitable initiatives in the areas of healthcare, at-risk youth, international development, social services and culture.

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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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