

HOT DOCS 2022 INDUSTRY PROGRAM WRAPS WITH \$50,000 IN PITCH PRIZES AWARDED TO THREE HOT DOCS FORUM PITCHES

Toronto, May 5, 2022— Hot Docs announced today the winners of \$50,000 CDN in pitch prizes at this year's Hot Docs Forum, the Festival's acclaimed international co-financing market event and the flagship industry event, including \$40,000 in *first look* Pitch Prizes and the \$10,000 CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize. All Forum pitches are now available for online streaming by Industry Pass holders on Hot Docs' online conference platform at hotdocs.ca, along with the full lineup of Hot Docs Industry LIVE sessions and other content, until May 31.

"The resilience and creativity of our documentary creators and dedicated support from decision maker community are most powerfully displayed in this 2022 edition of the Hot Docs Forum," shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs Industry Programs Director. "It is a true honour to see this documentary family grow."

"The 20 teams who pitched in the Forum spent months—sometimes years—preparing for moments like this," said **Dorota Lech**, Hot Docs Forum Producer. "We know that the expertise and knowledge around this table will legitimize, support, and help launch these films and are honoured to be a step on their artistic journeys. I'm especially in awe of each artist's perseverance, tenacity, and courage and grateful to the decision makers for their generosity of spirit and guidance in helping these magnificent, joyous, sometimes heart-breaking, often unbelievable films reach audiences."

Financed by participants of Hot Docs *first look* program, a curated access program for philanthropic supporters of and investors in documentary film, *first look* Pitch Prizes are decided on by participants after viewing all pitches. Awarded directly to the filmmakers, the prizes take them one step closer to completing their film and creating lasting social impact for the causes associated with their work. The first prize of \$25,000 CDN went to ***The Queendom*** (D: Otilia Portillo | P: Paula Arroio Sandoval | Oscura Producciones S.A. de C.V. (Mexico)), in which three Mexican Indigenous scientists—all women—partner with mushrooms to fight for their territories. The second prize of \$15,000 CDN was awarded to ***A Woman's Path*** (D: Marjan Khosravi | P: Milad Khosravi, Stephanie Von Lukowicz | Seven Spring Pictures (Iran), Lukimedia (Spain)), the story of a woman who is forced to abandon her nomadic lifestyle after being betrayed by her family.

The CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize, presented in partnership with the Canada Media Fund, is a \$10,000 cash prize that is awarded to the best Canadian pitch and is intended to go towards the production and completion of the winning project. The 2022 CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize was awarded to ***Untitled Labor Union Documentary*** (D: Brett Story, Stephen Maing | P: Mars Verrone, Samantha Curley | Level Ground Productions LLC (USA), Oh Ratface Films (Canada)), an intimate portrait of workers taking on one of the world's most powerful companies in the fight to unionize.

At this year's Hot Docs Forum, 20 projects—represented by 26 filmmakers, 15 of whom are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) and 14 of whom are women—representing 19 countries, were

presented to a live digital room of more than 50 key funders and decision makers as well as filmmakers, producers, and other observers. A total of 55 projects pitched in more than 750 pre-arranged meetings to more than 96 decision makers during Deal Maker, the Festival's one-on-one curated pitch event. Distribution Rendezvous, the tailored meeting service for completed films seeking distribution, facilitated more than 900 meetings for 114 projects. Additionally, 14 Doc Accelerator fellows from across Canada participated in private programming which will continue in the coming months.

This year, Hot Docs offered a hybrid industry program, with three days of Hot Docs Industry LIVE knowledge sessions and social events, and online programs that included Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Dealmaker, Distribution Rendezvous and additional industry content. 1941 registered delegates, including 218 decision makers, from 74 countries participated in this year's live and online industry programs at Hot Docs. Hot Docs LIVE featured: a keynote and spotlight conversation with Christine Choy, two work-in-progress screenings, two Hot Docs Forum Talk Back sessions, three World Record sessions, and eight other sessions covering such timely topics as solidarity with Ukrainian filmmakers, racial equity in the industry and more. Hot Docs also hosted 10 official delegations from: Atlantic Canada, led by Lunenburg Doc Fest; Chile, led by ChileDoc and financed by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, in collaboration with ProChile; European filmmakers, led by the European Film Promotion; Germany, led by AG DOK; Ireland, led by Docs Ireland; Italy, led by the Italian Trade Commission; and Manitoba, led by On Screen Manitoba. Registration for Online Industry Passes will remain open until the end of May, with all content available to view on the platform until May 31.

-30-

Hot Docs (www.hotdocs.ca) 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, April 28 to May 8 in Toronto and online, the Festival is offering a dynamic hybrid experience for industry delegates, including a live three-day program of knowledge sessions and networking events on its first weekend and online market programs and sessions, 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-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

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.

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano



PRESS RELEASE

Media Relations Manager
Hot Docs
jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
720 Spadina Avenue, Suite 402, Toronto On Canada M5S 2T9 416.203.2155

WWW.HOTDOCS.CA