



## INSIDE OUT TORONTO LGBT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 FINANCE FORUM PARTICIPATING EXECUTIVES AND PROJECTS

***Executives will include award winning producers Howard Rosenman (Academy Award® winner CALL ME BY YOUR NAME) and Effie Brown (Spirit Award winner DEAR WHITE PEOPLE), along with execs from Protagonist Pictures, Bankside Films, The Film Collaborative, Celluloid Dreams, Elevation Pictures, and Les Films Seville***

**TORONTO, ON (April 26, 2018)** - The Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, one of the largest LGBT-focused film festivals in North America, has selected the 8 feature film projects for the second annual Finance Forum at this year's festival along with the international industry executives. For the first time, the forum will welcome international projects from the USA, the UK and India. The announcement was made today by Inside Out's executive director Andria Wilson.

After a highly successful inaugural forum at last year's festival, the event has been expanded to a two-day event designed to address the specific needs of producers of LGBTQ content. The industry initiative, supported by the OMDC and CMPA, will provide LGBTQ-identified producers and/or producers creating LGBTQ content an opportunity to pitch their projects directly to top decision makers. All participating executives will be taking one-on-one meetings with each of the creative teams about their projects. Being the first LGBTQ finance forum of its kind in the world, the festival is quickly becoming a top incubator for international LGBTQ filmmakers.

This year's forum is being produced by Jan Nathanson. Nathanson has produced the OMDC's International Financing Forum (iff), which takes place during the Toronto International Film Festival in September, for the past twelve years.

The executive mentors participating in the 2018 Finance Forum include:

- Adrian Love - SVP of Marketing and Acquisitions for Elevation Pictures (CAN)
- Anne-Claire Villeneuve - Acquisitions Director for Les Films Seville (CAN)
- Charlotte Lopez - Sales Manager for Protagonist Pictures (UK)
- Charlotte Mickie - Vice President, Chantal Chateauf - Manager, North American Operations & Acquisitions, Celluloid Dreams (CAN/FRANCE)
- Effie Brown - Producer ("Star", Spirit Award winner DEAR WHITE PEOPLE) (US)
- Gosia Kamela - Production Executive, Drama & Feature Film, Original Programming, Bell Media (CAN)
- Howard Rosenman - Producer (Academy Award® winner CALL ME BY YOUR NAME) (US)
- Jeffrey Fabian Winter - Co-Executive Director of The Film Collaborative (US)
- Stephen Kelliher - Director, Head of Sales & Marketing for Bankside Films (UK)

Highlights from the selection of projects include the international films **QUILTRO** (USA) from Director Vuk Lungulov-Klotz, who was also chosen as a 2017 Sundance Screenwriter Intensive Fellow, and **EX-SANGUIS** (UK) from director Leonara Lonsdale and producer Manon Ardisson (Bafta Award nominated and BIFA winner GOD'S OWN COUNTRY, Opening Night Gala Inside Out 2017).

Additional highlights include Canadian projects **DOCKING**, written and directed by filmmaker Trevor Anderson (THE LITTLE DEPUTY, which world premiered at Sundance in 2015), **HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU**, produced by Damon D'Oliveira and directed by Clement Virgo (Canadian Screen Award winner "The Book Of Negroes") and co-written by Trey Anthony ("Da Kink in My Hair"), **ME, MY MOM, AND SHARMILA**, co-written and produced by Fawzia Mirza (SIGNATURE MOVE, Outfest Grand Jury Prize 2017) and **HONOR THY MOTHER** written and directed by Kathleen Hepburn (NEVER STEADY, NEVER STILL, Vancouver Critics Circle Best Canadian Feature 2017).

The Finance Forum will take place over the first two days of the festival, Thursday, May 24th and Friday, May 25th.

The full lineup of selected projects is included below:

**DOCKING (CANADA)** / Director: Trevor Anderson, Producer: Alyson Richards

Logline: Billy starts dating again to get over his ex-boyfriend, at the exact moment a space alien in human form begins to stalk Edmonton, consuming men with its monstrous penis.

Meanwhile, documentary filmmaker Trevor Anderson struggles to finish his new short film about his fear of dating.

**HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU (CANADA / WALES)** / Director: Clement Virgo, Producer: Damon D'Oliveira; writers: Trey Anthony and Wales writer Carys Lewis

Logline: A kitchen-sink drama about a family of dynamic black women as they attempt to reconcile the harsh realities of love, sexual identity and the looming presence of death in the face of their mother's recent cancer diagnosis.

**ME, MY MOM, AND SHARMILA (CANADA / USA / INDIA)** / Co-Writers: Fawzia Mirza, Terrie Samundra, Producer: Fawzia Mirza

Logline: A queer, Pakistani girl and her Muslim, immigrant mother come of age against the backdrop of their shared love of a Bollywood heroine.

**HONOR THY MOTHER (CANADA)** / Directors: Kathleen Hepburn, Charlie Hidalgo, Producer: Charlie Hidalgo; writer: Kathleen Hepburn

Logline: When her younger brother is arrested for statutory rape, Simona, a queer death doula living a life of self-imposed isolation, is forced to face the buried trauma that has haunted her since childhood in order to regain her ability to love and be loved.

**YOU CAN LIVE FOREVER (CANADA)** / Director: Mark Slutsky, Producer: John Christou, Writer: Sarah Fobes

Logline: When 16-year-old Jaime is sent to live in a secluded Jehovah's Witness community in the mountains, she falls hard for Marike, the daughter of a Witness elder, sparking a clandestine relationship that will change their lives forever.

**QUEEN TUT (CANADA)** / Director: Reem Morsi, Producer: Shant Joshi, Writer: Bryan Mark

Logline: Carted to Toronto for his father's work, an Egyptian teenager discovers the underground world of drag and confronts the emotional toll of the loss of his mother by learning how to create his own drag alter ego, Queen Tut.

**QUILTRO (USA)** / Director: Vuk Lungulov-Klotz, Producers: Stephen Scott Scarpulla, Alexander Stegmaier, Jose na Laban, Writers: Vuk Lungulov-Klotz

Logline: Feña, a Chilean-American mutt, stumbles through a hectic day while reconnecting with three significant people who've been absent since his coming out as transgender.

**EX-SANGUIS (UK)** / Director: Leonara Lonsdale, Producer: Manon Ardisson, Writer: Islay Bell Webb

Logline: After a mysterious disease leaves sufferers dependant on donated human blood to survive, an intense relationship develops between two women as one feeds the other.

**About Inside Out's LGBT Finance Forum:**

The Finance Forum is an initiative that was started in May 2017 by the Inside Out Festival. The forum is supported by OMDC and CMPA, which provides LGBTQ producers or producers making LGBTQ content an opportunity to pitch their feature film projects to Canadian and international executives.

**About Inside Out:**

Now in its 28th year, the Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival is the largest event of its kind in Canada, showcasing the best and most diverse films by, for and of interest to LGBT communities. For 11 days, the Festival draws crowds of more than 32,500 to screenings, artist talks, panel discussions, installations and parties that showcase more than 175 films from Canada and around the world.

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