



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTRÉAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

SARAH SPRING NAMED CHAIR OF THE RIDM AND DCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Montreal, September 21, 2015 – Change is in the air at the RIDM! After appointing a new executive director, Mara Gourde-Mercado, in April, the board of the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** and **Doc Circuit Montreal (DCM)** is pleased to welcome a new chair, **Sarah Spring**, effective today. Ms. Spring is the fourth chair since the RIDM was founded in 1998.

Ms. Spring succeeds Mila Aung-Thwin, chair of the RIDM and DCM since 2010. During his term, Mila was active in the development and worldwide promotion of the RIDM and the Doc Circuit Montreal professional market. His love of documentary cinema and desire to help the festival raise its profile while preserving its essence as a place for meeting and discussion were deeply appreciated by the team. The board of directors and the entire RIDM and DCM team thank him sincerely for his invaluable contributions.

Ms. Spring was a natural choice as his successor. “Sarah is a young producer who is grounded in Quebec’s realities. She produces in French and English and is highly familiar with the Canadian and international documentary communities. For several years she has been doing incredible work to promote Quebec’s films and expertise. She is a tremendous asset to our organization, given the challenges ahead,” said Mara Gourde-Mercado.

Armed with a determination to help the festival continue its progress, Ms. Spring is enthusiastic about her mandate. “We have so many tools in our documentary arsenal to look at the world around us, and are increasingly creating new languages to interpret how we see each other, and ourselves I think we are very fortunate to have a festival that consistently brings together some of the most fascinating and important films produced every year. This festival is our home, our window to the world and our platform to leap out to it. It is where our stories meet, but also the heart of an incredibly strong community of which I am proud to be a part. I approach my mandate as chair of the Board of Directors with glee and grit! Whether you are planning on spending your RIDM taking in the world, or taking it over, I look forward to seeing you there.”

Sarah Spring is the co-founder of Parabola Films and was co-chair of the DOC Québec professional association for several years. In the last ten years, she has been heavily involved in Montreal-based documentary production, and has produced documentary feature films by directors who have shared their unique perspectives on Montreal, Bogota, Tokyo, Johannesburg, Mendoza and Istanbul, among other cities. Her production company, Parabola Films, specializes in films that innovate with forms of representation and push the boundaries of documentary narrative.

The 18th annual RIDM will be held from November 12 to 22. The professional market will take place from November 14 to 18.

About the RIDM

Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the **Montreal International Documentary Festival** presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.

About Doc Circuit Montreal

Doc Circuit Montreal is North America's only bilingual documentary market. Each year it organizes an intensive schedule of business meetings and professional-development workshops that help directors, producers, distributors and broadcasters update their skills and launch new partnerships.

Information: www.ridm.qc.ca / info@ridm.qc.ca

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Photo of Sarah Spring, new board of directors chair for RIDM and DCM - attached.

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