



PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate distribution

**Forum RIDM is headed to Cannes!**

**A first Docs-in-Progress – Canadian Showcase  
at Doc Corner, Marché du Film de Cannes 2019**

**in collaboration with TELEFILM CANADA and Hot Docs**



*Left to right, top row first: Audrey-Ann Dupuis Pierre (Metafilms), Isabelle Couture (Catbird Productions), Polina Teif, Émilie Serri, Marlene Edoyan (Fauve Film) and Tamara Dawit*

**Announcing the four projects selected**

**Montreal, Monday, May 13, 2019** - Forum RIDM is proud to announce a first collaboration with Telefilm Canada and the Hot Docs festival (Toronto), culminating with the inaugural ***Docs-in-Progress - Canadian Showcase***. The event will take place on **Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** at the Doc Corner of the Marché du film de Cannes. This all-woman *Docs in Progress* will give the producers and directors of four Canadian works in production the opportunity to pitch to an audience of buyers, distributors, festival programmers and international sales agents.

Ahead of the event the RIDM and Hot Docs will provide pitch training to the representatives for the four projects, and provide personalized guidance during the event. The producers and directors will have the opportunity to present a 10-minute excerpt from their work in progress, give a presentation and launch their film on the international market.

### **The following projects were selected:**

**Damascus Dreams** represented by Émilie Serri (director) and Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre (producer)

Faced with the conflict in Syria, Emilie, whose family owns a movie theater in Damascus, tries to reconnect with her cultural heritage by imagining a fictional country able to preserve both the memories of the Syrian newcomers she meets, her father's and her own. Weaving together testimonies, archival material and performances in a singular form of essay film, *Damascus Dreams* addresses questions of cultural identity, memory, exile and loss in the context of a war.

**Eulogy for the Dead Sea** represented by Polina Teif (director and producer)

*Eulogy for the Dead Sea* is a meditative feature-length documentary which parallels regional conflict in Jordan, Israel and Palestine's West Bank with severe environmental degradation around the Dead Sea, which is estimated to disappear by 2050. In a land ravaged by war, loss is commonplace. *Eulogy for the Dead Sea* is a meditation on ecological grief that transcends borders.

**Finding Sally** represented by Tamara Dawit (director) and Isabelle Couture (producer)

*Finding Sally* is Tamara's personal investigation about the mysterious life of her Aunt Sally, an Ethiopian aristocrat turned communist rebel who disappeared during the revolution that led to the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in the 70s. By revisiting the past, the film also questions the current political situation in Ethiopia.

**The Sea Between Us** represented by Marlene Edoyan (director and producer)

*The Sea Between Us* transports us into the lives of Hayat & Wafaa and to the city of Beirut in Lebanon, 25 years after the end of a bloody civil war. Through the intimate stories and memories of these two female protagonists of different backgrounds, we understand why the city's neighbourhoods are still walled in by invisible boundaries and whether forgiveness and reconciliation are possible in a country still broken over religious and political ideology.

**About Telefilm Canada—See *bigger*.**

Telefilm is dedicated to the cultural, commercial and industrial success of Canada's audiovisual industry. Through funding and promotion programs, Telefilm supports dynamic companies and creative talent at home and around the world. Telefilm also makes recommendations regarding the certification of audiovisual coproduction treaties to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, and administers the programs of the Canada Media Fund. Launched in 2012, the Talent Fund accepts private donations which principally support emerging talent. Visit [telefilm.ca](http://telefilm.ca) and follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/telefilm\\_canada](https://twitter.com/telefilm_canada) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/telefilmcanada](https://facebook.com/telefilmcanada).

**About [Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca)**

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival ([www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)) is North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market. Every year, Hot Docs presents an outstanding selection of approximately 200 documentaries from Canada and around the world to audiences and international delegates in Toronto. Hot Docs also mounts a full roster of conference sessions, market events and services for documentary practitioners, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and the Doc Shop. Hot Docs also owns the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood.

**About [Forum RIDM](#)**

Each year, RIDM Forum organizes an intensive schedule of business meetings and professional development workshops as RIDM's professional market. The 15th edition of RIDM Forum will take place from November 16 to 20, 2019.

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**DOC CORNER**  
14-23 MAY 2019



## APPENDIX : BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS



### **Isabelle Couture**

For more than 12 years, Isabelle has produced several TV and feature-length documentaries for the big screen, namely *The Amina Profile*, a critically acclaimed feature documentary by Sophie Deraspe that world premiered at Sundance in January 2015 and that was selected in more than 30 festivals around the world. She joined Catbird Productions as a producing partner in fall 2015.



### **Tamara Dawit**

Tamara merges arts and social justice together through her projects. For ten years she led the 411 Initiative For Change, an arts organization for which she produced musical theatre productions. Tamara produced the documentaries *Forgotten Children* (2007, eOne) and *Girls of Latitude* (2008, MTV/CTV) and she produced and directed *Grandma Knows Best?* (2014, Bravofactual). She is currently directing her first feature-length documentary for the *Finding Sally*(CBC) and developing her second feature-length film *The Plot*.

Tamara leads the Ethiopian Documentary Filmmakers Forum through which she works to engage and support filmmakers through labs, mentorship, and export training. She is a member of Film Fatales and the Brown Girls Doc Mafia and alumni of the Berlinale Talents program.



### **Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre**

Graduated from Concordia University in Film Production, Audrey-Ann starts off her career under the influence of Sylvain Corbeil and Nancy Grant, producers from the Montreal based production company, Metafilms.

She participates at ten feature films and is now developing creative and bold documentaries through Metafilms.



### **Marlene Edoyan**

Marlene Edoyan is a Montreal-based documentary filmmaker and producer. With a background in Media studies, Marlene started her career as a production director and an artistic director for internationally co-produced animated films and TV series for children. For the last 10 years, Marlene has been working in the Canadian Film & TV industry, collaborating with award winning filmmakers and producers to create socio-political documentaries for television, festivals and theatrical release. With a keen interest in exploring concepts related to the 'human geography' and the relationship between societies and spaces, Marlene founded Fauve Film in 2012 to direct and produce author-driven documentary films.

*Directorial credits: Figure d'Armen, La mer entre nous*



### **Émilie Serri**

Half Syrian, half Belgian, born in Montreal, Emilie Serri is a filmmaker, artist and singer songwriter. With a BA in journalism and in film from Concordia, she has just completed a master's degree in Visual and Media arts. Her films have been shown in festivals internationally and in art galleries throughout Canada. In 2018, she won the prestigious Bronfman award in contemporary art. She is now completing her first feature film.



### **Polina Teif**

Polina Teif (Director/Cinematographer) is a Belarus born multi-disciplinary artist raised in Israel and based in Toronto. She received her BFA from the University of Toronto with emphasis on Visual Studies and Semiotics, and completed an MFA in Film Production at York University. Specializing in auteur-driven documentary film, her work largely stems from observational and experimental video practice woven in with sociopolitical and environmental undercurrents. Polina is the director of the upcoming feature documentary, *Eulogy for the Dead Sea*.