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Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival Announces 2016 Industry Series Conference programming

Award-winning filmmaker and environmentalist **Denis Delestrac** (*Freightened*) will be travelling from Barcelona to be this year's Master Class Filmmaker

TORONTO - The **Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival** (PIF) announced today its Industry Series Conference taking place on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the University of Toronto's Emmanuel College (75 Queens Park Crescent E) as part of the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival taking place October 18-23, 2016. The Industry Series Conference provides content creators with the opportunity to network and conduct business with some of the industry's leading funders, distributors and producers.

New this year are the **DocBOX Sessions** that offer invaluable 'tools' to filmmakers working in the environmentally themed content industry. **DocBOX 1: Financing** discusses trends, distribution, co-productions, branded content, with panelists Dan Lyon (Telefilm), Robin Smith (KinoSmith, Blue Ice Docs), David Miller (A71 Productions), Paritosh Mehta (Ontario Media Development Corporation), and Lea Marin (National Film Board of Canada) among others.

DocBOX 2: The Business of Film details the essentials of the co-production deal – legal agreements, music licensing, carnets, and E&O are some topics covered by industry leaders including Richard Hanet (Lewis Birnberg Hanet, LLP), Judi Heron (Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance and Risk Management), Caron Nightingale (APM Music) and Corinne Herman (Boat Rocker Media).

Rounding out the Sessions, is **DocBOX 3: Digital and Interactive** highlighting the impact of immersive filmmaking such as virtual reality in its ability to engage new audiences and its future as a viable filmmaker's tool. Panelists include Nyla Innuksuk (*Nunavut Glori*), Cream 360, among others.

PIF is thrilled to announce that award-winning filmmaker and environmentalist **Denis Delestrac** (*Sand Wars*, *Pax Americana*) will be this year's **Master Class** filmmaker. Delestrac will discuss his most controversial film *Freightened*, the perils of the shipping industry and how his journey to expose the truth has driven his filmmaking career. His previous film, *Banking Nature*, earned him the Planet in Focus Best International Feature Award in 2015.

PIF's **One-on-One Networking Session** returns this year with another opportunity for filmmakers to meet face-to-face with 10 top industry stakeholders and speed pitch a project. Commissioning Editors and Funders include: Telefilm, the National Film Board of Canada, KinoSmith, A71 Productions, the CBC, Corus Entertainment and Cream Productions among others. Submission information available at planetinfocus.org. Application deadline is September 22, 5 PM ET.

For 2016, "**The Green Pitch**" prize has increased its value, awarding \$30,000 in services and cash to produce one of the six environmental media projects that will be pitched during this session. Prizing sponsors include Eggplant Picture & Sound, PS Production Services, SIM Digital, The Source Shop, Pie in the Sky Studios, Muskoka North Film Studios, Vistek and Trinity Square Video. Submission information available at: planetinfocus.org. The deadline to apply is September 22, 2016 at 5 PM ET.

Generously supported by USC Canada, "**The Seed Pitch**" was a \$7,000 cash prize awarded to a short film that aimed to shed light on the critical role that bio-diverse seeds play in feeding us and in nurturing our planet. Jean-Marc Abela's ***The Story of Lucio*** received the prize, which was announced June 1, 2016. The film is set to have its World debut at this year's Festival.

Industry Conference Passes are \$35; Industry Day Sessions are free to participating registered filmmakers.

About Planet in Focus

Planet in Focus is a charitable organization whose mission is to promote environmental education by raising awareness of critical environmental issues through a variety of media-based initiatives including; the Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, the Green School Tours, Eco-Film Lab, the Planet in Focus Student Film Festival and year 'round screenings that showcase the best environmental films from Canada and around the world. PlanetinFocus.org

The 2016 Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival line up will be announced on Monday, September 19, 2016. Tickets on sale starting September 19, 2016.

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