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Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival Reveals 2017 Industry Conference programming

Toronto-based award-winning documentarian and educator
Chanda Chevannes (*Living Downstream*) will be this year's Master Class filmmaker.

The 18th Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival will take place October 19 to 22, 2017
Planetinfoocus.org

TORONTO - The **Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival** (PIF) announced today the exciting lineup for its 2017 Industry Series Conference, which is set to take place on Friday October 20 in the Great Hall at St. Paul's Bloor Street (227 Bloor St. East), as part of this year's Festival.

The Industry Conference provides content creators with the opportunity to network and conduct business with some of the industry's leading funders, distributors and producers. A central part to the conference, —and back after a very successful debut last year— the **DocBOX Sessions** will offer invaluable tools to filmmakers working in the environmentally-themed content industry. These sessions include:

DocBOX 1: Financing Toolkit will focus on some of the key relationships necessary to get a film funded, produced & sold with 10 guest panelists representing funders, distributors, broadcasters and Producers.

DocBOX 2: Finding Your Audience will delve into the many new and innovative platforms for alternative film distribution and community impact.

DocBOX 3: Music in Motion will explore the role of music in filmmaking and storytelling, as well as licensing and how to work with composers.

For this year's **Master Class**, PIF is thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase local talent, with Toronto-based award-winning documentarian and educator Chanda Chevannes, who will be the Master Class filmmaker for 2017. Passionate about works that deal with complex social issues in artistic ways, Chevannes's last film, *Living Downstream* is a cinematic doc about cancer and environmental toxicants. She recently completed her next feature documentary, an observational film about the debate over fracking in New York State.

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 projects. Guest panelists will include producers, funders, commissioning editors and distributors. The last day to apply is September 28, 2017.

And rounding out the 2017 Conference lineup is the very popular "**The Green Pitch**" prize, which will award over \$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 A71, Eggplant Picture & Sound, The Source Shope, Vistek, Dynamix, Trinity Square Video, and Canadian documentarian and PIF board of directors' member Andrew Nisker, among others. The last day to apply is September 25, 2017.

Submission information for One-on-One Networking and "The Green Pitch" is available at planetinfocus.org.

Industry Conference Passes are \$35. Industry Conference sessions are free to participating registered filmmakers.

PIF's complete 2017 lineup will be announced on September 18, 2017. Festival tickets will go on sale that same day. For more information, visit planetinfocus.org

About Planet in Focus

Planet in Focus is a charitable organization whose mission is to use film as a catalyst for change 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 PIF Student Film Festival and year 'round screenings that showcase the best environmental films from Canada and around the world. PlanetinFocus.org

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