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STRATEGIC PARTNERS BRINGS AWARD WINNING PRODUCERS TO CANADA WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2017 SELECTED PROJECTS

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STEPHANIE ALLAIN TO HEADLINE IN CONVERSATION WITH

List of producer delegates at this year's market have over 180 combined wins on the international awards circuit

Halifax, Nova Scotia (August 3, 2017) – Strategic Partners has revealed its official selected projects participating in this year's International Co-production Market and announced Stephanie Allain as a keynote. The selected projects highlight best-in-class international producers including Oscar winners: Kim Magnusson (*Helium*) and Mark Lwoff (*Armi Alive!*) as well as Oscar Nominees: Synnøve Hørsdal & Cornelia Boysen (*Elling*).

The selected delegates will meet in Halifax from September 14-16 to explore, network and learn from global industry leaders looking to invest. This year's producer delegates have over 186 wins and 207 nominations from critically acclaimed Film Festivals and organizations such as Cannes, Academy Awards, Sundance, BAFTA, Venice, Berlin and Canadian Screen Awards.

This year's *In Conversation With* will feature Homegrown Pictures founder (*HUSTLE & FLOW*, *Dear White People*), Stephanie Allain. Allain has produced award-winning films by people of colour that have made headlines, launched careers and shaped the cultural landscape. A champion within the women in film movement, Allain understands how co-productions can help tell meaningful stories in innovative ways and transcend cultural borders.

"I've spent almost thirty years championing authentic voices whether they were in vogue or not, which has been a lesson in persistence and patience," said **Stephanie Allain, Producer, Homegrown Pictures**. "Now that films by and about women and people of color are popular, Homegrown Pictures is doubling down on telling those stories despite the fact that we still lack the help of foreign sales for underrepresented groups."

Entering its 20th year, Strategic Partners arms delegates with the tools and contacts to look beyond the borders of their own country for financing and distribution, and bring their projects to fruition. The market attracts over 180 key industry players, including producers, investors, sales agents, funding agencies, broadcasters and distributors from around the world.

A snapshot of the 88 Projects selected for the 2017 Market Include:

M&M Productions (Denmark). A/S, producer: Kim Magnusson (*Men and Chicken*, Academy Award winners: *Helium*, *Election Night*). Project in the market: Feature Film: *Angels* (Dir: Tue Wallin Store and Michael Hansen).

DO Productions (South Africa). Producer: Brigid Olen (*Diamond Cut Diamond* dir: Darrell J Roodt, *Disgrace*. Cast: John Malkovich). Feature Film at the Market: *Exposure*. Dir: Ian Gabriel (*Four Corners*)

Pegasus Pictures (Iceland). Producer: Snorri Thorisson and Managing Director: Lilja Snorradóttir (*Halo*, *Nightfall*, Production services for *Game of Thrones*, *Fortitude*). Feature Film at the market: *The Falcons*.

Mystery Productions (Iceland). Producer: David Oskar Olafsson (*Metalhead*, writer/ director: Ragnar Bragason, *Autumn Lights*). Feature Film at the market: *Causality*. Editor: Valdis Oskarsdottir.

Bufo (Finland). Producer: Mark Lwoff (Academy Award-winner, *Armi Alive!* dir: Jörn Donner, Finland's official entry for the Academy Awards and Golden Globes in 2014, *Concrete Night* dir: Pirjo Honkasalo, *The Other Side of Hope* dir: Aki Kaurismäki). Feature film at the market: *Memory of Water*, writer: Ilja Rautsi (*Bitwisards*).

Maipo Film (Norway). Producers: Synnøve Hørsdal & Cornelia Boysen (Academy Award Nominee: *Elling*, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner: *Happy*, *Happy*, upcoming premier: *State of Happiness*. Dir: Petter Noess (*Elling*). Feature Film at the market: *Bad Connection*, Dir: Eva Sørhaug (*Occupied*, *90 Minutes*).

Motlys AS (Norway). Producer: Hans-Jørgen Osnes (official competition: Un Certain Regard, Cannes: *Oslo, August 31st*. Dir: Joachim Trier). Feature Film in the market: *The Indian Bride* Dir: Hans Petter Moland (*Department Q: A Conspiracy of Faith*)

FilmRooster (US). Producer: TR Boyce (*The Yellow Birds*). Feature film at the market: *Adam's Apple*. Editor: Alex Rodriguez (Academy Award Nominee: *Children of Men*, *Y Tu Mama Tambien*)

The Steve Jaggi Company (Australia). Producer: Steve Jaggi (*Rip Tide*) Feature Film at the market: *Byron*. Dir: Louise Alston (*Juicy*, *All my Friends are Leaving Brisbane*)

Ida Rose (UK). Producer: Shantelle Rochester-Henry (*Two Graves* Talent: Dave Johns, Dir: Gary Young). TV Fiction Series at the market: *Connexions*. Writer: Gary Young (*Harry Brown*, *I*, *Daniel Blake*)

Hurricane Films (UK). Producers: Sol Papadopoulos & Roy Boulter (*Of Time and the City*, *A Quiet Passion* Dir: Terence Davies). Feature film at the market: *Recovery*.

Two East Productions (Canada). Producer/ Director: Michael Amo (*Pure, The Listener*). TV Fiction Series at the market: *The Great Farini*. Dir: Ken Girotti (*Pure, Orphan Black, Vikings*)

Hungry Eyes Film and Television (Canada). Producer: Jen Holness (*Shoot the Messenger Cast: Lyriq Bent*). Feature Film at the Market: *Operation Red Dog*. Dir: Sudz Sutherland (*The Phantoms, Home Again*)

“85 exceptionally talented Producers and their selected projects from 23 Countries will gather in Halifax this fall” Said Program Manager Laura Mackenzie “2017 marks 20 years of fostering international relationships at Strategic Partners, and in an industry that is increasingly global – co-production should be at the forefront of all producers plans”.

About Strategic Partners

Founded in 1998, and set against the backdrop of **FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival** in Halifax, **Strategic Partners** is a one-stop shop for feature and television fiction projects looking for partners. A global trendsetter, the event attracts producers whose projects reflect passionate, fresh and innovative storytelling - with the potential to travel across the globe. **Strategic Partners** provides a full agenda of 25-minute, pre-scheduled 1-2-1 meetings with investors, broadcasters, distributors, sales agents, participation in investor and co-production focused roundtable sessions, cutting-edge panels and visionary keynote speakers.

Strategic Partners is part of FIN, a year-round celebration growing beyond the eight-day Atlantic International Film Festival cornerstone event in September to include: ViewFinders: Atlantic Film Festival for Youth, the Outdoor Film Experience, Reel East Coast (REC) and **Strategic Partners**. Receive the most up-to-date information about Strategic Partners and FIN, including sneak peeks and festival highlights via:

Website: finfestival.ca/strategic-partners

Twitter: @SPcopromarket #SP2017

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/aff-strategic-partners](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aff-strategic-partners)

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