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DOCS

Hot Docs '15: "Cree Code Talker" wins Short Film Pitch

By Kevin Ritchie May 1, 2015



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Three filmmaking teams picked up \$75,000 in Canadian cash at the inaugural Hot Docs Short Film Pitch in Toronto on Thursday (April 29).

The first-place prize of CAD\$30,000 went to Edmonton's Cowboy Smithx and Alexandra Lazarowich (pictured) for *Cree Code Talker*, about a World War II-era code talker who used the Cree language to assist allied forces.

Toronto's Nicolina Lanni and John Choi's *Sinkhole*, which "parallels the lighthearted stories of sinkhole survivors with the harrowing reality of the war for water," snagged \$25,000.

Another Edmonton-based team, **Frederick Kroetsch** and **Kurt Spenrath**, claimed third place and \$20,000 for *Heart of Darkness*, which chronicles an ill-fated reality show concept about an eccentric wrestler that "descended into a mess of drugs, porn, Ponzi schemes, and police investigation."

Five teams participated in in the pitch competition. The Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival and BravoFACT copresented the event and filmmaker and writer AJ Schnack (*Caucus*) hosted. Eligible projects were vetted in advance by the Hot Docs Short Film Pitch jury.

The 2015 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival continues through Sunday (May 3).

(Photo by David Spowart)

