



hotdocs
OUTSPOKEN.OUTSTANDING.

OPENS MAY 28, 2020
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

FILM GUIDE
HOTDOCS.CA

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Bring creative and business together.

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MANAGEMENT GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The creative arts industry needs business experts who know how to maximize financial potential. Sheridan's eight-month Creative Industries Management program will teach you how to work with artists to strategize, organize, finance, negotiate, write contracts and make the most of their creations. From marketing to distribution and from large corporations to small entrepreneurs, the opportunities in film, TV, animation and gaming are endless.

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Sheridan



PHOTO: GABRIEL LI

WELCOME TO HOT DOCS 2020

FIND YOUR FILMS

We are thrilled to offer more than 140 official selection titles for at-home viewing during the Hot Docs Festival Online.

Use this guide to find films or you can read full descriptions online at www.hotdocs.ca.

BUY YOUR TICKETS



Crave Online Box Office available at

WWW.HOTDOCS.CA

ON SALE DATES

5-Film Streaming Bundles: On Sale Now

Single Streaming Tickets: On Sale to Public May 26 (streaming starts May 28)

Early Booking Window: May 21–25 (streaming starts May 28)

- Ticket package holders can book their films to stream.
- Hot Docs Members can purchase single streaming tickets.

Please Note: As at the live Hot Docs Festival, **a limited number of streaming tickets are available** for each film. Please purchase your streaming ticket or book using your ticket package early to avoid disappointment.

STREAMING TICKET PRICES

SINGLE STREAMING TICKET: \$9 (\$8 FOR HOT DOCS MEMBERS)

5-FILM STREAMING BUNDLE: \$40 (\$36 FOR HOT DOCS MEMBERS)*

* Bundles are not shareable and cannot be used for multiple streams of the same film.

STREAM YOUR FILMS



Watch on the Hot Docs at Home platform available at **WWW.HOTDOCS.CA**

All films will be available to stream during the Hot Docs Festival Online, May 28–June 6, subject to streaming ticket availability.

A majority of films will also be available for extended post-Festival viewing until June 24.

If you will be watching multiple films, please prioritize those with a shorter availability window.

You may purchase your streaming tickets or book your films to stream at anytime according to the ON SALE DATES noted above. Once you press play and start viewing your stream, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.

Please note that all films are geo-blocked to Ontario.

Please visit hotdocs.ca/stream-faq for answers to frequently asked questions.

Further assistance? Please contact boxoffice@hotdocs.ca

CLOSED CAPTIONING

CC This icon identifies films that offer closed captioning. Viewers can turn captions on by clicking the CC button the video player.

OC This icon identifies films that offer open captioning. Captions cannot be turned off.

Accessible films are supported by The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, the J.P. Bickell Foundation and the Flavelle Family Foundation.

Help us to Continue Bringing People Together While We're at a Distance

From helping filmmakers share their stories, to championing student education with free resources for parents and teachers, to thought-provoking programming like Curious Minds, Hot Docs is committed to continuing to connect people with ideas and stories from around the globe.

If you're able to, consider donating today. Your support helps Hot Docs build out more accessible online programs, continue to support filmmakers, and ensure everyone can connect with and be part of this special and informed community, even when we're apart.

WWW.HOTDOCS.CA/SUPPORTUS



Want to make an even bigger impact? Please consider making a monthly donation to Hot Docs by selecting the recurring option after entering your contact information at the link below. Joining our base of ongoing supporters right now helps to ensure planning and continued growth for our programming, accessibility and filmmaker support initiatives.

Hot Docs is a registered charity (895921880-RR0001) and automatically issues full tax receipts for donations of \$20 and over.

Thank you for keeping Hot Docs in mind during these difficult times.



This is the real deal.

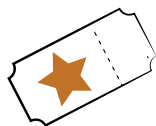
Get access to a boundless world of non-fiction storytelling with a Hot Docs membership.

At the Hot Docs Festival:

- **Exclusive discounts and early access window** on ordering tickets, passes and packages
- **Free tickets** to select screenings
- **No fees** for online ticket purchases

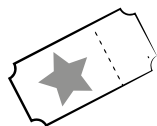
Year-round at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema:

- **Special pricing and advance ordering** on screenings, series and special events
- **Invitations** to free member screenings
- **Free tickets and popcorn**, plus discounts on merchandise and deals of the month



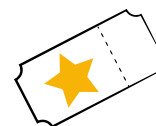
BRONZE \$59

\$54 FOR UNDER-30S
AND SENIORS



SILVER \$99

\$94 FOR UNDER-30S
AND SENIORS



GOLD \$359

\$354 FOR UNDER-30S
AND SENIORS

FoundersCircle
FROM \$1,500

Go further in supporting Hot Docs' mission.
Includes tax receipt for the philanthropic portion of your membership.

SUPPORT US BY JOINING [HOTDOCS.CA/MEMBERS](https://hotdocs.ca/members)

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OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.

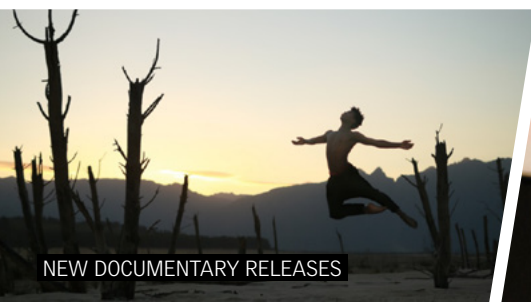
The same engaging programming, streaming directly from our website.

On Hot Docs at Home, members enjoy great savings and perks as they do year-round at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.

- Discounted pricing on all new on-demand film releases
- Over 30% savings on Curious Minds at Home registration
- Exclusive access to free films and special online events (starting July 2020)

SUPPORT US BY JOINING [HOTDOCS.CA/MEMBERS](https://hotdocs.ca/members)

Box Office Sponsor **Crave**



NEW DOCUMENTARY RELEASES



CURIOS MINDS VIDEO LECTURES



INTERACTIVE SCREENINGS, TALKS AND MORE!

BIG IDEAS

Scotia Wealth Management.

Big Ideas events will be held as live webinar discussions between the featured guest speakers at the dates and times noted below. These discussions will be accessible through a link posted on the Hot Docs website and available to audiences to stream for free. All Big Ideas events will be recorded and made available to viewers streaming the film after to the live discussion.



A THOUSAND CUTS

D: Ramona S. Diaz | USA | 2020 | 120 min | Special Presentations

Featuring Maria Ressa, co-founder, executive editor and CEO *Rappler*, and director Ramona S. Diaz

Internationally acclaimed journalist and press-freedom fighter Maria Ressa, co-founder, executive editor and CEO of *Rappler*, and *A Thousand Cuts* (p. 7) director Ramona S. Diaz discuss the role of journalists in democratic society, lessons we can learn about the weaponization of social media, political harassment and the importance of a free press to counter disinformation and "fake news".

SATURDAY, MAY 30 8:00 PM



IHUMAN

D: Tonje Hessen Schei | Norway | 2019 | 100 min | Special Presentations

Featuring Hao Li, deepfake pioneer; Lee Fang, investigative reporter, *The Intercept*, and director Tonje Hessen Schei

Join Hao Li, deepfake pioneer, Lee Fang, investigative journalist, *The Intercept*, and *iHUMAN* (p. 6) director Tonje Hessen Schei for a deep dive into rapidly expanding forms of artificial intelligence (AI), including the rise of deepfakes, as they discuss how the most powerful and far-reaching technology of our time is changing our lives, our society and our future.

SUNDAY, MAY 31 3:00 PM



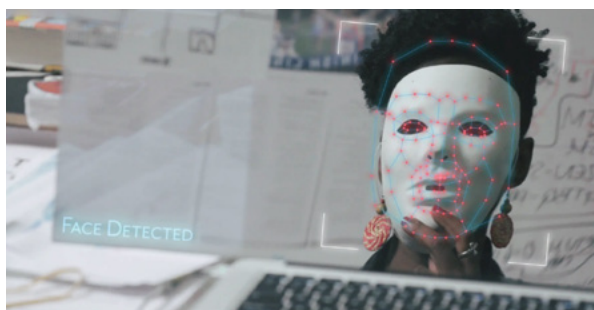
MADE YOU LOOK: A TRUE STORY ABOUT FAKE ART

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 2020 | 96 Min | Artsapes CC

Featuring Maria Konnikova, author, *The Confidence Game*; Don Thompson, author *The Orange Balloon Dog: Bubbles, Turmoil and Avarice in the Contemporary Art Market*; Patricia Cohen, reporter, *The New York Times*, and director Barry Avrich

Join us for a fascinating look at the big business of art fraud, the art of the con and why we fall for it with Maria Konnikova, author, *The Confidence Game*; Don Thompson, author *The Orange Balloon Dog: Bubbles, Turmoil and Avarice in the Contemporary Art Market*; Patricia Cohen, reporter, *The New York Times* and *Made You Look: A True Story About Fake Art* (p. 24) director Barry Avrich.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 7:00 PM



CODED BIAS

D: Shalini Kantayya | USA | 2020 | 90 min | Special Presentations CC

Featuring director Shalini Kantayya, and special guests TBC

As facial recognition technology becomes increasingly used in surveillance, questions need to be asked about who is creating and benefitting from it, and who is being harmed. Join *Coded Bias* (p. 6) director Shalini Kantayya and special guests for a timely conversation about privacy and civil liberties under threat.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 7:00 PM



THE FORUM

D: Marcus Vetter | Germany, Switzerland | 2019 | 92 min | Special Presentations

Featuring director Marcus Vetter, and special guests TBC

Join *The Forum* (p. 6) director Marcus Vetter and guests for a crucial conversation about The World Economic Forum and the role world leaders, corporations and individuals play in ensuring the health of our planet, particularly at this challenging moment in human history.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 3:00 PM



A THOUSAND CUTS

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Sponsored by Crave.

CODED BIAS

D: Shalini Kantayya | USA | 90 min 

When facial recognition software is used in clandestine surveillance, who does it protect and who is singled out? Scientists, scholars and activists all argue there is a clear racial bias buried in the algorithms, but will the US government take heed?

** Part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management (p. 5).*

THE FORUM

D: Marcus Vetter | Germany, Switzerland | 92 min

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the most powerful leaders and thinkers on the planet gather, astonishing conversations unfold between the likes of Al Gore, Jair Bolsonaro and Greta Thunberg during an event with so much at stake.

** Part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management (p. 5).*

IHUMAN

D: Tonje Hessen Schei | Norway | 100 min

Take a deep dive into rapidly expanding forms of artificial intelligence, as told by some of the pioneers and experts of the field who reflect on the massive impact these advancements have on our world.

** Part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management (p. 5).*

HONG KONG MOMENTS

D: Bing Zhou | Hong Kong, Germany | 90 min

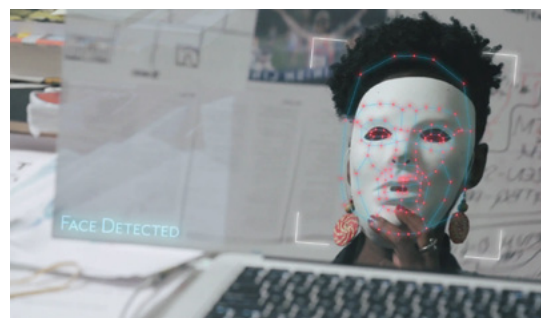
As pro-democracy protestors battle armed police in the streets of Hong Kong, ordinary citizens take sides. Cameras follow a cop, a paramedic, a tea shop owner and politicians as their city—an outlier of both western and Chinese power—quakes in crisis.



HONG KONG MOMENTS



THE FORUM



CODED BIAS

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

THEY CALL ME DR. MIAMI



TRANSHOOD



INFLUENCE



WELCOME TO CHECHNYA



MEAT THE FUTURE

INFLUENCE

D: Richard Poplak, Diana Neille | Canada, South Africa | 87 min 

Fake news, weaponized communication and political interference take centre stage in this story of spin, all charted through the rise and collapse of notorious British public relations and reputation management firm Bell Pottinger.

MEAT THE FUTURE

D: Liz Marshall | Canada | 90 min 

Memphis Meats aims to go mainstream with its lab-grown "cultured meat" products, made without killing animals. But in a race to alter diets and save the planet, can this new approach to food win over omnivorous skeptics?

THEY CALL ME DR. MIAMI

D: Jean-Simon Chartier | Canada | 77 min 

The lure of online celebrity transforms a devoted family man and Orthodox Jew into Dr. Miami, a pop culture sensation celebrated in hip hop and viral memes, who takes plastic surgery marketing to outrageous extremes to feed the non-stop social media beast.

A THOUSAND CUTS

D: Ramona S. Diaz | USA | 120 min

Internationally acclaimed press-freedom fighter Maria Ressa must navigate fake news punditry, bomb threats and arrest warrants to chronicle Philippine President Duterte's extrajudicial war on drugs and weaponization of social media in this urgent report on democracy itself.

** Part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management (p. 5).*

TRANSHOOD

D: Sharon Liese | USA | 96 min

Four transgender youth redefine coming of age over the course of five years in Kansas City. Navigating obstacles and celebrating personal triumphs, their journeys show how gender is reshaping perceptions of "the family next door" in America's heartland.

WELCOME TO CHECHNYA

D: David France | USA | 107 min

A searing look at current anti-LGBTQ persecution in the Russian republic of Chechnya and the brave LGBTQ activists who risk unimaginable peril to rescue victims from a targeted campaign of torture and brutality.

DEEP DIVE

COMPELLING EPISODIC STORIES



GREEN BLOOD

CITY SO REAL

D: Steve James | USA | 240 min

Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Steve James's fascinating and complex portrait of contemporary Chicago delivers a deep, multifaceted look into the soul of a quintessentially American city, set against the backdrop of its history-making 2019 mayoral election. All four episodes will be shown.

GREEN BLOOD

D: Jules Giraudat, Arthur Bouvart, Alexis Marant | France | 208 min

Furthering investigations launched by local reporters for which they faced threats, imprisonment and even death, 40 international journalists join forces to blow open large-scale crimes committed by mining behemoths, including Canada's own Barrick, in India, Guatemala and Tanzania.

GREEN BLOOD



GREEN BLOOD



CITY SO REAL



CITY SO REAL



UNDER THE SAME SUN

#BLESSÉD

D: Ali Weinstein | Canada | 75 min

Peer inside C3, Canada's fastest-growing millennial church, and witness a revelation. With locations multiplying across Toronto, young Pastor Sam deploys Instagram, Christian pop music and on-point fashion to preach the Word to hip souls seeking salvation.

DON'T WORRY, THE DOORS WILL OPEN

D: Oksana Karpovych | Canada | 76 min

Set in post-Soviet Ukraine, our film is an understated, tragicomic portrait of vendors and passengers on their daily train commute to Kyiv as they search for home and peace in a time of war and political change.

DOPE IS DEATH

D: Mia Donovan | Canada | 78 min

Radical politics meets community health when Dr. Mutulu Shakur—Tupac's stepdad—and fellow Black Panthers, viewing both heroin and methadone rehab as "chemical warfare" on the poor, launch instead America's first acupuncture detox program in the 1970s.

EDDY'S KINGDOM

D: Greg Crompton | Canada | 85 min

In this stranger-than-fiction tale, an entrepreneur's obsessive dream of developing an Okanagan Lake island into a Middle Eastern-themed amusement park leads to a spiralling path of legal turmoil and financial ruin, with a hostage-taking and bomb plots along the way.

BEST CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY AWARD PRAYER FOR A LOST MITTEN

D: Jean-François Lesage | Canada | 79 min

Montreal Metro's Lost and Found department does its best to reconnect misplaced items with their rightful owners. The touching stories of those who come to claim their belongings warm this stunning snapshot of a long Québécois winter.

CANADIAN SPECTRUM SHORTS PROGRAM

HOLLIE'S DRESS

D: Annie Sakkbab | Canada | 2020 | 25 min

NANCY'S WORKSHOP

D: Aïcha Diop | Canada | 2019 | 20 min

INVASION

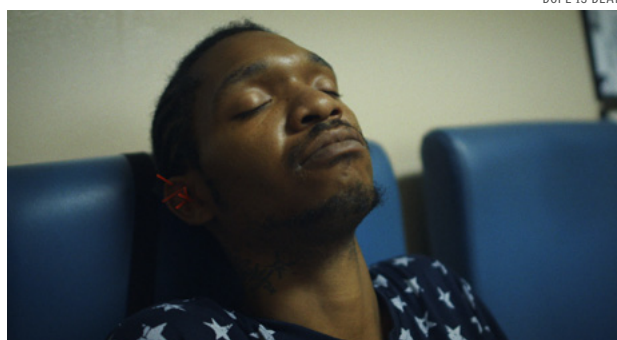
D: Michael Toledano, Sam Vinal | Canada | 2019 | 18 min

JO

D: Carmen Rachiteanu | Canada | 2019 | 13 min



EDDY'S KINGDOM



DOPE IS DEATH



#BLESSÉD

CANADIAN SPECTRUM

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYWHERE



THE WORLD IS BRIGHT



STATELESS

THE WALRUS AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE – CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY STATELESS

D: Michèle Stephenson | USA, Canada | 95 min
After the Dominican Republic Supreme Court strips citizenship from anyone with Haitian parentage—retroactive to 1929—200,000 people are rendered stateless due to anti-Black racism. In response, a young attorney ignites a grassroots campaign, relentlessly fighting to protect citizenship rights for all.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 75 min
Honest Ed's, Toronto's iconic bargain-hunter's paradise for over 60 years, is now a razed city block in the midst of development. Displaced community members are left to reconcile their future amidst a growing housing crisis.

UNDER THE SAME SUN

D: François Jacob | Canada | 97 min

In the South Caucasus, a region plagued by aggressive nationalist movements, Armenians and Azerbaijanis face propaganda and intolerance—with some undertaking an uphill battle to fight back—in this skilfully balanced exploration of humanity and hatred.

THE WALRUS AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER

D: Nathalie Bibeau | Canada | 89 min 

When an animal trainer blows the whistle on his former employer, Ontario amusement park Marineland, the fallout—including allegations of a walrus kidnapping plot—fuels public condemnation of animal captivity but upends his life in the process.

A WOMAN, MY MOTHER

D: Claude Demers | Canada | 76 min

Balancing documentary and poetry, this touching exploration of family, memory and maternal love finds the filmmaker retracing his biological mother's footsteps in a struggle to find her. Who was this independent and secretive woman?

EMERGING CANADIAN FILMMAKER AWARD THE WORLD IS BRIGHT

D: Ying Wang | Canada | 116 min

Notified by the Canadian government that their son committed suicide and has been buried, an elderly Chinese couple embarks on a decade-long investigation through a Kafkaesque bureaucracy to unravel the mysterious truth behind his tumultuous life and death.



INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

FILMS IN JURIED COMPETITION

Supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

THE WALL OF SHADOWS

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE – INTERNATIONAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

499

D: Rodrigo Reyes | Mexico, USA | 88 min

Almost five centuries after Cortés conquered the Aztec Empire, a fictionalized conquistador retraces the Spanish army's route to Mexico City. Through the haunting true stories he encounters, the ghosts of Mexico's brutal colonial past reverberate.

ALL THAT I AM

D: Tone Grøttjord-Glenne | Norway | 75 min

After surviving sexual abuse and years in foster care, 18-year-old Emilie returns home to her mom and stepsiblings. With sensitivity and patience, a family conversation unfolds about the years of silence and the real reason for their father's imprisonment.

EMERGING INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER AWARD BULLETPROOF

D: Todd Chandler | USA | 85 min 

From homecoming parades and basketball games to lockdown drills and active shooter workshops, the landscape inside the American education system has drastically transformed. Can everyday high school rituals still exist alongside the new normal of fear and anxiety?

A COLOMBIAN FAMILY

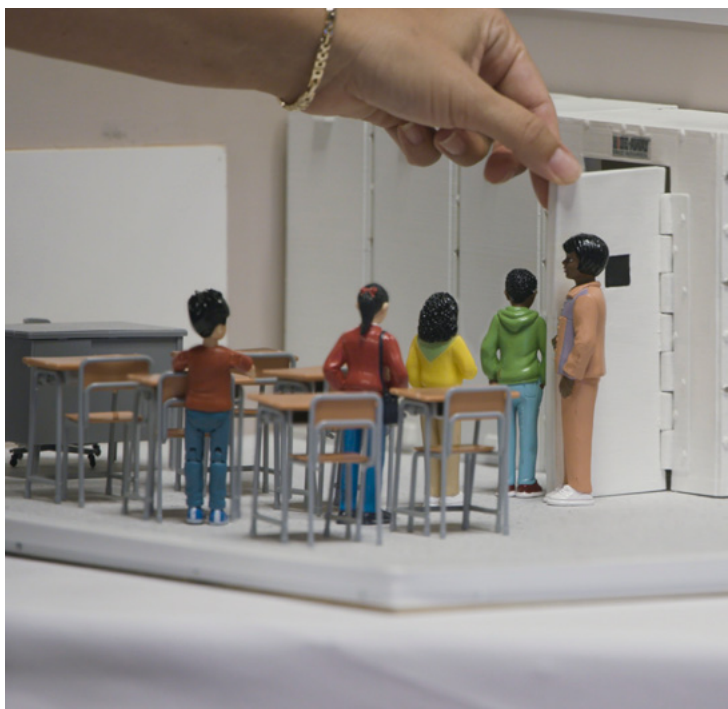
D: Tanja Wol Sørensen | Denmark | 80 min

Set against the backdrop of Colombia's fraught peace treaty meant to end 50 years of violence, an estranged mother and daughter seek reconciliation—but where? Do they fight for a better country together, or leave as a family for Cuba?

I WANT YOU IF YOU DARE

D: Dagmar Smržová | Czech Republic | 84 min

In this unsentimental and refreshing look at disability, a young woman immobilized by cerebral palsy longs for independence and her first sexual encounter while her brash mother drafts a personal ad to help her along her way.



BULLETPROOF

I WANT YOU IF YOU DARE

INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

FADMA: EVEN ANTS HAVE WINGS

D: Jawad Rhalib | Morocco, Belgium | 80 min

In a small Berber community in the mountains of Morocco, locals follow an age-old division of labour. When a progressive woman from Casablanca challenges the status quo, female villagers—emboldened to demand more equality—start a cooking strike.

THE WALL OF SHADOWS

D: Eliza Kubarska | Poland, Germany, Switzerland | 94 min

Desperate to earn money for their son's education, a Nepalese Sherpa family breaks taboo and accompanies a western expedition on a holy mountain, wrestling with punishing conditions and their own religious beliefs along the way.

WOMEN OF THE SUN: A CHRONOLOGY OF SEEING

D: Hamed Zolfaghari | Iran, France | 87 min

Six housewives in an Iranian desert village fight for gender equality by filming their struggles for higher incomes and greater personal freedom, but they face community resistance after screening their stories at the mosque.

THE WALL OF SHADOWS



FADMA: EVEN ANTS HAVE WINGS



WOMEN OF THE SUN: A CHRONOLOGY OF SEEING



ALL THAT I AM



A COLUMBIAN FAMILY



MERRY CHRISTMAS, YIWU

WORLD SHOWCASE

Sponsored by CBC Docs.

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION

SOFTIE

D: Sam Soko | Kenya, Canada | 96 min

Kenya's most provocative photojournalist, Boniface Mwangi's campaigns against injustice have always created turmoil for his family. Now, battling corruption as he runs for office, his ideals are tested as he must choose between country and those closest to him.

9/11 KIDS

D: Elizabeth St. Philip | Canada | 88 min 

Sixteen schoolchildren were in the room with President Bush when he was informed about the September 11th terrorist attacks. Now in their mid-20s, learn how their lives have unfolded in this fascinating look at race, politics and the post-9/11 American Dream.

DADDY

D: Lars Emil Leonhardt, Brendan Cooney | Denmark | 50 min

In Copenhagen, a roving anthropologist turned stay-at-home dad turns the ethnographer's lens on himself and his young children, reconciling his own childhood abandonment and exploring fatherhood in this tragicomedy about the exquisite torture of parenting.

Screening with

PUBERTY

D: Elena Kondratyeva | Russia | 29 min

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE

D: Iryna Tsilyk | Ukraine, Lithuania | 74 min

For Anna and her kids, film is not an escape but a means of surviving the war on their literal doorstep in Ukraine. Repurposing tanks and rubble as sets for a homemade war movie, art's power to transform reality shines in this Sundance award-winner.

EYES AND ARMS

D: Panahbarkhoda Rezaee | Iran | 52 min

Deeply in love and perfectly matched, an isolated Iranian couple overcome their disabilities, with her becoming his eyes and him her arms. His only hesitation is her ongoing desire for a child as he copes with his own tragic loss.

Screening with

THE BROTHER

D: Jérémie Battaglia | Canada | 28 min

I AM SAMUEL

D: Peter Murimi | Kenya, Canada, UK, USA | 70 min

Filmed over five years, this powerful tale follows Kenyan-born Samuel who, while dutiful to his family, finds his desire to live life as he chooses at odds with his conservative rural upbringing and must to forge a balance between the two.



SOFTIE

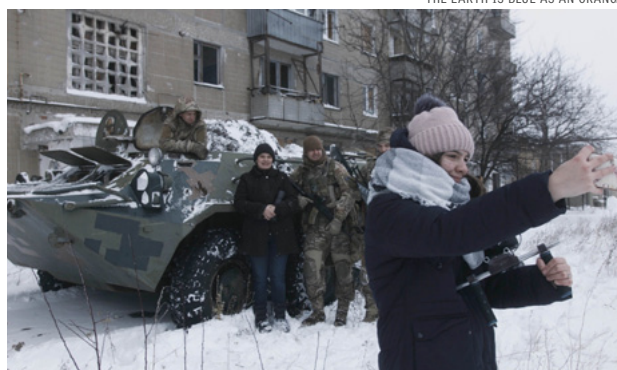


9/11 KIDS

WORLD SHOWCASE



MAYOR



THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE



EYES AND ARMS

LANDFALL

D: Cecilia Aldarondo | USA | 91 min

How will Puerto Rico reinvent itself after the devastations of Hurricane Maria and a multi-billion-dollar debt crisis? Intimate encounters with afflicted locals and opportunistic newcomers offer a sharp-eyed analysis of disaster capitalism and a stirring portrait of resistance.

MEIN VIETNAM

D: Tim Ellrich, Thi Hien Mai | Germany | 70 min

Living in limbo for 30 years—physically in Germany but virtually in Vietnam via constant Skyping and karaoke chatrooms—a couple is torn on where to call home when a storm destroys their house in Vietnam that held the promise of their eventual return.

A LOSS OF SOMETHING EVER FELT

D: Carlos Eduardo Lesmes Lopéz | Estonia, Colombia, Sweden | 82 min

When her drug-addicted brother's calls for money stop, his sister races from Estonia to Colombia to desperately seek him out on the rough streets of Bogotá. But as each rumoured sighting breeds new panic, is she chasing hope or a ghost?

MAYOR

D: David Osit | USA, UK | 89 min

Musa Hadid, Ramallah's charismatic Christian mayor, balances his citizens' everyday concerns with his own enduring mission to end Palestine's occupation in this urgent political saga, told with intimacy and candour.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, YIWU

D: Mladen Kovacevic | Sweden, Serbia, France, Germany, Belgium, Qatar | 94 min

In a surreal Chinese city where 600 factories manufacture Christmas decorations year-round, workers' daily routines and personal dramas unfold, all set against a society at the intersection of communism and globalism.

BEST MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY AWARD

MOTHER-CHILD

D: Andrea Testa | Argentina | 66 min


At a public hospital in Argentina—where abortion is still mostly illegal—vulnerable teenage girls confide in caring professionals, revealing the weightiness of their decisions and the fragility of their dreams.

ONLY THE DEVIL LIVES WITHOUT HOPE

D: Magnus Gertten | Sweden, Norway | 95 min

When her brother is wrongfully accused of terrorism in Uzbekistan, a woman leads a fight to free him from the desert prison nicknamed The Place of No Return. Through her harrowing pursuit, a real-life thriller about love, betrayal, spies and assassins unfolds.

THE REASON I JUMP

D: Jerry Rothwell | UK | 82 min 

Naoki Higashida's bestselling book *The Reason I Jump* offered a rare first-person account of life as a non-speaking autistic child. Through inventive interviews and dramatizations, Higashida and fellow nonverbal people with autism now offer a cinematic glimpse beyond the neurotypical experience of the world.

SHADOW FLOWERS

D: Seung-Jun Yi | South Korea | 109 min

Attempts at smuggling herself out or seeking asylum prove fruitless as a woman struggles in vain against political absurdities to return to her family in Pyongyang after entering South Korea and being forced to stay for seven years.

WORLD SHOWCASE

TENSION STRUCTURES

D: Feargal Ward, Adrian Duncan | Ireland, France
| 45 min **CC**

How do you build structures to withstand even the most devastating conditions without collapse? A disillusioned engineer travels through Europe and history seeking these ambitious constructions and the perfect way to balance immense opposing forces—in both architecture and society.

Screening with

SPEAKING FOR THE DEAD

D: Peiman Zekavat | UK | 14 min **CC**

THINGS WE DARE NOT DO

D: Bruno Santamaría Razo | Mexico | 71 min

From one of Mexico's rising cinematographers comes this story of 16-year-old Ñoño, who, living amid cartel violence and models of toxic machismo, seeks the courage to tell his family he wants to live life as a woman

TWO GODS

D: Zeshawn Ali | USA | 85 min **CC**

After turning his own life around, a Muslim casket maker and ritual body washer from Newark mentors two young boys facing turbulent times at home and on the streets, poetically underscoring the importance of redemption and healing.

WOOD

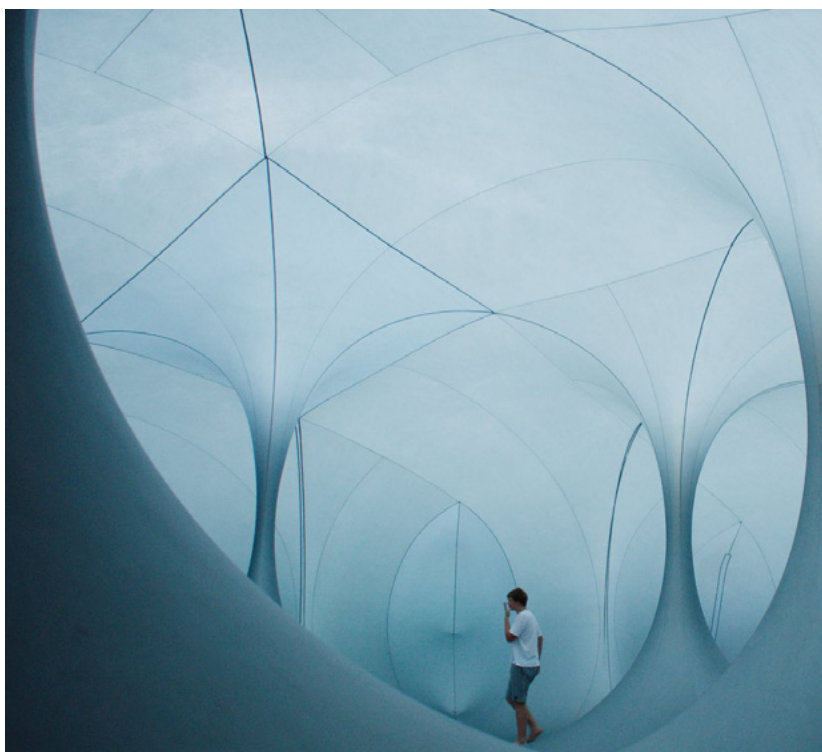
D: Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan, Michaela Kirst, Ebba Sinzinger | Austria, Germany, Romania | 95 min

A crack team of spies infiltrate a global syndicate operating in remote Russian forests, Chinese factories and Romanian mills to expose illegal timber trading. Hidden cameras capture the pace of human greed and natural destruction in this white-knuckle enviro-thriller.

ZERO

D: Kazuhiro Soda | Japan | 128 min

An elderly Japanese psychiatrist retires from his practice to take care of his wife and as his patients lament the departure of their beloved doctor, the couple must navigate changes in their own twilight years



THE REASON I JUMP



SHADOW FLOWERS



MOTHER-CHILD



TENSION STRUCTURES



WOOD



WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS PROGRAMS

Sponsored by *documentary* Channel.

ONCE THE DUST HAS SETTLED

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 1

EGG CUP REQUIEM

D: Nick Mayow, Prisca Bouchet | New Zealand | 2019 | 12 min

YOUTH

D: Giorgio Bosio | UK | 2019 | 40 min

SUSANA

D: Laura Gamse | USA | 2020 | 5 min

WELCOME STRANGERS

D: Dia Sokol Savage | USA | 2020 | 21 min

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 2

NUXALK RADIO

D: Sits'lani (Banshee Hanuse) | Canada | 2020 | 3 min

WELCOME TO A BRIGHT WHITE LIMBO

D: Cara Holmes | Ireland | 2019 | 11 min

GUN KILLERS

D: Jason Young | Canada | 2019 | 11 min

ALL HER DYING LOVERS

D: Anna Benner, Eluned Zoe Aiano | Germany, Czech Republic | 2020 | 6 min

CONSUMING CONTEMPORARY

D: Ana Aleksovska | Macedonia | 2019 | 34 min

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 3

THE LOST ASTRONAUT

D: Ben Proudfoot | USA, Canada | 2019 | 13 min

FAT KATHY

D: Julia Pelka | Poland | 2019 | 14 min

BIBLE CAMP MEMORIES

D: Damien Ferland | Canada | 2020 | 14 min

LOLA

D: Miranda Carter-Watson | UK | 2020 | 21 min

YOUTH



WELCOME TO A BRIGHT WHITE LIMBO



NUXALK RADIO



GUN KILLERS

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS PROGRAM

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 4

IN THE SHADOW OF THE PINES

D: Anne Koizumi | Canada | 2020 | 7 min

AT THE RIVER

D: A. Madsen Minax | USA | 2020 | 10 min

ÊMÎCÊTÔCÊT: MANY BLOODLINES*

D: Theola Ross | Canada | 2020 | 11 min

RUN FOR HIS LIFE

D: Sebastian Sdaigui | USA | 2020 | 10 min

COMFORT ZONE

D: Jonas Egert | Germany | 2019 | 24 min

* BETTY YOUSON AWARD FOR BEST
CANADIAN SHORT DOCUMENTARY

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 5

DÍA DE LA MADRE

D: Ashley Brandon, Dennis Höhne | USA | 2020 | 6 min

ONCE THE DUST HAS SETTLED

D: Hervé Demers | Canada | 2020 | 15 min

BROKEN ORCHESTRA

D: Charlie Tyrell | Canada | 2019 | 12 min

TEARS TEACHER

D: Noemie Nakai | Japan | 2019 | 10 min

HYDEBANK

D: Ross McClean | UK | 2019 | 17 min

WORLD SHOWCASE SHORTS 6

OIL & WATER

D: Anjali Nayar | Canada | 2020 | 13 min

UMBILICAL

D: Danski Tang | China, USA | 2019 | 7 min

FLAME

D: Nick Waterman | Australia | 2020 | 12 min

THE CHIMNEY SWIFT

D: Frédéric Schulz | Germany | 2020 | 5 min

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

D: Caroline So Jung Lee | Canada | 2019 | 11 min

WHEN I WRITE IT

D: Nico Oppen, Shannon St. Aubin | USA | 2019 | 15 min

TEARS TEACHER



OIL & WATER



DÍA DE LA MADRE



COMFORT ZONE



ÊMÎCÊTÔCÊT: MANY BLOODLINES



LOST LIVES

THE DAKOTA ENTRAPMENT TAPES

D: Trevor Birney | UK | 90 min

The mysterious death of a North Dakota college student is the start of a search for truth that sets his family on a collision course with a secret law enforcement task force.

LOST LIVES

D: Dermot Lavery, Michael Hewitt | UK, Ireland | 93 min

Some of Ireland's most well-known actors narrate passages from the famed book *Lost Lives*, bringing to life rare archival footage in this requiem for the over 3,700 lives lost during the Northern Irish Troubles.

THE DAKOTA ENTRAPMENT TAPES



LOST LIVES



LOST LIVES

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP).

IMMORTAL

ALWAYS AMBER

D: Hannah Reinikainen, Lia Hietala | Sweden | 75 min

Teenage besties Amber and Sebastian are inseparable, exploring gender, queerness and rainbow hair colours together until a love triangle upends everything. Now transitioning solo, Amber comes of age with an inspiring confidence unique to a new generation.

DEAD SOULS' VACATION

D: Keko Chelidze | Georgia | 67 min

A once popular bass player in Tbilisi is now jobless, joyless and crammed into a shoebox-sized one-room apartment with his elderly mother, leaving little space for independence or optimism in this absurd, intimate slice of ex-Soviet life.

IMMORTAL

D: Ksenia Okhapkina | Estonia | 60 min

Indoctrination's insidious mechanisms are exposed in this impressionistic essay that observes life in a small Russian industrial city and how—even in seemingly benign situations—the state's ideological structures grasp control of its youngest citizens.

Screening with

THE FANTASTIC

D: Maija Blåfield | Finland | 30 min

ALWAYS AMBER



DEAD SOULS' VACATION



RES CREATA - HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

THE LAST AUTUMN



LESSONS OF LOVE



REUNITED

THE LAST AUTUMN

D: Yrsa Roca Fannberg | Iceland | 73 min

After centuries of rural tradition, a remote Icelandic sheep farm bordering the vast Arctic Ocean faces its final season, leaving the last in a long line of farmers to quietly grapple with its end in this gorgeously haunting elegy.

LESSONS OF LOVE

D: Malgorzata Goliszewska, Kasia Mateja | Poland | 75 min

After escaping from an abusive marriage of 45 years, a free-spirited Polish woman rediscovers friendship and love. But can her personal reinvention coexist with the conservative attitudes of her generation?

A PLEASURE, COMRADES

D: José Filipe Costa | Portugal | 106 min

In 1975, Eduarda and José Rabaça came from Germany to Azambuja, Portugal. They registered intimate stories on sexuality and relationships with foreigners.

RES CREATA – HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

D: Alessandro Cattaneo | Italy | 80 min

Less than 80,000 years ago, humans were not superior, just one of many animals simply coexisting. Stunning compositions and insights resurrect the rituals and places where natural and human commonality still exists in this award-winning look at biocentrism.

REUNITED

D: Mira Jargil | Denmark | 78 min

The Syrian war splits one family across three continents—a father in Canada, a mother in Denmark and their two children alone in Turkey. Navigating three asylum systems and endless paperwork, cameras capture their formidable fight to reunite.

TWO ROADS

D: Radovan Sibrť | Czech Republic | 80 min

The Tap Tap, a popular Czech orchestra made up of individuals with physical disabilities, hits the road in rock-star style in this lively and unapologetic ode to the power of live performance and overcoming obstacles.



PERSISTER

WOMEN SPEAKING UP AND BEING HEARD

Presented in partnership with Oxfam Canada, with the participation of the Government of Canada.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

THE 8TH

D: Aileen Kane, Maeve O'Boyle, Lucy Kennedy | USA | 94 min 


After 35 years of upholding one of the world's most restrictive abortion bans, historically conservative Ireland announces a 2018 referendum. Cameras embed with the pro-choice campaign as they employ a new tactic to sway public opinion: an appeal to compassion.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

D: Priscila Padilla | Colombia, Bolivia | 83 min

To have or not to have a clitoris is a dilemma for the Embera women. The fear of thinking that the clitoris will grow, and that their men will reject them, is what prevents these women from abandoning FGM practice.

THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE

D: Maria Finitzo | USA | 107 min 

The scientific establishment has often left women's pleasure off the priority list, relegating it to be mystery, myth or altogether missing. Meet an inspiring collection of women who take matters into their own hands, demanding pleasure for all.

SHUT UP SONA



THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE

THE 8TH

PERSISTER

FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND

D: Jennifer Maytorena Taylor | USA | 92 min 

A recovering opioid addict and mother, Stacie barely gets by in her hardscrabble, job-scarce Vermont town. When Syrian refugees arrive, racism and xenophobia turn her community into a flashpoint of Trump's America and Stacie into the unlikelyst of heroes.

HER MOTHERS

D: Asia Dér, Sári Haragonics | Hungary | 75 min

In this intimate tale of love and freedom, a lesbian couple contends with homophobia in an increasingly radicalized Hungary as they struggle to create a family through adoption and to define their roles in motherhood.

THE SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIVES

D: Stefania Thors | Iceland | 75 min

The Reykjavík School of Housewives has taught cooking, cleaning and home economics since 1942. But ushering the domestic crafts of the past into the future—along with values of efficiency and conservation—requires a re-evaluation of gender roles and respect.

PERSISTER SHORTS PROGRAM

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

D: Crystal Kayiza | USA | 2019 | 6 min

RADIA

D: Erica Beebe | UK | 2019 | 14 min

THEY'RE JUST FISH

D: Ana Serna, Paula Iglesias | Spain | 2019 | 17 min

VILLA VILLEKULLA

D: Patricia Bbaale Bandak | Denmark | 2020 | 30 min

FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND



THEY'RE JUST FISH



THE SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIVES



HER MOTHERS



DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT

BARE

D: Aleksandr M. Vinogradov | Belgium | 94 min

There is less liberty, even if we think we have more. The last territory where we can be ourselves and have full freedom is our bodies. The documentary is focusing on creation of a dance performance with 11 naked men.

DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT

D: Tedra Wilson | USA | 65 min

Take a deep dive into the legendary Baltimore club scene with local DJs, producers, dancers, artists and activists who combat state violence with community care, using breakbeats and fast footwork to change lives.

Screening with

UKWELI

D: Mike Ramsdell | Democratic Republic of the Congo, USA | 20 min

THE FORBIDDEN REEL

D: Ariel Nasr | Canada | 119 min

Creating amidst periods of war and chaos, Afghan filmmakers spawned an extraordinary national cinema that was nearly all lost to the Taliban. Marvelling in the magic of movies, this thrilling story celebrates the incredible films we almost never got to see.

IN YOUR EYES, I SEE MY COUNTRY

D: Kamal Hachkar | Morocco, France | 75 min

Two Israeli musicians travel throughout Morocco to rediscover their Jewish-Moroccan heritage. In life and on stage, they question their identity and home country, attempting to heal the wounds of ancestral exile from song to song.

KEYBOARD FANTASIES: THE BEVERLY GLENN-COPELAND STORY

D: Posy Dixon | UK | 63 min 

Catapulted to cult status after decades of isolation, a Black transgender musical genius embarks on his first international tour in his seventies as the present day finally catches up to his barrier-breaking sounds and identities.

THE LAST ARCHER

D: Dácil Manrique de Lara | Spain | 75 min

In this intimate portrait of Alberto Manrique, one of the Canary Islands' most innovative artists, the director—Manrique's granddaughter—returns home to restore his memory, part of which he lost some years before, and discovers his work's true magical power to heal.



BARE



THE FORBIDDEN REEL



THE LAST ARCHER

ARTSCAPES

KEYBOARD FANTASIES: THE BEVERLY GLENN-COPELAND STORY



TALES FROM THE PRISON CELL



SANMAO. THE DESERT BRIDE



WINTOPIA

LOVE AND FURY

D: Sterlin Harjo | USA, UK | 89 min

Established and emerging Indigenous visual and musical artists uncover the stereotypes they face while pursuing careers in the United States and abroad, and boldly shatter perceptions of what it means to be a contemporary "Native American artist."

MADE YOU LOOK: A TRUE STORY ABOUT FAKE ART

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 96 min

Controversy erupts when the American art market is flooded with a slew of fake paintings valued in the millions. As the truth unravels and consequences mount, a reputed New York dealer unwittingly finds herself at the centre of an elaborate con.

** Part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management (p. 5).*

THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF

D: Benjamin Ree | Norway | 102 min

After an artist's two most famous paintings are stolen from an Oslo gallery, she meets—and unexpectedly befriends—the drug-addicted man who took them, resulting in this twisting, edge-of-your-seat study of the complicated and compelling duo.

SANMAO. THE DESERT BRIDE

D: Ana Pérez de la Fuente, Marta Arribas | Spain | 86 min

Chinese writer Sanmao has inspired generations of young women through her conviction to fearlessly pursue a life as an artist and independent woman. Poetically told, this biography captures her extraordinary life, full of adventure, loves and losses.

THE SONG OF THE BUTTERFLIES

D: Núria Frigola Torrent | Peru | 65 min

Finding himself stumped for artistic inspiration, an Indigenous painter travels from Lima to his ancestral land in Amazonia, absorbing his family's stories and finding the strength to confront the painful past of a people nearly extinguished.

TALES FROM THE PRISON CELL

D: Ábel Visky | Hungary, Croatia, UK | 80 min

A film crew reconnects strained families divided by prison sentences, inviting fathers to write fairy tales for their kids that are brought to life in short films with their loved ones in the leading roles.

WINTOPIA

D: Mira Burt-Wintonick | Canada | 89 min

A box of tapes uncovered. A father's obsession with Utopia. A daughter's attempt to reconnect through his unfinished film. The enigmatic path of filmmaker Peter Wintonick is traced by his daughter as she tries to decipher the map he left behind.



L.A. TEA TIME

BILE

D: Ira A. Goryainova | Belgium | 64 min

Intertwining a range of both historical and family footage, the director, seeking answers for her own ailments, reflects on how people have looked at their bodies and illnesses throughout the centuries in this experimental essay on disease and health.

THE GIVERNY DOCUMENT (SINGLE CHANNEL)

D: Ja'Tovia Gary | USA | 41 min

Weaving textures and techniques, this experimental cinematic poem journeys between Harlem and Monet's historic gardens at Giverny to offer a thought-provoking meditation on the safety and bodily autonomy of Black women, while celebrating their creativity and resistance.

Screening with

SEE YOU NEXT TIME

D: Crystal Kayiza | USA | 6 min

IF IT WERE LOVE

D: Patric Chiha | France | 82 min

Following 15 young dancers touring a piece about the '90s rave scene, trance-like performances and intimate backstage moments push experimental documentary and blur the lines between real life and theatre.

JUDY VERSUS CAPITALISM

D: Mike Hoolboom | Canada | 62 min 

Second-wave feminist, radical activist and journalist Judy Rebick, who spent decades providing a platform for voices that needed to be heard, allows focus to shift to her own life in this deeply personal and visually experimental biography.

L.A. TEA TIME

D: Sophie Bédard-Marcotte | Canada | 82 min

A filmmaker stuck in an arid, jobless Montreal winter embarks on an improbable quest across the USA, taking her director of photography along for the journey.

PANQUIACO

D: Ana Elena Tejera | Panama | 85 min

Immersed in deep nostalgia, an Indigenous Panamanian fisherman working in Portugal leaves for his hometown only to be thwarted in this dreamlike journey into memory and personal history that asks if it's even possible to return to the past.

TROUBLE

D: Mariah Garnett | USA, UK | 82 min

A filmmaker seeks out her estranged Northern Irish father in an attempt to parse Belfast's sectarian history from their family's own divided past. Through archive and innovative performance techniques, a myriad of truths and ghosts are unearthed.

IF IT WERE LOVE



TROUBLE



PANQUIACO

TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT

FIGHTING FOR, COLLABORATING
WITH, THE PLANET

CANE FIRE

CANE FIRE

D: Anthony Banua-Simon | USA | 90 min

"Cane Fire" traces the Hawaiian island of Kauai's trajectory through four generations of my own family's labor, the Native Hawaiian sovereignty movement, and through the recontextualization of the Hollywood movies filmed on the island.

FIRST WE EAT

D: Suzanne Crocker | Canada | 101 min 

Putting food security to the test in Yukon, the filmmaker bans all store-bought groceries from her house in a year-long adventure in farming, fishing and foraging complicated by three skeptical teenagers, no caffeine and -40° temperatures.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN VENEZUELA

D: Anabel Rodríguez Ríos | Venezuela, UK, Brazil, Austria | 99 min

In Venezuela, corruption, pollution and political decay take their toll as the small fishing village of Congo Mirador is literally sinking from sedimentation. Confronting the crisis, two local women clash over the upcoming election, eyeing different paths forward.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN VENEZUELA



FIRST WE EAT

CANE FIRE

REVISIONARIES

A NEW LENS ON THE PAST,
TO RE-IMAGINE THE FUTURE

FINDING SALLY

THE ART OF FALLISM

D: Aslaug Aarsæther, Gunnbjörg Gunnarsdóttir
| Norway, South Africa | 74 min

Revisit South Africa's #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall protest movements through the eyes of central activists who shed light on what reporters missed—the crucial work shouldered by women and trans people to ensure the movement championed all.

FINDING SALLY

D: Tamara Dawit | Canada | 78 min 

The remarkable story of the director's aunt, who at 23 was an idealistic aristocrat-turned-communist-rebel with the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party. After landing on the most-wanted list, she mysteriously disappears underground during the revolution's tumultuous aftermath.

LOVE & STUFF

D: Judith Helfand | USA | 80 min

While mourning the relatively recent loss of her own mother, filmmaker Judith Helfand prepares to become a "new old" mom at 50 in this exploration of the transformative power of parenting and our complex attachment to the past.

REVISIONARIES SHORTS PROGRAM

THAT JOKE ISN'T FUNNY ANYMORE

D: Hannah Currie | UK | 2019 | 13 min

PLAYBACK

D: Agustina Comedi | Argentina | 2019 | 14 min

L'HOMME'S DREAMS

D: Florent Morin | France | 2019 | 14 min

RECODING ART

D: Bruno Moreschi, Gabriel Pereira | Brazil | 2019
| 15 min

ZLOTA STREET

D: Tomasz Knittel | Poland | 84 min

Krzysztof and Ida are landlords of a Warsaw tenement, returned to his family as the rightful Jewish heirs. Now home to Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian residents, the building is imbued with a new sense of belonging, nation and ancestry shaped by impermanence.

THE ART OF FALLISM



ZLOTA STREET



LOVE & STUFF

NIGHTVISION

FUTURE CULT CLASSICS


UNFORGIVABLE

I LOVE YOU I MISS YOU I HOPE I SEE YOU BEFORE I DIE

D: Eva Marie Rødbro | Denmark | 76 min

Living below the poverty line in suburban Colorado Springs, Betty is a kid raising kids. Through a colourful collage of sights and sounds, this sensory portrait reveals motherhood as a symbiotic experience, where love and dependency go hand in hand.

LEAP OF FAITH

D: Alexandre Philippe | USA | 105 min 

The legacy, lore and lyricism of one of cinema's greatest horror masterpieces is explored in candid detail as Academy Award-winning director William Friedkin sits down to unravel the complex genesis of *The Exorcist*.

NIGHTVISIONS SHORTS PROGRAM: PLEASURE PRISON

MODERN WHORE

D: Nicole Bazuin | Canada | 2020 | 12 min

SEX ASSISTANT

D: Andrés González Majul | Venezuela | 2019 | 22 min

JUST A GUY

D: Shoko Hara | Germany | 2020 | 15 min

UNFORGIVABLE*

D: Marlén Viñayo | El Salvador | 2020 | 35 min

* BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT
DOCUMENTARY AWARD

MODERN WHORE



LEAP OF FAITH



I LOVE YOU I MISS YOU I HOPE I SEE YOU BEFORE I DIE

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