

**HOT DOCS 2021  
MEDIA KIT CONTENTS**

1. Hot Docs General Media Release
2. Opening Night Presentation
3. Big Ideas presented by Scotia Wealth Management
4. Citizen Minutes
5. Special Presentations
6. Markers – Films that push the boundaries of the documentary form
7. Canadian Spectrum – Films in Juried Competition
8. International Spectrum – Films in Juried Competition
9. World Showcase
10. Made In Colombia
11. Systems Down – Films that capture the zeitgeist in its calls for systemic change
12. Deep Dive – Compelling episodic stories
13. Persister – Women speaking up and being heard
14. The Changing Face of Europe
15. Artscapes – Creative Minds, Artistic Pursuits & Inventive Filmmaking
16. Nightvision – Future Cult Classics
17. Awards and Awards Presentation
18. Toronto films and filmmakers, City of Toronto acknowledgement
19. Grant Recipients & Alumni Films and Filmmakers in the Festival
20. Hot Docs Forum Project Selections
21. Docs For Schools

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

22. Hot Docs Programmers

23. Quick Facts on the 2021 Festival

24. Films by Interest

## HOT DOCS 2021 FEATURES 219 DOCUMENTARIES FROM 66 COUNTRIES

Toronto, March 23, 2021– Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, announces the program for its 2021 Festival, being held online on VOD platform Hot Docs at Home. Showcasing the best in Canadian and international documentary, this year's Festival features 219 amazing documentaries from 66 countries, with 50 per cent of directors in the Festival program being women.

Hot Docs 2021 will feature the following programs:

### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Sponsored by Crave*

Award-winning films, celebrated filmmakers, high-profile subjects and special screenings

### MARKERS

*Supported by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund*

A program celebrating work that challenges the documentary form

### CANADIAN SPECTRUM

*Sponsored by TVO*

A competitive program of compelling Canadian stories and perspectives

### INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

*Supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation*

A curated competition of world and international premieres from around the globe

### WORLD SHOWCASE

*Sponsored by CBC Gem*

A popular global selection of the year's finest docs

### MADE IN COLOMBIA

*Presented in partnership with PROCOLOMBIA and ProimágenesColombia*

A selection of films celebrating Colombia's finest contemporary non-fiction cinema

### ARTSCAPES

*Sponsored by Go RV'ing Canada*

A showcase for the arts, creativity, music and pop culture

### PERSISTER

*Presented in Partnership with OXFAM Canada*

Presenting films about women speaking up and being heard

### SYSTEMS DOWN

*Supported by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund*

Films that capture the zeitgeist in its calls for systemic change

**DEEP DIVE**

*Supported by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund*  
Long-form, compelling episodic stories

**THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE**

*Presented in Partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP)*  
A pan-European showcase examining the current cultural, geographic, economic and political factors affecting Europe today

**NIGHTVISION**

A program that highlights future cult classics and diverse, creative approaches to filmmaking

*Made in Colombia, Markers, Deep Dive and Systems Down have been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.*

-30-

[Hot Docs](https://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](https://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>  
Username: hotdocsmedia  
Password: hdmedia21



Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
info@vkpr.ca

**WORLD PREMIERE OF *A.RTIFICIAL I.MMORTALITY* ANNOUNCED AS  
OPENING NIGHT FILM FOR HOT DOCS 2021**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the world premiere of *A.rtificial I.mmortality* (Canada | 2021 | 74 mins), directed by award-winning Canadian filmmaker Ann Shin, will open this year's Hot Docs Festival.

Equally fascinating, shocking and heartfelt, *A.rtificial I.mmortality*, a Crave Original documentary, explores the latest technological advancements in AI, robotics and biotech to pose the tempting question: if you could live forever through AI, would you? Inspired by the transhumanist movement and facing the reality of death as her father suffers from dementia in his old age, the filmmaker begins an investigation into the complex world digital cloning through AI. After conversations on the process with leading field experts, she digitizes her memories and uploads them into a newly created avatar of herself, preserving her personality and identity in digital form forever. Featuring commentary from Swedish philosopher Nick Bostrom, director of the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory at Osaka University Hiroshi Ishiguro, artificial intelligence researcher Ben Goertzel, and mindfulness guru Deepak Chopra, the film presents the idea that humanity is evolving toward a new age of post-biological life, a world of intelligence without bodies or the limitations of disease, death and unfulfilled desire.

"This year's opening night film speaks not only to the moment we're living in, but also to a brave new world that awaits us," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Ann Shin is a remarkable filmmaker, and her thoughtful, insightful look at Artificial Intelligence shows us new ways to see and experience reality. *A.rtificial I.mmortality* is the perfect film to launch this year's Festival and to kick-start conversations we need to have about the potential, and the pitfalls, of our digital future."

Special thanks to Scotia Wealth Management for their support.

-30-

[Hot Docs](http://hotdocs.ca) (hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### BIG IDEAS SPEAKERS SERIES, PRESENTED BY SCOTIA WEALTH MANAGEMENT, TO FEATURE DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSERVATIONIST VALERIE TAYLOR, DESIGN GURU BRUCE MAU, RECORDING ARTIST JULLY BLACK, AND MORE!

Toronto, March 23, 2021— Hot Docs is pleased to announce the ninth edition of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management. This series offers audiences the opportunity to experience five thought-provoking documentaries and then hear, first-hand, from the notable subjects and experts on the issues featured in the films.

This year's Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management, will delve into topics such as: the fascinating relationship between creator and subject from the perspective of revolutionary designer Bruce Mau; renown underwater photographer and environmental conservationist Valerie Taylor and her campaign to protect sharks; the legacy of the creative visionaries behind beloved children's program *Sesame Street*; a discussion of race and the power of beauty in light of the cultural shift towards embracing Black aesthetics and features; and the story behind the epic rise and fall of WeWork, and its hippie-messianic leader Adam Neumann.

"Hot Docs' Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management, has become a cornerstone of this Festival, and we're thrilled to bring together this year's group of notable artists and newsmakers to speak with audiences about important issues addressed in their films," said **Shane Smith**, Hot Docs' director of programming. "We're very much look forward to engaging in timely conversations and an enlightening exchange of ideas with film subjects, directors and experts at this year's event."

"Scotia Wealth Management is proud to continue supporting the great work of these talented documentary filmmakers during this year's festival," said **Glen Gowland**, Group Head, Global Wealth Management at Scotiabank. "We recognize that the Arts expose us to new ideas and allow us to see the world through a different lens. We are confident that these five documentaries will have viewers on the edge of their seats, wherever those seats may be."

The Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management, film descriptions appear below.

#### [MAU](#)

D: Benji Bergmann, Jono Bergmann | P: Karol Martesko-Fenster | Austria, USA | 2021 | 76 min | International Premiere

Design visionary Bruce Mau and partner Bisi Williams Mau join MAU directors Benji Bergmann and Jono Bergmann for a fascinating conversation about creativity and the relationship between filmmaker and subject, maintaining optimism during times of crisis, designing your life, and building a better world for all.

#### [PLAYING WITH SHARKS](#)

D: Sally Aitken | P: Bettina Dalton | Australia | 2020 | 91 min | North American Premiere  
Legendary marine conservationist and photographer Valerie Taylor, subject of PLAYING WITH SHARKS joins director Sally Aitken and producer Bettina Dalton to discuss her pioneering work with sharks, commitment to ocean conservation, and the experience of being the subject of the camera instead of the one wielding it.

### STREET GANG: HOW TO GET TO SESAME STREET

D: Marilyn Agrelo | P: Trevor Crafts, Lisa Diamond, Ellen Scherer Crafts | USA | 2021 | 107 min | International Premiere

Join filmmaker Marilyn Agrelo and producers of STREET GANG: HOW TO GET TO SESAME STREET Ellen Scherer Crafts and Trevor Crafts as they discuss the enduring legacy and lessons of this iconic show and the feat of capturing the magic of Sesame Street in a documentary.

### SUBJECTS OF DESIRE

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 min | Canadian Premiere

Singer-songwriter and international recording artist Jilly Black, and Cheryl Thompson, author and assistant professor, School of Creative Industries, Ryerson University, join SUBJECTS OF DESIRE director Jennifer Holness for a timely, thought-provoking discussion about the cultural shift in beauty standards towards embracing Black aesthetics and features, and how this impacts our understanding of race, power and the construction of beauty.

### WEWORK: OR THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF A \$47 BILLION UNICORN

D: Jed Rothstein | P: Ross Dinerstein | USA | 2020 | 101 min | International Premiere

Join the director of WEWORK: OR THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF A \$47 BILLION UNICORN, Jed Rothstein, as well as subject and *Wall Street Journal* reporter Maureen Farrell and subject and former WeWork employee Megan Mallow, for a provocative discussion about the community-centric, people-first ideal that sent the little co-working venture sky-rocketing into unicorn investment territory – and what was really going on behind the scenes.

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### HOT DOCS TO PREMIERE SHORT FILMS COMMISSIONED FOR *CITIZEN MINUTES* PROJECT, PRESENTED WITH BROADCAST PARTNER BELL MEDIA, AT HOT DOCS FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the eight original short documentaries commissioned for its new *Citizen Minutes* documentary initiative will premiere as part of a special free shorts program at this year's Hot Docs Festival. Presented in partnership with broadcast partner Bell Media, the *Citizen Minutes* project, which was announced last fall, aims to inspire interest and engagement in Canadian democracy and public affairs by exploring and celebrating stories of civic participation in communities across the country.

"We had a great response to this initiative and are so pleased to work with our broadcast partners at Bell Media on making these films available to a wider audience. More Canadians will now have the opportunity to see these great docs and think about the issues they raise about civic engagement in this country," said **Brett Hendrie**, executive director for Hot Docs.

The commissioned films were chosen by an internal Hot Docs selection committee and will be produced by Lisa Jackson, producer, Door Number 3 Productions, and Lauren Grant, producer, Clique Pictures. Assisting in the creative process will be an external advisory council comprised of community leaders who will act as story advisors during the filmmaking process.

The eight *Citizen Minutes* short films are:

#### [BODY POLITICS](#)

D: Aisha Fairclough, Toronto

In a fatphobic image-conscious world, educator, activist and eccentric cat lady turned politician Dr. Jill Andrew takes her fight for body justice, human rights, representation, access and equity to the legislature as the first queer Black person elected as a member of provincial parliament. Here's a glimpse into a 40-year story of becoming told through the eyes of her filmmaking partner...don't blink!

#### [EXCLUDED BY DESIGN](#)

D: Simon Madore, Toronto, & Gabriel Tougas, Winnipeg

Writer and community organizer Dave Meslin thinks that bad public notices are hurting our democracy – and he's calling on graphic designers to show us what we're missing.

#### [THE GIFT](#)

D: Rachel Garrick, Hudson, ON

A lesson in compassion and generosity results in a lifelong gift. Set in a small Northwestern Ontario town, a father takes an opportunity to pass on important teachings to his daughter.

#### [JEAN SWANSON: WE NEED A NEW MAP](#)

D: Teresa Alfeld, Vancouver

*Jean Swanson: We Need A New Map* is a short documentary profiling veteran activist and first-term Vancouver city councillor Jean Swanson as she works alongside the next generation of anti-poverty activists fighting systemic inequality.

## MENDING A CRACK IN THE SKY

D: Roble Issa, Toronto, & Zach Jama, Toronto

Shamso Mohamoud and Shamso Elmi both lost their sons to violence and watched their alleged killers walk free without so much as a legal prosecution. Now, the two Somali-Canadian mothers have organized a group “Mending a Crack in the Sky” to collectively combat gun violence and hardship while facing cultural and racial barriers.

## MILITANT MOTHER

D: Carmen Pollard, Vancouver

To get to class on time, children from the Raymur Place social housing project were forced to jump shunting train cars that stood in their path. In 1971, after months of petitioning for a safe crossing, a group of mothers made their voices heard by blockading CN rail from delivering goods.

## NOURRIR LES RÊVES

D: Kimberley Ann Surin, Montreal & Aïcha Morin-Baldé, Montreal

In 2007, Lasallien Center opened their doors in St-Michel—one of the most disadvantaged boroughs on the island of Montreal. This film will introduce audiences to Paul Evra, the young altruistic director who grew up there and is leading the center and their mission to help feed the numerous families in the area who are food insecure.

## RIDE FAIR

D: Javier Lovera, Toronto

Three fearless community organizers with a history of standing up against big tech corporations, embark on an uphill political fight to regulate Uber and Lyft in Toronto and force them to cap the number of drivers in the city, and to provide living wages and better training for their drivers.

The *Citizen Minutes* project is made possible through support by The Rossy Foundation.

-30-

Hot Docs, North America’s largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto’s Annex neighbourhood and the world’s first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for



members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS SPOTLIGHTS FAMOUS FACES, ACCLAIMED FILMMAKERS, CELEBRATED LEGACIES AND HIGH-PROFILE EXPOSÉS**

*Special Presentations program sponsored by Crave*

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – This year's Special Presentations program features a riveting selection of world and international premieres, award winners from the recent international festival circuit and works by master filmmakers or featuring star subjects. This year's program, which is sponsored by Crave, will feature 28 feature films.

"Big ideas and bold filmmaking are a highlight of this year's Special Presentations program," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Championing globally important issues, compelling character studies and powerful personal stories, the films in this program are the documentaries audiences will be talking about this year."

Special Presentations selections with notable subjects include: ***7 Years of Lukas Graham***, a thrilling peek into the world of Danish vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Lukas Forchhammer, whose top 40 hit "7 Years" topped charts globally; ***Mau***, a loving artistic portrait of Canadian designer, innovator and educator Bruce Mau, revealing the truths that have shaped his long and expansive career; ***We Are As Gods***, about tech visionary Stewart Brand's vision of reversing climate change through "de-extinction science"; and ***The Rossellinis***, a fascinating look inside a complicated cinema dynasty, in which the eldest grandson of Italian film director, producer, and screenwriter Roberto Rossellini picks up the camera for himself and explores his family history.

Stories of trailblazing women are found in: ***Rebel Hearts***, the invigorating story of a pioneering group of nuns in the 1960s who stood up to the patriarchy of the Catholic Church; ***Playing with Sharks***, which delves into the legacy of acclaimed Australian underwater photographer Valerie Taylor, from shooting footage for *Jaws* to her dedication to the conservation of sharks and other marine life; and Andrea Nevins' ***Hysterical***, a showcase of today's top female comics taking the male-dominated world of stand-up by storm, featuring Margaret Cho, Fortune Feimster, Marina Franklin, Nikki Glaser, Jessica Kirson, Sherri Shepherd, Iliza Shlesinger, and more.

Films exploring race include: the international premiere of ***Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America***, a powerful presentation of America's racist history, from slavery to the modern myth of post-racial America; the world premiere of ***The Death of My Two Fathers***, an unforgettable contemplation of race, death and the importance of family inspired by videos the filmmaker watches that were recorded by his terminally ill father; the international premiere of ***With Drawn Arms***, which looks back at the 1968 Olympics when track star Tommie Smith and his teammate raised black-gloved fists on the podium, and the aftermath of that powerful gesture; ***Subjects of Desire***, a thought-provoking deconstruction of race and the power of beauty told through the experiences of Black women; ***All Light, Everywhere***, Sundance's Special Jury Prize winner for Non-Fiction Experimentation, is an illuminating investigation of surveillance technologies that exposes the complexities of objectivity and the biases inherent in both human perception and the camera lens; and a special screening of Outstanding Achievement Award honoree Stanley Nelson's ***Crack: Cocaine, Corruption & Conspiracy***, a shocking record of the crack epidemic that swept the US in the 1980s.

The global coronavirus pandemic is examined in: the international premiere of *Homeroom*, which looks at the anxieties of an Oakland high school's senior class around test scores, social justice and the growing uncertainty of the pandemic; Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner *In the Same Breath*, Nanfu Wang's searing investigation into COVID-19's origins and the misinformation spread about the global health crisis; the world premiere of *Wuhan Wuhan*, a journey through the streets of Wuhan, China, as filmmaker Yung Chang and a group of videographers capture life in the Chinese city during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the world premiere of *Viral*, which shows us COVID-19's impact on today's youth through the social media posts of seven young people.

Films in the Special Presentations program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/specialpresentations](http://www.hotdocs.ca/specialpresentations).

### 7 YEARS OF LUKAS GRAHAM

D: René Sascha Johannsen | P: Sara Stockmann | Denmark | 2020 | 77 min | International Premiere

### ALL LIGHT, EVERYWHERE

D: Theo Anthony | P: Jonna McKone, Sebastian Pardo, Riel Roch-Decter | USA | 2021 | 109 min | Canadian Premiere

### BEHIND THE HEADLINES

D: Daniel Andreas Sager | P: Marc Bauder | Germany | 2021 | 90 min | North American Premiere

### COME BACK ANYTIME

D: John Daschbach | P: Wataru Yamamoto | Japan | 2021 | 81 min | World Premiere

### CRACK: COCAINE, CORRUPTION & CONSPIRACY

D: Stanley Nelson | P: Stanley Nelson, Cameo George, Naimah Jabali-Nash, Keith Brown, Nicole London | USA | 2020 | 90 min | Special Screening

### THE DEATH OF MY TWO FATHERS

D: Sol Guy | P: Stine Chroné Moisen, Sol Guy, Travestine Guy - Tuggle | USA, Canada | 2021 | 84 min | World Premiere

### DIRTY TRICKS

D: Daniel Sivan | P: Daniel Sivan | Israel | 2021 | 100 min | World Premiere

### HOMEROOM

D: Peter Nicks | P: Sean Havey | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

### HYSTERICAL

D: Andrea Nevins | P: Rebecca Evans, Carolina Groppa, Ross M. Dinerstein | USA | 2021 | 88 min | International Premiere

### IN THE SAME BREATH

D: Nanfu Wang | P: Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang, Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn | USA, China | 2021 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

### MAU

D: Benji Bergmann, Jono Bergmann | P: Karol Martesko-Fenster | Austria, USA | 2021 | 76 min | International Premiere

### MISHA AND THE WOLVES

D: Sam Hobkinson | P: Jürgen Buedts, Poppy Dixon, Al Morrow, Matthew Wells, Gregory Zalczman | UK, Belgium | 2020 | 88 min | Canadian Premiere

### NIKE'S BIG BET

D: Paul Kemp | P: Corey Russell, Paul Kemp | Canada | 2021 | 80 min | North American Premiere

### PLAYING WITH SHARKS

D: Sally Aitken | P: Bettina Dalton | Australia | 2020 | 91 min | North American Premiere

### REBEL HEARTS

D: Pedro Kos | P: Shawnee Isaac-Smith, Kira Carstensen, Judy Korin | USA | 2021 | 103 min | International Premiere

### THE RETURN: LIFE AFTER ISIS

D: Alba Sotorra Clua | P: Alba Sotorra Clua, Vesna Cudic, Carles Torras | Spain, UK | 2021 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

### ROCKFIELD: THE STUDIO ON THE FARM

D: Hannah Berryman | P: Catryn Ramasut | UK | 2020 | 91 min | North American Premiere

### THE ROSSELLINIS

D: Alessandro Rossellini | P: Raffaele Brunetti | Italy, Latvia | 2020 | 90 min | Special Screening

### STREET GANG: HOW WE GOT TO SESAME STREET

D: Marilyn Agrelo | P: Trevor Crafts, Ellen Scherer Crafts, Lisa Diamond | USA | 2021 | 107 min | International Premiere

### SUBJECTS OF DESIRE

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 min | Canadian Premiere

### THE TASTE OF DESIRE

D: Willemiek Kluijfhout | P: Olivia Sophie van Leeuwen | Netherlands | 2021 | 87 min | World Premiere

### THROUGH THE NIGHT

D: Loira Limbal | P: Loira Limbal, Jameka Autry | USA | 2020 | 72 min | Ontario Premiere

### VIRAL

D: Udi Nir, Sagi Bornstein | P: Christian Beetz, Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir | Germany, Israel | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

## WE ARE AS GODS

D: David Alvarado, Jason Sussberg | P: David Alvarado, Kate McLean, Jamie Meltzer, Jason Sussberg | USA | 2021 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

## WEWORK: OR THE MAKING AND BREAKING OF A \$47 BILLION UNICORN

D: Jed Rothstein | P: Ross Dinerstein | USA | 2020 | 101 min | International Premiere

## WHO WE ARE: A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA

D: Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler | P: Jeffery Robinson, Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Andrea Crabtree-Keller, Vanessa Hope, Susan Korda, Katharine Nephew, Jayashri Wyatt | USA | 2021 | 117 min | International Premiere

## WITH DRAWN ARMS

D: Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | P: Glenn Zipper, Sean Stuart, Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | USA, Mexico | 2020 | 84 min | International Premiere

## WUHAN WUHAN

D: Yung Chang | P: Peter Luo, Donna Gigliotti, Diane Quon | USA, Canada | 2021 | 90 min | World Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## MARKERS PROGRAM RETURNS TO CELEBRATE WORK PUSHING THE STRUCTURAL FORM OF DOCUMENTARY FILM

Toronto, March 23, 2021— Hot Docs is pleased to present seven feature films and six shorts in the film program Markers, which returns for a second year. Named as a nod to the revolutionary work of acclaimed filmmaker Chris Marker, the program highlights filmmakers who are going against the grain and making their own mark on the genre with original projects.

“This year’s Markers program is a celebration of filmmakers staking out new territory in non-fiction storytelling,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “Innovation and exploration in both subject and form are at the forefront of the remarkable films in this program, guaranteed to reward the adventurous documentary viewer.”

Films featured in this program include the international premiere of *Faya Dayi*, a docudrama that captures the restless spirit of Ethiopia’s youth by weaving together stories of the khat leaf trade, the country’s most lucrative crop; and the North American premieres of *A River Runs, Turns, Erases, Replaces*, a gorgeous cinematic letter from the filmmaker to her hometown of Wuhan and its evolving urban landscape; *Rift Finfinnee*, a journey around the periphery of Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa that exposes its rapid urbanization, socioeconomic disparity and the seeds of civil war, and *Zaho Zay*, in which a young female guard in a Madagascar prison daydreams of her murderous father until an inmate brings frightening news about him.

The program will also feature the Canadian premieres of: *Users*, a Sundance award-winning essay that ponders how our addiction to technology may end up changing us and our planet forever; *Just a Movement*, a vibrant tribute to West African revolutionary Omar Blondin Diop through the reimagining of Jean-Luc Godard’s 1967 film *La Chinoise* in which he starred; and *Her Socialist Smile*, an experimental study that resurrects the political imagination of the iconic deaf-blind author Helen Keller, a passionate socialist and disability rights advocate.

This event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

All films in the Markers program are listed below. For more information on the program, please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/markers](http://www.hotdocs.ca/markers).

### FAYA DAYI

D: Jessica Beshir | P: Jessica Beshir | USA, Ethiopia, Qatar | 2021 | 120 min | Canadian Premiere

### HER SOCIALIST SMILE

D: John Gianvito | P: John Gianvito | USA | 2020 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere

### JUST A MOVEMENT

D: Vincent Meessen | P: Geneviève de Bauw | Belgium, France | 2021 | 110 min | Canadian Premiere

### [RIFT FINFINNEE](#)

D: Daniel Kötter | P: Meike Martens | Germany, Ethiopia | 2020 | 79 min | North American Premiere

### [A RIVER RUNS, TURNS, ERASES, REPLACES](#)

D: Shengze Zhu | P: Zhengfan Yang | USA | 2021 | 87 min | North American Premiere

### [USERS](#)

D: Natalia Almada | P: Elizabeth Lodge Stepp, Josh Penn | USA, Mexico | 2021 | 81 min | Canadian Premiere

### [ZAHO ZAY](#)

D: Maéva Ranaivojaonao, Georg Tiller | P: Thomas Lambert, Maéva Ranaivojaonao, Georg Tiller | France, Austria, Madagascar | 2020 | 78 min | North American Premiere

### SHORTS PROGRAM

#### [FIRE SEASON](#)

D: Quinn Else | P: Quinn Else | USA | 2021 | 7 min | World Premiere

#### [INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS DAY](#)

D: John Greyson | P: John Greyson, Shant Joshi | Canada | 2021 | 16 min | North American Premiere

#### [LETTER FROM EUSAPIA](#)

D: Andrés Cornejo Pinto | P: Molly Poussart | Belgium, Portugal, Hungary | 2020 | 19 min | World Premiere

#### [LISTEN TO THE BEAT OF OUR IMAGES](#)

D: Audrey Jean-Baptiste, Maxime Jean-Baptiste | P: Gérard Azoulay | French Guiana, France | 2021 | 15 min | North American Premiere

#### [NEW GODS](#)

D: Loïc Hobi | P: Loïc Hobi | Switzerland, France | 2020 | 19 min | North American Premiere

#### [VO](#)

D: Nicolas Gourault | P: Luc-Jérôme Bailleul | France | 2020 | 20 min | World Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.



programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### CANADIAN SPECTRUM PROGRAM FEATURES A HOST OF THRILLING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING, AND REFLECTIVE FILMS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the 11 feature films, two mid-lengths and 13 shorts in Canadian Spectrum, a competitive program showcasing the work of Canadian directors. With themes encompassing Indigenous issues and racism, the benefits and perils of technology, and touching personal stories of strength and resilience, this year's roster of films spotlights critical stories from filmmakers across Canada.

"Canadian filmmakers are at the forefront of documentary storytelling, and this year's Canadian Spectrum films showcase their exceptional talent and tenacity," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Featuring a diverse array of subjects and styles, the films featured in the program reflect the vision of their makers and the vitality of the stories they tell."

Canadian Spectrum includes the world premieres of: the Crave Original documentary ***A.r.tificial I.mmortality***, the Festival's opening film, a thrilling sci-fi trip that shows us a glimpse of a future where memories can be uploaded to digital clones that don't need bodies to survive; ***Still Max***, in which Toronto multidisciplinary artist Max Dean goes on a vivid journey of resilience and creativity after a cancer diagnosis; ***One of Ours***, in which a Haitian-born youth wrestles with his sense of belonging in his Indigenous adoptive family after being racially profiled; ***Spirit to Soar***, journalist Tanya Talaga's follow up to her award-winning book which sees her return to Thunder Bay after the inquest into the deaths of seven First Nations high school students; ***My Tree***, in which the director goes looking for the tree planted in his name in Israel forty years ago, and discovers uncomfortable truths; and ***Dropstones***, the tender story of a woman who returns to Newfoundland's beautiful and remote Fogo Island to raise her two sons after fleeing an abusive relationship.

Additional world premieres include: ***Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy***, which goes inside the Kainai First Nation in Alberta to show the community's efforts to heal from the opioid crisis; ***Someone Like Me***, about a group of strangers who band together to help a queer youth escape to Vancouver from life-threatening violence in Uganda; ***Grey Roads***, the beautiful and heartfelt story of a Toronto filmmaker who returns to his declining rural hometown to reconnect with his father and grandfather, the two men who have shaped his life; ***Hell or Clean Water***, a fascinating look into the motivations of a diver who devotes his life to cleaning up Newfoundland's shores; and ***Zo Reken***, where humanitarian aid workers in Port-au-Prince share candid thoughts about the grim realities of colonialism, international aid and 11 years of unkept promises.

The program will also feature the North American premieres of: ***Archipelago***, an experimental exploration where evocative animation brings the landscape of the historic Saint Lawrence River and its famous thousand islands to life; and ***The Gig Is Up***, an exposé into the perils and human cost of the gig economy, led by Uber, Amazon, Lyft and more.

The Canadian Spectrum program is sponsored by TVO.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award, and the DGC Special Jury Prize – Canadian Feature Documentary Award. Directors in the

Canadian Spectrum program with fewer than two previous feature film credits are also eligible to win the Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award.

All films in the Canadian Spectrum program are listed below. For more information on the program, please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/canadianspectrum](http://www.hotdocs.ca/canadianspectrum).

### **A.RTIFICIAL I.MMORTALITY**

D: Ann Shin | P: Gerry Flahive, Erica Leendertse, Hannah Donegan | Canada | 2021 | 74 min | World Premiere

### **ARCHIPELAGO**

D: Félix Dufour-Laperrière | P: Félix Dufour-Laperrière, Nicolas Dufour-Laperrière | Canada | 2021 | 72 min | North American Premiere

### **DROPSTONES**

D: Caitlin Durlak | P: Caitlin Durlak | Canada | 2021 | 57 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### **INTO LIGHT**

D: Sheona McDonald | P: Teri Snelgrove | Canada | 2021 | 19 mins | World Premiere

### **THE GIG IS UP**

D: Shannon Walsh | P: Ina Fichman, Luc Martin-Gousset | Canada, France | 2021 | 88 min | North American Premiere

### **GREY ROADS**

D: Jesse McCracken | P: Jesse McCracken | Canada | 2021 | 74 min | World Premiere

### **HELL OR CLEAN WATER**

D: Cody Westman | P: Jennifer Hawley | Canada | 2021 | 88 min | World Premiere

### **KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY**

D: Elle-Máíjá Tailfeathers | P: David Christensen, Lori Lozinski, Elle-Máíjá Tailfeathers | Canada | 2021 | 125 min | World Premiere

### **MY TREE**

D: Jason Sherman | P: Jason Sherman, Aeschylus Poulos, Sonya Di Rienzo | Canada | 2021 | 105 min | World Premiere

### **ONE OF OURS**

D: Yasmine Mathurin | P: Laura Perlmutter, Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith | Canada | 2021 | 88 min | World Premiere

### **SOMEONE LIKE ME**

D: Sean Horlor, Steve J. Adams | P: Teri Snelgrove, Shirley Vercruysse | Canada | 2021 | 80 min | World Premiere

### [SPIRIT TO SOAR](#)

D: Tanya Talaga, Michelle Derosier | P: Nida Marji, Shivani Srivastava, Rose LeMay | Canada | 2021 | 46 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### [MARY TWO-AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN](#)

D: Courtney Montour | P: Kat Baulu, Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2021 | 34 min | World Premiere

### [STILL MAX](#)

D: Katherine Knight | P: Katherine Knight, David Craig | Canada | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

### [ZO REKEN](#)

D: Emanuel Licha | P: Emanuel Licha | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

### [SHORTS PROGRAM: STORIES OF GROWTH AND LEARNING](#)

Reflecting on the inherent wisdom of our bodies, our families and our environment, these stories reveal how moments of profound growth happen when we honour the people and places that existed before us.

### [FOUR DAYS AT THE NATIONAL PRESERVATION CENTRE](#)

D: Andrew Bateman, Lindsay Fitzgerald, Sean Stiller | P: Lindsay Fitzgerald | Canada | 2020 | 15 min | Toronto Premiere

### [HEART BERRY](#)

D: Kijâtai-Alexandra Veillette-Cheezo | P: Odile Joannette | Canada | 2020 | 3 min | Ontario Premiere

### [REMEMBRANCE OF JÓZSEF ROMVÁRI](#)

D: Sophy Romvari | P: Robert Sweeney | Canada | 2020 | 8 min | World Premiere

### [UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE](#)

D: Tiffany Hsiung | P: Priscilla Galvez, Tiffany Hsiung | Canada | 2021 | 28 min | Toronto Premiere

### [WALKING WITH PLANTS](#)

D: Trevor Dixon Bennett, Leigh Joseph | P: Trevor Dixon Bennett | Canada | 2020 | 24 min | World Premiere

### [SHORTS PROGRAM: BODIES RELEASE](#)

A mix of stories meditating on death, tradition and community care show us the countless ways we continue to survive, thrive and find joy in everyday acts of self-affirmation.

### [HAIR](#)

D: Dominique Basi | P: Dominique Basi | Canada | 2020 | 4 min | Toronto Premiere

### [THE HAIRDRESSER](#)

D: Lorraine Price | P: Lorraine Price | Canada | 2020 | 13 min | World Premiere

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

### JONTAE

D: Siam Obregon, Kyana Lyne | P: Siam Obregon, Kyana Lyne | Canada | 2020 | 8 min | Toronto Premiere

### MATHILDE AND THE LOVE ROOM

D: Chantal Limoges | P: Sylvain d'Auteuil, Chantal Limoges | Canada | 2020 | 18 min | Toronto Premiere

### NUDE TO ME

D: Daniel Berish | P: Erin Mussolum | Canada | 2021 | 20 min | World Premiere

### ROCKIN' THE COFFIN

D: Cailleah Scott-Grimes | P: Elisa Paloschi, Cailleah Scott-Grimes | Canada | 2020 | 9 min | Toronto Premiere

-30-

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## HOT DOCS' INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM COMPETITIVE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS STIRRING PERSONAL STORIES AND FASCINATING CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – This year's International Spectrum program at Hot Docs features 10 feature films. Showcasing captivating stories told through unique perspectives from around the world, this year's slate of films represents themes that encompass mental health and care, human connection and resilience, hope for a better future, and shocking political intrigue and government corruption.

"New perspectives, surprising subjects and creative filmmaking are hallmarks of this year's International Spectrum program," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Featuring ten films and representing 13 countries, the stories presented are profound, poetic and insightful, and directed by remarkably talented filmmakers."

World premieres in the International Spectrum program include: *Any Given Day*, which looks at the stigma of mental illness through the stories of three defendants in a specialized mental health prison probation program; *Songs that Flood the River*, about a woman whose traditional chants she sang as a child have become a plea for peace in the brutal conflict along Colombia's Pacific coast; *Magaluf Ghost Town*, about a peaceful Spanish beach town that explodes with budget European holidaymakers every summer; *The Silence of the Mole*, a political thriller that unravels the mystery of a journalist who infiltrated Guatemala's government in the 1970s to expose the truths behind its violence and oppression; *Gaucha Americano*, a lighthearted tale of clashing cultures that see two Chilean gauchos pursuing their cowboy dreams on an Idaho ranch; and *Four Seasons in One Day*, where ferry passengers travelling between British-controlled Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland candidly express their opinions about Brexit and the border.

International premieres in the program include: *People We Come Across*, about good intentions gone awry when 700 Finnish volunteers travel to West Africa to help with a vaccine study; *Ostrov – Lost Island*, about the denizens of a once-vibrant fishing island in the Caspian Sea, whose elders await Russia's return to greatness while the younger generation hopes for a new future; *School of Hope*, in which Morocco's Oulad Boukais tribe, suffering from extended drought, sets up a school in a small clay building to ensure their children's futures; and *Threshold*, a compassionate look at the filmmaker's adolescent son's gender transition and search for identity over three years.

The International Spectrum program is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

All feature-length titles in the program are eligible for the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary. Emerging directors in the International Spectrum with two or fewer previous feature film credits are also eligible for the Emerging Filmmaker Award.

Hot Docs has been selected as an Academy Award® qualifying festival for feature documentaries. The recipient of Hot Docs' Best International Feature Documentary Award will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Feature Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Films in the International Spectrum program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/internationalspectrum](http://www.hotdocs.ca/internationalspectrum).

### ANY GIVEN DAY

D: Margaret Byrne | P: Margaret Byrne | USA | 2021 | 93 min | World Premiere

### FOUR SEASONS IN ONE DAY

D: Annabel Verbeke | P: Frederik Nicolai, Eric Goossens, Karl-Emil Rikardsen, Ljubo Zdjelarević, Lukas Trimonis | Belgium, Norway, Croatia | 2021 | 77 min | World Premiere

### GAUCHO AMERICANO

D: Nicolás Molina | P: Joséphine Schroeder | Chile | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

### MAGALUF GHOST TOWN

D: Miguel Ángel Blanca | P: Bernat Manzano, Valérie Montmartin, Miguel Eek | Spain, France | 2021 | 90 min | World Premiere

### OSTROV – LOST ISLAND

D: Svetlana Rodina, Laurent Stoop | P: Corinna Dästner, Sonja Kilbertus, Urs Schnell | Switzerland | 2021 | 91 min | International Premiere

### PEOPLE WE COME ACROSS

D: Mia Halme | P: Marianne Mäkelä | Finland | 2021 | 79 min | International Premiere

### SCHOOL OF HOPE

D: Mohamed El Aboudi | P: Pertti Veijalainen | Finland, France, Morocco | 2020 | 78 min | International Premiere

### THE SILENCE OF THE MOLE

D: Anaïs Taracena | P: Anaïs Taracena, Rafael González, Julio López | Guatemala | 2021 | 93 min | World Premiere

### SONGS THAT FLOOD THE RIVER

D: Germán Arango | P: Ana María Muñoz Guzmán | Colombia | 2021 | 72 min | World Premiere

### THRESHOLD

D: Coraci Ruiz | P: Julio Matos | Brazil | 2020 | 77 min | International Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.



round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

## FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

## Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### WORLD SHOWCASE PROGRAM FEATURES TOUCHING PERSONAL NARRATIVES AND CULTURAL REVELATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to spotlight an impressive range of global stories in its World Showcase program. Featuring 24 feature films, seven mid-lengths, eight shorts, and 10 short films in two curated programs, this year's World Showcase includes work from 38 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, UK, and the USA.

"Our program featuring the best in global documentary cinema, World Showcase is your entry point to the stories that matter in the world today," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Although we're separated physically, stories unite us, and this program brings together a stunning array of films that show not only the challenges we face, but the many ways we can overcome them."

Family relationships and cultural traditions are explored in the world premieres of: ***Only I Can Hear***, in which the children of deaf parents come together in a world that favours the spoken word to share their struggles and joys; ***The Colonel's Stray Dogs***, in which the director looks back on his father's dangerous life as a political exile from Gaddafi's Libya; ***Life of Ivanna***, in which a young Nenets mother struggles to gain control of her life and future after moving from the harsh Russian Arctic tundra to the city; and ***Zuhur's Daughters***, about the children of a Syrian family exploring their transgender identities as their families cling to their religious and cultural beliefs in Germany.

Stories featuring Indigenous subjects and themes are found in: the world premiere of ***A Once and Future Peace***, an exploration of the Peacemaking Circle movement, a transformative approach to criminal justice that originated in the Yukon with the First Nations Elders; the North American premiere of ***Daughter of a Lost Bird***, a revelation of the impacts of transracial Indigenous adoption told through the story of a young mother seeking connection with her Lummi community; the international premiere of ***Secrets from Putumayo***, which delves into the historic crimes against Indigenous Amazonians committed by the rubber industry and their ongoing struggle for self-determination; and the North American premiere of ***Nothing but the Sun***, where a man attempts to reconstruct the memory of the Ayoreo people, who lived free in the South American forest until colonization forced them out.

Additional world premieres in the World Showcase program include: ***The Sailor***, in which an 80 year-old reflects on his adventurous life spent sailing around the world; ***Blue Box***, which explores the myth and legacy of Israel's blue boxes, a global fundraiser set up by the Jewish National Fund to purchase and acquire the historic land of Israel for the Jewish people; ***Sunny***, which follows a researcher who goes door-to-door in Georgia's capital of Tbilisi, asking controversial questions about sexuality, minority rights and nationalism; and ***Neighbouring the Moon***, a lyrical coming-of-age story in which two teenage girls take refuge with their mother in a cramped Aleppo hospital through the war and the ongoing pandemic.

The program will also feature two shorts programs. The first, **Look Don't Touch**, is a selection of films that spy, surveil and see things most miss. Among the six shorts is the world premiere of *Wolf Whispers*, in which the filmmaker dives headlong into her autistic brother's world to gain a better understanding of his mind; and the international premiere of *Naya*, a voyeuristic visual collage of wildlife and surveillance footage that tracks the life of a she-wolf who travels from Germany to Belgium.

The second shorts program, **The School of Life**, focuses on life lessons youth learn in the playground and the classroom. The program features four shorts, including the world premieres of *Audible*, a moving coming-of-age story about a football player's senior year at the Maryland School for the Deaf and the looming realities of entering the hearing world; and *Goodbye Tornio*, a vivid depiction of fearlessness and optimism of youth as told through the story of a recent high school graduate moving to the big city.

The World Showcase program is sponsored by CBC Gem.

All films in the World Showcase are listed below. For more information on the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/worldshowcase](http://www.hotdocs.ca/worldshowcase).

### ALL-IN

D: Volkan Üce | P: Magalie Dierick, Emmy Oost | Belgium, Netherlands, France | 2021 | 80 min | North American Premiere

### BECOMING

D: Isabel Vaca | P: Arturo Mendicuti | Mexico | 2021 | 63 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SNOWY

D: Kaitlyn Schwalje, Alex Wolf Lewis | P: Justin Levy, Rebecca Stern | USA | 2020 | 13 min | Canadian Premiere

### BETWEEN US

D: Dorota Proba | P: Ewa Jastrzebska, Jerzy Kapuscinski | Poland, Canada | 2020 | 53 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### THE DOLL

D: Elahe Esmaili | P: Elahe Esmaili | Iran | 2021 | 33 min | World Premiere

### THE BIG SCARY "S" WORD

D: Yael Bridge | P: Yael Bridge, Morgan Spector, Eden Wurmfeld | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

### BLUE BOX

D: Michal Weits | P: Ina Fichman, Assaf Amir, Eric Goosens, Uri Smoly, Frederik Nicolai | Canada, Israel | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

### CHILDREN

D: Ada Ushpiz | P: Ada Ushpiz | Israel | 2020 | 132 min | North American Premiere

### THE COLONEL'S STRAY DOGS

D: Khalid Shamis | P: Steven Markovitz, Khalid Shamis | South Africa, Libya, Qatar | 2021 | 73 min | World Premiere

### DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD

D: Brooke Pepion Swaney | P: Kendra Mylnechuk Potter, Brooke Pepion Swaney, Jeri Rafter | USA | 2020 | 66 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### THE TRAIN STATION

D: Lyana Patrick | P: Jessica Hallenbeck | Canada | 2020 | 2 min | Ontario Premiere

### DEAR ELNAZ

D: Mania Akbari | P: Javad Soleimani | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | North American Premiere

### DEAR FUTURE CHILDREN

D: Franz Böhm | P: Jamie Gamache, Johannes Schubert, Ansgar Wörner, Franz Böhm | Germany, UK, Austria | 2021 | 89 min | North American Premiere

### DESCENT

D: Nays Baghai | P: Nays Baghai, Eero Heinonen | Australia | 2020 | 65 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### DIGGING FOR LIFE

D: João Queiroga | P: Adiang Assuoe Thomas Germain, Jesseca Ynez Simmons, João Queiroga | Cameroon, Qatar, Portugal, USA | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

### HOLY BREAD

D: Rahim Zabihi | P: Tooraj Aslani | Iran | 2020 | 54 min | Canadian Premiere

*Screening with:*

### LOAD CYCLE

D: Daniel Martínez-Quintanilla | P: Yannick Nolin | Canada, Peru | 2020 | 6 min | North American Premiere

### IMAD'S CHILDHOOD

D: Zahavi Sanjavi | P: Zahavi Sanjavi | Sweden, Latvia, Iraq | 2021 | 78 min | International Premiere

### LAST DAYS AT SEA

D: Venice Atienza | P: Fan Wu, Moshe Ladanga, Venice Atienza | Philippines | 2021 | 73 min | North American Premiere

### THE LAST FOREST

D: Luiz Bolognesi | P: Caio Gullane, Fabiano Gullane, Laís Bodanzky, Luiz Bolognesi | Brazil | 2021 | 76 min | North American Premiere

### THE LAST SHELTER

D: Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou | P: Estelle Robin You, Andrey S Diarra, Don Edkins, Tiny Mungwe | France, Mali, South Africa | 2021 | 85 min | North American Premiere

### LIFE OF IVANNA

D: Renato Borrayo Serrano | P: Vlad Ketkovich, Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas, Marianna Kaat, Pertti Veijalainen | Russia, Norway, Finland, Estonia | 2021 | 80 min | World Premiere

### LOVE IT WAS NOT

D: Maya Sarfaty | P: Nir Sa'ar, Kurt Langbein | Israel, Austria | 2020 | 86 min | Ontario Premiere

### MY MOHAMED IS DIFFERENT

D: Ines Marzouk | P: Kesmat El Sayed | Egypt, Tunisia, Italy | 2020 | 70 min | World Premiere

### NEIGHBOURING THE MOON

D: Reza Farahmand | P: Morteza Shabani, Marjan Alizadeh (Keramati) | Canada, Iran, Syria | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

### NOTHING BUT THE SUN

D: Arami Ullón | P: Pascal Traechslin, Arami Ullón | Switzerland, Paraguay | 2020 | 75 min | North American Premiere

### A ONCE AND FUTURE PEACE

D: Eric Daniel Metzgar | P: Mikaela Beardsley | USA | 2021 | 95 min | World Premiere

### ONLY I CAN HEAR

D: Itaru Matsui | P: Mayu Hirano, Kengo Toyoda, Paul Cadieux, Nancy Guerin | Japan, Canada | 2020 | 52 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### THE VOICE BREAK CHOIR

D: Ina Holmqvist, Martina Carlstedt | P: Martina Carlstedt, Ina Holmqvist | Sweden | 2021 | 29 min | International Premiere

### RED HEAVEN

D: Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer | P: Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer | USA | 2020 | 84 min | Canadian Premiere

### THE SAILOR

D: Lucia Kasova | P: Nazarij Klujev | Slovakia | 2021 | 80 min | World Premiere

### SECRETS FROM PUTUMAYO

D: Aurélio Michiles | P: Patrick Leblanc | Brazil | 2020 | 83 min | International Premiere

### SILENT VOICE

D: Reka Valerik | P: David Hurst | France, Belgium | 2020 | 51 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### LET MY BODY SPEAK

D: Madonna Adib | P: Noe Mendelle | Lebanon, UK | 2020 | 11 min | Canadian Premiere

### SUNNY

D: Ketí Machavariani | P: Tsisana Khundadze, Nato Sikharulidze | Georgia | 2020 | 64 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SQUIRREL WARS

D: Jill Morley | P: Jill Morley | USA | 2020 | 9 min | International Premiere

### VICENTA

D: Darío Doria | P: Felicitas Raffo, Pamela Livia | Argentina | 2020 | 69 min | North American Premiere

### WRITING WITH FIRE

D: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh | P: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh | India | 2021 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere

### ZUHUR'S DAUGHTERS

D: Laurentia Genske, Robin Humboldt | P: Erik Winker, Martin Roelly, Ümit Uludağ | Germany | 2021 | 89 min | World Premiere

### SHORTS PROGRAM: LOOK DON'T TOUCH

A selection of short films that spy, surveil and see things most miss. Whether it's a song on social media, a wolf caught on CCTV or an organism dancing under a microscope, the truth only expands with magnification.

### ANTELOPES

D: Maxime Martinot | P: Quentin Brayer | France | 2020 | 8 min | North American Premiere

### DON'T HESITATE TO COME FOR A VISIT, MOM

D: Anna Artemyeva | P: Daphne Pascual | Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, Russia | 2020 | 13 min | North American Premiere

### HELP, I'VE GONE VIRAL!

D: Audun Amundsen, Petter Heggen | P: Audun Amundsen, Nick Calpakdjian, Mark Olsen | Norway, Indonesia | 2020 | 20 min | Canadian Premiere

### [NAYA](#)

D: Sebastian Mulder | P: Jasper Boon | Netherlands | 2021 | 25 min | International Premiere

### [THE PROBLEM OF THE HYDRA](#)

D: Maija Tammi | P: Maija Tammi | Finland | 2020 | 10 min | North American Premiere

### [WOLF WHISPERS](#)

D: Chloé Belloc | P: Bertrand Scalabre | France | 2020 | 24 min | World Premiere

### **SHORTS PROGRAM: THE SCHOOL OF LIFE**

Youth learn life lessons on the playground and in the classroom, through their friends and first-time experiences, in this quartet of cinematic initiations. Love and acceptance, remote learning and leaving the nest are all firsts that shape who we become and how we see the world.

### [AUDIBLE](#)

D: Matt Ogens | P: Geoff McLean | USA | 2021 | 39 min | World Premiere

### [GOODBYE TORNIO](#)

D: Emilia Hernesniemi | P: Eveliina Mauno | Finland | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

### [JOYCHILD](#)

D: Aurora Brachman | P: Aurora Brachman | USA | 2020 | 6 min | International Premiere

### [THE SCHOOL BY THE SEA](#)

D: Solveig Melkeraaen | P: Ingvil Giske | Norway | 2021 | 30 min | International Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)



## MADE IN PROGRAM FEATURES EYE-OPENING DOCS FROM COLOMBIA

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that this year's Made In country spotlight program will feature recent works from Colombia. A culturally vibrant country steeped in tradition, heritage and natural beauty, the Made In Colombia program will showcase four feature films.

"A new movement of documentary filmmakers from Colombia is on the ascent, uncovering the recent history of the country, and the many stories that have not yet been told," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Uncompromising and powerful, the films in our Made In Colombia program will introduce you to new talent and their unique voices."

The Made In Colombia program includes the world premieres of *On the Other Side*, about two brothers who embark on a perilous journey to uncover the truth behind their mother's two years spent as a FARC captive and to confront her captors; and *Rebel Love*, the story of two former FARC guerillas who, free to be together after the peace accords, struggle to build their life in the outside world.

The program will also include the North American premieres of *Between Fire and Water*, about an Afro-Colombian man's journey to discover his origins after struggling with racism in his adoptive Indigenous community; and *Option Zero*, about hundreds of Cubans left in migratory limbo in Panama after the abrupt ending of a longstanding policy that expedited US residency for Cuban nationals.

The Made In Colombia program is presented in partnership with PROCOLOMBIA and ProimágenesColombia.

This event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

Past *Made In* programs have focused on films from Northern Ireland (2020), Italy (2019), Mexico (2018), Japan (2017), Australia (2016), India (2015), Denmark (2014), Poland (2013), Southeastern Europe (2012), Italy (2011), South America (2010), South Korea (2009), Mexico (2008), Brazil (2007), Japan (2006), South Africa (2004) and Taiwan (2003).

All films in the Made In Colombia program are listed below. For more information on the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/madein](http://www.hotdocs.ca/madein).

### [BETWEEN FIRE AND WATER](#)

D: Viviana Gómez Echeverry, Anton Wenzel | P: Sonia Barrera Gutiérrez, Viviana Gómez Echeverry | Colombia | 2020 | 92 min | North American Premiere

### [ON THE OTHER SIDE](#)

D: Iván Guarnizo | P: Jorge Caballero, Pablo de la Chica | Colombia, Spain | 2021 | 83 min | World Premiere

### OPTION ZERO

D: Marcel Beltrán | P: Maria Carla del Rio, Paula Gastaud, Paola Andrea Pérez Nieto | Cuba, Brazil, Colombia | 2020 | 80 min | North American Premiere

### REBEL LOVE

D: Alejandro Bernal | P: Jaime Escallon-Buraglia, Ximena Sotomayor | Colombia, Canada, Brazil | 2020 | 77 min | World Premiere

-30-

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](https://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### NEW SYSTEMS DOWNTHEME PROGRAM FEATURES RALLYING STORIES ABOUT FIGHTING THE SYSTEM AND DRASTIC CALLS FOR CHANGE

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the new theme program Systems Down, a series of films that capture the zeitgeist of calls for systemic change, showcasing people challenging the status quo and seeking new paths forward. Featuring portraits of renegade artists, stories of remarkable strength and personal heroism, and explosive essays revealing the truth behind corrupt governments and world powers, the new Systems Down program includes 10 feature films and seven shorts.

“The last year has brought to light many systemic issues that impact on all of our lives,” said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. “Filmmakers have long been interested in pulling back the curtain to reveal what’s going on behind the scenes, and the films in this year’s Systems Down program not only expose problems, many offer us new paths forward as both individuals and as a society.”

The Systems Down program will feature the world premieres of: ***The Face of Anonymous***, a timely portrait of 21st century activism that follows Commander X, an iconic and divisive figure in the “hacktivist” network; ***Dead Man’s Switch a Crypto Mystery***, a riveting thriller that unravels the mystery of a Canadian blockchain wizard who mysteriously died on his honeymoon and the fate of his investors’ millions; ***It’s Not Over Yet***, which peeks inside a small Danish retirement home and its ‘controversial’ treatment for dementia patients that includes hugs, conversation and eye contact; ***You Are Not a Soldier***, in which the filmmaker attempts to understand her father’s death by creating a portrait of award-winning photojournalist André Liohn; and ***Faceless***, about four youth embroiled in protests against a controversial extradition bill during Hong Kong’s 2019 uprising.

The program will also feature the international premieres of: ***Apart***, which tells the story of three mothers who return from prison to rebuild their lives and reconnect with their children; ***Generation Utøya***, a look at the lives of four women who survived Norway’s deadly 2011 terror attack on a Youth Labor Party gathering, and their continued fight against right-wing extremism; ***Sieged: The Press vs. Denialism***, about Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro’s relentless media campaign of misinformation about COVID-19 that has undermined the efforts of journalists to keep people safe and informed.

The program will also include the North American premieres of ***Room Without a View***, a look at modern-day slavery and the exploitation of migrant domestic workers from Africa and Southeast Asia in Lebanon, and ***Bajo Fuego (Under Siege)***, an urgent cry from the coca growers in Colombia, who confront displacement and mortal threats to expose the relentless war in the countryside and the illusions of peace.

This event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

Films in the Systems Down program are listed below in alphabetical order. For more information please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/systemsdown](http://www.hotdocs.ca/systemsdown).

### APART

D: Jennifer Redfearn | P: Tim Metzger, Jennifer Redfearn | USA | 2020 | 85 min | International Premiere

### BAJO FUEGO (UNDER SIEGE)

D: Sjoerd van Grootheest, Irene Vélez-Torres | P: Sjoerd van Grootheest | Colombia | 2020 | 85 min | North American Premiere

### DEAD MAN'S SWITCH A CRYPTO MYSTERY

D: Sheona McDonald | P: Sheona McDonald | Canada | 2021 | 78 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### JOBS FOR ALL!

D: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck | P: Helena Ingelsten | Sweden | 2021 | 14 min | World Premiere

### THE FACE OF ANONYMOUS

D: Gary Lang | P: Ed Barreveld, Shasha Nakhai, Ian Thornton | Canada | 2020 | 87 min | World Premiere

### FACELESS

D: Jennifer Ngo | P: Lorraine Ma | Hong Kong, USA, Canada | 2021 | 82 min | World Premiere

### GENERATION UTØYA

D: Aslaug Holm, Sigve Endresen | P: Tore Buvarp | Norway | 2021 | 99 min | International Premiere

### IT'S NOT OVER YET

D: Louise Detlefsen | P: Malene Flindt Pedersen | Denmark | 2021 | 94 min | World Premiere

### ROOM WITHOUT A VIEW

D: Roser Corella | P: Roser Corella | Austria, Germany | 2020 | 73 min | North American Premiere

### SIEGED: THE PRESS VS. DENIALISM

D: Caio Cavechini | P: Erick Brêtas, Ali Kamel, Ricardo Villela | Brazil | 2020 | 116 min | International Premiere

### YOU ARE NOT A SOLDIER

D: Maria Carolina Telles, Aleksei Abib (co-director) | P: Vítor Knijnik, Marcelo Siqueira, Sabrina Wagon | Brazil | 2021 | 110 min | World Premiere

### SHORTS PROGRAM

### A GAME OF THREE HALVES: WHERE THE F%\*CK IS HAMISH?

D: Matthew Bate, Case Jernigan | P: Matthew Bate, Katrina Lucas | Australia, USA | 2020 | 5 min | Canadian Premiere

### THE PERFECT PICTURE

D: Hala El Kouch | P: Nanor Baghdassarian, Hala El Kouch | Lebanon | 2020 | 31 min | North American Premiere

### PRECIOUS BUNDLE

D: Kim Head | P: Kim Head | UK | 2020 | 13 min | World Premiere

### TESTIMONY OF ANA

D: Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda | P: Janani Vijayanathan, Sachin Dheeraj Mudigonda | India, USA | 2020 | 24 min | World Premiere

### AN UNINTERRUPTED VIEW OF THE SEA

D: Mika Yatsunami | P: Chris Henny | Canada, USA | 2020 | 16 min | Canadian Premiere

### THE WHITE DEATH OF THE BLACK WIZARD

D: Rodrigo Ribeiro | P: Julia Faraco, Luiz Gustavo Laurindo, Rodrigo Ribeiro | Brazil | 2020 | 11 min | Ontario Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILL AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## DEEP DIVE PROGRAM SHOWCASES LONG-FORM EPISODIC SERIES OFFERING DEPTH AND NUANCE TO DOCUMENTARY STORYTELLING

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the return of its Deep Dive program, a showcase of long-form documentaries that examine complex and layered stories through multiple episodes. This year's *Deep Dive* features two docuseries in which filmmakers delve deeper into their subjects and the fascinating stories behind them,

"The rise in long-form documentary storytelling has opened up exceptional opportunities for filmmakers to delve into subjects and explore stories with great insight and depth," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "The utterly binge-worthy series presented in this year's Deep Dive program are not to be missed."

This event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

All films in the Deep Dive program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/deepdive](http://www.hotdocs.ca/deepdive).

### THE CAVIAR CONNECTION

D: Benoît Bringer | P: Laurent Richard | France | 2021 | 104 min | World Premiere  
How do dictatorships like Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan launder their reputations from despotic to democratic? This 2-part investigative series exposes how Lady Gaga, luxury gifts and scandalous private wealth are used to wield a new "caviar diplomacy" around the world.

### PHILLY D.A.

D: Ted Passon, Yoni Brook | P: Ted Passon, Yoni Brook, Nicole Salazar, Josh Penn, Michael Gottwald | USA | 2021 | 440 min | Canadian Premiere  
Civil rights attorney Larry Krasner takes injustice personally. Having sued police over 75 times for misconduct, this most unlikely candidate for Philadelphia district attorney not only wins but upends the whole system. A groundbreaking series follows his outrageous first term.

-30-

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot

Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)



## PERSISTER PROGRAM TO FEATURE FRESH AND EXCITING STORIES OF REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the popular theme program Persister returns to this year's Festival, featuring films that shine a light on the voices of strong, inspirational women who are speaking up and being heard. With rousing stories of women going against the grain to pursue their passions, forging their paths in male-dominated arenas, and risking everything to fight for change and justice, the program consists of nine feature films and 13 shorts.

"The outspoken and outstanding subjects featured in this year's Persister program refused to be defined by limitations, whether societal, personal or patriarchal," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Featuring powerful, creative portraits of women working to make a difference—for themselves, their communities, their world—this collection of female-driven and directed films will leave you energized, inspired and, possibly, outraged."

The Persister program will feature the world premieres of: the Crave Original documentary **FANNY: The Right to Rock**, an epic rock doc about fierce female 1970s rockers Fanny, who collected fans like David Bowie in their heyday, who reunite 50-years later with a new record deal and a chance to rewrite history; **Lady Buds**, a revealing look inside the cannabis trade through the stories of six small businesswomen in California hoping to break into the business; **Bangla Surf Girls**, an inspiring film about three spirited working-class teenagers in Bangladesh who escape their daily hardships by surfing waves and chasing a thrilling sense of freedom; and **Only the Ocean Between Us**, a lyrical exploration of growing into adulthood amidst the uncertainty of displacement told through video letters between two Indigenous filmmakers in Lima, Peru, and two Syrian refugee filmmakers in Za'atari Camp, Jordan.

The program will also feature the international premieres of: **La Madrina: The Savage Life of Lorine Padilla**, in which the former 'First Lady' of the Savage Skulls gang emerges as a healer and matriarch, fiercely leading her South Bronx community through the perils of gentrification and gun violence; **Fruits of Labor**, a coming-of-age story about a California teenager who takes on multiple jobs after ICE raids in her community threaten to separate her family and force her to become the breadwinner; and **The Spokeswoman**, which tells the captivating story of Maria de Jesus Patricio, the first Indigenous woman aspiring for the presidency in Mexico whose revolutionary platform for unity is mired by structural racism.

Persister will also include the North American premiere of **Dying to Divorce**, a doc filmed over five years that takes viewers into the heart of Turkey's gender-based violence crisis, and a lawyer and her clients who bravely risk everything to put violent men behind bars; and the Canadian premiere of **Fly So Far**, about an El Salvadorian woman, once imprisoned for homicide for having a late-term miscarriage, who is now advocating for the rights of all such victims of the country's cruel anti-abortion laws.

The Persister program is presented in Partnership with OXFAM Canada.

All films in the Persister program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/persister](http://www.hotdocs.ca/persister).

### [BANGLA SURF GIRLS](#)

D: Elizabeth D. Costa | P: Lalita Krishna | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

### [DYING TO DIVORCE](#)

D: Chloe Fairweather | P: Sinead Kirwan, Seda Gokci, Özge Sebzeci, Elisabeth Kleppe | UK, Norway, Germany | 2020 | 81 min | North American Premiere

### [FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK](#)

D: Bobbi Jo Hart | P: Bobbi Jo Hart, Robbie Hart | Canada | 2021 | 92 min | World Premiere

### [FLY SO FAR](#)

D: Celina Escher | P: Mónica Hernández Rejón, Maria Åkesson, Saúl Callejas | Sweden, El Salvador | 2021 | 89 min | Canadian Premiere

### [FRUITS OF LABOR](#)

D: Emily Cohen Ibañez | P: Emily Cohen Ibañez | USA | 2021 | 76 min | International Premiere

### [LA MADRINA: THE SAVAGE LIFE OF LORINE PADILLA](#)

D: Raquel Cepeda | P: Raquel Cepeda | USA | 2020 | 82 min | International Premiere

### [LADY BUDS](#)

D: Chris J. Russo | P: Michael J. Katz, Christian Bruno | USA | 2021 | 96 min | World Premiere

### [ONLY THE OCEAN BETWEEN US](#)

D: Khaldiya Amer Ali, Marah Mohammad Alkhateeb, Karoli Bautista Pizarro, Christy Cauper Silvano | P: Laura Doggett, EB Landesberg, Lali Madueño Medina, Tasneem Toghoj | USA, Peru, Jordan | 2021 | 82 min | World Premiere

### [THE SPOKESWOMAN](#)

D: Luciana Kaplan | P: Carolina Coppel, Mónica Lozano, Eamon O'Farrill | Mexico | 2020 | 82 min | International Premiere

### **SHORTS PROGRAM: WORKFORCE**

Women's work has always been ignored, underpaid and taken for granted. Domestic workers, farmers, artists, hairdressers, reindeer herders and strippers remind us that their labour is essential and that as taxpayers, voters and bosses, appreciation of their efforts may come by force.

### [AIN'T NO TIME FOR WOMEN](#)

D: Sarra El Abed | P: Isabelle Grignon-Francke | Canada | 2020 | 19 min | Toronto Premiere

### [LAST NIGHT AT THE STRIP CLUB](#)

D: Nicole Bazuin | P: Nicole Bazuin, Andrea Werhun | Canada | 2020 | 12 min | Toronto Premiere

### [A MOTHER'S BODY](#)

D: Jonelle Twum | P: Hawa Sanneh | Sweden | 2020 | 9 min | International Premiere

### MY GRANDMOTHER IS AN EGG

D: Wu-Ching Chang | P: Wu-Ching Chang | Taiwan, UK | 2021 | 8 min | World Premiere

### SVONNI VS THE SWEDISH TAX AGENCY

D: Maria Fredriksson | P: Ina Holmqvist | Sweden | 2020 | 5 min | North American Premiere

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

D: Amelie Befeldt | P: Peter Zorn, Marcie K. Jost | Germany | 2020 | 20 min | International Premiere

### WEARABLE TRACY

D: Emily McAllister | P: Emily McAllister | USA | 2020 | 13 min | International Premiere

### PERSISTER SHORTS PROGRAM

#### ALE LIBRE

D: Maya Cueva | P: Mayra Amaya, Melissa Bueno-Woerner | USA | 2020 | 17 min | International Premiere

#### GIRLSBOYSMIX

D: Lara Aerts, Els van Driel | P: Laura Verduijn, Lara Aerts | Netherlands | 2020 | 7 min | Toronto Premiere

#### MY UNCLE TUDOR

D: Olga Lucovnicova | P: Olga Lucovnicova | Belgium, Portugal, Hungary | 2020 | 20 min | North American Premiere

#### THE RITUAL TO BEAUTY

D: Shenny De Los Angeles, Maria Marrone | P: Shenny De Los Angeles | USA | 2020 | 14 min | International Premiere

#### TELL ME MORE

D: Martyna Peszko | P: Natalia Grzegorzek | Poland | 2020 | 29 min | North American Premiere

#### THIS IS THE WAY WE RISE

D: Ciara Lacy | P: Ciara Lacy, Chapin Hall | USA | 2020 | 12 min | Canadian Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### **THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE RETURNS TO EXPLORE THE POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS SHAPING THE CONTINENT**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – For a fourth year, Hot Docs is pleased to collaborate with European Film Promotion (EFP) for The Changing Face of Europe, a pan-European showcase of vibrant voices exploring the cultural, economic and political conditions affecting Europe today. This year's program includes 10 feature films that explore such themes as love and family, religion, and challenging cultural and societal norms.

"Once again, Hot Docs is excited to partner with EFP to present a selection of documentaries offering fresh perspectives and engaging stories that give us glimpses of a Europe in transition," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "The program also introduces us to the talent behind the camera- skilled filmmakers destined to make their mark on the documentary world."

The Changing Face of Europe continues EFP's commitment of presenting outstanding creative documentaries from Europe to North American audiences. Filmmakers selected to take part in this program will also participate in a number of online industry market activities, expanding their professional development on an international scale, and increasing their film's access to North American and international markets.

"For the fourth time, we present ten, mainly female views of reality from throughout Europe," said European Film Promotion's Managing Director **Sonja Heinen**. "Ten emotional stories that make us leave the borders of our homes and open up our minds. Many thanks to Hot Docs for once again giving us the opportunity to highlight the power and diversity of European documentary filmmaking and to connect our filmmakers with the Canadian industry."

The goal of EFP is to raise visibility and market opportunities for unique, strong and visionary documentaries from Europe. Since 2017, it has provided Film Sales Support for European world sales companies to market films selected for Hot Docs, increasing Europe's presence at the Festival and helping to stimulate distribution of European films to North America and beyond.

This year's program features the world premieres of: ***A Marriage***, an earnest love story about Czech a woman whose Pakistani husband is refused entry into the Czech Republic; and ***Welcome to Spain***, which takes us into a Spanish brothel that's been newly converted into a centre for refugees, and inside their excitement and fears for the future. Making its international premiere at the Festival will be ***Raise the Bar***, a look into an unorthodox basketball coach in Iceland who empowers his team of eight-year-old girls to push the limits.

North American premieres in this year's program include: ***Eatnameamet – Our Silent Struggle***, which follows the ongoing struggle of the Sámi people for decolonization and self-determination; ***Molecules***, about the filmmaker reconnecting to his late father's hometown of Venice, which he explores while free of tourists during the pandemic; ***The New Plastic Road***, which explores the impact of China's reopening of the ancient Silk Road on the lives of people in impoverished former-Soviet states; and ***Faith and Branko***, a story of two musicians united by their love of Roma music who begin to drift apart as their cultural values and lifestyles clash.

Rounding out the program are the Canadian premieres of: *Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution and Islam*, a portrait of a Turkish-German lawyer, feminist, and one of the first female imams in Europe, who opens Germany's first liberal mosque; *Taming the Garden*, about a powerful man's quest to remain hidden by replanting 100-year-old trees along the Georgian coastline of his home; and *A Black Jesus*, about a tiny Sicilian town confronting its traditional Christian values and new social reality when an African refugee volunteers to carry the hallowed Jesus statue in its annual procession.

The Changing Face of Europe is presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP).

All films in The Changing Face of Europe program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/europe](http://www.hotdocs.ca/europe).

### [A BLACK JESUS](#)

D: Luca Lucchesi | P: Wim Wenders, Léa Germain | Germany | 2020 | 92 min | Canadian Premiere

### [EATNAMEAMET – OUR SILENT STRUGGLE](#)

D: Suvi West | P: Janne Niskala | Finland | 2021 | 74 min | North American Premiere

### [FAITH AND BRANKO](#)

D: Catherine Harte | P: Catherine Harte, Snezana Van Houwelingen | Serbia, UK | 2020 | 82 min | North American Premiere

### [A MARRIAGE](#)

D: Kateřina Hager, Asad Faruqi (co-director) | P: Kateřina Hager, Alena Müllerová | Czech Republic, USA | 2021 | 74 min | World Premiere

### [MOLECULES](#)

D: Andrea Segre | P: Valentino Girardi, Andrea Segre | Italy | 2020 | 68 min | North American Premiere

### [THE NEW PLASTIC ROAD](#)

D: Myrto Papadopoulos, Angelos Tsaousis | P: Angelos Tsaousis | Greece, Germany | 2020 | 66 min | North American Premiere

### [RAISE THE BAR](#)

D: Gudjon Ragnarsson | P: Margret Jonasdottir, Outi Rousu | Iceland, Finland | 2021 | 70 min | International Premiere

### [SEYRAN ATEŞ: SEX, REVOLUTION AND ISLAM](#)

D: Nefise Özkal Lorentzen | P: Jørgen Lorentzen | Norway | 2021 | 81 min | Canadian Premiere

### [TAMING THE GARDEN](#)

D: Salomé Jashi | P: Salomé Jashi, Vadim Jendreyko, Martin Roelly, Erik Winker | Switzerland, Germany, Georgia | 2021 | 91 min | Canadian Premiere

### WELCOME TO SPAIN

D: Juan Antonio Moreno Amador | P: Juan Antonio Moreno Amador, Silvia Venegas | Spain | 2021 | 92 min | World Premiere

-30-

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](https://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)



## TOUCHING TRIBUTES, ENTHRALLING CREATIVE PURSUITS AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART FEATURE IN ARTSCAPES PROGRAM

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs' Artscapes, a program that highlights creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking, returns with 17 remarkable feature films, one mid-length and seven shorts, all of which delve into the worlds of renowned artists, creative pursuits, music and pop culture.

"Art can inspire, illuminate and entertain, and this year's Artscape's program offers a remarkable range of stories by, about and inspired by the world's artists," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Whether taking us into the artistic process, reigniting the spark of creativity, or highlighting stories of activism and protest through art, these unforgettable films remind us of the power, beauty and healing that art can rouse."

Stories of artists turning their creativity to advocacy and activism are found in the world premiere of *Bank Job*, about a filmmaking duo who creates and sells their own currency to challenge the inequities of the prevailing economic system; the North American premiere of *Courage*, in which three actors get swept up in street protests during Belarus's presidential elections; and the world premiere of *The Story Won't Die*, about a rapper, tortured by Bashar Al-Assad, and other anti-regime Syrian artists who explore resilience and resistance through art, dance and music.

Beautifully crafted portraits of both established and struggling artists are found in: the world premiere of *Cezanne*, which transports audiences to Provence and into the atelier of master impressionist Paul Cézanne; the international premiere of *Man in the Field: The Life and Art of Jim Denevan*, a profile of the pioneering American multimedia artist and chef who founded Outstanding in the Field, a radical alternative to the conventional dining experience; the international premiere of *High Maintenance*, which follows celebrated Israeli artist Dani Karavan on a journey across Europe to visit his deteriorating large-scale environmental sculptures; the world premiere of *I'm Wanita*, the story of a renegade middle-aged country music singer and her enduring dream of becoming a star; the Canadian premiere of *Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché*, in which the death of Anglo-Somali punk icon Poly Styrene sends her daughter on a journey across the world to solidify her musical legacy; and the world premiere of *No Hay Camino – There Is No Path*, a self-reflective journey of acclaimed director Heddy Honigmann who, facing terminal illness, revisits the beloved places and people from her past.

Inspiring stories about the transformational power art include the international premiere of *Gallant Indies*, in which 30 urban dancers perform in a remix of Jean-Philippe Rameau's baroque masterpiece *Les Indes Galantes* at Paris' legendary Opéra Bastille; the Canadian premiere of *We Are the Thousand*, in which a thousand musicians form a rock band in the hopes of wooing the Foo Fighters to play their Italian town; and the Canadian premiere of *Firestarter – The Story of Bangarra*, about three young Aboriginal brothers who grow their dance company into international powerhouse celebrating their culture.

Additional films in the program include the world premiere of *Set!*, a wild and quirky introduction into the world of competitive table setting; the international premiere of *Ivan's Land*, the charming story of an elderly, rural painter in Ukraine, who gets discovered as one of the last true great folk artists; and the world premiere of *The Man Who Paints Water Drops*, a loving portrait of the



filmmaker's elderly father, a renowned Korean artist, and his obsession with painting waterdrops, a symbol rooted in Korea's tragic past.

The Artscapes program is sponsored by Go RV'ing Canada.

All films in the Artscapes program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/artscapes](http://www.hotdocs.ca/artscapes).

### BANK JOB

D: Daniel Edelstyn, Hilary Powell | P: Daniel Edelstyn, Christopher Hird, Hilary Powell | UK | 2021 | 87 min | World Premiere

### CEZANNE

D: Sophie Bruneau | P: Sophie Bruneau | Belgium | 2021 | 61 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SHĀNZHÀI SCREENS

D: Paul Heintz | P: Thomas Hakim, Julien Graff | France | 2020 | 23 min | Ontario Premiere

### COURAGE

D: Aliaksei Paluyan | P: Jörn Möllenkamp | Germany, Belarus | 2021 | 90 min | North American Premiere

### FIRESTARTER – THE STORY OF BANGARRA

D: Wayne Blair, Nel Minchin | P: Ivan O'Mahoney | Australia | 2020 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

### GALLANT INDIES

D: Philippe Béziat | P: Philippe Martin, David Thion | France | 2020 | 108 min | International Premiere

### HIGH MAINTENANCE

D: Barak Heymann | P: Barak Heymann, Krzysztof Dzieciołowski | Israel, Poland | 2020 | 66 min | International Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SCUM BOY

D: Allison Swank | P: Allison Swank | South Africa | 2020 | 17 min | Toronto Premiere

### I'M WANITA

D: Matthew Walker | P: Carolina Sorensen, Clare Lewis, Tait Brady | Australia | 2020 | 86 min | World Premiere

### IVAN'S LAND

D: Andrii Lysetskyi | P: Olga Beskhmelnytsina, Gennady Kofman | Ukraine | 2020 | 84 min | International Premiere

### [MAN IN THE FIELD: THE LIFE AND ART OF JIM DENEVAN](#)

D: Patrick Trefz | P: Andreas Jaritz, Christie Jarvis, Patrick Trefz | USA | 2020 | 78 min | International Premiere

### [THE MAN WHO PAINTS WATER DROPS](#)

D: Oan Kim, Brigitte Bouillot | P: Clarisse Tupin, Young Kim, Martine Kim | France, South Korea | 2020 | 79 min | World Premiere

### [THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOY IN THE WORLD](#)

D: Kristian Petri, Kristina Lindstrom | P: Stina Gardell | Sweden | 2021 | 94 min | Canadian Premiere

### [NO HAY CAMINO – THERE IS NO PATH](#)

D: Heddy Honigmann | P: Pieter van Huijstee | Netherlands | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

### [POLY STYRENE: I AM A CLICHÉ](#)

D: Paul Sng, Celeste Bell | P: Rebecca Mark-Lawson, Matthew Silverman, Daria Nitsche | UK | 2021 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

### [PORTRAYAL](#)

D: Billie Mintz | P: Danny Webber | Canada | 2020 | 96 min | Ontario Premiere

### [SET!](#)

D: Scott Gawlik | P: Scott Gawlik | USA | 2021 | 105 min | World Premiere

### [THE STORY WON'T DIE](#)

D: David Henry Gerson | P: Odessa Rae | Denmark, Germany, USA | 2021 | 83 min | World Premiere

### [WE ARE THE THOUSAND](#)

D: Anita Rivaroli | P: Simone Catania | Italy | 2020 | 78 min | Canadian Premiere

### [YOU ARE THE DAYS TO COME](#)

D: Ronja Yu | P: Anna J Ljungmark | Sweden | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

## [SHORTS PROGRAM](#)

### [A CONCERTO IS A CONVERSATION](#)

D: Kris Bowers, Ben Proudfoot | P: Kris Bowers, Jeremy Lambert, Ben Proudfoot | USA, Canada | 2020 | 14 min | Toronto Premiere

### [DON'T GO TELLIN' YOUR MOMMA](#)

D: Simon Davis, Jason Sondock, Topaz Jones | P: Luigi Rossi | USA, Germany, France, Italy | 2020 | 36 min | International Premiere

### [RAT TAIL](#)

D: Chad Sogas | P: Chad Sogas | USA | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

**RECORDER QUEEN**

D: Sophie Raymond | P: Clare Sawyer | Australia | 2021 | 28 min | International Premiere

**WE WERE THERE TO BE THERE**

D: Jason Willis, Mike Plante | P: Mike Plante | USA | 2021 | 25 min | World Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

**FUTURE CULT CLASSICS FEATURED IN HOT DOCS' NIGHTVISION PROGRAM**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the five feature films in Nightvision, a program that highlights future cult classics and showcases diverse and creative approaches to filmmaking.

"Sex, love and friendship come to the fore in this year's Nightvision program," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "This program of future cult classics explores our relationships, desires and dreams and the lengths we'll go to in pursuit of happiness... or escape."

The Nightvision program features the world premieres of: ***Acts of Love***, a look into how a gay filmmaker uses dating apps to cast lovers in an amorphous project about romantic attraction; and ***Bloom Up – A Swinger Couple Story***, about an average middle-aged Italian couple who live out their unbridled sexual fantasies by night in the swinging scene.

International premieres include: ***Cannon Arm and the Arcade Quest***, about a man who attempts to be the first in the world to play '80s arcade game Gyruss for 100 consecutive hours; and ***Dark Blossom***, in which the friendship between three Danish goths is threatened when one of them falls in love. The program will also include the North American premiere of ***Lost Boys***, about the filmmaker's journey through the sordid nightlife of Bangkok and Phnom Penh seeking answers to the mysterious disappearance of two friends.

All films in the Nightvision program are listed below. For more information on the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/nightvision](http://www.hotdocs.ca/nightvision).

**ACTS OF LOVE**

D: Isidore Bethel, Francis Leplay | P: Lucie Rego, Pauline Tran Van Lieu, Jamie Gonçalves, Francis Leplay, Isidore Bethel | France, USA | 2021 | 71 min | World Premiere

**BLOOM UP – A SWINGER COUPLE STORY**

D: Mauro Russo Rouge | Italy | 2020 | 88 min | World Premiere

**CANNON ARM AND THE ARCADE QUEST**

D: Mads Hedegaard | P: Katrine Sahlstøm | Denmark | 2021 | 97 min | International Premiere

**DARK BLOSSOM**

D: Frigge Fri | P: Mathilde Hvid Lippmann | Denmark | 2021 | 80 min | International Premiere

**LOST BOYS**

D: Joonas Neuvonen, Sadri Cetinkaya | P: Miia Haavisto | Finland | 2021 | 99 min | North American Premiere

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## **\$182,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES TO BE AWARDED AT HOT DOCS 2021**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that \$182,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded to filmmakers at this year's Festival, including juried awards for films in competition, audience awards determined by ballot, industry prizes recognizing top pitches at the Hot Docs Forum and other special award categories.

All awards for films in competition will be decided by Hot Docs Festival Juries and will be announced at the Hot Docs Awards Presentation livestreaming on Friday, May 7, at 7:00 pm ET at [hotdocs.ca](http://hotdocs.ca).

Hot Docs is an Academy Award-qualifying Festival. The winner of the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the winners of the Best Canadian Short Documentary Award and the Best International Short Documentary Award at this year's Festival will qualify for consideration in the documentary feature and documentary short subject categories of the annual Academy Awards®, respectively, without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

The Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary will honour the top five eligible feature length Canadian documentaries in an audience poll, awarding each film a cash prize of \$10,000 CDN. The winners will be announced at a special online event streaming Sunday, May 9, at 7:00 pm ET at [hotdocs.ca](http://hotdocs.ca).

Unless otherwise noted, all prizes are awarded to the director of the winning film.

### **2021 FILM AWARDS AND PRIZES**

#### **FILMS IN COMPETITION:**

Best Canadian Feature Documentary  
*Sponsored by DOC and Telefilm Canada*  
\$10,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

DGC Special Jury Prize – Canadian Feature Documentary  
*Sponsored by DGC National and DGC Ontario*  
\$5,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award  
\$3,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

Best International Feature Documentary  
*Supported by the Panicaro Foundation*  
\$10,000 cash prize courtesy of the Panicaro Foundation

Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary  
*Sponsored by A&E*  
\$5,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

Emerging International Filmmaker Award  
*Supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation*  
\$3,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

Best Mid-Length Documentary  
*Sponsored by British Pathé*  
\$5,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

Betty Youson Award for Best Canadian Short Documentary  
*Supported by John and Betty Youson*  
\$3,000 prize courtesy of John and Betty Youson

Best International Short Documentary  
\$3,000 prize courtesy of Hot Docs

**AUDIENCE AWARDS:**

Hot Docs Audience Award

Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary  
Five \$10,000 prizes totaling \$50,000 courtesy of Rogers Group of Funds

Scotiabank Docs For Schools Student Choice Award  
\$5,000 prize courtesy of Scotiabank

**SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES:**

Don Haig Award  
The Don Haig Award will be awarded annually to an outstanding Canadian independent producer with a film in the Festival. The Award recognizes creative vision and entrepreneurship as reflected in the work being showcased at Hot Docs, as well as a track record for nurturing emerging Canadian filmmakers. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation and Telefilm Canada.

Courtesy of Hot Docs, the Don Haig Award recipient will award a \$5,000 cash prize to an emerging female documentary filmmaker of their choice to support future career development. The recipient will also be invited to attend the Festival and participate in a professional development lab.

The Lindalee Tracey Award  
To honour her life and celebrate her legacy, Lindalee Tracey's colleagues, friends and family have created the Lindalee Tracey Award. The award is presented each year at Hot Docs to an emerging Canadian filmmaker who works in the spirit of Lindalee. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize from the Lindalee Tracey Fund, \$5,000 in post-production services from Technicolor and a beautiful hand-blown glass sculpture by Andrew Kuntz, specially commissioned to honour Lindalee.

**INDUSTRY AWARD CATEGORIES:**

*first look* Pitch Prizes

\$50,000, courtesy of *first look* program participants

Awarded to top Hot Docs Forum Pitches as determined by *first look* program participants

Canadian Forum Pitch Prize presented in partnership with DGC National and DGC Ontario

\$10,000, courtesy of Hot Docs

Awarded to the best Canadian pitch at the Hot Docs Forum as voted on by attending international buyers.

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

Telephone: 416-839-9239

Email: [info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.



## TORONTO FILMMAKERS FEATURED IN 2021 HOT DOCS FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 23, 2021— A bustling metropolis that breeds creativity, ingenuity and a passion for art, Toronto is rife with filmmaking talent. Hot Docs is pleased to present 11 feature films and six shorts in this year's Festival that have been directed or produced by Toronto filmmakers, with the support of the City of Toronto.

### [ARTIFICIAL IMMORTALITY](#)

D: Ann Shin | P: Gerry Flahive, Erica Leendertse, Hannah Donegan | Canada | 2021 | 74 min | World Premiere

### [DROPSTONES](#)

D: Caitlin Durlak | P: Caitlin Durlak | Canada | 2021 | 57 min | World Premiere

### [THE FACE OF ANONYMOUS](#)

D: Gary Lang | P: Ed Barreveld, Shasha Nakhai, Ian Thornton | Canada | 2020 | 87 min | World Premiere

### [GREY ROADS](#)

D: Jesse McCracken | P: Jesse McCracken | Canada | 2021 | 74 min | World Premiere

### [MY TREE](#)

D: Jason Sherman | P: Sonya Di Rienzo, Aeschylus Poulos, Jason Sherman | Canada | 2021 | 111 min | World Premiere

### [NIKE'S BIG BET](#)

D: Paul Kemp | P: Corey Russell, Paul Kemp | Canada | 2021 | 80 min | North American Premiere

### [ONE OF OURS](#)

D: Yasmine Mathurin | P: Laura Perlmutter, Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith | Canada | 2021 | 88 min | World Premiere

### [SPIRIT TO SOAR](#)

D: Tanya Talaga, Michelle Derosier | P: Nida Marji, Shivani Srivastava, Rose LeMay | Canada | 2021 | 46 min | World Premiere

### [STILL MAX](#)

D: Katherine Knight | P: Katherine Knight, David Craig | Canada | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

### [SUBJECTS OF DESIRE](#)

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 min | Canadian Premiere

### [WUHAN WUHAN](#)

D: Yung Chang | P: Peter Luo, Donna Gigliotti, Diane Quon | USA, Canada | 2021 | 90 min | World Premiere

## SHORT FILMS

### REMEMBRANCE OF JÓZSEF ROMVÁRI

D: Sophy Romvari | P: Robert Sweeney | Canada | 2020 | 8 min | World Premiere

### INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS DAY

D: John Greyson | P: John Greyson | Canada | 2021 | 16 min | North American Premiere

### FOUR DAYS AT THE NATIONAL PRESERVATION CENTRE

D: Andrew Bateman, Lindsay Fitzgerald, Sean Stiller | P: Lindsay Fitzgerald | Canada | 2020 | 15 min | Toronto Premiere

### LAST NIGHT AT THE STRIP CLUB

D: Nicole Bazuin | P: Nicole Bazuin, Andrea Werhun | Canada | 2020 | 12 min | Toronto Premiere

### ROCKIN' THE COFFIN

D: Cailleah Scott-Grimes | P: Elisa Paloschi, Cailleah Scott-Grimes | Canada | 2020 | 9 min | Toronto Premiere

### UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

D: Tiffany Hsiung | P: | Canada | 2021 | 28 min | Toronto Premiere

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

**FILM STILLs AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

**Media Contact:**

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

**11 PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY HOT DOCS INITIATIVES ARE  
OFFICIAL SELECTIONS AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that 11 films selected for the 2021 Festival have been supported by Hot Docs, either through the Hot Docs' portfolio of funds or through participation in Hot Docs' market and industry initiatives, including the Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, and Doc Accelerator.

Two projects received Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund support, which helps support African filmmakers working on the continent.

Three films were selected as official pitch projects from past editions of the Hot Docs Forum, North America's largest co-financing market event for international documentaries, and three films participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, a one-on-one pitch-meeting program launched in 2013 for producers seeking financing from the international marketplace.

Three selected films received a grant from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, which supports Canadian documentary filmmakers, and one selected film received CrossCurrents Doc Funds support, which supports storytellers from within groups whose perspectives have been marginalized or historically underrepresented.

Two filmmakers with documentaries in this year's Festival went through Hot Docs' Doc Accelerator Labs, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (*Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy*) and Yasmine Mathurin (*One of Ours*).

Grant recipients and alumni projects and filmmakers are listed below.

**BANGLA SURF GIRLS**

*Recipient of support from Hot Docs Fiscal Sponsorship*

D: Elizabeth D. Costa | P: Lalita Krishna | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

Three working-class teenage girls in a port city in Bangladesh escape daily hardships and stifling family lives by riding waves on their surfboards and grabbing hold of the fleeting and thrilling sense of freedom that brings.

**BLUE BOX**

*Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund*

*Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2017*

D: Michal Weits | P: Ina Fichman, Assaf Amir, Eric Goosens, Uri Smoly, Frederik Nicolai | Canada, Israel | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

The Jewish National Fund's Blue Boxes were a global fundraiser to purchase land in Israel. Weaving a co-founder's diary entries with his descendants' memories, *Blue Box* investigates the myths that constructed a national icon.

### THE COLONEL'S STRAY DOGS

*Recipient of funding from Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund*

D: Khalid Shamis | P: Steven Markovitz, Khalid Shamis | South Africa, Libya, Qatar | 2021 | 73 min | World Premiere

Recounting his father's dangerous life as an exile in London with a million-dollar bounty on his head, the director questions the cost of his decades-long opposition to Muammar Gaddafi and eventual return to an unrecognizable Libya on the brink of civil war.

### FRUITS OF LABOR

*Participated in Deal Maker, 2020*

D: Emily Cohen Ibañez | P: Emily Cohen Ibañez | USA | 2021 | 76 min | International Premiere

Working in a food processing plant after class and in the fields on weekends, a California high school senior dreams of graduating while bearing the burden of being the family breadwinner and threats of separation as ICE raids increase in her community.

### KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

*Recipient of CrossCurrents Doc Fund - Short/Interactive Stream*

*Recipient of CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund*

*Doc Accelerator alumni, 2016*

D: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers | P: David Christensen, Lori Lozinski, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers | Canada | 2021 | 125 min | World Premiere

Since 2014, the opioid crisis has claimed hundreds of lives on the Kainai First Nation in Alberta. Inspiring and urgent, this unflinching chronicle captures a community's efforts to heal by cultivating empathy through harm reduction.

### THE LAST SHELTER

*Recipient of funding from Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund*

D: Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou | P: Estelle Robin You, Andrey S Diarra, Don Edkins, Tiny Mungwe | France, Mali, South Africa | 2021 | 85 min | North American Premiere

Weary refugees from Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin, in search of promising futures, stop over at the House of Migrants in Mali, where staff offer basic necessities, warm beds and legal advice for their long journeys ahead.

### MISHA AND THE WOLVES

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2018*

D: Sam Hobkinson | P: Jürgen Buedts, Poppy Dixon, Al Morrow, Matthew Wells, Gregory Zalcmán | UK, Belgium | 2020 | 88 min | Canadian Premiere

Misha Defonseca's 1997 Holocaust memoir about escaping the Nazis as a seven-year-old girl on foot across Europe with a pack of wolves took the world by storm. But when Hollywood comes knocking, an even more audacious story and darker deceptions come to light.

### ONE OF OURS

*Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund*

*Diverse Voices Fellow, 2017*

D: Yasmine Mathurin | P: Laura Perlmutter, Andrew Nicholas McCann Smith | Canada | 2021 | 88 min | World Premiere

After a Haitian-born youth is racially profiled at an Indigenous basketball tournament, he wrestles with his shaken sense of belonging in his Indigenous adoptive family while attempting to heal from his past.

### ONLY I CAN HEAR

*Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2017*

D: Itaru Matsui | P: Mayu Hirano, Kengo Toyoda, Paul Cadieux, Nancy Guerin | Japan, Canada | 2020 | 52 min | World Premiere

Inhabiting an in-between world where their hearing is both a gift and a curse, children of deaf parents share their struggles and joys and band together against a culture that privileges the spoken word.

### REBEL LOVE

*Pitched at Hot Docs Forum, 2018*

D: Alejandro Bernal | P: Jaime Escallon-Buraglia, Ximena Sotomayor | Colombia, Canada, Brazil | 2020 | 77 min | World Premiere

Their relationship forbidden while in ranks of the FARC, two Colombian rebels have a chance at a fresh start for their young love after the peace accords. But new daily demands, estranged families and fears for their safety burden their burgeoning life together.

### SUBJECTS OF DESIRE

*Recipient of funding from Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund*

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker, 2019*

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 min | Canadian Premiere

A much-needed deconstruction of race and the power of beauty, this thought-provoking doc lifts up the experiences of Black women in a moment when beauty standards are undergoing a cultural shift towards embracing Black aesthetics and features.

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot

Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

416-839-9239

[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## HOT DOCS FORUM ANNOUNCES 20 CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SELECTIONS

### MORE THAN \$50,000 IN PRIZES TO BE AWARDED AT THIS YEAR'S ONLINE EVENT

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the 20 projects representing 16 countries that will be presented during this year's online edition of the Hot Docs Forum, North America's essential market for the international documentary community. After pivoting to present the Forum in an online format last year, one of the first major industry events to do so, Hot Docs would like to recognize the extraordinary generosity and enthusiasm of all the decision makers and artists who made it a great success. Building on this achievement, this year's Hot Docs Forum will take place on May 4 and 5 and will be published on the industry conference online platform for All-Access passholders to view starting on May 6 and May 7.

"The projects selected for this year's Forum reflect Hot Docs' unwavering commitment to uplifting emerging filmmakers who, due to industry-wide financial constraints, combined with a lack of access to festivals as meeting places to approach bubbles of resources such as collective support and funding, have been the most affected by the events of this past year," said **Dorota Lech**, Hot Docs Forum producer. "We are tremendously inspired by artists who persisted in finding creative approaches to filmmaking, persevered in shaping and sharing stories from around the globe, and who managed to break through countless barriers to submit inspired applications. Congratulations to all those selected! We believe in your visions and are proud to be on this journey by your side."

"The 2021 edition of the Hot Docs Forum is a bold and powerful mix of cinematic artistry and journalism, with 10 BIPOC and 20 women represented out of the 25 filmmakers," said **Lisa Valencia-Svensson**, acting industry programs director for Hot Docs. "The slate of projects gives us hope about the future of non-fiction filmmaking in its many forms, and excites us about films that are just over the horizon and will soon reach cinema audiences around the world."

The Hot Docs Forum will have pitch teams present their project live online via a remote conferencing service to top decision makers, who will then provide their comments and feedback. Afterwards, the video captured pitches and feedback will be posted on the Doc Shop for All-Access Online Industry pass holders to view. Participating decision makers confirmed to date include A&E Networks, A24, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, Al Jazeera English, American Documentary POV, ARD-NDR, ARD - SWR, ARD - WDR, ARTE France, ARTE G.E.I.E, Bell Media, BBC Storyville, CBC, Catapult, Chicken & Egg, CNN Films, Discovery Channel, Doc Society, EBS Korea, ESPN, Field of Vision, Ford Foundation, Fork Films, France Télévisions, The Guardian, Hulu, iQIYI, Impact Partners, ITVS, Knowledge Network, National Geographic, NBC Universal, Netflix, The New York Times – Op Docs, NHK, Participant Media, RAI, SBS, SVT, Sundance Film Institute, TVO, Vice Studios, YLE and ZDF/ARTE.

Participants in this year's Hot Docs *first look* program, which offers curated access for philanthropic supporters of and investors in documentary film, will again fund and award the *first look* Pitch Prize. Now in its fifth year, the prize provides cash awards to the top Forum pitches as determined by *first look* participants.



For the 13th consecutive year, the Canadian Forum Pitch Prize presented in partnership with DGC National and DGC Ontario, will be awarded to the best Canadian pitch, as determined by a committee of international (non-Canadian) commissioning editors in attendance. Winners will be announced during the online industry market.

This year's Hot Docs Forum selection committee includes Dorota Lech, Samara Chadwick, Heidi Fleisher and Stephanie Owens. Selected projects will also participate in Hot Docs Deal Maker, a curated one-on-one pitch meeting program. An additional 35 projects also selected for Hot Docs Deal Maker will be announced on April 14.

The following projects will be presented at this year's Hot Docs Forum:

### **AFRICAN MOOT**

Production Companies: Undercurrent Film and Television CC (South Africa), Social Transformation and Empowerment Projects (South Africa)

Director: Shameela Seedat

Producers: Francois Verste, Shameela Seedat

### **AGAINST THE TIDE**

Production Companies: Snooker Club Films Pvt Ltd (India), A Little Anarky Films (India)

Director: Sarvnik Kaur

Producers: Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur

### **THE AGE OF LONELINESS**

Production Companies: Studio112 INC (Canada), Izi Films, LLC (USA)

Director: Jenni Morello

Producers: Leslie Norville, Bennett Elliott, Jenni Morello

### **BLACK MOTHERS**

Production Companies: Dandara Productions LLC (USA), Topeka Pictures, LLC (USA)

Director: Débora Souza Silva

Producers: David Felix Sutcliffe, Débora Souza Silva

### **BLIX**

Production Companies: Pink Productions, s.r.o. (Czech Republic), Sisyfos Film Production AB (Sweden)

Director: Greta Stocklassa

Producers: Radovan Sibrť, Alžběta Karásková

### **BREAKING THE BRICK**

Production Company: La Ventana Cine (Chile)

Director: Carola Fuentes

Producer: Rafael Valdeavellano

**BRIGIDY BRAM: THE KENDAL HANNA STORY**

Production Companies: Daydream Reels, LLC (USA), Best Yet Entertainment Ltd (The Bahamas), Metamension CC (South Africa)

Directors: Kareem Mortimer, Laura Gamse

Producers: Laura Gamse, Kareem Mortimer, Bernard Myburgh

**FIRE OF LOVE**

Production Company: Fire of Love Productions Inc. (Canada / USA)

Director: Sara Dosa

Producers: Shane Boris, Ina Fichman, Sara Dosa

**A HAWK AS BIG AS A HORSE**

Production Company: Les Steppes Productions SARL (France)

Director: Sasha Kulak

Producer: Louis Beaudemont

**THE LAST NOMADS**

Production Companies: Wake Up d.o.o. (Serbia), Cut-Up d.o.o. (Montenegro), Kinematograf d.o.o (Croatia)

Directors: Biljana Tutorov, Petar Glomazić

Producers: Biljana Tutorov, Veliša Popović, Dijana Mladjenović

**LIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN**

Production Companies: Walking Productions, LLC (USA), Setting Sun Productions, LLC (USA)

Director: Vicky Du

Producers: Danielle Varga, Vicky Du

**MADE IN ETHIOPIA**

Production Companies: Made in Ethiopia, LLC (USA), Gobe Media Inc. (Canada)

Director: Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan

Producers: Tamara Dawit, Xinyan Yu, Max Duncan

**MOTHER VERA**

Production Company: She Makes Productions Ltd. (UK)

Director: Cécile Embleton, Alys Tomlinson

Producer: Laura Shacham

**POSSESSING EINSTEIN**

Production Company: Frequent Flyer Films Inc. (Canada)

Director: Michelle Shephard

Producers: Bryn Hughes, Carolyn Abraham

**PROJECT X**

Production Companies: Project X, LLC (Japan), Hanashi Films, LTD (UK), Cineric Creative, LLC (USA)

Director: Shiori Ito

Producers: Hanna Aqvilin, Eric Nyari, Shiori Ito

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

**SWAN SONG**

Production Companies: Visitor Media (Canada), Mercury Films Inc. (Canada)  
Director: Chelsea McMullan  
Producers: Chelsea McMullan, Sean O'Neill, Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier

**UNTITLED MARJOLAINE GRAPPE FILM**

Production Companies: Memento SAS (France), Sweet World Films, LLC (USA)  
Director: Marjolaine Grappe  
Producers: Thierry Marro, Dana Nachman

**VARADO: THE CURSE OF GOLD**

Production Companies: YUZU Productions SAS (France), Compass Films (Iceland)  
Directors: Nicos Argillet, Stéphane Correa  
Producers: Christian Popp, Heather Millard

**WILFRED BUCK**

Production Companies: Door Number 3 Productions (Canada), National Film Board of Canada (Canada)  
Director: Lisa Jackson  
Producers: Lisa Jackson, Alicia Smith

**YOGA VILLAGE**

Production Companies: Shanghai Jiemiao Cailian Press Technologies Co., Ltd. (China)  
Director: Rongfei Guo  
Producers: Wenxin Zhong

The Hot Docs Forum wishes to thank founding partner Telefilm Canada. The Hot Docs Forum receives additional support from A&E, Blue Ice Pictures, C21 Media, Canada Council for the Arts, Canada Media Fund, CBC Gem, the City of Toronto, Crave, DGC, DGC Ontario, European Film Promotion, Goldenberg Nahmias LLP, Italian Trade Commission, Netflix, PROCOLOMBIA, Proimágenes Colombia, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Creates, Realscreen, Rogers Group of Funds, Scotia Wealth Management, and the Toronto Arts Council.

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot

Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Andrea Smitko

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[asmitko@hotdocs.ca](mailto:asmitko@hotdocs.ca)

416.203.2155, ext: 292

## **DOCS FOR SCHOOLS RETURNS TO OFFER FREE SCREENINGS TO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS CANADA**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that its exceptionally popular Docs For Schools program will provide middle and high school students across Canada free access to five films being presented at this year's Hot Docs Festival.

Launched in 2006, Docs For Schools is an enlightening experience for students, presenting unique and critical perspectives on the world. With content closely related to course subjects, including Art, Economics, Environment, Geography, History, Media Studies, Politics, English, Science and World Issues, the Docs For Schools program provides students the opportunity to engage with issues of our day.

For each film showcased in the Docs For Schools program, Hot Docs – in consultation with professional educators – prepares detailed educational packages that supplement classroom teaching. These are used by teachers before and after viewing the film to further explore its subject matter, help foster an appreciation of narrative and the documentary form, and develop wider skills, such as critical and analytical thinking.

Back for a third year will be the Scotiabank Docs For Schools Student Choice Award, which comes with a \$5,000 cash prize, and will be presented to the director of the film that achieved the highest rating as determined by student vote.

Docs For Schools is generously supported by lead sponsor Rogers, founding partner Scotiabank, and exclusive education partner Humber School of Media Studies & Information Technology. Docs for Schools is generously supported by The Slight Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation, Donner Canadian Foundation, Pitblado Family Foundation, Flavelle Family Foundation, The McLean Foundation, OTIP, and through contributions by individual donors.

The Docs For Schools selections for 2021 appear below. There are also eight Docs For Schools in-school selections available for classroom screenings. Teachers (Grades 7 – 12) who are interested in participating in the Docs For Schools programs with their students, can contact Lesley Sparks, Education and Youth Programs Manager, at [lsparks@hotdocs.ca](mailto:lsparks@hotdocs.ca).

Docs For Schools festival cinema films appear below.

### **HOMEROOM**

D: Peter Nicks | P: Sean Havey | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

The resilience and optimism of Oakland High School's 2020 senior class is captured in verité footage and social media videos as they confront anxieties over test scores, growing demands for social justice and the unprecedented uncertainty of a rapidly spreading pandemic.

### PLAYING WITH SHARKS

D: Sally Aitken | P: Bettina Dalton | Australia | 2020 | 91 min | North American Premiere  
From filming *Jaws*' near-lethal live scenes to saving a great white with her bare hands, underwater filmmaking legend Valerie Taylor faces her biggest challenge yet: fighting to conserve the world's remaining sharks.

### RAISE THE BAR

D: Gudjon Ragnarsson | P: Margret Jonasdottir, Outi Rousu | Iceland, Finland | 2021 | 70 min | International Premiere  
How controversial can one basketball team of eight-year-olds be? With an unorthodox coach and training method, a tight-knit group of empowered Icelandic girls demand to play against boys and call time out on patriarchy.

### SCHOOL OF HOPE

D: Mohamed El Aboudi | P: Pertti Veijalainen | Finland, France, Morocco | 2020 | 78 min | International Premiere  
Suffering from an extended drought caused by the climate crisis despite their own tiny carbon footprint, Morocco's Oulad Boukais tribe establishes a school to ensure their children's future, and combats isolation and desertification with optimism, dignity and education.

### WITH DRAWN ARMS

D: Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | P: Glenn Zipper, Sean Stuart, Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | USA, Mexico | 2020 | 84 min | International Premiere  
When track star Tommie Smith and his teammate raised black-gloved fists at the 1968 Summer Olympics, their defiant gesture would reverberate through generations of civil rights activists. Fifty years on, the full breadth of his impact—and depth of his sacrifice—is revealed as America still reckons with racial injustice.

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates

Telephone: 416-839-9239

Email: [info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

### HOT DOCS ACKNOWLEDGES 2021 FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING TEAM

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – The Hot Docs Festival would like to thank its extraordinary programming team for curating all 12 programs in this year's Festival with 219 thought-provoking, inspirational and entertaining films.

The 2021 Hot Docs Festival programming team includes:

#### Year-round programmers:

- Shane Smith, Director of Programming
- Jessica Gyll, Programming Manager
- Kristin Boivin, Programming Administrative Coordinator

#### Canadian programmers

- Aisha Jamal, Canadian Programmer
- Alex Rogalski, Senior Canadian Programmer
- Mariam Zaidi, Associate Canadian Programmer

#### International programmers

- Samah Ali, Associate, International Programmer
- Angie Driscoll, Senior International Programmer
- Heather Haynes, Senior International Programmer
- Darlene Naponse, Associate, International Programmer
- Charlotte Selb, International Programmer, consultant
- Ravi Srinivasan, International Programmer
- Myrocia Watamaniuk, Senior International Programmer

#### Mid-length programmers

- Vivian Belik, Mid-length Programmer
- Denae Peters, Mid-length Programmer

#### Shorts programmers

- Eileen Arandiga, International Shorts Programmer
- Angie Driscoll, Shorts Programmer

-30-

[Hot Docs](#), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. Hot Docs will present its 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.



programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://www.hotdocs.ca/download>

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly  
V Kelly & Associates  
416-839-9239  
[info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)

## HOT DOCS BY NUMBERS: QUICK FACTS ON THE 2021 FESTIVAL

- Hot Docs received a total of 2,300 submissions
- Hot Docs 2021 official selection includes 219 documentary films in the following 12 screening programs and *Citizen Minutes* special event:
  - Special Presentations (28; 28 features);
  - Canadian Spectrum (26; 11 features, 2 mid-lengths; 13 shorts);
  - International Spectrum (10; 10 features);
  - World Showcase (49; 24 features; 7 mid-lengths; 18 shorts);
  - Made In Colombia (4; 4 features);
  - Artscapes (25; 17 features; 1 mid-length; 7 shorts);
  - Persister (22; 9 features; 13 shorts);
  - Markers (13; 7 features; 6 shorts);
  - Systems Down (17; 10 features; 7 shorts);
  - Deep Dive (2; 2 series);
  - The Changing Face of Europe (10; 10 features);
  - Nightvision (5; 5 features);
  - Citizen Minutes (8; 8 shorts)
- Hot Docs 2021 includes:
  - 86 world premieres;
  - 41 international premieres;
  - 45 North American premieres;
  - 28 Canadian premieres;
  - 7 Ontario premieres;
  - 10 Toronto premieres;
  - 2 special screenings

Hot Docs drew selections for its film programs from 66 countries. Documentaries and projects were produced and/or co-produced by the following countries:

- 52 from the USA
- 49 from Canada
- 19 from France
- 14 from Germany
- 11 from the UK
- 9 from Belgium
- 8 from each Brazil, Finland, and Sweden
- 7 from Norway
- 6 from each Australia, Colombia, Israel, and Italy
- 5 from each Austria, Denmark, and the Netherlands
- 4 from each Mexico, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland
- 3 from each Hungary, Iran, Poland, Qatar, and South Africa
- 2 from each Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Peru, and Russia

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

- 1 from each Argentina, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, French Guiana, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Paraguay, Philippines, Serbia, Slovakia, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Tunisia, and Ukraine

## 2021 HOT DOCS FILMS BY INTEREST

### Activism

Bank Job  
Dear Future Children  
Eatnameamet - Our Silent Struggle  
Faceless  
Generation Utøya  
Rebel Hearts  
Someone Like Me  
The Face of Anonymous  
The Story Won't Die  
Welcome to Spain  
Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America  
With Drawn Arms  
You Are the Days to Come

### Addiction & Mental Health

Any Given Day  
Apart  
Cannon Arm and the Arcade Quest  
Crack: Cocaine, Corruption & Conspiracy  
Descent  
Imad's Childhood  
Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy  
Lost Boys  
Ostrov - Lost Island  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
The Most Beautiful Boy in the World  
The Sailor

### African Cultures & Issues

Faya Dayi  
Just a Moment  
People We Come Across  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
Rift Finfinnee  
School of Hope  
Someone Like Me  
The Colonel's Stray Dogs  
The Last Shelter  
Zaho Zay

### Aging & Mortality

A.rtifical I.mmortality

Come Back Anytime  
High Maintenance  
It's Not Over Yet  
Ivan's Land  
Molecules  
No Hay Camino - There Is No Path  
Still Max  
The Death of My Two Fathers  
The Man Who Paints Water Drops  
The Sailor  
The Taste of Desire  
Users

### American Culture & Issues

A Once and Future Peace  
All Light, Everywhere  
Any Given Day  
Crack: Cocaine, Corruption & Conspiracy  
Fanny: The Right to Rock  
Fruits of Labor  
Gaucho Americano  
Homeroom  
La Madrina: The ~~Savage~~ Life of Lorine Padilla  
Lady Buds  
Man in the Field: The Life and Art of Jim Denevan  
Philly D. A.  
The Big Scary "S" Word  
Through the Night  
WeWork: or the Making and Breaking of a \$47 Billion Unicorn  
Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America  
With Drawn Arms

### Art & Design

Bank Job  
Cezanne  
High Maintenance  
Ivan's Land  
Man in the Field: The Life and Art of Jim Denevan  
Mau  
Portrayal  
Set!

Still Max  
The Man Who Paints Water Drops  
You Are the Days to Come

### Asian Cultures & Issues

A River Runs, Turns, Erases, Replaces  
Come Back Anytime  
Faceless  
In the Same Breath  
Just a Moment  
The Man Who Paints Water Drops  
The New Plastic Road  
Wuhan Wuhan  
You Are the Days to Come

### Australian Cultures and Issues

Firestarter - The Story of Bangarra  
I'm Wanita

### Canadian Culture & Issues

Archipelago  
Dead Man's Switch A Crypto Mystery  
Dear Elnaz  
Dropstones  
Grey Roads  
Hell or Clean Water  
Kímmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy  
One of Ours  
Someone Like Me  
Spirit to Soar  
Still Max

### Capitalism & Big Business

Bank Job  
Dead Man's Switch A Crypto Mystery  
Lady Buds  
Magaluf Ghost Town  
Nike's Big Bet  
Secrets from Putumayo  
The Big Scary "S" Word  
The Caviar Connection  
The Gig is Up

The New Plastic Road  
WeWork: or the Making and  
Breaking of a \$47 Billion  
Unicorn

### Central Asian Cultures & Issues

Ostrov - Lost Island  
The Caviar Connection  
The New Plastic Road

### Children & Youth

Bangla Surf Girls  
Becoming  
Children  
Dark Blossom  
Dropstones  
Faceless  
Faya Dayi  
Fruits of Labor  
Homeroom  
Imad's Childhood  
Last Days at Sea  
Neighbouring the Moon  
One of Ours  
Raise the Bar  
School of Hope  
Spirit to Soar  
Street Gang: How We Got to  
Sesame Street  
Threshold  
Through the Night  
Viral

### Crime & the Justice System

A Once and Future Peace  
All Light, Everywhere  
Any Given Day  
Apart  
Behind the Headlines  
Crack: Cocaine, Corruption &  
Conspiracy  
Dead Man's Switch A Crypto  
Mystery  
Dirty Tricks  
Dying to Divorce  
Fly So Far  
La Madrina: The ~~Savage~~ Life  
of Lorine Padilla  
Philly D. A.  
Secrets from Putumayo

Spirit to Soar  
Vicenta  
Zaho Zay

### Disability

Her Socialist Smile  
Only I Can Hear  
Vicenta

### Ecology & the Environment

Archipelago  
Dear Future Children  
Hell or Clean Water  
Last Days at Sea  
Mau  
Nothing but the Sun  
Playing with Sharks  
Red Heaven  
School of Hope  
Taming the Garden  
The Last Forest  
We Are As Gods

### Education

Homeroom  
School of Hope  
Street Gang: How We Got to  
Sesame Street

### European Cultures & Issues

7 Years of Lukas Graham  
Behind the Headlines  
Black Jesus  
Bloom Up - A Swinger Couple  
Story  
Cezanne  
Dark Blossom  
Eatnameamet - Our Silent  
Struggle  
Faith and Branko  
Four Seasons in One Day  
Gallant Indies  
Generation Utøya  
It's Not Over Yet  
Lost Boys  
Love It Was Not  
Magaluf Ghost Town  
Misha and the Wolves  
Molecules  
My Mohamed is Different  
No Hay Camino - There Is No  
Path

People We Come Across  
Raise the Bar  
Rockfield: The Studio on the  
Farm  
Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution  
and Islam  
Silent Voice  
The Rossellinis  
We Are Thousands  
Welcome to Spain  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Faith & Spirituality

Black Jesus  
Rebel Hearts  
Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution  
and Islam  
The Return: Life After Isis  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Families & Family Stories

Apart  
Between Fire and Water  
Children  
Daughter of a Lost Bird  
Dropstones  
Firestarter - The Story of  
Bangarra  
Fruits of Labor  
Imad's Childhood  
Life of Ivanna  
Neighbouring the Moon  
On the Other Side  
One of Ours  
Only I Can Hear  
Portrayal  
Through the Night  
Vicent  
Zaho Zay  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Films & Filmmakers

Acts of Love  
Just a Moment  
Lost Boys  
No Hay Camino - There Is No  
Path  
Playing with Sharks  
The Most Beautiful Boy in the  
World  
The Rossellinis

### Food & Food Culture

Come Back Anytime  
Man in the Field: The Life and  
Art of Jim Denevan  
The Taste of Desire

### Gender & Sexuality

Bloom Up - A Swinger Couple  
Story  
Raise the Bar  
Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution  
and Islam  
Sunny  
Threshold  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Health & the Pandemic

In the Same Breath  
It's Not Over Yet  
Molecules  
People We Come Across  
Sieged: The Press vs.  
Denialism  
Still Max  
Viral  
Wuhan Wuhan

### Indigenous Cultures & Issues

A Once and Future Peace  
Between Fire and Water  
Daughter of a Lost Bird  
Eatnameamet - Our Silent  
Struggle  
Firestarter - The Story of  
Bangarra  
Kímmapiiyipitssini: The  
Meaning of Empathy  
Nothing but the Sun  
One of Ours  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
Secrets from Putumayo  
Spirit to Soar  
The Last Forest  
The Last Shelter  
The Spokeswoman

### Jewish Interest

Blue Box  
High Maintenance  
Love It Was Not  
Misha and the Wolves  
My Tree

### Latin American Cultures & Issues

Bajo Fuego (Under Siege)  
Becoming  
Between Fire and Water  
Fly So Far  
Gaucho Americano  
Nothing but the Sun  
On the Other Side  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
Option Zero  
Secrets from Putumayo  
Sieged: The Press vs.  
Denialism  
Songs that Flood the River  
The Last Forest  
The Silence of the Mole  
The Spokeswoman  
Vicenta  
Zo Reken

### LGBT Culture & Issues

Acts of Love  
Silent Voice  
Someone Like Me  
The Most Beautiful Boy in the  
World  
Threshold  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Love & Relationships

A Marriage  
Acts of Love  
Between Us  
Bloom Up - A Swinger Couple  
Story  
Dark Blossom  
Dear Elnaz  
Dying to Divorce  
Faith and Branko  
My Mohamed is Different  
On the Other Side

### Media & Journalism

Behind the Headlines  
In the Same Breath  
Sieged: The Press vs.  
Denialism  
Spirit to Soar  
Street Gang: How We Got to  
Sesame Street  
The Caviar Connection

The Silence of the Mole  
Writing with Fire  
You Are Not a Soldier

### Middle Eastern Cultures & Issues

All-In  
Blue Box  
Children  
Dear Elnaz  
Dying to Divorce  
Holy Bread  
Imad's Childhood  
My Mohamed is Different  
My Tree  
Neighbouring the Moon  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
The Return: Life After Isis  
The Story Won't Die  
Zuhur's Daughters  
A Marriage

### Migration & Immigration

Black Jesus  
Faya Dayi  
Four Seasons in One Day  
Fruits of Labor  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
Option Zero  
Silent Voice  
Someone Like Me  
The Last Shelter  
Welcome to Spain  
Zuhur's Daughters

### Music & Musicians

7 Years of Lukas Graham  
Faith and Branko  
Fanny: The Right to Rock  
Gallant Indies  
I'm Wanita  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
Rockfield: The Studio on the  
Farm  
The Story Won't Die  
We Are the Thousand

### Performers

Courage  
Firestarter - The Story of  
Bangarra  
Gallant Indies

Hysterical  
The Most Beautiful Boy in the  
World  
The Story Won't Die

### Personal Histories

A River Runs, Turns, Erases,  
Replaces  
Grey Roads  
Last Days at Sea  
Molecules  
My Tree  
No Hay Camino - There Is No  
Path  
On the Other Side  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
The Colonel's Stray Dogs  
The Death of My Two Fathers  
The Man Who Paints Water  
Drops  
The Rossellinis  
Threshold  
You Are Not a Soldier

### Politics & Political Intrigue

Behind the Headlines  
Courage  
Crack: Cocaine, Corruption &  
Conspiracy  
Dear Future Children  
Dying to Divorce  
Faceless  
Four Seasons in One Day  
Generation Utøya  
Her Socialist Smile  
Holy Bread  
In the Same Breath  
Just a Moment  
Philly D. A.  
Sieged: The Press vs.  
Denialism  
Sunny  
The Caviar Connection  
The Colonel's Stray Dogs  
The Silence of the Mole  
The Spokeswoman  
The Story Won't Die  
You Are the Days to Come  
Zo Reken

### Popular Culture

7 Years of Lukas Graham  
Cannon Arm and the Arcade  
Quest  
Dirty Tricks  
Fanny: The Right to Rock  
Misha and the Wolves  
Nike's Big Bet  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
Rockfield: The Studio on the  
Farm  
Street Gang: How We Got to  
Sesame Street  
Subjects of Desire  
We Are the Thousand

### Race & Racism

Between Fire and Water  
Black Jesus  
Crack: Cocaine, Corruption &  
Conspiracy  
Daughter of a Lost Bird  
One of Ours  
Philly D. A.  
Spirit to Soar  
Subjects of Desire  
Sunny  
The Death of My Two Fathers  
Who We Are: A Chronicle of  
Racism in America  
With Drawn Arms

### Rural Life

Bajo Fuego (Under Siege)  
Becoming  
Dropstones  
Gaucho Americano  
Grey Roads  
Holy Bread  
Last Days at Sea  
Life of Ivanna  
Ostrov - Lost Island  
School of Hope  
Taming the Garden

### Russian & Eastern European Culture & Issues

A Marriage  
Between Us  
Courage  
Ivan's Land  
Life of Ivanna

Ostrov - Lost Island  
Silent Voice  
Sunny  
Taming the Garden

### Science & Technology

Artificial Immortality  
All Light, Everywhere  
Cannon Arm and the Arcade  
Quest  
Dead Man's Switch A Crypto  
Mystery  
People We Come Across  
Red Heaven  
The Face of Anonymous  
The Gig is Up  
Users  
We Are As Gods

### South Asian Cultures & Issues

A Marriage  
Bangla Surf Girls  
Last Days at Sea  
Lost Boys  
Writing with Fire

### Sports & Recreation

All-In  
Bangla Surf Girls  
Cannon Arm and the Arcade  
Quest  
Descent  
Dirty Tricks  
Hell or Clean Water  
Magaluf Ghost Town  
Nike's Big Bet  
Playing with Sharks  
Raise the Bar  
Set!  
With Drawn Arms

### War & Conflict

Bajo Fuego (Under Siege)  
Children  
Courage  
Dear Elnaz  
Imad's Childhood  
Love It Was Not  
Misha and the Wolves  
Neighbouring the Moon  
On the Other Side  
Songs that Flood the River

The Colonel's Stray Dogs  
The Return: Life After Isis  
You Are Not a Soldier

### Women & Women's Stories

Apart  
Daughter of a Lost Bird  
Dear Future Children  
Descent  
Dropstones  
Dying to Divorce  
Fanny: The Right to Rock  
Fly So Far

Generation Utøya  
Hysterical  
I'm Wanita  
La Madrina: The ~~Savage~~ Life  
of Lorine Padilla  
Lady Buds  
Life of Ivanna  
My Mohamed is Different;  
Neighbouring the Moon  
Only the Ocean Between Us  
Playing with Sharks  
Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché  
Rebel Hearts

Seyran Ateş: Sex  
Revolution and Islam  
Subjects of Desire  
The Return: Life After Isis  
The Spokeswoman  
Through the Night  
Vicenta  
Writing with Fire  
Zaho Zay