

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

**EVEN MORE NEW RELEASE DOCS, A NEW SERIES AND A VERY SPECIAL TRUTH  
AND DARE EVENT WITH PAUL BELLINI AND SCOTT THOMPSON'S MOUTH  
CONGRESS COMING TO HOT DOCS CINEMA LATER THIS SUMMER**

NEW RELEASES ADDED INCLUDE HOT DOCS 2025 TITLES **GHOSTS OF THE SEA**, **THE DATING GAME** AND **WRITING HAWA**, PLUS NEW DOCS **MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE**, **SHARI & LAMB CHOP**, AND **SUDAN, REMEMBER US**

TIFF CINEMATHEQUE SERIES **FREDERICK WISEMAN: BODY POLITIC** COMES TO HOT DOCS WITH SPECIAL SCREENING OF WISEMAN'S **ZOO**

**Toronto, ON** - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is excited to announce 2025 Festival films and new release docs, plus a new series and a special film with live performance event, that will join the growing lineup of exciting films, series and events coming to the cinema screen this summer. Hot Docs 2025 official selection **Ghosts of the Sea** (D: Virginia Tangvald | Canada | 97 minutes | 2025) follows the daughter of a famous sailor as she delves into the death of her brother who was lost at sea. Hot Docs 2025 official selection **The Dating Game** (D: Violet Du Feng | USA, UK, Norway | 88 minutes | 2025) reveals the impact of China's one-child policy on the dating culture of today. Hot Docs 2025 official selection and winner of the Docs For Schools Student Choice Award **Writing Hawa** (D: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori | France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan | 84 minutes | 2024) documents the intertwined journeys of the filmmaker's mother and niece, both of whom are determined to break free from the confines of the patriarchal society that has restricted their ambitions and freedoms.

*Kids in the Hall's* troupe co-founder Scott Thompson and writer Paul Bellini take to the cinema stage for a special screening, Q&A and live performance event as part of popular doc series *Truth and Dare*, highlighting cutting-edge documentaries that challenge the idea of what a doc needs to be. The two members of the inimitable queer punk band Mouth Congress with screen their eponymous documentary **Mouth Congress** (D: Paul Bellini, Scott Thompson | Canada | 68 minutes | 2021), followed by a rare and very special live performance from the band, and a Q&A moderated by Neal Armstrong.

The interplay of artistic expression and cultural impact takes on very different journeys in three new release docs. **Move Ya Body: The Birth of House** (D: Elegance Bratton | USA | 92 minutes | 2025) traces the origins and the influence of house, the Chicago-born electronic music genre that has permeated the culture for decades. **Shari & Lamb Chop** (D: Lisa D'Apolito | USA | 92 minutes | 2023) offers an undeniable chapter in the story of iconic children's entertainers with this bio of Shari Lewis and her beloved Lamb Chop. **Sudan, Remember Us** (D: Hind Meddeb | France, Tunisia, Qatar | 76 minutes | 2024) from Watermelon Pictures offers a powerful portrait of Sundanese youth rising up with words, dreams, and a defiant spirit.

Owned and operated by the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, the historic Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is one of the world's only documentary cinemas.

Hot Docs welcomes new series ***Pillow Fright!*** to its cinema this summer. Programmed and hosted by horror-loving best friends Emily Gagne and Danita Steinberg, *Pillow Fright!* is a new sleepover-themed, creep-tastic series for fellow friendly freaks. With a focus on nostalgic favourites, expect all the films that were in heavy weekend rotation in your parents' basement. The series kicks off with a 25th anniversary screening of ***Final Destination*** (D: James Wong | USA | 98 minutes | 2000).

Hot Docs is honoured to co-present with TIFF as part of their series, *Frederick Wiseman: Body Politic*, a special screening of the filmmaker's 1993 film ***Zoo*** (D: Frederick Wiseman | USA | 130 minutes | 1993), with an introduction by TIFF Cinematheque and Hot Docs Festival programmer, Vivian Belik. In this Wiseman masterwork, the acclaimed documentary filmmaker analyzes the interrelation between animals and their human captors at Miami's Metro Zoo.

To view the Hot Docs Cinema calendar, please visit [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)

All newly announced screenings and events appear below with dates and times. For ticket prices and information, visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/watch-cinema>

## **NEW RELEASES**

### **THE DATING GAME**

D: Violet Du Feng | USA, UK, Norway | 88 minutes | 2025

A Hot Docs 2025 festival hit returns, revealing the impact of China's one-child policy on the dating culture of today.

Saturday, August 16 / 6:45 PM

Sunday, August 17 / 1:00 PM

### **GHOSTS OF THE SEA**

D: Virginia Tangvald | Canada | 97 minutes | 2025

The daughter of a famous sailor delves into the death of her brother who was lost at sea.

Saturday, July 26 / 1:00 PM

Friday, August 1 / 6:00 PM

### **MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE**

D: Elegance Bratton | USA | 92 minutes | 2025

From Beyonce to Madonna, the influence of house music has permeated the culture for decades. Here's how it all began.

Saturday, August 2 / 8:00 PM

**SHARI & LAMB CHOP**

D: Lisa D'Apolito | USA | 92 minutes | 2023

Those other beloved children's entertainers have had their turn, now it's time for Shari Lewis and her Lamb Chop!

Sunday, August 24 / 4:00 PM

**SUDAN, REMEMBER US**

D: Hind Meddeb | France, Tunisia, Qatar | 76 minutes | 2024

From Watermelon Pictures (*The Encampments*), a powerful portrait of Sundanese youth rising up with words, dreams, and a defiant spirit.

Saturday, August 9 / 7:00 PM

Sunday, August 10 / 3:45 PM

**WRITING HAWA**

D: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori | France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan | 84 minutes | 2024

Intimate and urgent, this Hot Docs 2025 award winner observes the enduring resilience of three generations of Hazara women.

Friday, August 8 / 6:00 PM

**CURATED SERIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

Truth and Dare

**MOUTH CONGRESS**

D: Paul Bellini, Scott Thompson | Canada | 68 minutes | 2021

*Kids in the Hall's* Scott Thompson and Paul Bellini are queer punk band Mouth Congress! Live on our stage and on screen!

*Join us after the film for a rare and very special live performance from the band, as well as a Q&A with members Scott Thompson and Paul Bellini, moderated by Neal Armstrong.*

Friday, August 22 / 8:00 PM

Pillow Fright!

**PILLOW FRIGHT! PRESENTS FINAL DESTINATION - 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

D: James Wong | USA | 98 minutes | 2000

You and your BFF are invited to a sleepover-themed anniversary screening of *Final Destination* hosted by Pillow Fright!

Friday, August 8 / 9:00 PM

Excited Mental State Shadow Cast

**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**

D: Jim Sharman | United Kingdom, USA | 100 minutes | 1975

"Let's do the Time Warp Again!" Cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is back! Toronto's own shadow cast, Excited Mental State, will be performing their own satirical, comedic version of the film for audiences. Dress up and "don't dream it, be it."

Friday, August 29 / 9:30 PM

Frederick Wiseman: Body Politic

**ZOO**

D: Frederick Wiseman | USA | 130 minutes | 1993

In this Wiseman masterwork, the acclaimed documentary filmmaker analyzes the interrelation between animals and their human captors at Miami's Metro Zoo.

*Co-presented with TIFF as part of their series, Frederick Wiseman: Body Politic, with introduction by TIFF Cinematheque and Hot Docs Festival programmer, Vivian Belik.*

Saturday, July 26 / 3:45 PM

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

**AILEY**

D: Jamila Wignot | USA | 94 minutes | 2021

The enduring legacy of dance artist Alvin Ailey unfolds in this resonant story of an elusive visionary.

Saturday, August 23 / 1:00 PM

**EVERY LITTLE THING**

D: Sally Aitken | Australia | 93 minutes | 2024

An L.A. woman finds herself on a transformative journey as she begins to care for wounded hummingbirds.

Sunday, August 3 / 12:30 PM

**MATERIALISTS**

D: Celine Song | USA | 117 minutes | 2025

A lavish love triangle between Dakota Johnson, Chris Evans and everyone's fav heartthrob, Pedro Pascal.

Saturday, August 2 / 5:00 PM

**SINNERS**

D: Ryan Coogler | USA | 137 minutes | 2025

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back.

Sunday, August 17 / 3:30 PM

**STAFF PICKS**

**THE COLOR OF POMEGRANATES**

D: Sergei Parajanov | Soviet Union | 78 minutes | 1969

Sergei Parajanov's most renowned film is a masterpiece of world cinema that has influenced global culture.

Sunday, August 31 / 7:00 PM

**THE GREAT DICTATOR**

D: Charles Chaplin | USA | 125 minutes | 1940

Charlie Chaplin's ultimate classic political satire feels especially poignant in these modern times.

Sunday, August 24 / 6:30 PM

**MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON**

D: Dean Fleischer-Camp | USA | 89 minutes | 2021

This charming-as-heck mockumentary blends stop-motion animation and live action to tell about a shell named Marcel.

Sunday, August 17 / 7:00 PM

**MIDSOMMAR**

D: Ari Aster | USA, Sweden | 147 minutes | 2019

A modern classic that brings horror out into the bright summer sunlight, the lure of *Midsommar* is undeniable.

Sunday, August 3 / 6:30 PM

**SINGIN' IN THE RAIN**

D: Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen | USA | 103 minutes | 1952

This crown jewel of MGM musicals will make even the most serious filmgoer crack a smile.

Sunday, August 10 / 6:30 PM

**BACK TO THE BLOOR**

**SHALL WE DANCE? 4K RESTORATION**

D: Masayuki Suo | Japan | 135 minutes | 1996

A 90s feel-good romantic comedy from Japan, so popular it inspired a Hollywood remake starring J-Lo.

Saturday, August 23 / 3:45 PM

**EASY A - 15TH ANNIVERSARY**

D: Will Gluck | USA | 92 minutes | 2010

The LOL funny film that shot Emma Stone to stardom turns 15!

Friday, August 15 / 9:00 PM

**ROMAN HOLIDAY**

D: William Wyler | USA | 118 minutes | 1953

Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck lead this classic romantic romp around 1950s Rome.

Saturday, August 9 / 4:00 PM

**FAMILY SCREENING**

**A MINECRAFT MOVIE**

D: Jared Hess | USA | 101 minutes | 2025

Welcome to the world of Minecraft, where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival!

Sunday, August 10 / 1:00 PM

###

Owned and operated by [Hot Docs](#), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is the world's largest documentary cinema. A historic, century-old landmark located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood, the Cinema is a year-round home for non-fiction film and storytelling, presenting first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, signature events including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, as well as hosting for some of the city's premier festivals and events. Since assuming management in 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,425 films to audiences of more than 1.3 million. In 2016, a generous \$5-million donation from Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase the venue.

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

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