



APRIL 25-MAY 5, 2024 CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

SCREENING SCHEDULE HOTDOCS.CA

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MOVIES MOVE MINDS.

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FIND YOUR FILMS

Browse films by program or use the title index to find films. More detailed film descriptions and a subject index are available at **hotdocs.ca**.

BUY YOUR TICKETS



HOTDOCS.CA



Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office

506 Bloor Street West

PRE-FESTIVAL (March 26–April 24)
Box office opens daily 30 minutes prior to first screening. Check schedule at hotdocs.ca/whats-on.

FESTIVAL (April 25–May 5) Daily, 8am–10pm

? Need help? Ticketing Support: boxoffice@hotdocs.ca

SAME-DAY Tickets

Same-day tickets for all screenings are available online and at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office until one hour before the start time, subject to availability.

Same-day tickets are also available at each venue's box office for screenings scheduled at that venue. Venue box offices open 60 minutes before the first screening of the day (see p. 39).

RUSH Tickets

If advanced tickets for a screening are sold out, a limited number of rush tickets may be available at the screening venue's box office approximately 15 minutes before the start time. Line-ups for rush tickets begin roughly one hour before the film's start time.

FREE Daytime Screenings

Students and patrons 60+ with valid ID can take advantage of free admission to Festival screenings that start before 5pm. Pick up a ticket at the screening venue's box office on the day of the screening, subject to availability.

Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

TICKET PRICES*

Single tickets are on sale to the public starting April 2.

Hot Docs Members and ticket package holders may obtain single tickets in an advance window, March 26–April 1.

Hot Docs Members save 10% on tickets, packages and passes for all programming. Join now at **hotdocs.ca/join**.

Screening Tickets

SCREENINGS:	\$20-\$23 (\$18-\$20 FOR MEMBERS)
6-TICKET BUNDLE:	\$99 (\$89 FOR MEMBERS) Special Events not included (p. 6–7)
SPECIAL EVENTS:	FREE-\$27 (\$24 FOR MEMBERS)

Screening Ticket Packages

Perfect for sharing—enjoy Festival screenings and special events with vour friends!

Redeem tickets in advance online or in person at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office.

12-PACK:	\$209 (\$188 FOR MEMBERS)
20-PACK:	\$299 (\$269 FOR MEMBERS)

^{*}All prices include HST.

ACCESSIBLE IN-CINEMA SCREENINGS

Caption track made available via personal CaptiView device.

Caption track visible on screen.

AD Audio description provided.

The above icons indicate film screenings that offer closed captioning or audio description, subject to equipment availability, and film screenings that will feature open captioning on screen. When possible, ASL interpreters or live captioning will be present for select Q&As of captioned screenings.

Hearing assist devices are available for all screenings at all venues, subject to equipment availability.

Accessible screenings are supported by The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation.

For more information, please visit hotdocs.ca/access.

Hot Docs was established in 1993 as an initiative of the Documentary Organization of Canada/ Documentaristes du Canada and was separately incorporated as an independent charitable organization in 1996.









HOT DOCS URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Like many arts organizations, Hot Docs is currently facing a significant post-pandemic deficit that threatens our long-term viability. Audiences are returning to our Cinema and Festival, but we are quickly losing runway.

JOIN NOW. Become a Hot Docs member and join us at the Festival and year-round at the Cinema.

GIVE NOW. If you can also support us with a gift, it would be greatly appreciated at this critical time.

As a registered charity, we rely on your support to continue our mission of supporting filmmakers and bringing them together with audiences to share their remarkable stories.

HOTDOCS.CA/SUPPORT



UNDER 25?

Get your

Get your FREE membership today!

Join us year-round

HOT DOCS MEMBERSHIPS START AT

\$59/YEAR

- Free tickets, big discounts, early access and exclusive screenings at Hot Docs Cinema (plus, free popcorn!)
 - Savings on tickets, packages and passes at Hot Docs Festival



SPECIAL EVENTS



Opening Night Screening

LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH

Catch the international premiere screening of our opening night film, Luther: Never Too Much (p. 33), including an exclusive Q&A with director Dawn Porter and special guests from the film.

THU, APR 25 9:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



Charles Officer Memorial Screening of Mighty Jerome

Hot Docs is honoured to present this very special screening of *Mighty Jerome* to remember the work and legacy of one of Toronto's best loved filmmakers, Charles Officer. Join some of Charles's closest collaborators and friends as they share interviews, personal stories and rarely seen footage of the acclaimed writer/director/producer. With this memorial screening we hope that Charles's legacy and the spirit of his work remind the public and our industry that Toronto is full of talent and that we must nurture and cherish our non-fiction storytellers.

SAT, MAY 4 1:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: FREE



Astra Taylor in Conversation with Brett Story

During an era marked by political, economic and social challenges, acclaimed filmmaker, author and organizer Astra Taylor has created a body of urgent, thought-provoking work that offers insight into the networks of power that govern society and our existence. Whether through her documentary *What is Democracy?* or her latest book *The Age of Insecurity*, Taylor fearlessly engages with cultural concerns through a lens of curiosity and courage. Join us for an illuminating conversation hosted by Brett Story, a writer, geographer and the filmmaker behind the Sundance award-winning film *Union*, about their artistic practices, sources of inspiration, political commitments and charting a path forward during times of crisis.

MON, APR 29 6:30 PM INNIS COLLEGE TICKETS: \$15

Surprise Screenings

Why not have a little fun? A brand new, feature length documentary will be unveiled during the Festival. Even we do not know what the Surprise Screening will be, but being one of the very first to connect with a fresh, exciting documentary is pretty cool. Beat the algorithm. Be surprised.

THU, MAY 2 7:45 PM SCOTIA TICKETS: \$20 FRI, MAY 3 7:30 PM SCOTIA TICKETS: \$20



Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary Announcement and Encore Screening

On the Festival's final night, join us to celebrate our Canadian filmmakers and to announce the winner of this year's Rogers Audience Award. The top Canadian feature film in the audience poll will receive a \$50,000 cash prize, courtesy of Rogers.

SUN, MAY 5 7:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: FREE

BIG IDEAS

PRESENTED BY

Scotia Wealth Management.



BORN HUNGRY

Canadian filmmaker Barry Avrich traces the inspiring story of Sash Simpson, a runaway child from the streets of India who was adopted by a Canadian family and became one of the top chefs in the world. Avrich and his team share their challenges and experiences in crafting this story of how incomparable talent and artistry triumph over adversity (p. 8).

Guests: Director Barry Avrich and subject Sash Simpson

FRI, APR 26 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



LOVE MACHINA

Can love last forever? The idea of an AI-powered digital consciousness has confounded and inspired scientists and artists for decades. Join director Pete Sillen and subjects Martine and Bina Rothblatt for a vital and profound conversation as they blend ferocious love, hard science and futurism in their quest to continue "MarBina's" love affair into the infinite future (p. 26).

Guests: Director Pete Sillen and subjects Martine and Bina Rothblatt

SAT, APR 27 6:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



FLY

Join co-directors Shaul Schwarz and Christina Clusiau in this a wide-ranging conversation around their newest feature documentary, *Fly* (p. 8). Equal parts love story and wild ride into the human psyche, they'll delve into the human need for independence, connection and risking it all to feel free.

Guests: Co-directors Shaul Schwarz and Christina Clusiau and subjects Julia Botelho Morgan and Amber Forte

SUN, APR 28 6:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



ENO

Famed producer, musician and artist Brian Eno (Talking Heads, David Bowie) is no ordinary creator. To tell the story of his life's work acclaimed director Gary Hustwit had to do something different. Using an AI algorithm, Hustwit created a unique documentary experience: a film that is different every time it is played. Join a deep dive into this original process of documentary filmmaking and the relationship between technology and creativity (p. 33).

Guest: Director Gary Hustwit

MON, APR 29 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



NEVER LOOK AWAY

Get up close and personal with the life and legacy of photojournalist Margaret Moth. Hailing from New Zealand, Moth landed in major conflict zones around the world and was fearless in her coverage of war and its human toll. Settle in with key creatives from the film for a conversation about Moth's inspiring and fearless life and trailblazer spirit that has ignited journalists around the world to push themselves to the limit to share the truth (p. 10).

Guest: Director Lucy Lawless

TUES, APR 30 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA TICKETS: \$27



WORLD PREMIERE

AMERICAN CATS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE CUDDLY

D: Todd Bieber | USA | 88 min

Ontario is the only province in Canada without a ban on cat declawing. Amy Hoggart, the hilarious correspondent from *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, cracks jokes, cuddles kittens and attacks this controversial practice using satire to expose a heart-wrenching catspiracy.

SUN, APR 28 11:30 AM HOT DOCS CINEMA MON, APR 29 8:30 PM TLB

BLACK BOX DIARIES

D: Shiori Ito | Japan, UK, USA | 104 min

Journalist Shiori Ito takes on one of the most powerful institutions in Japan to prosecute her high-profile sexual assailant in a landmark legal case. Using personal footage and hidden cameras, Ito puts it all on the line for justice.

MON, APR 29 5:00 PM TLB FRI, MAY 3 8:45 PM TLB

BORN HUNGRY

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 77 min

The true rags to riches tale of Sash Simpson, a runaway child from the streets of India, who was adopted into a Toronto family with 31 siblings before becoming a world-renowned chef.

FRI, APR 26 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA* THU, MAY 2 5:15 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 2:15 PM TLB

*Big Ideas Series screening p. 7

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

FIY

D: Shaul Schwarz, Christina Clusiau | USA | 106 min To stand on the edge and jump into the wind, one must be willing to lose everything. That could mean the love of your life or the life you love. Three couples in the world of BASE jumping risk everything to feel alive.

SUN, APR 28 6:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA* MON, APR 29 8:15 PM TLB

*Big Ideas Series screening p. 7

WORLD PREMIERE

LE MANS 55: THE UNAUTHORIZED INVESTIGATION

D: Emmanuel Reyé | France | 90 min

The Le Mans race in 1955 made history through tragedy when more than 80 spectators were killed. Uncover the story of the crash that took the lives of so many and, to this day, looms over the world of motorsports.

SAT, APR 27 8:30 PM TLB WED, MAY 1 2:45 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 7:45 PM TLB

LOOK INTO MY EYES

D: Lana Wilson | USA | 105 min

In this unique journey into the human desire for connection, acclaimed filmmaker Lana Wilson follows an eclectic group of New York City psychics whose intimate readings reveal a kaleidoscopic view of loneliness, connection and healing with humour and intrigue.

SAT, APR 27 4:15 PM SCOTIA WED, MAY 1 5:00 PM TLB

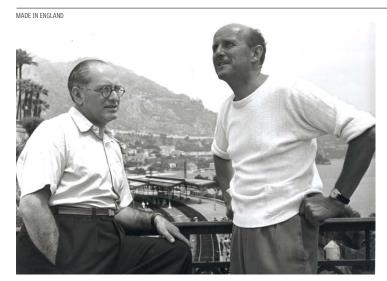




AMERICAN CATS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE CUDDLY
BLACK BOX DIARI

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BORN HUNGRY







LE MANS 55: THE UNAUTHORIZED INVESTIGATION

WORLD PREMIERE

LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

D: Jon Ornoy | Canada | 100 min CC

Pick a card, any card! World champion magician Shawn Farquhar delves into a medieval murder cold case among Jacks, Queens and Kings as he devises a new trick inspired by the world's best sleight-of-hand artists.

MON, APR 29 WED, MAY 1

5:15 PM TLB 8:15 PM

TLB QC

MADE IN ENGLAND: THE FILMS OF POWELL AND PRESSBURGER

D: David Hinton | UK | 131 min

Martin Scorsese tells of his lifelong love affair with the movies of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger and their "subversive commercial movies." Drawing on a rich array of archival material, Scorsese explores their collaboration that thrived in the adversity of WWII.

1:00 PM SAT, APR 27 TLB TUE, APR 30 5:00 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 6:45 PM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE MICHEL GONDRY, DO IT YOURSELF

D: François Nemeta | France | 80 min

French filmmaker Michel Gondry re-invented the music video and challenged Hollywood with his distinctive handmade visual style. Intimately documented, Gondry's career and playful creative process receive an overdue review, from his earliest music videos to his latest feature film at Cannes.

SAT, APR 27 8:15 PM SUN, APR 28 2:45 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA SAT, MAY 4 5:30 PM TLB

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SET PEVE





LOST IN THE SHUFFLE MICHEL GONDRY, DO IT YOURSELF

NEVER LOOK AWAY

D: Lucy Lawless | New Zealand | 85 min

CNN camerawoman Margaret Moth was facing down war's inhumanity when one bullet changed everything but her resolve. Debut filmmaker Lucy Lawless turns the camera's gaze on this groundbreaking woman and her legacy.

SAT, APR 27 5:15 PM TLE

TUE, APR 30 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA * SAT, MAY 4 8:15 PM SCOTIA

*Big Ideas Series screening p. 7

POWER

D: Yance Ford | USA | 87 min

Part essay, interview and archival collage, Power traces the explosion of police power from the founding of the US to the present. *Power* makes the historical continuity of unchecked police power legible—examining who's policed, who's protected and why.

WED, MAY 1 5:45 PM TLB FRI, MAY 3 2:30 PM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

RED FEVER

D: Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge | Canada | 104 min

Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond travels to the four corners of Turtle Island and across Europe to explore the world's fascination with Native Americans, recognizing the profound impact Indigenous people have had in shaping modern Western culture.

WED, MAY 1 5:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA FRI, MAY 3 5:30 PM TLB

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

WORLD PREMIERE

THE RIDE AHEAD

D: Samuel Habib, Dan Habib | USA | 97 min oc

An expansion of his short film My Disability Roadmap, Samuel Habib is a typical 21-year-old, itching to move out, start a career and find love. But "no one tells you how to be an adult, let alone an adult with a disability."

SUN, APR 28 TUE, APR 30 2:30 PM

1:45 PM

UNION

D: Brett Story, Stephen Maing | USA | 104 min

The Amazon Labor Union (ALU)—a group of current and former Amazon workers on New York City's Staten Island—takes on one of the world's largest and most powerful companies in the fight to unionize.

FRI. APR 26 4:45 PM TLB SUN, APR 28 10:00 AM SCOTIA











A BAND OF DREAMERS AND A JUDGE

D: Hesam Eslami | Iran, France | 80 min According to legend, the mountains of northern Iran are full of buried treasure. Gangs of prospectors scale and drill their treacherous slopes in the hopes of discovering ancient gold and pottery, while a local judge is determined to end their illegal looting.

MON, APR 29 2:30 PM SCOTIA TUE, MAY 2 11:15 AM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

DAUGHTER OF GENGHIS

D: Kristoffer Juel Poulsen, Christian Als | Denmark, Sweden, France | 85 min

A violent, Mongolian, female nationalist fights for her motherland, conducting sting operations and brothel raids, but in her fight for idealism, she has neglected her son. Can she find redemption by embracing motherhood?

MON, APR 29 2:45 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 5:45 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

DAUGHTERS

D: Angela Patton, Natalie Rae | USA | 106 min

Four young girls prepare for a special Daddy-Daughter Dance in a Washington, DC, jail. Cameras capture the first physical touch these girls will have with their incarcerated fathers as part of a groundbreaking program in this Sundance Audience Award-winning film.

DAUGHTER OF GENGHIS

FRI, APR 26 9:30 PM TLB SAT, APR 27 10:30 AM TLB







A BAND OF DREAMERS AND A JUDGE DAUGHTEI

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES

SON OF THE MULLAH







INTERCEPTED THIS IS GOING TO BE BIG

EVERY LITTLE THING

D: Sally Aitken | Australia | 93 min

A woman finds herself on a transformative journey as she nurtures wounded hummingbirds, unravelling a captivating and magical tale of love, fragility and healing amidst the sprawl of Los Angeles.

FRI, MAY 3 8:15 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 6:00 PM TLB

INTERCEPTED

D: Oksana Karpovych | Canada, France, Ukraine | 93 min

Layered over the visible evidence of their destruction, covertly recorded conversations between Russian soldiers provide a shocking and revealing soundtrack of those who destroy amidst the futility and inhumanity of a prolonged war in Ukraine.

THU, MAY 2 11:45 AM SCOTIA FRI, MAY 3 2:15 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE SON OF THE MULLAH

D: Nahid Persson Sarvestani | Sweden, France

Journalist Ruhollah Zam, like many of his colleagues, reports on Iran from abroad. Relying on tips from unreliable and potentially compromised insiders, he risks life and limb to expose the Islamic Regime's corruption, hypocrisy and money laundering in this all-tooreal spy thriller.

MON, APR 29 8:15 PM SCOTIA WED, MAY 1 1:00 PM SCOTIA

THIS IS GOING TO BE BIG

D: Thomas Charles Hyland | Australia | 101 min
Dreams and desires are confronted as a cast
of neurodivergent teens prepare to come of age
in their school's time-travelling, John Farnham—
themed musical. A funny and heart-warming
peek behind the curtain with some banger songs.

FRI, MAY 3 5:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 12:45 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA* •

*Relaxed Screening



7 BEATS PER MINUTE

D: Yuqi Kang | Canada | 100 min

In her harrowing pursuit of the freediving descent of a lifetime, champion Jessea Lu returns to the site of her near-death experience in the Bahamas to face past traumas and learn to trust herself and others.

FRI, APR 26 8:45 PM TLB THU, MAY 2 7:00 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 12:00 PM TLB

ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE

D: Shannon Walsh | Canada | 86 min CC

Alan and Adrianne built an ornate castle as a representation of their other-worldly love for each other. Now, Alan faces a future alone and grapples with his grief through creative musical re-enactments, transporting him back to the fantasy world they created together.

FRI, APR 26 4:45 PM SCOTIA SAT, APR 27 2:00 PM SCOTIA

ANY OTHER WAY: THE JACKIE SHANE STORY

D: Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee | Canada | 99 min CC

Outshining artists like Little Richard and Etta James, '60s soul singer Jackie Shane shattered barriers as one of music's first Black trans performers. Why did this trailblazing icon vanish from the spotlight at the height of her fame?

SAT, APR 27 9:00 PM TLB SUN, APR 28 8:45 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE CURL POWER

D: Josephine Anderson | Canada | 85 min

Five best friends pursue their dreams of becoming Canadian National Curling Champions. Follow these girls through their high school years in British Columbia as they navigate the perils of modern teenage life on and off the ice.

SUN, APR 28 5:00 PM TLB MON, APR 29 9:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA

WORLD PREMIERE

FIRF TOWER

D: Tova Krentzman | Canada | 47 min

Observing the world in isolation leads to revealing insights about our connection to nature. High above the boreal forest, solitary sentinels survey dramatic and awe-inspiring landscapes as a critical first line of defence in wildfire detection.

Screening with

THE BIG WAIT

D: Yannick Jamey | Australia | 15 min and

ASBESTOS

D: Vanessa Gauvin-Brodeur | Canada | 31 min

MON, APR 29 5:45 PM TLB WED, MAY 1 10:45 AM TLB





ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE ANY OTHER WAY: THE JACKIE SHANE STORY

CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION

A FRENCH YOUTH







CURL POWER 7 BEATS PER MINUTE

WORLD PREMIERE A FRENCH YOUTH

D: Jérémie Battaglia | Canada, France | 84 min In the south of France, two young North African men seek a new life through Camargue races, a traditional sport where you survive by literally trying to take a bull by the horns.

WED, MAY 1 4:30 PM TLB FRI, MAY 3 11:15 AM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

KARUARA, PEOPLE OF THE RIVER

D: Miguel Araoz Cartagena, Stephanie Boyd | Peru, Canada | 77 min

Facing cultural genocide, a group of Indigenous women from Peru file a groundbreaking lawsuit demanding the government recognize the Marañón River, which flows into the Amazon, as a person with rights in order to protect the world of powerful spirits led by the Karuara (people of the river).

TUE, APR 30 5:45 PM SCOTIA FRI, MAY 3 10:45 AM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

ME, MICHAEL AND I

D: Nicolas Tremblay, Régis Coussot | Canada

An ambitious young Quebecois man sacrifices everything in his obsession to resurrect the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. As he transforms physically to emulate his hero, dance moves and all, the lines between dreams and reality blur.

TUE, APR 30 8:45 PM TLB THU, MAY 2 11:15 AM TLB

CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION

WORLD PREMIERE

MY DAD'S TAPES

D: Kurtis Watson | Canada | 82 min CC

A trove of home video tapes spurs a filmmaker to investigate repressed parts of his past and come to terms with his own identity. An investigation into his father's sudden suicide turns into a cathartic journey of reconnection and healing.

THU, MAY 2 2:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA FRI, MAY 3 2:00 PM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

OKURIMONO

D: Laurence Lévesque | Canada | 96 min

Reconstructing the past culminates in a poetic observation on the process of letting go as a Japanese Canadian woman returns to empty her childhood home, reviving the memories of her mother, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb.

FRI, APR 26 2:30 PM TLB MON, APR 29 11:30 AM SCOTIA

SEGURIDAD

D: Tamara Segura | Canada | 76 min

Exploring the life of her father, a former youth member of the Communist Party of Cuba, director Tamara Segura reveals how a gifted, well-intentioned young man became an abusive alcoholic, drawing revealing parallels between her broken home and her country's fractured political system.

MON, APR 29 3:00 PM TLB TUE, APR 30 12:00 PM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE THE SOLDIER'S LAGOON

D: Pablo Álvarez-Mesa | Canada | 76 min

Reflecting on the construction of oral history and its relation to the land, *The Soldier's Lagoon* dives into the misty Páramo region and offers an elusive living archive that navigates the dense fog separating Simón Bolívar's past and Colombia's present.

WED, MAY 1 7:15 PM SCOTIA FRI, MAY 3 11:30 AM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

WILFRED BUCK

D: Lisa Jackson | Canada | 92 min CC

A hybrid, time-travelling road trip takes us into the harrowing life of charismatic Cree elder, star expert and ceremonial leader Wilfred Buck. Adapted from his memoir, this hybrid film charts his journey back to his people's ways of coming to knowledge.

FRI, APR 26 8:00 PM TLB SAT, APR 27 2:15 PM SCOTIA ••







KARUARA, PEOPLE OF THE RIVER WILFRED BUCK



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

DEATH OF A SAINT

D: Patricia Bbaale Bandak | Denmark | 91 min

Filmmaker Patricia Bbaale Bandak gives birth on Christmas Eve, the same day her mother was killed by two gunmen in their Ugandan home decades earlier. Yearning to know her mother, she returns to her birthplace to reclaim what was stolen from her.

TUE, APR 30 2:30 PM TLB THU, MAY 2 12:45 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

DEVI

D: Subina Shrestha | Nepal | 80 min

Devi is a mother, a rebel warrior and sexual violence survivor of Nepal's civil war. Inspiring and courageous to her core, she battles personal demons in her campaign against rape's erasure from the narrative of war.

SUN, APR 28 7:30 PM SCOTIA WED, MAY 1 5:00 PM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

THE FABULOUS GOLD HARVESTING MACHINE

D: Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza | Chile, Netherlands | 77 min

After 40 years working in the mine at Tierra del Fuego, Toto doesn't qualify for the social security that would allow him to retire. So his son Jorge attempts to build a gold harvesting machine to bring them a better future.

SUN, APR 28 4:00 PM SCOTIA TUE, APR 30 8:30 PM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

FARMING THE REVOLUTION

India | 100 min

Amidst COVID lockdowns, India's farmers rise up on an unprecedented scale against unjust new laws. Over half a million protesters —men and women from all generations, religions, classes and castes—gather and reinvent co-existence while winning a rare victory over the state.

SAT, APR 27 2:15 PM TLB MON, APR 29 4:45 PM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

FRAGMENTS OF A LIFE LOVED

D: Chloé Barreau | Italy | 95 min

From age 16, the filmmaker has recorded each of her male and female lovers. Using only these early videos and present-day interviews with each partner, she assembles her fluid lusts, loves, rejections and growth into a history of her heart.

TUE, APR 30 5:15 PM SCOTIA THU, MAY 2 2:00 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE PORCELAIN WAR

D: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev | Ukraine, USA, Australia | 87 min

Why would anyone craft fragile ceramics in an active war zone? Three Ukrainians, fighting as both soldiers and artists, offer up an unexpected dispatch from the front lines. Creativity combats destruction in this gorgeous Sundance Best US Documentary award-winner.

SAT, APR 27 5:30 PM TLB SUN, APR 28 5:45 PM TLB





DEATH OF A SAINT

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION







STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

THE WEAVERS' SONGS

WORLD PREMIERE

STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

D: Jalena Keane-Lee | USA | 85 min

When the Thirty Meter Telescope is set to be built on Mauna Kea, three Native Hawaiian families risk it all to defend their sacred mountain. *Standing Above the Clouds* explores intergenerational healing and the struggle to retain ancient ceremonies.

SUN, APR 28 2:00 PM TLB WED, MAY 1 11:15 AM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

STREETS LOUD WITH ECHOES

D: Katerina Suvorova | Kazakhstan | 95 min

When a young Olympic skater is murdered, it galvanizes Kazakhstanis. Tracing the steps of a young journalist and a strong-willed political scientist, the camera observes a society learning to raise its voice, despite decades of fear and oppression.

SUN, APR 28 2:15 PM TLB WED, MAY 1 4:15 PM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

THE WEAVERS' SONGS

D: Ismael Vásquez Bernabé | Mexico | 78 min

In San Pedro Amuzgos, Oaxaca, where weaving is not only a way of life but the main economic export, the importance of tradition and the responsibility of legacy are explored in this reflective debut feature by Ismael Vásquez Bernabé.

TUE, APR 30 2:45 PM SCOTIA THU, MAY 2 11:30 AM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

XIXI

D: Fan Wu | Taiwan, Philippines, South Korea | 100 min

An unexpected and joyous exploration of womanhood, autonomy and self-reinvention, told through the video diaries and personal archive of the free-spirited XiXi and the evolution of the friendship between her and the filmmaker.

SUN, APR 28 4:15 PM SCOTIA TUE, APR 30 8:15 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 11:30 AM SCOTIA



AGENT OF HAPPINESS

D: Arun Bhattarai, Dorottya Zurbó | Bhutan, Hungary | 90 min

How can happiness be measured? In Bhutan, agents travel door to door, meeting people face to face to understand their feelings. In the process, we encounter revealing, poignant and life-affirming moments on what really matters in life.

FRI, APR 26 1:15 PM SCOTIA SAT, APR 27 10:00 AM TLB

BILLY & MOLLY: AN OTTER LOVE STORY

D: Charlie Hamilton James | UK | 77 min

When a wild otter in desperate need of help washes up on their jetty in Shetland, Billy, his wife and their devoted sheepdog accept a unique new member into their family. Together, they explore how the ability to love reawakens us to nature's beauty.

TUE, APR 30 11:15 AM SAT, MAY 4 2:15 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

BREAKING THE CYCLE

D: Aekaphong Saransate, Thanakrit Duangmaneeporn | Thailand | 117 min

A group of young politicians campaigning against an authoritarian constitution speak up, spark hope and ignite a once-in-a-generation movement in this energetic exploration of the recent elections in Thailand.

THU, MAY 2 5:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA HOT DOCS CINEMA SAT MAY 4 4.45 PM

WORLD PREMIERE

HELEN AND THE BEAR

D: Alix Blair | USA | 81 min

Helen was a rebellious young hippie when she met and married US Congressman Pete McCloskey, a Republican star known for opposing his own party. Forty years later, anticipating Pete's death, she reflects on marriage, sex and the astounding complexity of true love.

SUN, APR 28 4:30 PM SCOTIA TUE APR 30 11:45 AM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

D: Mohamed Jabaly | Norway, Qatar, Palestine

A young Palestinian filmmaker exiled in remote northern Norway documents a life thrown into limbo by international politics. Using creativity, and a little help from his friends, he fights to access basic human rights and forge a way forward.

TUE, APR 30 10:00 AM SCOTIA THU, MAY 2 8:00 PM

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

MARCHING IN THE DARK

D: Kinshuk Surjan | Belgium, India, Netherlands | 105 min

Amidst rising farmer suicides in India, a young widow finds solace and strength among resilient women who share the same loss. Through peer sessions, she conquers her grief, challenges taboos and pursues independence and a better future for her and her children.

TUE, APR 30 1:15 PM SCOTIA FRI, MAY 3 10:30 AM TIB





LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL BILLY & MOLLY: AN OTTER LOVE STORY

WORLD SHOWCASE







SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS

SMILING GEORGIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

THE NEW MAN

D: Carlos Yuri Ceuninck | Cape Verde, Belgium, Germany, Sudan | 64 min

In an abandoned village on Cape Verde, one man remains amidst the spectre of tragedy, steadfast in his solitude. As his own mortality descends, he must consider leaving the only home he has ever known.

Screening with

THE BROKEN GODDESS

D: Ximena Pereira | Chile, Venezuela | 21 min

FRI, MAY 3 1:30 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 11:00 AM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

RISING UP AT NIGHT

D: Nelson Makengo | Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso, Qatar | 95 min

After an election in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shakes its political and economic stability, its capital, Kinshasa, remains in darkness. This immersive, cinematic depiction of life in spite of everything portrays a population reinventing itself in the face of uncertainty.

THU, MAY 2 8:15 PM TLB SAT. MAY 4 8:00 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

ROUGE

D: Hamoody Jaafar | USA | 90 min

Young men in River Rouge, home to one of America's richest basketball legacies, come of age while navigating their high-stakes role as student athletes in one of the country's most economically and environmentally challenged zip codes.

SUN, APR 28 8:15 PM TLB TUE, APR 30 5:30 PM TLB

WORLD SHOWCASE

WORLD PREMIERE

THE SHARP EDGE OF PEACE

D: Roya Sadat | Afghanistan, Qatar, USA, Belgium | 95 min

Sitting at the negotiating table with the Taliban, four extraordinary women navigate the harsh reality of Afghanistan's new chapter and the political impact on women's rights, proving their unyielding commitment to the people of their country.

SAT, APR 27 1:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, APR 28 11:00 AM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE SILENT TREES

D: Agnieszka Zwiefka | Poland, Germany, Denmark | 84 min

In this intimate, partially animated and daring trip into the global refugee crisis at the heart of Europe, a 16-year-old Kurdish girl must become a mother to her four younger brothers after their mother's death at the Polish-Belarusian border.

WED, MAY 1 11:45 AM TLB SUN, MAY 5 5:00 PM TLB

ROUGE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE SMILING GEORGIA

D: Luka Beradze | Georgia, Germany | 62 min

On the campaign trail, Georgia's president vows to fund dental care and eager dentists start pulling out people's teeth in anticipation. Hordes of toothless Georgians are left pondering the absurdity of politicians' promises when he loses the election.

Screening with

GOODNIGHT, MISTER STALIN

D: Benjamin Kodboel | UK | 20 min

FRI, MAY 3 2:15 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 10:30 AM HOT DOCS CINEMA

SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS

D: Ken Wardrop | Ireland | 86 min

Is Christmas really the most magical time of the year? Shot on glorious 35mm, master storyteller Ken Wardrop captures the sadness and crushing expectations the holiday creates for residents of a small Irish town. 'Tis the season with Irish heartache and humour.

TUE, APR 30 8:15 PM TLB
THU, MAY 2 4:45 PM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SWFFTIFS

D: Anneke de Lind van Wijngaarden, Natalie Bruijns | Netherlands, Belgium | 80 min

While on holiday at a French campsite, three young teenage girls face romance, family relationships and online obsessions in this poignant look at coming of age in a digital world.

THU, MAY 2 5:15 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 10:00 AM HOT DOCS CINEMA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

THE WASP AND THE ORCHID

D: Saber Zammouri | Tunisia, France | 65 min

When television was introduced to rural Tunisia in the '90s it replaced storytelling around the campfire and inspired a legion of young people to emigrate to Paris where their everyday reality collided with the romantic image sold to them on screen.

Screening with

THE MEDALLION

D: Ruth Hunduma | UK | 19 min

THU, MAY 2 2:30 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 12:00 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

THE WHITE MOUNTAIN

D: Luke Wiles, Gwyn Williams | France | 89 min

High atop Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps, two individuals brave the deadly peaks and trails to pursue their personal conquests before the slopes melt away, confronting climate change and our role in its prevention.

SUN, APR 28 6:45 PM SCOTIA TUE, APR 30 8:00 PM TLB





SWEETIE



WORLD PREMIERE

THE CLICK TRAP

D: Peter Porta | Spain, France | 90 min

How can pop-up ads used to sell shoes also undermine global democracy? Digital advertising no longer only markets products, but increasingly disinformation. Investigative journalists and online activists reveal the unsettling reach of an unregulated industry in this alarming tech-sposé.

WED, MAY 1 1:15 PM SCOTIA FRI, MAY 3 5:15 PM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

EYES OF THE SOUL – CRISTINA GARCÍA RODERO

D: Carlota Nelson | Spain | 70 min

For decades, Cristina García Rodero captured the spirit of Spain through her incredible award-winning photography. Now in her 70s, the tireless self-taught photographer points her lens outward into the world, capturing celebrations of life, death and the humanity in between.

THU, MAY 2 5:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 4:00 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE FLYING HANDS

education and respect.

D: Marta Gómez, Paula Iglesias | Spain | 78 min After giving birth to a deaf daughter, a Pakistani mother questions the custom that would have her hide her child out of family shame and builds a community that uplifts de

AITANA

WED, MAY 1 10:45 AM SCOTIA THU, MAY 2 2:00 PM SCOTIA







MY SEXTORTION DIARY BACK TO RIAÑ

MADE IN SPAIN







AQUERONTE FLYING HANDS

MADE IN SPAIN SHORTS PROGRAM

Discover the best of Spain's young filmmaking talent in a dedicated program celebrating the next generation of storytellers.

AQUERONTE

D: Manuel Muñoz Rivas | Spain | 26 min

BACK TO RIAÑO

D: Miriam Martín | Spain | 15 min

AITANA

D: Marina Alberti | Spain | 19 min

SALT COVERS ALL

D: Joana Moya | Spain | 18 min

FRI, MAY 3 11:45 AM SCOTIA

MY SEXTORTION DIARY

D: Patricia Franquesa | Spain | 64 min

A woman's worst nightmare comes true when her laptop is stolen and the thieves threaten to share her sexually explicit photos. When the Spanish police and courts are unable to help, she takes the law into her own hands.

Screening with

COMING BACK TO LIFE

D: Mantra Watsa | Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, India | 20 min

SAT, APR 27 8:30 PM SCOTIA MON, APR 29 10:45 AM SCOTIA

SONGS FOR AFTER A WAR

D: Basilio Martín Patino | Spain | 1971 | 115 min

A relentless, emotive and playful radiography of the post-war period in Spain and Franco's regime creates a collage of pieces rescued from oblivion: children's comics, radio commercials, scenes of hunger and desolation, and a paradoxical necessity to sing, born from the drive to survive.

SUN, MAY 5 10:45 AM TLE

WORLD PREMIERE

WILD GLEAMING SPACE

D: Mauro Colombo | Panama, Spain | 90 min

The death of a father and a chilling encounter deep in Panama's untamed jungle trigger a personal exploration of life and death through encounters with a diverse collection of people who face mortality's physical and symbolic borders in their life and work.

WED, MAY 1 7:45 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 11:15 AM TLB



ECHO OF YOU

D: Zara Zerny | Denmark | 76 min

Life-long love stories are ultimately one-sided as one partner inevitably outlives the other. Having spent years and decades without their loved ones, elderly Danish men and women share frank and beautiful truths about this rarely explored life after love.

MON, APR 29 10:45 AM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

KELLY - SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM

D: Helen Lõhmus, Leana Jalukse | Estonia, France | 93 min

Freestyle skier Kelly Sildaru was just 13 when she won gold at the 2016 Winter X Games. After breaking countless records, she broke her silence when she accused her coach, and father, of abuse, setting a new standard for sports bravery.

FRI, MAY 3 11:15 AM HOT DOCS CINEMA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

LIMITS OF EUROPE

D: Apolena Rychlíková | Czech Republic, France, Slovakia | 98 min

From picking asparagus in Germany to cleaning hotel rooms in Ireland to caring for elders in France, a prominent journalist goes undercover as a cheap migrant labourer, humanizing the shocking costs of late-stage capitalism in this original exposé.

SUN, APR 28 10:45 AM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE NORWEGIAN DEMOCRAZY

D: Fabien Greenberg, Bård Kjøge Rønning | Norway | 87 min

To promote SIAN (Stop the Islamization of Norway) racist-ivist Lars Thorsen publicly burns the Qu'ran, hiding behind freedom of expression laws. The outraged public pushes back in this revealing look at the street-level battle for democracy.

THU, MAY 2 10:45 AM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

THE OUTPOST

D: Edoardo Morabito | Italy, Brazil | 84 min

After a lifetime of unsuccessful plans to save the Amazonian rainforest from wildfires, a Scottish eco-warrior concocts a surefire media stunt: stage a Pink Floyd concert from inside the burning bush. Is it madness, one man's desperate dream or both?

MON, APR 29 5:45 PM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE PELIKAN BLUE

D: László Csáki | Hungary | 80 min

When the Iron Curtain fell, travel for Hungarians was finally possible but completely unaffordable. Droll animation unearths the little-known story of how three pranksters forged train tickets for a generation to finally discover the world.

WED, MAY 1 7:00 PM SCOTIA





THE OUTPOST KELLY - SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM

THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

PELIKAN BLUE WOMAN OF GOD







STRAY BODIES

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE STRAY BODIES

D: Elina Psykou | Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Bulgaria | 100 min

Access to abortion, IVF and assisted dying varies greatly amongst European Union countries but open borders allow residents to circumvent any restrictions with a plane ticket. Cameras follow real people, performers and activists as they demonstrate just how arbitrary bodily autonomy can be.

TUE, APR 30 10:30 AM TLB

SUCH A RESOUNDING SILENCE

D: Emmanuelle Béart, Anastasia Mikova | France | 100 min

In 2023, French star Emmanuelle Béart revealed she was a victim of incest from ages 10 to 14. Joined by three other survivors, Béart co-directs this deft critique of how France's laws and social mores enable a national child abuse crisis.

FRI, MAY 3 4:30 PM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE WOMAN OF GOD

D: Maja Prettner | Slovenia | 98 min

Underpaid and undermined, a Slovenian village pastor pours her heart and raw personal trauma into ministering to her parishioners. But as the cracks in her private life deepen, the woman beneath the collar must choose between true faith and real healing.

SAT, APR 27 11:00 AM SCOTIA



WORLD PREMIERE

ARI'S THEME

D: Nathan Drillot, Jeff Lee Petry | Canada | 99 min CC

Ari Kinarthy is an award-winning composer with type-2 spinal muscular atrophy. This aural and cinematic legacy of his memories through a kaleidoscopic creative process leads him to question the meaning of legacy and the relationship between himself and the audience.

TUE, APR 30 4:45 PM TLB THU, MAY 2 3:45 PM TLB •••

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

D: Miguel Morillo Vega | Spain | 63 min

An 18-year-old musician designs a cybernetic organ and illegally implants it into his own body, acquiring a new sense that purportedly allows him to perceive sounds coming from outer space while on the surface of the Earth.

Screening with

THE CONQUEST OF SPACE

D: Albin Biblom | Sweden | 12 min

FRI, APR 26 8:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, APR 28 7:15 PM SCOTIA

ETERNAL YOU

D: Hans Block, Moritz Riesewieck | Germany, USA | 86 min

If you could talk to loved ones you've lost, would you? Should you? Driven by AI and Big Data, tech startups are racing to develop digital doppelgangers with the promise of immortality and raising questions around love, loss and memory.

MON, APR 29 7:45 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 8:45 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

LOVE MACHINA

D: Pete Sillen | USA | 97 min

Can love last forever? Married over forty years, Martine and Bina Rothblatt commission Bina48, an "AI mindfile" of Bina's consciousness housed inside a robotic bust. Using cryopreservation, digital consciousness, xenotransplantation and space settlement, they prepare to extend their romance into infinity.

SAT, APR 27 6:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA* SUN, APR 28 8:00 PM TLB

*Big Ideas Series screening p. 7

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

SEEKING MAVIS BEACON

D: Jazmin Jones | USA | 97 min

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing taught millions globally how to type, but the software's Haitianborn cover model vanished decades ago. Two detectives search for Beacon, revealing questions about identity and AI along the way.

TUE, APR 30 9:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA FRI, MAY 3 8:00 PM SCOTIA

WHATEVER IT TAKES

D: Jenny Carchman | UK, USA | 92 min

When cyberstalking leads to a series of bizarre deliveries, including a bloody pig mask, a couple's otherwise calm life is shaken. As the harassment intensifies, the FBI closes in on a Silicon Valley giant in a reveal you will never see coming.

FRI, APR 26 7:30 PM SCOTIA SAT, APR 27 5:15 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 7:15 PM SCOTIA





ARIS THEME CYBORG GENERATION



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE DRAWING A LINE

D: Sama Pana | Belgium, Luxembourg | 73 min

Through stick figure cartoons, Rachita Taneja challenges India's entrenched social taboos like menstruation, mental health and queer rights. In the face of prosecution, she dedicates herself to amplifying the voices of young, liberal individuals in a society of eroding free speech.

SAT, APR 27 8:00 PM SCOTIA MON, APR 29 11:30 AM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

IMMORTALS

D: Maja Tschumi | Switzerland, Iraq | 94 min
Two protesters who participated in Iraq's
2019 October Revolution refuse to let it die. It
marked the first time they'd ever felt safe
—Khalili as a filmmaker and Milo as a feminist
—and symbolized hope for peace and freedom
in their country.

FRI, APR 26 2:15 PM SCOTIA SAT, APR 27 10:00 AM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

IMPASSE

D: Rahmaneh Rabani, Bahman Kiarostami | Iran | 89 min

As the Women, Life, Freedom protests rage in Tehran, a woman from a conservative family engages in intimate conversations with her family, struggling to maintain their bonds across three generations under the pressures of a shifting society.

TUE, APR 30 8:00 PM SCOTIA THU, MAY 2 1:45 PM TLB

IMPASSE







DRAWING A LINE IMMORTALS

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THE ART OF RESISTANCE





THE STRIKE



NICE LADIES LAND OF MY DREA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE LAND OF MY DREAMS

D: Nausheen Khan | India | 74 min

When the Indian government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act, it effectively excluded Muslims from citizenship. Working-class Muslim women gathered in Delhi, staging a non-violent protest for over 100 days, galvanizing resistance into a nationwide pro-democracy movement.

FRI, APR 26 3:45 PM TLB SUN, APR 28 10:15 AM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE NICE LADIES

D: Mariia Ponomarova | Netherlands, Ukraine | 90 min When Russia began bombing Kharkiv, Ukraine, some members of a 50+ women's cheerleading team chose to stay while others escaped. Through their sport they keep sane and connected even as cracks appear. Witness true strength in this exceptional study of sisterhood.

WED, MAY 1 8:45 PM TLB SAT, MAY 4 2:30 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE THE STRIKE

D: JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey | USA | 86 min

Follow the psychological and emotional journeys of California prisoners as they organize the largest hunger strike in US history. Intimate interviews and never-before-seen footage recount their struggle to regain their freedom from decades of solitary confinement.

SUN, APR 28 1:00 PM SCOTIA MON, APR 29 1:45 PM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE SUSPENDED - DIARIES FROM LEBANON

D: Myriam El Hajj | France, Lebanon | 117 min Shot over the last four years as Lebanon faced a series of mounting difficulties including an interrupted revolution and the devastating explosion that destroyed half of Beirut, three people from vastly different generations share the country's struggle to escape the vice-grip of dictatorship.

MON, APR 29 8:45 PM TLB TUE, APR 30 4:30 PM SCOTIA



WORLD PREMIERE

THE DAY ICELAND STOOD STILL

D: Pamela Hogan | Iceland, USA | 70 min
In 1975, 90% of Iceland's women walked off
their jobs and out of their homes. The nation
stopped. Unexpectedly funny and laced with
evocative animation, this is the true story of how
Iceland became a world leader in gender equality.

MON, APR 29 WED, MAY 1

2:15 PM 4:30 PM TLB SCOTIA

NTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

MEXICAN DREAM

D: Laura Plancarte | Mexico, UK | 90 min

After escaping an abusive past, Malena fights for her dream life. Amidst the tensions of launching her own business, reconnecting with her estranged children and undergoing IVF with her new partner, she struggles to unite her family in her still unfinished home.

MON, APR 29 5:15 PM SCOTIA WED, MAY 1 10:00 AM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

A MOTHER APART

D: Laurie Townshend | Canada | 89 min

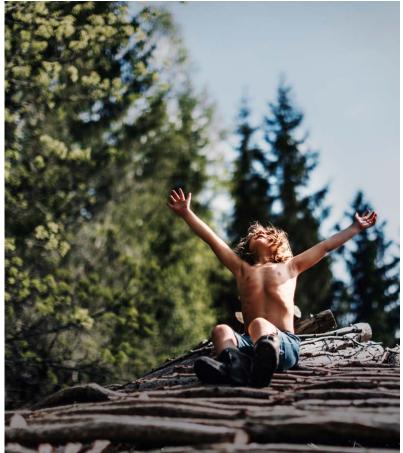
In this emotional, sweeping tale of healing and forgiveness, powerhouse Jamaican American poet and LGBTQ+ activist Staceyann Chin embarks on an international journey to re-imagine the art of mothering—having been abandoned by her own mother as a young child.

FRI, APR 26 7:45 PM SCOTIA SUN, APR 28 11:15 AM TLB









HER APART A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS

PERSISTER







SYNCHRONY AN UNFINISHED JOURNEY

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

MY STOLEN PLANET

D: Farahnaz Sharifi | Iran, Germany | 82 min

Able to find freedom only in her own home, an Iranian woman is forced to emigrate "inwards." Collecting vintage Super 8 films and recording her own life, she creates an alternate history of Iran, one where joy exists.

SAT, APR 27 5:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, APR 28 1:45 PM SCOTIA

A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS

D: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen | Norway | 84 min

When tragedy strikes, a family must abandon their idyllic life deep in a Norwegian forest. Leaving the freedom that comes with isolation, self-sufficiency and harmonious living with nature, they struggle with loss while learning to integrate into the modern world.

FRI, MAY 3 5:00 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 4:30 PM SCOTIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

D: Rachel Elisabeth Seed | USA | 87 min

After the filmmaker discovers more than 50 hours of audio interviews by her deceased mother, journalist Sheila Turner-Seed, she seeks to connect with her mother while unveiling an invaluable archive of conversations with some of the greatest photographers of the 20th century.

FRI, MAY 3 7:45 PM TLB SUN, MAY 5 3:00 PM TLB

THE SILENCE OF REASON

D: Kumjana Novakova | Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina | 63 min

Truth finds terror that fiction never could in this essential investigation of the Foča rape camps during the mid-90s war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Victim testimony and archival footage combine to produce profound disturbance and intense resolve.

Screening with

THE POEM WE SANG

D: Annie Sakkab | Canada, Palestine, Jordan | 20 min

FRI, MAY 3 10:45 AM TLB SUN, MAY 5 1:45 PM SCOTIA

WORLD PREMIERE

SYNCHRONY

D: Caro Bloj | Chile | 75 min

Isolated on an island, an elderly woman embraces freedom by open-sea swimming with sea lions, while a champion swimmer tests her endurance in the world's iciest of waters. Stunning cinematography captures their pristine but charged aquatic landscapes, which are both tender and brutal.

THU, MAY 2 7:30 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 3:00 PM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

AN UNFINISHED JOURNEY

D: Aeyliya Husain, Amie Williams | Canada, France | 75 min

Forced to flee their country after risking their lives to rebuild it, four women struggle to focus the world's attention on the crisis in Afghanistan, while coming to terms with having their power usurped and two decades of progress dismantled.

FRI, APR 26 2:00 PM TLB SAT, APR 27 10:00 AM HOT DOCS CINEMA



THE BATTLE FOR LAIKIPIA

D: Daphne Matziaraki, Peter Murimi | Kenya, USA, Greece | 94 min

The past and present collide in a high-stakes conflict between Indigenous pastoralists and white landowners in Laikipia, Kenya, a wildlife conservation haven. Amidst stunning landscapes and generational tensions, the country's future is on the line.

WED, MAY 1 7:30 PM TLB SAT, MAY 4 5:00 PM TLB

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

FAMILY TREE

D: Jennifer MacArthur | USA | 96 min

Two Black families in North Carolina fight to preserve their land and generational legacy of sustainable forestry. A cinema vérité approach reveals the monumental task of maintaining the land while navigating challenging family dynamics, unscrupulous developers and changing environmental needs.

FRI, APR 26 4:15 PM SCOTIA MON. APR 29 1:30 PM TLB

WORLD PREMIERE

THE HERE NOW PROJECT

D: Greg Jacobs, Jon Siskel | USA | 75 min

An international diary of the impact of climate change is constructed from thousands of hours of in-the-moment footage. Through the process, we witness the deep human resilience, resourcefulness and courage necessary to confront the world's most pressing challenge.

FRI, APR 26 5:15 PM SCOTIA WED, MAY 1 1:45 PM TLB

THE BATTLE FOR LAIKIPIA







E NOW PROJECT ONCE UPON A TIME IN A FOREST

LAND|SKY|SEA COMPETITION





SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

NOCTURNES

D: Anupama Srinivasan, Anirban Dutta | India, USA | 80 min

Two researchers spend their nights deep within the Himalayas, methodically researching moths, finding an all-encompassing view of the connections we have with the nature that surrounds us.

TUE, APR 30 2:00 PM TLB FRI, MAY 3 4:45 PM TLB

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE ONCE UPON A TIME IN A FOREST

D: Virpi Suutari | Finland | 93 min

At 22, Ida becomes the leader of the new Forest Movement, coming face to face with Finnish forest industry giants and confronting generational bias. This modern fairy tale takes you into the heart of the woods and the centre of the conflict.

WED, MAY 1 2:00 PM TLB FRI, MAY 3 1:45 PM TLB

SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

D: Tasha Hubbard | Canada | 98 min 🚾

Travel with acclaimed Cree filmmaker Dr. Tasha Hubbard through the North American plains as Indigenous nations reintroduce the keystone species to the land and help reclaim territories and cultures that signal a turning point for long-term, collective survival.

FRI, APR 26 5:30 PM TLB MON, APR 29 12:00 PM TLB ••

YINTAH

Following members of the Wet'suwet'en nation along with Hereditary Chiefs and their communities of land defenders, *Yintah*, meaning *land*, tells the story of the Wet'suwet'en people resisting the construction of multiple pipelines across their territory.

SAT, APR 27 5:00 PM TL SUN, APR 28 9:15 PM HC

HOT DOCS CINEMA



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE-**OPENING NIGHT SCREENING**

LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH

D: Dawn Porter | USA | 101 min

Singer/songwriter Luther Vandross was always meant to be a star. Award-winning director Dawn Porter delivers a stirring portrait of an icon as the film charts Vandross's creative journey, his larger-than-life path to stardom and the creation of his most memorable songs.

THU APR 25 9.30 PM SAT, APR 27

9:15 PM

HOT DOCS CINEMA* HOT DOCS CINEMA

*Opening Night screening p. 6

WORLD PREMIERE BEETHOVEN'S NINE

D: Larry Weinstein | Germany, Canada | 90 min CG

On the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's final completed symphony, does it still inspire as a symbol of joy and hope during tumultuous times? From Peanuts to Leonard Bernstein, see how this masterpiece continues to resonate around the world.

SUN, APR 28 5:15 PM TLB TUE, APR 30 11:30 AM

WORLD PREMIERE DISCO'S REVENGE

D: Omar Majeed, Peter Mishara | Canada | 100 min CC

Born underground and taken on a wild ride into the mainstream, disco was co-opted, exploited and then tossed aside to the fringes. This is the true story of disco music and the communities who hustled for their freedom on the dance floor.

THU MAY 2 8:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA FRI, MAY 3 8:00 PM TLB

ENO

D: Gary Hustwit | USA, UK | 90 min

Visionary British musician and artist Brian Eno reveals his creative processes in this groundbreaking, generative documentary. Created using AI, this documentary is different every time it's shown. *Eno* poetically resonates with the artist's endless deep dive into the nature of creativity.

SAT, APR 27 2:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA MON, APR 29 6:30 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA*

*Big Ideas Series screening p. 7

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE SWAMP DOGG GETS HIS POOL PAINTED

D: Isaac Gale, Ryan Olson | USA | 97 min

If you were to swap The Golden Girls' quartet of white women sharing a house in Miami for a trio of Black men jamming, tripping and co-habitating in the San Fernando Valley, you would get Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted!

WED, MAY 1 8:15 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA FRI, MAY 3 5:15 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE TEACHES OF PEACHES

D: Philipp Fussenegger, Judy Landkammer | Germany | 102 min

Brash, boundary-pushing electro musician Peaches (aka Toronto's own Merrill Nisker) flashes her fearless talents and provocative performance energy in this record of her 2022 Anniversary Tour. Watch the unapologetic, genderfuck feminist and gueer icon as she comes into her prime.

FRI, APR 26 9:15 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA SAT, APR 27 1:45 PM





SWAMP DOGG GETS HIS POOL PAINTED

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GRAND THEFT HAMLET

D: Pinny Grylls, Sam Crane | UK | 88 min

During the pandemic, two out-of-work British actors attempt the impossible: mounting a full-scale production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* inside Grand Theft Auto Online, resulting in a deeply personal story shot entirely within game's ultraviolent virtual world.

SAT, APR 27 7:45 PM SCOTIA MON, APR 29 8:30 PM SCOTIA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE INVISIBLE PEOPLE

D: Alisa Berger | France, Germany | 71 min

An immersive exploration of Japanese Butoh, the unique contemporary dance born from natural experience that represents a communion between the living and the dead, is led by master Yoshito Ohno, the son of Butoh-founder Kazuo Ohno, who passed away during shooting.

THU, MAY 2 8:00 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 4:00 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE SECRET MALL APARTMENT

D: Jeremy Workman | USA | 92 min

The remarkable story of a group of Rhode Islanders who create a clandestine apartment inside the local mall, move in, tap into the mall's electricity, construct a brick wall and install a locking door in defiant protest of gentrification.

FRI, MAY 3 8:15 PM HOT DOCS CINEMA SAT, MAY 4 8:30 PM TLB



SECRET MALL APARTMENT



Hot Docs is proud to present the 2024 Outstanding Achievement Award to acclaimed filmmaker Raoul Peck. Over Peck's 40-year career as a writer, director and producer, his documentary work has taken aim at history and how unexplored narratives have the power to reshape our perceptions about major social and cultural issues from prejudice to social inequity. Two episodes of Exterminate All the Brutes exemplify his most recent work, and Peck has selected Chris Marker's Sans Soleil as a film that inspired him. We are thrilled to welcome Raoul Peck to the Festival to connect with our audiences.

EXTERMINATE ALL THE BRUTES

D: Raoul Peck | USA | 2021 | 110 min

Through his personal voyage, Raoul Peck deconstructs the making and masking of history, digging deep into the exploitative and genocidal aspects of European colonialism—from America to Africa—and its impact on society today.

THU, MAY 2 4:45 PM TLB

SANS SOLETL

D: Chris Marker | France | 1983 | 104 min

Chris Marker, filmmaker, writer and multimedia artist, has been challenging audiences for years with his complex queries about time, memory and the rapid advancement of life on this planet. Sans Soleil is his mind-bending, free-form travelogue that journeys from Africa to Japan.

FRI, MAY 3 2:15 PM TLB



Iris Ng is one of Canada's trailblazers, her work representing a new perspective on vital nonfiction themes. Inspired by her family, Ng started filming on Super 8 as a child and learned early on that capturing the essence of the moment is the key to creating beautiful, memorable imagery. As an acclaimed cinematographer, Ng has contributed to documentary films that have played at Festivals and cinemas the world over, drawing from fine art, documentary and narrative filmmaking to lend her work a distinctive look. Shirkers and Stories We Tell will be screened as part of our celebration of Iris' work

SHIRKERS

D: Sandi Tan | USA, UK | 2018 | 97 min

In 1992, writer/director Sandi Tan and her friends shot a quirky film on the streets of Singapore. Then the footage disappeared, sending her on a decades-long hunt for answers.

SAT. APR 27 10.45 AM TLB

STORIES WE TELL

D: Sarah Polley | Canada | 2012 | 108 min

Sarah Polley's playful investigation into the truth buried within the contradictions of a family of storytellers paints a touching and intriguing portrait of a complex network of relatives, friends and strangers.

WED, MAY 1 1.30 PM SCOTIA



A specially curated selection of Canadian and international short films has landed. Each program aims to excite and inspire as this collection of fresh filmmaking talent brings you to wild new worlds.

SHORTS PROGRAM 1

Love will always find a way.

YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU WANT BUT YOU CAN GET ME

D: Samira Elagoz, Z Walsh | Netherlands, Finland | 13 min

WOULDN'T MAKE IT ANY OTHER WAY

D: Hao Zhou | USA | 21 min

THE CANADIAN DREAM

D: Ilse Moreno | Canada | 9 min

A BODY LIKE MINE

D: Maja Classen | Germany | 33 min

FRI, APR 26 2:00 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 11:45 AM SCOTIA

SHORTS PROGRAM 2

Inspiring characters and strange new worlds.

UNCLE BARDO

D: Luke Mistruzzi | Canada | 14 min

Jhህብ ሮህብ (MEET ME AT THE CREEK) D: Loren Waters | USA | 10 min

THE EVERLASTING PEA

D: Su Rynard | Canada | 17 min

CHASING TIME

D: Jeff Orlowski-Yang, Sarah Keo | Iceland, USA | 39 min

SAT, APR 27 11:15 AM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 2:30 PM SCOTIA

SHORTS PROGRAM 3

The freedom to say what you feel in a world of walls.

IT'S OKAY

D: David France | USA | 10 min

WASHED AWAY

D: Aucéane Roux | Canada | 16 min

THE RELEASE

D: Myriam Amri, Pauline Vidal | Tunisia, Lebanon | 16 min

I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I'M READY D: Hayley Morin | Canada | 14 min

CHRISTMAS, EVERY DAY

D: Faye Tsakas | USA | 14 min

TR(OL)L

D: Yourgo Artsitas | USA | 17 min

SUN, APR 28 1:15 PM SCOTIA SAT, MAY 4 5:15 PM SCOTIA





THE CANADIAN DREAM

SHORTS PROGRAMS

THE SPARKLE







SANDCASTLES

SHORTS PROGRAM 4

The body is a battleground.

AUTISM PLAYS ITSELF

D: Janet Harbord | UK | 19 min

PLAYGROUND

D: Célia Caroubi | France, Italy | 11 min

A HOME ON EVERY FLOOR

D: Signe Rosenlund-Hauglid | Norway | 11 min

THE SPARKLE

D: Isabelle Grignon-Francke | Canada | 17 min

AM I THE SKINNIEST PERSON YOU'VE EVER SEEN?

D: Eisha Marjara | Canada | 22 min

MON, APR 29 11:45 AM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 10:15 AM TLB

SHORTS PROGRAM 5

Genres and stories shift as generational bonds ignite.

VIA DOLOROSA

D: Rachel Gutgarts | France | 11 min

ICE LOVE

D: Katy Araiza | Mexico | 17 min

FISHING WITH TIMBÓ

D: Aida Harika Yanomami, Edmar Tokorino Yanomami, Roseane Yariana Yanomami | Brazil | 10 min

HEY LITTLE ONE

D: Sarah L'Hérault | Canada | 6 min

THE MOTHER AND THE BEAR

D: Yasmina El Kamaly | Egypt | 11 min

WHERE MY MEMORY BEGAN

D: Priscillia Kounkou-Hoveyda | Sierra Leone | 9 min

NOTHING SPECIAL

D: Efrat Berger | France, Israel | 14 min

TUE, APR 30 2:30 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 1:15 PM TLB

SHORTS PROGRAMS

SHORTS PROGRAM 6

History sometimes does not repeat itself.

SKATE

D: Philippe Berthelet | Canada | 8 min

THE STORY OF NE KUKO

D: Festus Toll | Netherlands | 25 min

SANDCASTLES

D: Carin Jin-Yi Leong | USA, Singapore | 16 min

J'ADORE VENISE —

ON DISAPPEARING BODIES

D: Stefano Dealessandri | Italy | 9 min

ETERNAL FATHER

D: Ömer Sami | Denmark | 31 min

WED, MAY 1 10:15 AM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 4:45 PM SCOTIA

SHORTS PROGRAM 7

Power, sexual freedom and the politics of standing up for what you believe in.

BIG MOVES

D: Sarah Grant | UK | 14 min

BEARD

D: Kristiina Karsten, Otso Reunanen, Silja Salmi

| Finland | 15 min

AUDIO & THE ALLIGATOR

D: Andrés I. Estrada | Canada, Venezuela | 17 min

A WOMAN THINKING

D: Aida Harika Yanomami, Edmar Tokorino Yanomami, Roseane Yariana Yanomami | Brazil

| 10 min

WE DID NOT CONSENT

D: Dorothy Allen-Pickard | UK | 18 min

THU, MAY 2 2:15 PM SCOTIA SUN, MAY 5 7:45 PM SCOTIA







BEARD

38 : hotdocs.ca

Venues

1. HOT DOCS CINEMA

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema and Festival Box Office 506 Bloor Street West

2. INNIS

Innis College 2 Sussex Ave

3. SCOTIA

Scotiabank Theatre Toronto 259 Richmond Street West

4. TLB

TIFF Lightbox Reitman Square 350 King Street West



For detailed travel and accessibility information, visit hotdocs.ca/venues.

Schedule at a Glance

LEGEND



HOT DOCS CINEMA	Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
INNIS	Innis College
TLB	TIFF Lightbox
SCOTIA	Scotiabank Theatre Toronto

5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM 9:30 PM		10 PM	11 PM	
					9:30 PM OPENING NIGH LUTHER: NEVEI p. 6			HO DO(CINE

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SCOTIA 5					2:00 PM SHORTS PROGRAM 1 p. 36			4:45 PM ADRIANNE 8 THE CASTLE p. 14				5 PM Mother Apart 19				
SCOTIA 6					2:15 PM IMMORTAI p. 27	LS			HERE V Project			8:00 PM CYBORG GENERATION p. 26				
SCOTIA 7				1:15 PM AGENT OF HAPPINES: p. 19	5		4:15 PM FAMILY p. 31				7:30 PM WHATE p. 26	I Ever IT Takes				
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TLB 3						LA	15 PM IND OF Y DREAMS 28							9:30 PM DAUGHT p. 12		

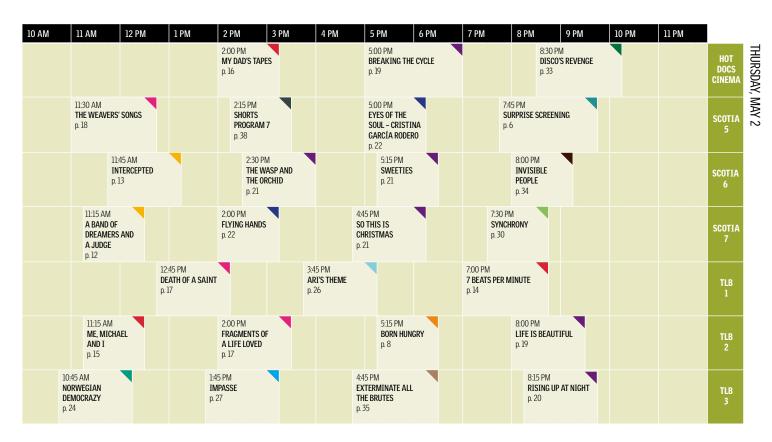
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SCOTIA 6		11:15 AM SHORTS PROGRAM 2 p. 36	2		2:15 PM WILFRED BUCK p. 16			5:15 PM WHATEVER p. 26	R IT TAKES		8:30 MY DIA p. 23	SEXTORTION RY		
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	11:45 AM MADE IN SPAIN SHORTS PROGRAM p. 23	2:30 PM POWER p. 10		5:15 PM THE CLICK TRAP p. 22	8:00 PM SEEKING MAVIS BEACON p. 26		SCOTIA 5
	11:30 AM THE SOLDIER'S LAGOON p. 16	2:15 PM SMILING GEORGIA p. 21		5:00 PM THIS IS GOING TO BE BIG p. 13	8:15 PM EVERY LITTLI p. 13	E THING	SCOTIA 6
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	11:15 AM A FRENCH YOUTH p. 15	2:15 PM SANS SOLEIL p. 35		5:30 PM RED FEVER p. 10	8:45 I BLAC p. 8	PM CK BOX DIARIES	TLB 1
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Editor, Becoming Canadian: Citizens' Stories, The Royal Canadian Geographic Society and CPAC

Assistant Editor, To Kill A Tiger, NFB, TIFF Best Canadian Feature

Lead Assistant Editor, The Jackie Shane Story, Banger Films and NFB, World Premiere at SXSW 2024

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