

WORLD SHOWCASE PROGRAM AT HOT DOCS OFFERS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES FACING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES FROM 31 COUNTRIES

Toronto, March 28, 2023 – Hot Docs will share compelling and diverse stories from around the world as part of the Festival’s 2023 **World Showcase** program. Featuring 21 feature films, four mid-length films, and 12 shorts, this year’s World Showcase includes works from 31 countries, including Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK and the USA. The 2023 Hot Docs Festival, this year celebrating its 30th anniversary, will take place April 27 to May 7 in Toronto.

“Each year, the World Showcase program at Hot Docs offers audiences a carefully curated selection of works that provide great insight into crucial issues impacting the globe today,” said **Shane Smith**, Hot Docs artistic director. “Through these films, we gain not only a greater understanding of the issues facing our global community, but a chance to experience unique perspectives and storytelling from filmmakers at the forefront of the international documentary movement.”

This year’s 30th-anniversary edition of the World Showcase program includes the world premieres of ***After the Bridge***, a nuanced and humanizing portrait of a shocked mother finding peace with her son, a jihadist killed in the 2017 London Bridge attack; ***Allihopa: The Dalkurd Story***, in which Kurdish refugees come together to form a professional soccer team in Sweden in a shared fight for both independence and victory on the pitch; ***Jackie the Wolf***, an unconventional conversation between the filmmaker and his mother who, as part of a refusal to live beyond a certain age, has announced her death date despite not being terminally ill; ***The Lebanese Burger Mafia***, in which the filmmaker–heir to a Burger Baron franchise–chases clues through rural Alberta to uncover the saga of a rogue fast-food chain with mysterious origins; ***Razing Liberty Square***, a look at the oldest segregated public housing project in the Southern USA as it faces gentrification and climate change with wealthy Miami developers circling like sharks; ***Rowdy Girl***, the story of a former Texas cattle rancher turned animal sanctuary operator as she encourages farmers to transition to plant-based food production, and ***Sleepless Birds***, a look at how the rise of industrial greenhouses in the French region of Bretagne are bringing dire consequences for the region’s biodiversity.

International premieres include ***Is My Living in Vain***, linking communities in West Philadelphia and South East London in a poetic meditation on the living history and freedom potential of the Black church; and ***A Mother, Youngsoon***, in which a North Korean defector works tirelessly at construction sites and in a food truck to support her family.

The program will also feature a selection of captivating European shorts as part of the **World Showcase Shorts Program**, with others sprinkled throughout the program and screening with feature and mid-length films.

The full lineup of 2023 World Showcase films appear below with screening information. In many cases, filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on.

AFTER THE BRIDGE

D: Davide Rizzo, Marzia Toscano | P: Adam Selo, Olga Torrico | Italy | 2023 | 66 min | World Premiere
A shocked mother must find peace with her son, a jihadist killed in the 2017 London Bridge attack, in this nuanced and humanizing portrait of a woman grappling with faith, loss and memory in the aftermath of tragedy.

Screening with

INTO THE BLUE

D: Ömer Sami | P: Alma Dyekjær Giese | Denmark | 2022 | 28 min | World Premiere

Friday, April 28, 5:30 PM - SCOTIA 5

Wednesday, May 3, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

AGAINST THE TIDE

D: Sarvnik Kaur | P: Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur | India, France | 2023 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere
As climate change threatens their traditional way of life, two Koli indigenous fishermen in Mumbai risk their friendship as they're driven by desperation to very different ways of harvesting from the dying sea to support their families.

Wednesday, May 3, 5:45 PM - TBLB2

Saturday, May 6, 8:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

ALLIHOPA: THE DALKURD STORY

D: Kordo Doski | P: Kordo Doski, Lina Hanson, Jose Moreno Brooks, Paul Canterna | Canada, Iraq, USA, Sweden | 2023 | 91 min | World Premiere

Kurdish refugees come together to form a professional soccer team in Sweden, overcoming racism, xenophobia and their tragic pasts to make European sports history. Victory on the pitch shines a light on their fight for independence.

Saturday, April 29, 5:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

Thursday, May 4, 12:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

THE CASTLE

D: Martín Benchimol | P: Mayra Bottero, Gema Juárez Allen, Clarisa Oliveri | Argentina | 2023 | 78 min | North American Premiere

In this charming and poignant modern fairy tale, social class and family dynamics are explored when Justina inherits a mansion in the Argentinian Pampas where she used to be the housekeeper under one condition: that she will never sell it.

Friday, April 28, 8:30 PM - TBLB4
Monday, May 1, 3:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

EAT BITTER

D: Pascale Appora-Gnekindy, Ningyi Sun | P: Mathieu Faure | Central African Republic | 2023 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

Two men on opposite sides of the economic spectrum in the Central African Republic unknowingly unite to build a bank during the civil war and grow the country from the ground up, no matter the cost to their lives and the environment.

Wednesday, May 3, 7:45 PM - SCOTIA 6
Saturday, May 6, 11:30 AM - SCOTIA 5

THE ECHO

D: Tatiana Huezo | P: Tatiana Huezo, Dalia Reyes, Viola Fügen, Michael Weber, Doris Hepp | Mexico, Germany | 2023 | 102 min | North American Premiere

Told through stunning cinematography, the children of the remote Mexican village of El Eco learn the complexities of love, illness and, ultimately, growing up as they care for their sheep and their elders in this film by critically acclaimed director Tatiana Huezo.

Tuesday, May 2, 2:45 PM - TBLB2
Friday, May 5, 5:30 PM - TBLB3

THE ETERNAL MEMORY

D: Maite Alberdi | P: Maite Alberdi, Juan de Dios Larraín, Pablo Larraín, Rocío Jadue | Chile | 2023 | 85 min | Canadian Premiere

Set against the backdrop of the country's erasure of collective memory, we find one of Chile's most prominent cultural commentators diagnosed with Alzheimer's. As his loving wife affectionately stands beside him, we watch his archive of memory slowly fade away.

Saturday, April 29, 5:30 PM - Isabel Bader
Monday, May 1, 11:00 AM - Isabel Bader

THE ETILAAT ROZ

D: Abbas Rezaie | P: Abbas Rezaie, Zaki Daryabi | Afghanistan | 2022 | 92 min | North American Premiere

Award-winning local newspaper *Etilaat Roz*, known for its courageous reporting on government corruption and Taliban killings, covers the fall of Kabul from the inside as the paper proceeds day-by-day amid confusion, worst-case preparations and disaster, but for how long?

Wednesday, May 3, 5:00 PM - SCOTIA 6
Saturday, May 6, 12:00 PM - SCOTIA 7

FAUNA

D: Pau Faus | P: Sergi Cameron, Ventura Dural | Spain | 2023 | 74 min | North American Premiere
On Barcelona's outskirts, an aging shepherd's farm shares the woods with an animal testing laboratory where scientists seek a COVID vaccine. The contrasting worlds of past and future offer a reflection on the complicated relationship between humans, animals and science.

Sunday, April 30, 8:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

Saturday, May 6, 12:15 PM - TBLB4

IS MY LIVING IN VAIN

D: Ufuoma Essi | P: Ufuoma Essi, Leah McGurk, Artina Michelle | UK, New Zealand, France | 2022 | 41 min | International Premiere

Weaving together archival imagery and oral history, communities in West Philadelphia and South East London are linked in this poetic meditation on the living history and freedom potential of the Black church.

Screening with

BY WATER

D: Iyabo Kwayana | P: Maori Holmes, Nevo Shinaar | USA, Singapore, Guyana | 2022 | 12 min | Canadian Premiere

Monday, May 1, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Saturday, May 6, 2:30 PM - SCOTIA 6

JACKIE THE WOLF

D: Tuki Jencquel | P: Tuki Jencquel, Estelle Robin You, Andy Cohen | Germany, France | 2023 | 93 min | World Premiere

Jackie Jencquel, author and activist, is not terminally ill when she announces her death date—she simply refuses to live beyond a certain age. This unconventional conversation between a mother and her son, the filmmaker, tackles desire, personal autonomy, vanity and money.

Monday, May 1, 5:30 PM - Isabel Bader

Sunday, May 7, 11:45 AM - SCOTIA 6

THE LEBANESE BURGER MAFIA

D: Omar Mouallem | P: Dylan Rhys Howard, Omar Mouallem | Canada | 2023 | 103 min | World Premiere

The heir to a Burger Baron franchise, the filmmaker chases clues through rural Alberta, capturing the trials and tribulations of Arab immigrants while uncovering the saga of a rogue fast-food chain with mysterious origins and a cult following.

Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 PM - Isabel Bader

Friday, May 5, 2:15 PM - TBLB3

LYNX MAN

D: Juha Suonpää | P: Pasi Hakkio, Niina Virtanen | Finland | 2023 | 80 min | North American Premiere
A Finnish pensioner devoted to saving the Eurasian lynx from extinction becomes so immersed in the animals he tracks, photographs and leaves cat toys for, that he finds himself becoming one of them.

Screening with

ENTITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE

D: Maxwell Mueller | P: Maxwell Mueller | USA | 2022 | 18 min | World Premiere

Saturday, April 29, 8:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

Friday, May 5, 5:30 PM - SCOTIA 5

MILISUTHANDO

D: Milisuthando Bongela | P: Marion Isaacs | South Africa, Colombia | 2023 | 128 min | Canadian Premiere

Refracting South Africa's racial dynamics through the filmmaker's personal history, *Milisuthando* is a sweeping yet intimate chronicle of the country post-Apartheid exploring history, power, race, friendship and belonging.

Monday, May 1, 7:30 PM - TBLB4

Sunday, May 7, 6:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

MONEY, FREEDOM, A STORY OF CFA FRANC

D: Katy Lena Ndiaye | P: Oualid Baha, Katy Ndiaye, Aurelien Bodinaux, Florian Schewe | France, Sénégal, Belgium, Germany | 2022 | 100 min | North American Premiere

Though independent since 1960, former French colonies in Africa still use the CFA franc, an enduring remnant of imperialism kept alive by economic incentives that infantilize countries. But as a new generation demands freedom, its days are numbered.

Sunday, April 30, 11:30 AM - TBLB4

Thursday, May 4, 2:30 PM - SCOTIA 6

A MOTHER, YOUNGSOON

D: Changjun Lee | P: Mijin Park | South Korea | 2022 | 79 min | International Premiere

A North Korean defector works tirelessly at construction sites and in a food truck to support her family. But despite her back-breaking efforts to adapt to South Korea and provide for her son, they only seem to drift farther apart.

Friday, April 28, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Monday, May 1, 12:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING

D: Simon Chambers | P: David Rane, Simon Chambers | Ireland, UK | 2022 | 83 min | North American Premiere

Caring for his madcap gay uncle in London, the filmmaker is engulfed in a whirl of Shakespeare and clutter as the aging actor lends his credit card to neighbours, greets visitors naked and imparts profound lessons on dying in bliss.

Screening with

SHELLS

D: Marie-Magdalena Kochova | P: Tomáš Šimon | Czech Republic | 2022 | 9 min | Canadian Premiere

Friday, April 28, 2:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

Tuesday, May 2, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

RAZING LIBERTY SQUARE

D: Katja Esson | P: Katja Esson, Ann Bennett, Corinna Sager, Ronald Baez | USA | 2023 | 86 min | World Premiere

As climate change erodes Miami's beachfronts, wealthy developers move further inland to Liberty City, the oldest segregated public housing project in the South, where community members grapple with their gathering place being lost to climate gentrification.

Monday, May 1, 8:15 PM - TBLB2

Saturday, May 6, 8:45 PM - TBLB3

REJEITO

D: Pedro de Filippis | P: Leonardo Mecchi, Bronte Stahl, Tarsila Nakamura | Brazil, USA | 2023 | 75 min | North American Premiere

After one of the largest mining dam breaks in history, further dam collapses threaten millions in Brazil. A state counsellor confronts the modus operandi of the government, while dam refugees resist the abuses of the mining companies in their threatened communities.

Wednesday, May 3, 5:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

Sunday, May 7, 5:30 PM - SCOTIA 6

ROWDY GIRL

D: Jason Goldman | P: Jason Goldman | USA | 2022 | 72 min | World Premiere

Determined to make the planet a better place, former Texas cattle rancher Renee King-Sonnen transforms her husband's beef operation into a farm animal sanctuary, encouraging other farmers to transition from animal agriculture to plant-based food production.

Saturday, April 29, 8:15 PM - Isabel Bader

Wednesday, May 3, 9:00 PM - TBLB1

SAMUEL AND THE LIGHT

D: Vinícius Girnys | P: Philippe Aussel, Fernando Pereira dos Santos | Brazil | 2023 | 65 min | North American Premiere

A family living in a small village on the coast of Brazil experiences changes to the established, slow

rhythms of their life with the arrival of electricity and tourism to their community.

Screening with

HEBRON RELOCATION

D: Holly Andersen | P: Latonia Hartery, Kat Baulu, Rohan Fernando | Canada | 2023 | 15 min | World Premiere

Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

Sunday, May 7, 8:30 PM - TBLB4

SILENT HOUSE

D: Farnaz Jurabchian, Mohammadreza Jurabchian | P: Elaheh Nobakht, Farnaz Jurabchian, Mohammadreza Jurabchian | Iran, France, Qatar, Canada, Philippines | 2022 | 100 min | North American Premiere

The famous adage “if walls could talk” resonates through *Silent House* as a home comes alive through archival and contemporary home videos spanning three generations in Tehran and the ever-changing cultural politics of Iran.

Wednesday, May 3, 5:15 PM - TBLB3

Saturday, May 6, 5:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

SLEEPLESS BIRDS

D: Tom Claudon, Dana Melaver | P: Bernadette Hauke | Germany | 2022 | 45 min | World Premiere

The rise of artificially lit, industrial greenhouses in the French region of Bretagne brings dire consequences for the region’s biodiversity as well as disruptions of time and perception for living creatures in their vicinity.

Screening with

ECO-HACK!

D: Josh Izenberg, Brett Marty | P: Josh Izenberg, Brett Marty | USA | 2023 | 16 min | International Premiere

and

MOTHER EARTH'S INNER ORGANS

D: Ana Bravo Pérez | P: Joram Kraaijeveld, Ana Bravo Pérez | Netherlands, Colombia | 2022 | 22 min | International Premiere

Thursday, May 4, 5:45 PM - SCOTIA 5

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

A STILL SMALL VOICE

D: Luke Lorentzen | P: Kellen Quinn, Luke Lorentzen | USA | 2023 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere
An aspiring chaplain begins her residency in a New York City hospital’s spiritual care

department. Through her unending compassionate care for her patients, she loses the ability for her own self-care and must look deep within herself to find a remedy.

Wednesday, May 3, 2:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Saturday, May 6, 8:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

THE STROLL

D: Kristen Lovell, Zackary Drucker | P: Matt Wolf | USA | 2023 | 85 min | Canadian Premiere
Filmmaker Kristen Lovell walked “The Stroll” in New York’s Meatpacking District for a decade. She reunites her community of transgender sex workers to recount how their culture and unity in the face of violent policing, homelessness and gentrification built a movement for transgender rights.

Saturday, April 29, 8:30 PM - TBLB2

Friday, May 5, 5:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

SHORTS PROGRAM: PERSON, PLACE OR THING

There’s a word for everything—a name, a category for even the smallest thing. But how do we define if an elephant is a person, a traditional whaling practice is worth protecting or a tree is your friend?

EMPIRE OF MY MELODIOUS MIND

D: Jeannette Louie | P: Jeannette Louie | USA | 2022 | 9 min | Ontario Premiere

HAPPY

D: Laura Rindlisbacher | P: Laura Rindlisbacher | UK | 2023 | 21 min | World Premiere

MADULU, THE SEAMAN

D: Akley Olton | P: Akley Olton, Laura Sanz | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, USA | 2022 | 22 min | World Premiere

WHITE GRASS

D: Justin Kim WooSök | P: Ruby Lanet | Mongolia | 2022 | 16 min | World Premiere

BETWEEN EARTH & SKY

D: Andrew Nadkarni | P: Swetha Regunathan, Katie Schiller, Andrew Nadkarni | USA, Costa Rica | 2023 | 26 min | International Premiere

Tuesday, May 2, 8:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca) (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 30th annual edition from April 27 to May 7, 2023, in cinemas across Toronto, with a selection of films available online to audiences throughout Canada. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and The Doc Shop. In celebration of its 30th anniversary and a dedication to excellence in non-fiction storytelling, Hot Docs will present the Podcast Festival Showcase, featuring a slate of today's hottest podcasts live on stage; along with a dynamic line-up of industry panels and master classes featuring podcast game-changers. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film 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 28, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 4, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed online at www.hotdocs.ca or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with screenings). Single tickets are \$19 to regular Festival screenings and \$22 to Special Presentations screenings (\$17-19 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$199 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$279. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to those 60+ and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

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

FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

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