

**THREE-TIME OSCAR-NOMINATED FILMMAKER JULIA REICHERT NAMED  
HOT DOCS 2019 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT**

Toronto, March 19, 2019 – The Hot Docs Board of Directors is pleased to announce it has chosen three-time Academy Award nominee Julia Reichert as the recipient of its 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award. As part of the honour, Hot Docs will screen a partial retrospective of Reichert's work during the Festival, April 25 to May 5, celebrating her illustrious filmmaking career. Reichert will attend the Festival and participate in a public in conversation event, as well as several Q&A's after her film screenings.

"Julia Reichert's exceptional career has spanned almost 50 years, and we're thrilled to be recognizing her with Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award this year" said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Not only a lauded filmmaker, Julia is a mentor, community builder and an impassioned chronicler of the complex issues facing America today, and we are honoured to amplify the voice of this master storyteller, who has given voice to so many others through her work."

A prolific documentarian and three-time Academy Award nominee, Julia Reichert has been making films for 50 years. Drawn to stories that explore class, gender and race in America, her first film, *Growing Up Female* (1971), was the first feature documentary of the modern women's movement, and was just selected for the National Film Registry. Her docs *Union Maids* (1976) and *Seeing Red* (1984) (both with Jim Klein), were nominated for Academy Awards for Best Feature Documentary, and her 2009 short *The Last Truck: Closing of a GM Plant* was nominated for an Oscar for Best Short Documentary. *Seeing Red* went on to screen theatrically in over 100 cinemas across the US, and *The Last Truck* premiered on HBO and screened at the Telluride Film Festival.

Reichert's four-hour milestone documentary *A Lion in the House* (2006), made with director Steven Bognar, screened nationally on PBS and won the Primetime Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking. Reichert was a Professor of Motion Pictures at Wright State University for 28 years, and she's served on the boards of the Ohio Humanities Council, the Independent Feature Project and the Association of Independents in Video & Film. She is a member of both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the Television Academy, and is a co-founder of New Day Films, an independent film distribution co-op. In 2018, the International Documentary Association (IDA) gave Julia their Career Achievement Award, and the Museum of Modern Art and the Wexner Center for the Arts will team up to present a traveling retrospective of Julia's films this year. Reichert is also the author of *Doing It Yourself*, the first book on self-distribution in independent film.

The Outstanding Achievement Award retrospective is supported by the Government of Ontario. This event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

The Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award is presented annually by the Hot Docs Board of Directors in recognition of a filmmaker's enduring contribution to the documentary form.

Past recipients and Hot Docs guests include Barbara Kopple (2018), Tony Palmer (2017), Steve James (2016), Patricio Guzmán (2015), Adam Curtis (2014), Les Blank (2013), Michel Brault (2012), Terence Macartney-Filgate (2011), Kim Longinotto (2010), Alanis Obomsawin (2009),

Richard Leacock (2008), Heddy Honigmann (2007), Werner Herzog (2006), Errol Morris (2005), Michael Maclear (2004), Nick Broomfield (2003), Frederick Wiseman (2002), D. A. Pennebaker and Chris Hegedus (2000) and Albert Maysles (1999).

Outstanding Achievement Award Retrospective film descriptions and screening times appear below. Hot Doc is also pleased to be presenting the international premiere of Julia Reichert and Steven Bogner's *American Factory* in this year's Special Presentations program.

### **GROWING UP FEMALE**

D: Julia Reichert, Jim Klein | USA | 1971 | 50 min

Considered to be the first film of the modern US women's movement, this landmark doc first screened to controversy and exhilaration, profiling a diverse group of six girls and women on what it means to come of age in America.

*Screening with:*

#### **SPARKLE**

D: Steven Bogner, Julia Reichert | USA | 2012 | 19 min

SATURDAY, MAY 4                      12:45 PM              TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX

### **A LION IN THE HOUSE**

D: Julia Reichert, Steven Bogner | USA | 2006 | 230 min

This Emmy-winning, four-hour epic follows five children battling cancer over the course of six years. Filmed with unprecedented access to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, it is an intense and deeply moving monument to human fragility and resilience.

THURSDAY, MAY 2                      12:00 PM              SCOTIABANK THEATRE

### **SEEING RED: STORIES OF AMERICAN COMMUNISTS**

D: Julia Reichert, Jim Klein | USA | 1983 | 100 min

Filmed at the height of Reaganism, this Oscar-nominated history of the Communist Party in America traces the roots of Social Security and EI, and went on to become one of the most widely screened docs of the '80s.

FRIDAY, MAY 3                      1:30 PM              TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX

### **UNION MAIDS**

D: Julia Reichert, Jim Klein, Miles Mogulescu | USA | 1977 | 52 min

In this rousing chronicle of a defining moment in the American labour movement, three extraordinary women look back on the Depression-era trade unionist crusade, where they faced police brutality, sexism and racism, but never backed down.

*Screening with:*

#### **THE LAST TRUCK: CLOSING OF A GM PLANT**

D: Steven Bogner, Julia Reichert | USA | 2009 | 40 min

FRIDAY, MAY 3                      10:45 AM              TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX

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

-30-

Hot Docs ([www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, will present its 26<sup>th</sup> annual edition from April 25-May 5, 2019. An outstanding selection of approximately 200 documentaries from Canada and around the world will be presented to Toronto audiences and international delegates. Hot Docs will also mount a full roster of conference sessions and market events and services for documentary practitioners, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker and the Doc Shop. Hot Docs owns the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood.

Starting Tuesday, March 19, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can buy single tickets for screenings. Starting Tuesday, March 26 at 11:00 a.m., Festival tickets will be available to the public. Visit the Crave Box Office at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, located at 506 Bloor Street West for ticket, package, and pass sales and ticket redemption. Tickets can be purchased in person, online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca), or by phone at 416.637.3123. Single tickets to screenings are \$17.50-\$19 each (6-screening bundle \$99), and \$24 each to special events. Tickets to Food & Film are \$35-\$80. A Festival 10-Pack is \$159, a Festival 20-Pack is \$259, and a Premium Pass is \$399. Hot Docs offers free same-day tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to seniors (60+) and students with valid photo I.D. at the venue box offices (subject to availability), courtesy of CBC Docs.

#### **FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

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

**Username:** hotdocsmedia

**Password:** hdmedia19

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

Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates, Inc.

Telephone: 416-839-9239

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