

## **HOT DOCS FESTIVAL ONLINE WILL SHOWCASE 2020 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS STARTING MAY 28**

Toronto, May 5, 2020 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that it will launch Hot Docs Festival Online on May 28 to offer at-home viewers a rich array of titles from its 2020 official selection. Ontario audiences will be able to stream films on the recently launched Hot Docs at Home TVOD platform, available at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Hot Docs Festival Online will run from May 28 to June 6. After the Festival, a majority of titles will be made available for an extended viewing window until June 24, subject to availability.

“Over a month ago when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, we took the unprecedented step of postponing the public Festival anticipating that we would soon be able to reschedule it,” said **Brett Hendrie**, executive director of Hot Docs. “But now, given the ongoing uncertainty around when live festivals and other large gatherings may safely be held, we are fortunate to have this option to bring these outstanding films to our audiences. Response to our Hot Docs at Home platform has been overwhelmingly positive and we’re thrilled to be able to offer so many 2020 official selections on it.”

More than 135 official selections will be participating in Hot Docs Festival Online, including the 91 feature and mid-length titles announced today and more than 45 short films and additional features that will be added to the slate in the upcoming weeks. During Hot Docs Festival Online, audiences will also have access to pre-recorded Q&As with filmmakers and subjects, hosted by Hot Docs programmers, and additional virtual live events are also being planned. All previously announced film programs will be represented with titles, with the exception of retrospectives and DocX. The Outstanding Achievement Award Retrospective honouring Stanley Nelson and the Focus On Raymonde Provencher retrospective will be presented at the 2021 Festival to more appropriately celebrate the honourees.

The annual Hot Docs Festival, which was slated for April 30-May 10, was postponed on March 13 due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. In response, Hot Docs launched its Hot Docs at Home initiative to help audiences discover and access documentary films while under quarantine. As part of this initiative, Hot Docs at Home on CBC, launched April 16, continues to offer national audiences weekly broadcast premieres of select 2020 official selections. Hot Docs Festival Online, available on the recently launched Hot Docs at Home TVOD platform, is yet another way to deliver even more 2020 official selections to at-home audiences while live festival presentations are not permitted.

Starting May 21, ticket package holders will be able to book their films and Hot Docs Members will be able to purchase single tickets at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca). Single tickets will go on sale to the general public starting May 26. Tickets are \$9 per film (\$8 for Hot Docs Members). All films will be available to stream starting May 28. As at the live Hot Docs Festival, only a limited number of tickets are available for each film. Films will be geo-blocked to the province of Ontario.

The full list of participating films can be found here: [Hot Docs Festival Online](http://www.hotdocs.ca).

A prevalent theme that emerges in the online program is one of doc filmmakers sounding the alarm on pressing social and political issues, exposing the often hidden systems that impact lives. Films that reflect this theme include: *Coded Bias*, which exposes the disastrous impact when technology discriminates through the story of an MIT researcher who uncovers racial bias in advanced facial

recognition software; *Hong Kong Moments*, which takes us into the heart of the country's recent protests to reveal how ordinary citizens are taking sides as pro-democracy protesters battle armed police in the streets; and *Landfall*, an eye-opening look at Puerto Rico after the devastation of 2017's Hurricane Maria, exposing the political systems that failed to step in to help the fallen society.

Additional films that reflect this theme include: *The Forum*, which offers an inside look at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the most powerful leaders and thinkers gather, spotlighting fascinating conversations between personalities like Al Gore, Jair Bolsonaro and Greta Thunberg; the doc-series *Green Blood*, which follows a consortium of 40 international journalists who've banded together to continue the work of local reporters who've been threatened, jailed or killed investigating large-scale crimes committed by global mining behemoths—including Canada's own Barrick; *Influence*, which profiles notorious British public relations firm Bell Pottinger and their use of fake news, weaponized communications and interference to spin stories in favour of their often disreputable clients; *iHUMAN* takes a deep dive into the world of artificial intelligence, as told by some of the pioneers and experts of the field who reflect on the massive impact these advancements have on our world—from incredible technological advances to scandals like Cambridge Analytica and the alarming rise of deep fakes; and *Wood*, where an environmental spy operation infiltrates a global syndicate to expose the illegal timber trade at work in remote Russian forests, Chinese factories and Romanian mills.

The program will showcase a host of compelling personal stories that intersect with strong political, social and ideological issues. Films that touch on this theme include: *#BLESSED*, which takes a revelatory peek inside Toronto's C3, Canada's fastest growing evangelical church; *Bulletproof*, where we see how the fear and anxiety caused by mass school shootings in America is drastically affecting daily school life; *The 8<sup>th</sup>*, which tells the story of how the pro-choice movement overturned conservative Ireland's strict 35-year anti-abortion ban by switching tactics to emphasize compassion; *First We Eat* addresses concerns with food security as filmmaker Suzanne Crocker eliminates all store-bought food from her home in the Yukon and challenges her family to eat locally for one full year; *Reunited* reveals how the Syrian war split one family across three continents—a father in Canada and his two children in Turkey—and their formidable fight to reunite; *Shut Up Sona* is an inspiring look at Indian singer Sona Mohapatra, a feisty feminist who's using her voice to fight back against misogyny and to create a space for herself in India's patriarchal music industry; *There's No Place Like This Place, Anyplace*, which looks at the gentrification of Toronto told through the stories of immigrants affected by the closure of iconic discount store Honest Ed's; and *The Walrus and the Whistleblower*, which tells a stranger-than-fiction tale of a MarineLand trainer turned whistleblower who sparks an online movement to end marine mammal captivity.

Other films in the program that reflect this theme include: the long-form episodic documentary *City So Real*, directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Steve James (*Hoop Dreams*), which presents a fascinating and complex portrait of contemporary Chicago set against the backdrop of its history-making 2019 mayoral election; *Don't Worry, The Doors Will Open*, in which a run-down, overcrowded Soviet-era commuter train serves as the backdrop for a verité portrait of the daily lives of its Ukrainian working-class passengers, and a country reconciling its troubled past and uncertain future; and *Lost Lives*, in which some of Ireland's best-known actors narrate passages from the famed book *Lost Lives*, offering a requiem for those killed during the Northern Irish Troubles.

Stories of the LGBTQ experience are found in films such as: *Transhood*, which follows four trans kids over five years in Kansas as they redefine coming-of-age on their own terms and reshape perceptions of “the family next door” in America’s heartland; *Bare*, an exploration of artistic conflict, gender, and taboo observed through 11 male dancers who audition, rehearse and perform naked for a contemporary dance piece by master Belgian choreographer Thierry Smits; *Always Amber*, in which inseparable teenage besties Amber and Sebastian explore gender and their queerness together, until a love triangle leaves Amber to transition solo; *Her Mothers*, the story of a lesbian couple trying to adopt and confronting homophobia in an increasingly radicalized Hungary; and *Keyboard Fantasies: The Beverly Glenn-Copeland Story*, which introduces us to the Black transgender musical genius, who embarks on his first international tour in his seventies as the present day finally catches up to his barrier-breaking sounds and identities.

Compelling personal stories and portraits of unique and engaging subjects include: *Mayor*, which tells the story of the charismatic Christian mayor of Ramallah who tends to the everyday needs of his citizens while also striving to end the occupation of Palestine; *The Reason I Jump*, in which award-winning filmmaker Jerry Rothwell profiles non-verbal autistic people from around the world based on then 13-year-old Naoki Higashida's bestselling memoir and groundbreaking account of child autism; *Sanmao. Desert Bride*, a captivating profile of famed Chinese-born, Taiwan-raised author Sanmao, whose commitment to her personal freedom and art inspired a generation of women; *They Call Me Dr. Miami*, an entertaining look into the life of Dr. Michael Salzhauer, an American celebrity plastic surgeon with a huge social media cult following; *Dilemma of Desire*, which takes a hard look at the medical industry that has all but ignored female pleasure through the stories of four different women left to discover their bodies on their own; *The Painter and the Thief*, which looks at the unlikely friendship that evolves between artist Barbora ‘Barbar’ Kysilkova and the drug addict who stole two of her famous paintings from an Oslo gallery; and *Love & Stuff*, in which filmmaker Judith Helfand mourns the recent loss of her mother through a connection with her belongings while also preparing to be a “new old” mom at 50.

Several films in the program tell the stories of everyday heroes and regular people rising to challenges and reclaiming power. These films include: *Dark City Beneath the Beat*, co-produced by actor Issa Rae, is an energetic journey through Baltimore’s legendary creative landscape with director TT The Artist; opening night selection *Softie*, which tells the story of Kenya’s most provocative photojournalist, Boniface “Softie” Mwangi, as he campaigns against injustice, and the resulting impact this has on his family; *For The Love of Rutland*, in which a recovering opioid addict turns into a unlikely hero when her town’s mayor accepts 100 Syrian refugees and they are met with racism and xenophobia; *Judy Versus Capitalism*, a creative look at iconic second wave Canadian feminist, journalist and writer, Judy Reddick; *Once Upon a Time in Venezuela*, in which we witness the environmental suffering of a small fishing village in Venezuela that is literally sinking from sedimentation; and *Dope is Death*, which looks at the Black activists in the 1970s who introduced acupuncture into their communities as a treatment for drug addiction.

This year’s Special Presentations program is sponsored by Crave; Canadian Spectrum is sponsored by TVO; International Spectrum is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation; Made In Ireland is sponsored by Northern Ireland Screen; Persister is presented in partnership with Oxfam Canada; and The Changing Face of Europe is presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP).

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

All feature films and mid-length titles participating in Hot Docs Festival Online are listed alphabetically below:

### [#BLESSED](#)

D: Ali Weinstein | Canada | 2020 | 75 Min | Canadian Spectrum

### [THE 8TH](#)

D: Aideen Kane, Maeve O'Boyle, Lucy Kennedy | USA | 2020 | 94 min | Persister

### [9/11 KIDS](#)

D: Elizabeth St. Philip | Canada | 2019 | 88 min | World Showcase

### [ALL THAT I AM](#)

D: Tone Grøttjord-Glenne | Norway | 2019 | 75 min | International Spectrum

### [ALWAYS AMBER](#)

D: Hannah Reinikainen, Lia Hietala | Sweden | 2020 | 75 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [THE ART OF FALLISM](#)

D: Aslaug Aarsæther, Gunnbjörg Gunnarsdóttir | Norway, South Africa | 2019 | 74 min | Revisionaries

### [BARE](#)

D: Aleksandr M. Vinogradov | Belgium | 2020 | 94 Min | Artsclapes

### [BILE](#)

D: Ira A. Goryainova | Belgium | 2019 | 64 min | Markers

### [BREAKING THE SILENCE](#)

D: Priscila Padilla | Colombia, Bolivia | 2020 | 83 min | Persister

### [BULLETPROOF](#)

D: Todd Chandler | USA | 2020 | 85 min | International Spectrum

### [CANE FIRE](#)

D: Anthony Banua-Simon | USA | 2020 | 90 min | To Conserve and Protect

### [CITY SO REAL](#)

D: Steve James | USA | 2020 | 240 min | Deep Dive

### [CODED BIAS](#)

D: Shalini Kantayya | USA | 2020 | 90 min | Special Presentations

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

[A COLOMBIAN FAMILY](#)

D: Tanja Wol Sørensen | Denmark | 2019 | 80 min | International Spectrum

[DADDY](#)

D: Lars Emil Leonhardt, Brendan Cooney | Denmark | 2020 | 50 min | World Showcase

[DARK CITY BENEATH THE BEAT](#)

D: Tt The Artist | Usa | 2019 | 65 Min | Artsclapes

[DEAD SOULS' VACATION](#)

D: Keko Chelidze | Georgia | 2020 | 67 min | The Changing Face of Europe

[THE DILEMMA OF DESIRE](#)

D: Maria Finitzo | USA | 2020 | 107 min | Persister

[DON'T WORRY, THE DOORS WILL OPEN](#)

D: Oksana Karpovych | Canada | 2019 | 76 min | Canadian Spectrum

[DOPE IS DEATH](#)

D: Mia Donovan | Canada | 2020 | 78 min | Canadian Spectrum

[THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE](#)

D: Iryna Tsilyk | Ukraine, Lithuania | 2020 | 74 min | World Showcase

[EDDY'S KINGDOM](#)

D: Greg Crompton | Canada | 2019 | 85 min | Canadian Spectrum

[EYES AND ARMS](#)

D: Panahbarkhoda Rezaee | Iran | 2019 | 52 min | World Showcase

[FADMA: EVEN ANTS HAVE WINGS](#)

D: Jawad Rhalib | Morocco, Belgium | 2019 | 80 min | International Spectrum

[FINDING SALLY](#)

D: Tamara Dawit | Canada | 2020 | 78 min | Revisionaries

[FIRST WE EAT](#)

D: Suzanne Crocker | Canada | 2020 | 101 min | To Conserve and Protect

[FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND](#)

D: Jennifer Maytorena Taylor | USA | 2020 | 92 min | Persister

[THE FORBIDDEN REEL](#)

D: Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2019 | 119 Min | Artsclapes

### [THE FORUM](#)

D: Marcus Vetter | Germany, Switzerland | 2019 | 116 min | Special Presentations

### [GREEN BLOOD](#)

D: Jules Giraudat, Arthur Bouvart, Alexis Marant | France | 2019 | 208 min | Deep Dive

### [HER MOTHERS](#)

D: Asia Dér, Sári Haragonics | Hungary | 2020 | 75 min | Persister

### [HONG KONG MOMENTS](#)

D: Bing Zhou | Hong Kong, Germany | 2020 | 90 min | Special Presentations

### [I LOVE YOU I MISS YOU I HOPE I SEE YOU BEFORE I DIE](#)

D: Eva Marie Rødbro | Denmark | 2019 | 76 min | Nightvision

### [I WANT YOU IF YOU DARE](#)

D: Dagmar Smržová | Czech Republic | 2019 | 84 min | International Spectrum

### [IF IT WERE LOVE](#)

D: Patric Chiha | France | 2019 | 82 min | Markers

### [IHUMAN](#)

D: Tonje Hessen Schei | Norway | 2019 | 100 min | Special Presentations

### [IMMORTAL](#)

D: Ksenia Okhapkina | Estonia | 2019 | 60 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [IN YOUR EYES, I SEE MY COUNTRY](#)

D: Kamal Hachkar | Morocco, France | 2019 | 75 Min | Artscapes

### [INFLUENCE](#)

D: Richard Poplak, Diana Neille | Canada, South Africa | 2020 | 106 min | Special Presentations

### [JUDY VERSUS CAPITALISM](#)

D: Mike Hoolboom | Canada | 2020 | 62 min | Markers

### [KEYBOARD FANTASIES: THE BEVERLY GLENN-COPELAND STORY](#)

D: Posy Dixon | UK | 2019 | 63 Min | Artscapes

### [L.A. TEA TIME](#)

D: Sophie Bédard-Marcotte | Canada | 2019 | 82 min | Markers

### [LANDFALL](#)

D: Cecilia Aldarondo | USA | 2020 | 91 min | World Showcase

### [THE LAST ARCHER](#)

D: Dácil Manrique De Lara | Spain | 2019 | 75 Min | Artscapes

### [THE LAST AUTUMN](#)

D: Yrsa Roca Fannberg | Iceland | 2019 | 73 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [LEAP OF FAITH: WILLIAM FRIEDKIN ON THE EXORCIST](#)

D: Alexandre O. Philippe | USA | 2019 | 105 min | Nightvision

### [LESSONS OF LOVE](#)

D: Małgorzata Goliszewska, Kasia Mateja | Poland | 2019 | 75 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [A LOSS OF SOMETHING EVER FELT](#)

D: Carlos Eduardo Lesmes López | Estonia, Colombia, Sweden | 2020 | 82 min | World Showcase

### [LOST LIVES](#)

D: Dermot Lavery, Michael Hewitt | UK, Ireland | 2019 | 93 min | Made In Northern Ireland

### [LOVE & STUFF](#)

D: Judith Helfand, David Cohen (co-director) | USA | 2020 | 80 min | Revisionaries

### [LOVE AND FURY](#)

D: Sterlin Harjo | Usa, Uk | 2020 | 89 Min | Artscapes

### [MADE YOU LOOK: A TRUE STORY ABOUT FAKE ART](#)

D: Barry Avrich | Canada | 2020 | 96 Min | Artscapes

### [MAYOR](#)

D: David Osit | USA, UK | 2020 | 89 min | World Showcase

### [MEAT THE FUTURE](#)

D: Liz Marshall | Canada | 2020 | 90 min | Special Presentations

### [MEIN VIETNAM](#)

D: Tim Ellrich, Thi Hien Mai | Germany, Austria | 2020 | 70 min | World Showcase

### [MERRY CHRISTMAS, YIWU](#)

D: Mladen Kovačević | Sweden, Serbia, France, Germany, Belgium, Qatar | 2020 | 94 min | World Showcase

### [MOTHER-CHILD](#)

D: Andrea Testa | Argentina | 2019 | 65 min | World Showcase

### [ONCE UPON A TIME IN VENEZUELA](#)

D: Anabel Rodríguez Ríos | Venezuela, UK, Brazil, Austria | 2020 | 99 min | To Conserve and Protect



### [ONLY THE DEVIL LIVES WITHOUT HOPE](#)

D: Magnus Gertten | Sweden, Norway | 2020 | 95 min | World Showcase

### [THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF](#)

D: Benjamin Ree | Norway | 2019 | 102 Min | Artscapes

### [PANQUIACO](#)

D: Ana Elena Tejera | Panama | 2020 | 85 min | Markers

### [PRAYER FOR A LOST MITTEN](#)

D: Jean-François Lesage | Canada | 2020 | 79 min | Canadian Spectrum

### [THE REASON I JUMP](#)

D: Jerry Rothwell | UK | 2019 | 82 min | World Showcase

### [REFRAMING ANDREW SADEK](#)

D: Trevor Birney | UK | 2020 | 90 min | Made In Northern Ireland

### [RES CREATA – HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS](#)

D: Alessandro Cattaneo | Italy | 2019 | 80 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [REUNITED](#)

D: Mira Jargil | Denmark | 2019 | 78 min | The Changing Face of Europe

### [SANMAO. THE DESERT BRIDE](#)

D: Ana Pérez De La Fuente, Marta Arribas | Spain | 2019 | 86 Min | Artscapes

### [THE SCHOOL OF HOUSEWIVES](#)

D: Stefanía Thors | Iceland | 2020 | 75 min | Persister

### [SHADOW FLOWERS](#)

D: Seung-Jun Yi | South Korea | 2019 | 109 min | World Showcase

### [SHUT UP SONA](#)

D: Deepti Gupta | India | 2019 | 85 min | Persister

Opening Night Film Selection

### [SOFTIE](#)

D: Sam Soko | Kenya, Canada | 2020 | 96 min | World Showcase

### [THE SONG OF THE BUTTERFLIES](#)

D: Núria Frigola Torrent | Peru | 2020 | 65 Min | Artscapes

### [STATELESS](#)

D: Michèle Stephenson | USA, Canada | 2020 | 95 min | Canadian Spectrum



[TALES FROM THE PRISON CELL](#)

D: Ábel Visky | Hungary, Croatia, Uk | 2020 | 80 Min | Artscapes

[TENSION STRUCTURES](#)

D: Feargal Ward, Adrian Duncan | Ireland, France | 2019 | 45 min | World Showcase

[THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE](#)

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 2020 | 75 min | Canadian Spectrum

[THEY CALL ME DR. MIAMI](#)

D: Jean-Simon Chartier | Canada | 2020 | 77 min | Special Presentations

[THINGS WE DARE NOT DO](#)

D: Bruno Santamaría Razo | Mexico | 2020 | 71 min | World Showcase

[TRANSHOOD](#)

D: Sharon Liese | USA | 2020 | 96 min | Special Presentations

[TWO GODS](#)

D: Zeshawn Ali | USA | 2020 | 85 min | World Showcase

[TWO ROADS](#)

D: Radovan Sibrť | Czech Republic | 2019 | 80 min | The Changing Face of Europe

[UNDER THE SAME SUN](#)

D: François Jacob | Canada | 2020 | 97 min | Canadian Spectrum

[THE WALL OF SHADOWS](#)

D: Eliza Kubarska | Poland, Germany, Switzerland | 2020 | 94 min | International Spectrum

[THE WALRUS AND THE WHISTLEBLOWER](#)

D: Nathalie Bibeau | Canada | 2020 | 89 min | Canadian Spectrum

[WINTOPIA](#)

D: Mira Burt-Wintonick | Canada | 2019 | 89 Min | Artscapes

[WOOD](#)

D: Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan, Michaela Kirst, Ebba Sinzinger | Austria, Germany, Romania | 2019 | 95 min | World Showcase

[A WOMAN, MY MOTHER](#)

D: Claude Demers | Canada | 2019 | 76 min | Canadian Spectrum

[WOMEN OF THE SUN: A CHRONOLOGY OF SEEING](#)

D: Hamed Zolfaghari | Iran, France | 2019 | 87 min | International Spectrum

### THE WORLD IS BRIGHT

D: Ying Wang | Canada | 2019 | 116 min | Canadian Spectrum

### ZERO

D: Kazuhiro Soda | Japan | 2020 | 128 min | World Showcase

### ZLOTA STREET

D: Tomasz Knittel | Poland | 2019 | 84 min | Revisionaries

-30-

### FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

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

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia20

[Hot Docs](#) 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 Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, welcomes audiences of over 228,000 and more than 2,600 industry delegates to Toronto each year. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production fund portfolio, and fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and programs the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

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