

**WORLD PREMIERE OF *A.RTIFICIAL I.MMORTALITY* ANNOUNCED AS
OPENING NIGHT FILM FOR HOT DOCS 2021**

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the world premiere of *A.rtifical I.mmortality* (Canada | 2021 | 74 mins), directed by award-winning Canadian filmmaker Ann Shin, will open this year's Hot Docs Festival.

Equally fascinating, shocking and heartfelt, *A.rtifical I.mmortality*, a Crave Original documentary, explores the latest technological advancements in AI, robotics and biotech to pose the tempting question: if you could live forever through AI, would you? Inspired by the transhumanist movement and facing the reality of death as her father suffers from dementia in his old age, the filmmaker begins an investigation into the complex world digital cloning through AI. After conversations on the process with leading field experts, she digitizes her memories and uploads them into a newly created avatar of herself, preserving her personality and identity in digital form forever. Featuring commentary from Swedish philosopher Nick Bostrom, director of the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory at Osaka University Hiroshi Ishiguro, artificial intelligence researcher Ben Goertzel, and mindfulness guru Deepak Chopra, the film presents the idea that humanity is evolving toward a new age of post-biological life, a world of intelligence without bodies or the limitations of disease, death and unfulfilled desire.

"This year's opening night film speaks not only to the moment we're living in, but also to a brave new world that awaits us," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Ann Shin is a remarkable filmmaker, and her thoughtful, insightful look at Artificial Intelligence shows us new ways to see and experience reality. *A.rtifical I.mmortality* is the perfect film to launch this year's Festival and to kick-start conversations we need to have about the potential, and the pitfalls, of our digital future."

Special thanks to Scotia Wealth Management for their support.

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[Hot Docs](http://hotdocs.ca) (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 28th annual edition from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. 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 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, 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 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be

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

purchased online at www.hotdocs.ca. Single tickets to screenings are \$13 each and \$11.50 for members. A Festival 5-pack is \$55 and \$49.50 for members, a Festival 12-pack \$125 and \$112.50 for members, and an Unlimited Festival Pass is \$259 and \$233.10 for members.

FILM STILLs AVAILABLE

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

Username: hotdocsmedia

Password: hdmedia21

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

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