

## WORLD SHOWCASE PROGRAM FEATURES TOUCHING PERSONAL NARRATIVES AND CULTURAL REVELATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to spotlight an impressive range of global stories in its World Showcase program. Featuring 24 feature films, seven mid-lengths, eight shorts, and 10 short films in two curated programs, this year's World Showcase includes work from 38 countries, including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, UK, and the USA.

"Our program featuring the best in global documentary cinema, World Showcase is your entry point to the stories that matter in the world today," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Although we're separated physically, stories unite us, and this program brings together a stunning array of films that show not only the challenges we face, but the many ways we can overcome them."

Family relationships and cultural traditions are explored in the world premieres of: *Only I Can Hear*, in which the children of deaf parents come together in a world that favours the spoken word to share their struggles and joys; *The Colonel's Stray Dogs*, in which the director looks back on his father's dangerous life as a political exile from Gaddafi's Libya; *Life of Ivanna*, in which a young Nenets mother struggles to gain control of her life and future after moving from the harsh Russian Arctic tundra to the city; and *Zuhur's Daughters*, about the children of a Syrian family exploring their transgender identities as their families cling to their religious and cultural beliefs in Germany.

Stories featuring Indigenous subjects and themes are found in: the world premiere of *A Once and Future Peace*, an exploration of the Peacemaking Circle movement, a transformative approach to criminal justice that originated in the Yukon with the First Nations Elders; the North American premiere of *Daughter of a Lost Bird*, a revelation of the impacts of transracial Indigenous adoption told through the story of a young mother seeking connection with her Lummi community; the international premiere of *Secrets from Putumayo*, which delves into the historic crimes against Indigenous Amazonians committed by the rubber industry and their ongoing struggle for self-determination; and the North American premiere of *Nothing but the Sun*, where a man attempts to reconstruct the memory of the Ayoreo people, who lived free in the South American forest until colonization forced them out.

Additional world premieres in the World Showcase program include: *The Sailor*, in which an 80 year-old reflects on his adventurous life spent sailing around the world; *Blue Box*, which explores the myth and legacy of Israel's blue boxes, a global fundraiser set up by the Jewish National Fund to purchase and acquire the historic land of Israel for the Jewish people; *Sunny*, which follows a researcher who goes door-to-door in Georgia's capital of Tbilisi, asking controversial questions about sexuality, minority rights and nationalism; and *Neighbouring the Moon*, a lyrical coming-of-age story in which two teenage girls take refuge with their mother in a cramped Aleppo hospital through the war and the ongoing pandemic.

The program will also feature two shorts programs. The first, **Look Don't Touch**, is a selection of films that spy, surveil and see things most miss. Among the six shorts is the world premiere of *Wolf Whispers*, in which the filmmaker dives headlong into her autistic brother's world to gain a better understanding of his mind; and the international premiere of *Naya*, a voyeuristic visual collage of wildlife and surveillance footage that tracks the life of a she-wolf who travels from Germany to Belgium.

The second shorts program, **The School of Life**, focuses on life lessons youth learn in the playground and the classroom. The program features four shorts, including the world premieres of *Audible*, a moving coming-of-age story about a football player's senior year at the Maryland School for the Deaf and the looming realities of entering the hearing world; and *Goodbye Tornio*, a vivid depiction of fearlessness and optimism of youth as told through the story of a recent high school graduate moving to the big city.

The World Showcase program is sponsored by CBC Gem.

All films in the World Showcase are listed below. For more information on the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/worldshowcase](http://www.hotdocs.ca/worldshowcase).

### ALL-IN

D: Volkan Üce | P: Magalie Dierick, Emmy Oost | Belgium, Netherlands, France | 2021 | 80 min | North American Premiere

### BECOMING

D: Isabel Vaca | P: Arturo Mendicuti | Mexico | 2021 | 63 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SNOWY

D: Kaitlyn Schwalje, Alex Wolf Lewis | P: Justin Levy, Rebecca Stern | USA | 2020 | 13 min | Canadian Premiere

### BETWEEN US

D: Dorota Proba | P: Ewa Jastrzebska, Jerzy Kapuscinski | Poland, Canada | 2020 | 53 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### THE DOLL

D: Elahe Esmaili | P: Elahe Esmaili | Iran | 2021 | 33 min | World Premiere

### THE BIG SCARY "S" WORD

D: Yael Bridge | P: Yael Bridge, Morgan Spector, Eden Wurmfeld | USA | 2020 | 90 min | International Premiere

### BLUE BOX

D: Michal Weits | P: Ina Fichman, Assaf Amir, Eric Goosens, Uri Smoly, Frederik Nicolai | Canada, Israel | 2021 | 79 min | World Premiere

## CHILDREN

D: Ada Ushpiz | P: Ada Ushpiz | Israel | 2020 | 132 min | North American Premiere

## THE COLONEL'S STRAY DOGS

D: Khalid Shamis | P: Steven Markovitz, Khalid Shamis | South Africa, Libya, Qatar | 2021 | 73 min | World Premiere

## DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD

D: Brooke Pepion Swaney | P: Kendra Mylnechuk Potter, Brooke Pepion Swaney, Jeri Rafter | USA | 2020 | 66 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

## THE TRAIN STATION

D: Lyana Patrick | P: Jessica Hallenbeck | Canada | 2020 | 2 min | Ontario Premiere

## DEAR ELNAZ

D: Mania Akbari | P: Javad Soleimani | Canada | 2021 | 86 min | North American Premiere

## DEAR FUTURE CHILDREN

D: Franz Böhm | P: Jamie Gamache, Johannes Schubert, Ansgar Wörner, Franz Böhm | Germany, UK, Austria | 2021 | 89 min | North American Premiere

## DESCENT

D: Nays Baghai | P: Nays Baghai, Eero Heinonen | Australia | 2020 | 65 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

## DIGGING FOR LIFE

D: João Queiroga | P: Adiang Assuoe Thomas Germain, Jesseca Ynez Simmons, João Queiroga | Cameroon, Qatar, Portugal, USA | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

## HOLY BREAD

D: Rahim Zabih | P: Tooraj Aslani | Iran | 2020 | 54 min | Canadian Premiere

*Screening with:*

## LOAD CYCLE

D: Daniel Martínez-Quintanilla | P: Yannick Nolin | Canada, Peru | 2020 | 6 min | North American Premiere

## IMAD'S CHILDHOOD

D: Zahavi Sanjavi | P: Zahavi Sanjavi | Sweden, Latvia, Iraq | 2021 | 78 min | International Premiere

## LAST DAYS AT SEA

D: Venice Atienza | P: Fan Wu, Moshe Ladanga, Venice Atienza | Philippines | 2021 | 73 min | North American Premiere

### THE LAST FOREST

D: Luiz Bolognesi | P: Caio Gullane, Fabiano Gullane, Laís Bodanzky, Luiz Bolognesi | Brazil | 2021 | 76 min | North American Premiere

### THE LAST SHELTER

D: Ousmane Zoromé Samassékou | P: Estelle Robin You, Andrey S Diarra, Don Edkins, Tiny Mungwe | France, Mali, South Africa | 2021 | 85 min | North American Premiere

### LIFE OF IVANNA

D: Renato Borrayo Serrano | P: Vlad Ketkovich, Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas, Marianna Kaat, Pertti Veijalainen | Russia, Norway, Finland, Estonia | 2021 | 80 min | World Premiere

### LOVE IT WAS NOT

D: Maya Sarfaty | P: Nir Sa'ar, Kurt Langbein | Israel, Austria | 2020 | 86 min | Ontario Premiere

### MY MOHAMED IS DIFFERENT

D: Ines Marzouk | P: Kesmat El Sayed | Egypt, Tunisia, Italy | 2020 | 70 min | World Premiere

### NEIGHBOURING THE MOON

D: Reza Farahmand | P: Morteza Shabani, Marjan Alizadeh (Keramati) | Canada, Iran, Syria | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

### NOTHING BUT THE SUN

D: Arami Ullón | P: Pascal Traechslin, Arami Ullón | Switzerland, Paraguay | 2020 | 75 min | North American Premiere

### A ONCE AND FUTURE PEACE

D: Eric Daniel Metzgar | P: Mikaela Beardsley | USA | 2021 | 95 min | World Premiere

### ONLY I CAN HEAR

D: Itaru Matsui | P: Mayu Hirano, Kengo Toyoda, Paul Cadieux, Nancy Guerin | Japan, Canada | 2020 | 52 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### THE VOICE BREAK CHOIR

D: Ina Holmqvist, Martina Carlstedt | P: Martina Carlstedt, Ina Holmqvist | Sweden | 2021 | 29 min | International Premiere

### RED HEAVEN

D: Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer | P: Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer | USA | 2020 | 84 min | Canadian Premiere

### THE SAILOR

D: Lucia Kasova | P: Nazarij Klujev | Slovakia | 2021 | 80 min | World Premiere

### SECRETS FROM PUTUMAYO

D: Aurélio Michiles | P: Patrick Leblanc | Brazil | 2020 | 83 min | International Premiere

### SILENT VOICE

D: Reka Valerik | P: David Hurst | France, Belgium | 2020 | 51 min | North American Premiere

*Screening with:*

### LET MY BODY SPEAK

D: Madonna Adib | P: Noe Mendelle | Lebanon, UK | 2020 | 11 min | Canadian Premiere

### SUNNY

D: Ketí Machavariani | P: Tsisana Khundadze, Nato Sikharulidze | Georgia | 2020 | 64 min | World Premiere

*Screening with:*

### SQUIRREL WARS

D: Jill Morley | P: Jill Morley | USA | 2020 | 9 min | International Premiere

### VICENTA

D: Darío Doria | P: Felicitas Raffo, Pamela Livia | Argentina | 2020 | 69 min | North American Premiere

### WRITING WITH FIRE

D: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh | P: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh | India | 2021 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere

### ZUHUR'S DAUGHTERS

D: Laurentia Genske, Robin Humboldt | P: Erik Winker, Martin Roelly, Ümit Uludağ | Germany | 2021 | 89 min | World Premiere

### SHORTS PROGRAM: LOOK DON'T TOUCH

A selection of short films that spy, surveil and see things most miss. Whether it's a song on social media, a wolf caught on CCTV or an organism dancing under a microscope, the truth only expands with magnification.

### ANTELOPES

D: Maxime Martinot | P: Quentin Brayer | France | 2020 | 8 min | North American Premiere

### DON'T HESITATE TO COME FOR A VISIT, MOM

D: Anna Artemyeva | P: Daphne Pascual | Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, Russia | 2020 | 13 min | North American Premiere

### HELP, I'VE GONE VIRAL!

D: Audun Amundsen, Petter Heggen | P: Audun Amundsen, Nick Calpakdjian, Mark Olsen | Norway, Indonesia | 2020 | 20 min | Canadian Premiere

### NAYA

D: Sebastian Mulder | P: Jasper Boon | Netherlands | 2021 | 25 min | International Premiere

### THE PROBLEM OF THE HYDRA

D: Maija Tammi | P: Maija Tammi | Finland | 2020 | 10 min | North American Premiere

### WOLF WHISPERS

D: Chloé Belloc | P: Bertrand Scalabre | France | 2020 | 24 min | World Premiere

### **SHORTS PROGRAM: THE SCHOOL OF LIFE**

Youth learn life lessons on the playground and in the classroom, through their friends and first-time experiences, in this quartet of cinematic initiations. Love and acceptance, remote learning and leaving the nest are all firsts that shape who we become and how we see the world.

### AUDIBLE

D: Matt Ogens | P: Geoff McLean | USA | 2021 | 39 min | World Premiere

### GOODBYE TORNIO

D: Emilia Hernesniemi | P: Eveliina Mauno | Finland | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

### JOYCHILD

D: Aurora Brachman | P: Aurora Brachman | USA | 2020 | 6 min | International Premiere

### THE SCHOOL BY THE SEA

D: Solveig Melkeraaen | P: Ingvil Giske | Norway | 2021 | 30 min | International Premiere

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[Hot Docs](#), 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 online 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 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 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

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

Tuesday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. Festival tickets will be available to the public. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://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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