

TOUCHING TRIBUTES, ENTHRALLING CREATIVE PURSUITS AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ART FEATURE IN ARTSCAPES PROGRAM

Toronto, March 23, 2021 – Hot Docs' Artscapes, a program that highlights creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking, returns with 17 remarkable feature films, one mid-length and seven shorts, all of which delve into the worlds of renowned artists, creative pursuits, music and pop culture.

"Art can inspire, illuminate and entertain, and this year's Artscape's program offers a remarkable range of stories by, about and inspired by the world's artists," said **Shane Smith**, director of programming for Hot Docs. "Whether taking us into the artistic process, reigniting the spark of creativity, or highlighting stories of activism and protest through art, these unforgettable films remind us of the power, beauty and healing that art can rouse."

Stories of artists turning their creativity to advocacy and activism are found in the world premiere of *Bank Job*, about a filmmaking duo who creates and sells their own currency to challenge the inequities of the prevailing economic system; the North American premiere of *Courage*, in which three actors get swept up in street protests during Belarus's presidential elections; and the world premiere of *The Story Won't Die*, about a rapper, tortured by Bashar Al-Assad, and other anti-regime Syrian artists who explore resilience and resistance through art, dance and music.

Beautifully crafted portraits of both established and struggling artists are found in: the world premiere of *Cezanne*, which transports audiences to Provence and into the atelier of master impressionist Paul Cézanne; the international premiere of *Man in the Field: The Life and Art of Jim Denevan*, a profile of the pioneering American multimedia artist and chef who founded Outstanding in the Field, a radical alternative to the conventional dining experience; the international premiere of *High Maintenance*, which follows celebrated Israeli artist Dani Karavan on a journey across Europe to visit his deteriorating large-scale environmental sculptures; the world premiere of *I'm Wanita*, the story of a renegade middle-aged country music singer and her enduring dream of becoming a star; the Canadian premiere of *Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché*, in which the death of Anglo-Somali punk icon Poly Styrene sends her daughter on a journey across the world to solidify her musical legacy; and the world premiere of *No Hay Camino – There Is No Path*, a self-reflective journey of acclaimed director Heddy Honigmann who, facing terminal illness, revisits the beloved places and people from her past.

Inspiring stories about the transformational power art include the international premiere of *Gallant Indies*, in which 30 urban dancers perform in a remix of Jean-Philippe Rameau's baroque masterpiece *Les Indes Galantes* at Paris' legendary Opéra Bastille; the Canadian premiere of *We Are the Thousand*, in which a thousand musicians form a rock band in the hopes of wooing the Foo Fighters to play their Italian town; and the Canadian premiere of *Firestarter – The Story of Bangarra*, about three young Aboriginal brothers who grow their dance company into international powerhouse celebrating their culture.

Additional films in the program include the world premiere of *Set!*, a wild and quirky introduction into the world of competitive table setting; the international premiere of *Ivan's Land*, the charming story of an elderly, rural painter in Ukraine, who gets discovered as one of the last true great folk artists; and the world premiere of *The Man Who Paints Water Drops*, a loving portrait of the

filmmaker's elderly father, a renowned Korean artist, and his obsession with painting waterdrops, a symbol rooted in Korea's tragic past.

The Artscapes program is sponsored by Go RV'ing Canada.

All films in the Artscapes program are listed below. For more information about the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/artscapes.

BANK JOB

D: Daniel Edelstyn, Hilary Powell | P: Daniel Edelstyn, Christopher Hird, Hilary Powell | UK | 2021 | 87 min | World Premiere

CEZANNE

D: Sophie Bruneau | P: Sophie Bruneau | Belgium | 2021 | 61 min | World Premiere

Screening with:

SHĀNZHÀI SCREENS

D: Paul Heintz | P: Thomas Hakim, Julien Graff | France | 2020 | 23 min | Ontario Premiere

COURAGE

D: Aliaksei Paluyan | P: Jörn Möllenkamp | Germany, Belarus | 2021 | 90 min | North American Premiere

FIRESTARTER – THE STORY OF BANGARRA

D: Wayne Blair, Nel Minchin | P: Ivan O'Mahoney | Australia | 2020 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

GALLANT INDIES

D: Philippe Béziat | P: Philippe Martin, David Thion | France | 2020 | 108 min | International Premiere

HIGH MAINTENANCE

D: Barak Heymann | P: Barak Heymann, Krzysztof Dzieciołowski | Israel, Poland | 2020 | 66 min | International Premiere

Screening with:

SCUM BOY

D: Allison Swank | P: Allison Swank | South Africa | 2020 | 17 min | Toronto Premiere

I'M WANITA

D: Matthew Walker | P: Carolina Sorensen, Clare Lewis, Tait Brady | Australia | 2020 | 86 min | World Premiere

IVAN'S LAND

D: Andrii Lysetskyi | P: Olga Beskhmelnytsina, Gennady Kofman | Ukraine | 2020 | 84 min | International Premiere

[MAN IN THE FIELD: THE LIFE AND ART OF JIM DENEVAN](#)

D: Patrick Trefz | P: Andreas Jaritz, Christie Jarvis, Patrick Trefz | USA | 2020 | 78 min | International Premiere

[THE MAN WHO PAINTS WATER DROPS](#)

D: Oan Kim, Brigitte Bouillot | P: Clarisse Tupin, Young Kim, Martine Kim | France, South Korea | 2020 | 79 min | World Premiere

[THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOY IN THE WORLD](#)

D: Kristian Petri, Kristina Lindstrom | P: Stina Gardell | Sweden | 2021 | 94 min | Canadian Premiere

[NO HAY CAMINO – THERE IS NO PATH](#)

D: Heddy Honigmann | P: Pieter van Huijstee | Netherlands | 2021 | 86 min | World Premiere

[POLY STYRENE: I AM A CLICHÉ](#)

D: Paul Sng, Celeste Bell | P: Rebecca Mark-Lawson, Matthew Silverman, Daria Nitsche | UK | 2021 | 96 min | Canadian Premiere

[PORTRAYAL](#)

D: Billie Mintz | P: Danny Webber | Canada | 2020 | 96 min | Ontario Premiere

[SET!](#)

D: Scott Gawlik | P: Scott Gawlik | USA | 2021 | 105 min | World Premiere

[THE STORY WON'T DIE](#)

D: David Henry Gerson | P: Odessa Rae | Denmark, Germany, USA | 2021 | 83 min | World Premiere

[WE ARE THE THOUSAND](#)

D: Anita Rivaroli | P: Simone Catania | Italy | 2020 | 78 min | Canadian Premiere

[YOU ARE THE DAYS TO COME](#)

D: Ronja Yu | P: Anna J Ljungmark | Sweden | 2021 | 75 min | World Premiere

[SHORTS PROGRAM](#)

[A CONCERTO IS A CONVERSATION](#)

D: Kris Bowers, Ben Proudfoot | P: Kris Bowers, Jeremy Lambert, Ben Proudfoot | USA, Canada | 2020 | 14 min | Toronto Premiere

[DON'T GO TELLIN' YOUR MOMMA](#)

D: Simon Davis, Jason Sondock, Topaz Jones | P: Luigi Rossi | USA, Germany, France, Italy | 2020 | 36 min | International Premiere

[RAT TAIL](#)

D: Chad Sogas | P: Chad Sogas | USA | 2021 | 15 min | World Premiere

RECORDER QUEEN

D: Sophie Raymond | P: Clare Sawyer | Australia | 2021 | 28 min | International Premiere

WE WERE THERE TO BE THERE

D: Jason Willis, Mike Plante | P: Mike Plante | USA | 2021 | 25 min | World 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 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. 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>

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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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