

FULL LINEUP ANNOUNCED FOR HOT DOCS PODCAST FESTIVAL, STREAMING WORLDWIDE JANUARY 27-29

*Presented in partnership with CBC Podcasts and
Major Partner RBC Foundation*

- Featuring hosts of the *New York Times'* *Nice White Parents* and *1619* on how they're using podcasts to talk openly about race
 - *Canadaland* hosts discuss their reporting of the WE Charity scandal
 - **Roxane Gay**, bestselling *Bad Feminist* author and host of *Hear to Slay* podcast
- Top storytellers from acclaimed shows *Pod Save America*, *Reply All*, CBC's *Pop Chat*, *You're Wrong About*, *Radiolab*, *99% Invisible*, and more!

Toronto, January 5, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the full lineup for the online edition of the Hot Docs Podcast Festival, available to stream worldwide from January 27-29. Marking its fifth year as one of the world's premier audio events, the Hot Docs Podcast Festival will celebrate the visceral power of audio storytelling and explore how the innovative medium continues to thrive in our new socially distanced reality. Featuring a dynamic mix of specially curated live conversations and on-demand sessions, this year's Podcast Festival will dive into the creative process of today's chart-topping podcasters, revealing how they use the medium to tell the complex and layered stories impacting us today. Accessible through one easy pass, with a select number of events available for single purchase, the Hot Docs Podcast Festival will be available to stream on the Hot Docs website at hotdocscinema.ca.

"During this unpredictable year of social distancing, podcasts have become essential listening for their much-needed moments of insight, humour, humanity and escape," said **Alan Black**, Managing Director of Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. "Given this, there was no question that we had to move our signature Podcast Festival online. This way, we could bring together and expand our community of pod lovers globally, as well as welcome exciting storytellers who may not have been able to appear live in Toronto. Over the past few months, we have worked tirelessly to curate an incredible lineup that will speak to the power of audio to move, delight and connect us in this new reality."

Featuring an outstanding roster of thought leaders, cultural commentators and audio artists, the Hot Docs Podcast Festival will welcome former Obama administration officials, **Crooked Media's Tommy Vietor** and **Tanya Somanader** (*Pod Save America*), to discuss the future of politics and the media in a post-Trump America; bestselling author and *Hear to Slay* podcast host **Roxane Gay**, who will reveal her latest cultural and political obsessions with *The Cut* podcast; *99% Invisible* host **Roman Mars**, who will talk about how his wildly popular podcast is expanding with the release of his new book, *The 99% Invisible City*; *Reply All*'s new co-host Emmanuel Dzotsi and producer Anna Foley, who will delve into their creative process and the evolution of their ever-innovative show; **Chana Joffe-Walt**, host of *Nice White Parents*, and **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, host of *1619*, will candidly discuss how they're using their podcasts to advance the conversation about race; **Connie Walker**, host of CBC's *Missing & Murdered* and new investigative podcast on Gimlet, will speak about the erasure of women of colour from true crime stories; and CBC's flagship pop culture show *Pop Chat* joins forces with Apple Podcast's cult phenom *You're Wrong About* to explore the rise of pop culture nostalgia.

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

The program's on-demand sessions will include quickfire rounds of 20 questions with podcasting talent from acclaimed shows such as *Ear Hustle*, *The Allusionist*, CBC's *This is not a Drake podcast*, *Snap Judgment*, *Lost Notes*, *The Memory Palace*, CBC's *The Secret Life of Canada* and more. Passholders will also receive access to two exclusive listening parties that will preview some of the most anticipated podcasts set for release this year. The 20 Questions with... program is sponsored by Story Hunter Podcasts.

The full Festival schedule is listed below. Prime events at 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (EST) are available free for Hot Docs Members and Festival passholders and are \$14.99 for non-members/passholders. All remaining live and on-demand sessions are accessible with a Podcast Festival pass, which gives admission to all 25+ events, live chat with attendees and an extended festival streaming window until February 28. Festival passes start at \$75 CAD and can be purchased at hotdocscinema.ca/podcast.

Wednesday, January 27

All live events listed in Eastern Standard Time

Personal Storytelling in Podcasts: How to Do it Right Without Selling Your Soul

With Media Girlfriends and podcast producers Tori Allen, Garvia Bailey, Nana aba Duncan and Hannah Sung.

With an insatiable appetite for personal stories in podcasts, these three producers will discuss how to responsibly handle stories of lived experience when it comes to race, class, abilities and more.

11:00 AM

Canadaland on Breaking the Big Story OR How to Take Down a Giant Without Getting Sued into Oblivion

With Jesse Brown, Jonathan Goldsbie, Andréa Schmidt, Jaren Kerr, moderated by *The Globe and Mail's* Robyn Doolittle.

A no-holds-barred conversation about *Canadaland's* investigation into the WE charity, discussing the legal and practical considerations when breaking an explosive story with political ramifications, and how to translate journalism into the podcasting medium.

1:00 PM

Listening Party #1

Guests to be announced

Plug in a pair of headphones and join other festival passholders for a listening party featuring exclusive, surprise sneak peeks of some of the hottest new shows of 2021 introduced by their hosts and creators.

3:00 PM

The Epic Journeys of Radiolab: Latif Nasser and Jad Abumrad on *The Other Latif* and *Dolly Parton's America*

The new host of the groundbreaking podcast Radiolab Latif Nasser joins longtime Radiolab host Jad Abumrad to discuss their hit Radiolab offshoot series *The Other Latif* and *Dolly Parton's America*.

6:00 PM

Reckoning with Race: *1619* and *Nice White Parents*

Nikole Hannah-Jones and Chana Joffe-Walt in conversation with Elamin Abdelmahmoud, Culture writer at *Buzzfeed News* and host of the CBC Podcasts *Party Lines* and *Pop Chat*.

Chana Joffe-Walt, host of Serial Productions' *Nice White Parents*, and Nikole Hannah-Jones, host of *The New York Times*' *1619* podcast, discuss their hit series and using podcasting to advance the cultural conversation on race.

8:30 PM

Thursday, January 28

Reclaiming True Crime with Gimlet Media's Connie Walker

Moderated by award-winning Anishinaabe author and journalist Tanya Talaga.

Connie Walker, host of the hit series *Missing & Murdered*, discusses her new investigative show for Gimlet Media, and using podcasts to tell the stories of the women of colour who are often erased from the true crime genre.

1:00 PM

Internet Explorers: Up Close with *Reply All*

Moderated by B.A. Parker, producer of *New York Magazine's The Cut* podcast.

Reply All's new co-host Emmanuel Dzotsi and producer Anna Foley discuss the creative process behind their hugely influential, Gimlet Media mega-hit *Reply All*, and what it takes to tell captivating stories about life in the digital age.

3:00 PM

The Post-Trump World: What's Next for Political Podcasts with Crooked Media's Tommy Vietor and Tanya Somanader

Moderated by Sarah Larson, staff writer and podcast columnist, *The New Yorker*.

Former Obama administration officials Tommy Vietor and Tanya Somanader discuss the future of politics and the media in the post-Trump era and the rise of Crooked Media, the wildly popular podcast studio behind *Pod Save America* and *Pod Save the World*.

6:00 PM

Stories for Beautiful Nerds: Roman Mars on *The 99% Invisible City*
Moderated by Nahlah Ayed, host of CBC Radio's *Ideas*.

The host of *99% Invisible* discusses his legendary design podcast and *The 99% Invisible City*, his new *New York Times* bestselling book based on the beloved series.

8:30 PM

Friday, January 29

Funny Takes on the Daily News with *The Daily Zeitgeist*

With Jack O'Brien (Host, *The Daily Zeitgeist*); Miles Gray (Host, *The Daily Zeitgeist*); J.M. McNab (Writer, *The Daily Zeitgeist*).

A candid behind-the-scenes discussion with the comedians and writers of comedy news podcast *The Daily Zeitgeist*, who will talk about how they consistently find the funny in the often-daunting events of the day.

11:00 AM

Big Stories, Big Ideas with Nishat Kurwa (Executive Producer, Vox Media)

Moderated by Vicky Mochama

The VP and Executive Producer for Audio at Vox Media discusses the creative process that goes into building successful shows like *New York Magazine's The Cut* and *Today, Explained*.

1:00 PM

Listening Party #2

Guests to be announced

Plug in a pair of headphones and join other festival passholders for a listening party featuring exclusive, surprise sneak peeks of some of the hottest new shows of 2021 introduced by their hosts and creators.

3:00 PM

Nostalgia Trip: *Pop Chat* meets *You're Wrong About*

With *Pop Chat* host Elamin Abdelmahmoud and *You're Wrong About* co-host Sarah Marshall.

CBC's flagship pop culture podcast *Pop Chat* joins forces with the cult favourite *You're Wrong About* to make sense of the cultural drama blowing up the internet and explore the rise of pop culture nostalgia.

6:00 PM

Stories That Slay: Roxane Gay in Conversation with New York Magazine's *The Cut*

Bestselling author and *Hear to Slay* host Roxane Gay joins Avery Trufelman, host of New York Magazine's *The Cut*, to discuss her latest cultural and political obsessions—and building the black feminist podcast of our collective dreams.

8:30 PM

ON DEMAND | 20 Questions: Inside the Mind of...

What was the first podcast that inspired you? What is the worst show idea you ever had? What is your favorite snack while you are working? Get inside the minds of podcast makers, producers and execs in this on-demand library of recorded talks inspired by the game 20 Questions.

Featuring creators and hosts from:

Adult-ish, The Allusionist, The Big Story, California Love, Commons, Ear Hustle, The Hopeful, Lost Notes, The Memory Palace, Mike on Much, CBC's Seat at the Table, CBC's The Secret Life of Canada, Snap Judgment, CBC's This is not a Drake podcast, and CBC's Tony Ho.

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[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, which presents first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, and signature events, including the Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Festival. While audiences find themselves at home, Hot Docs has pivoted to offer its signature Festival and Cinema programming on its new TVOD streaming platform, Hot Docs at Home.

The Hot Docs Podcast Festival is proud to include CBC Podcasts as its Lead Partner; RBC Foundation as its Major Partner; iHeart Radio as its Box Office Sponsor; Inspirit Foundation, SHURE and Story Hunter Podcasts as its Event Sponsors; and The Walrus Lab as its Media Sponsor and sponsor of the Opening Acts Program.

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