

HOT DOCS 2025 TO AWARD \$140,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES

Toronto, March 25, 2025 – Hot Docs announced today that over CAD 140,000 in cash will be awarded to filmmakers at the 2025 Festival. These encompass a variety of accolades, including juried awards for films in competition, audience awards determined by ballot, industry prizes recognizing top works-in-progress projects and other special awards categories. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

All awards for films in competition will be decided by Hot Docs Festival Juries, with the winners set to be unveiled during the Hot Docs Awards Presentation on Friday, May 2.

Hot Docs is an Academy Award-qualifying Festival. The winner of the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the winners of the Best Canadian Short Documentary Award and the Best International Short Documentary Award at this year's Festival will qualify for consideration in the documentary feature and documentary short subject categories of the annual Academy Awards®, respectively, without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Unless otherwise noted, all prizes are awarded to the director of the winning film.

2025 FILM AWARDS AND PRIZES

FILMS IN COMPETITION:

HOT DOCS BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to an exceptional feature-length documentary in the International Competition program. Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$10,000 cash prize.

HOT DOCS BEST CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to an exceptional feature-length documentary in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program.

Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$10,000 cash prize.

Supported by Telefilm Canada

HOT DOCS JOAN VANDUZER SPECIAL JURY PRIZE-INTERNATIONAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to a feature-length documentary in the International Spectrum Competition program that the jury feels is deserving of special recognition.

Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$5,000 cash prize.

Supported by Makeway Foundation-Harbinger Fund in memory of Joan VanDuzer

HOT DOCS DGC SPECIAL JURY PRIZE-CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to a feature-length documentary in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program that the jury feels is deserving of special recognition.

The award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize.
Sponsored by DGC National and DGC Ontario

HOT DOCS EMERGING INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER AWARD

Given to a first or second-time international filmmaker with a feature film in the International Competition program. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize.
Supported by Donner Canadian Foundation

HOT DOCS EARL A. GLICK EMERGING CANADIAN FILMMAKER AWARD

Given to a first- or second-time Canadian filmmaker with a feature film in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program. The award, supported by Earl A. Glick, includes a \$3,000 cash prize.

HOT DOCS BILL NEMTIN AWARD FOR BEST SOCIAL IMPACT DOCUMENTARY

The Award will recognize the producers of a film from the Canadian and International features that has the greatest potential to create social impact, in other words to change attitudes, behaviours and/or policy. The nominees include *Writing Hawa*, *Heightened Scrutiny*, *Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women*, *Life After*, *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* and *KHARTOUM*.
The \$10,000 cash prize accompanying the award will help enable the winning film team to optimize the impact of the documentary through outreach and marketing activities.
Supported by the Bill Nemtín Legacy Fund

HOT DOCS BEST MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to an exceptional documentary between 41 and 65 minutes in length.
Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize.
Sponsored by Mubi

HOT DOCS BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to an exceptional international documentary up to 40 minutes in length.
Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize.
Sponsored by TVO Docs

HOT DOCS BETTY YOUSON AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to an exceptional Canadian documentary up to 40 minutes in length. Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of John and Betty Youson.
Supported by John and Betty Youson

AUDIENCE AWARDS:

HOT DOCS AUDIENCE AWARDS

Awarded to the feature/mid-length documentary and the short documentary that receive the highest rating in an audience poll. Announced after the close of the Festival.

HOT DOCS ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY

Awarded to the top Canadian feature documentary in an audience poll. The winner will receive a \$50,000 cash prize courtesy of Rogers, announced at a special encore screening on the Festival's final night.

HOT DOCS DOCS FOR SCHOOLS STUDENT CHOICE AWARD

Awarded to the documentary that receives the highest rating in the student audience poll. Announced at the end of the Docs for Schools program. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES:

HOT DOCS DON HAIG AWARD

The Don Haig Award will be awarded annually to an outstanding Canadian independent producer with a film in the Festival. The Award recognizes creative vision and entrepreneurship as reflected in the work being showcased at Hot Docs, as well as a track record for nurturing emerging Canadian filmmakers. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation.

LINDALEE TRACEY AWARD

The award honours an emerging Canadian filmmaker working in the spirit of Lindalee Tracey, whose films reflect a passionate point of view, a strong sense of social justice and "a joie de vivre." The winner will be awarded \$5,000 from the Lindalee Tracey Fund, a \$5,000 in kind voucher from Picture Shop for equipment rentals and services, and a beautiful hand-blown glass sculpture by Andrew Kuntz.

2025 INDUSTRY PITCH PRIZES:

HOT DOCS *first look* AWARDS FOR WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Hot Docs *first look* is a curated access program for philanthropic supporters and documentary-loving investors that grants them behind-the-scenes access to new projects in development and the world of documentary pre-production and production financing. This year Hot Docs *first look* participants will award \$15,000 at our Works-In-Progress industry event.

###

[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's leading 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 32nd annual edition from April 24 to May 4, 2025, in cinemas across Toronto. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Deal Maker and Works-in-Progress screenings. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio. Additionally, it fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs owns and

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

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.

Starting Tuesday, March 25, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 1, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed [online](#) at www.hotdocs.ca or in person at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Box Office, located at 506 Bloor Street West (hours vary daily in accordance with cinema screenings). Single tickets are \$20 to regular Festival screenings and \$23 to Special Presentations screenings (\$18-\$20 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$209 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$299. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 4:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability.

Hot Docs is proud to include Rogers as its Founding Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters. Full list of sponsors and partners: <https://hotdocs.ca/about/partners>

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>
Password: media2025

Media Contact:

Bill Alexander
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs
balexander@hotdocs.ca