

HOT DOCS' CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION STRAND BRINGS HOMEGROWN PREMIERES TO 2025 FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 25, 2025 – Hot Docs is pleased to present 10 feature documentaries to screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2025 **Canadian Spectrum Competition**, a competitive program showcasing the work of Canadian directors. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Canadian Spectrum Competition films receiving their world premiere at Hot Docs 2025 are **#skoden**, in which an iconic Indigenous meme sparks a poignant exploration of the unhoused Albertan man behind the viral phenomenon; **Casas Muertas**, a lyrical meditation on loss, strength and hope that follows the resilience of three generations of Venezuelans, bound by uncertainty amidst a country-wide economic crisis; **Shamed**, following an online vigilante and self-described “Creeper Hunter” who seeks out potential sexual predators and ambushes them in videotaped confrontations; and **Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man**, a luminous exploration of strength and vulnerability that spans generations of Siksika men and boys as they learn to embrace the intricacies of self-discovery amidst a sweeping Prairies backdrop.

North American premieres include **Agatha's Almanac**, a cinematic portrait of simple seasonal living that follows a fiercely independent 90-year-old woman living alone on her ancestral farm in Manitoba; and **Shifting Baselines**, at look at Boca Chica, USA, where the Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX rockets blast skyward, hawkers shill their wares and environmentalists survey the damage.

Canadian premieres include **Endless Cookie**, a colourful collage of psychedelic, animated vignettes that explores the complex bond between two half-brothers—one Indigenous, one white; **Paul**, in which Paul copes with depression and social anxiety through his work doing domestic chores for dominant women; and **The Track**, a contemporary coming-of-age journey of three Muslim teenagers in post-war Bosnia chasing their improbable Olympic dreams on a decaying luge track from the 1984 Winter Games; and the Ontario premiere of **Ghosts of the Sea**, in which the daughter of renowned sailor Peter Tangvald investigates her brother's mysterious death at sea.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award and the DGC Special Jury Prize - Canadian Feature Documentary Award. Directors in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program with fewer than two previous feature film credits are also eligible to win the Earl A. Glick Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award.

The Canadian Spectrum Competition is presented in partnership with TVO Docs.

Screening times and descriptions for the Canadian Spectrum Competition program appear below. In many cases, filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on.

AGATHA'S ALMANAC

D: Amalie Atkins | P: Amalie Atkins | Canada | 2025 | 86 min | North American Premiere
A fiercely independent Mennonite woman lives alone on her ancestral farm in Southern Manitoba in this cinematic portrait of simple seasonal living. Despite health challenges, this hardy 90-year-old tends to her land by hand, cultivating heirloom seeds passed down through generations.

Sunday, April 27, 1:30 PM - TLB4

Friday, May 2, 11:00 AM - TLB2

CASAS MUERTAS

D: Rosana Matecki | P: Rosana Matecki, Mariana Andrade, Patricio Andrade | Canada, Venezuela, Ecuador | 2025 | 83 min | World Premiere
Three generations of Venezuelans, bound by uncertainty amidst a country-wide economic crisis, share their lives of resilience. A lyrical meditation on the themes of loss and hope, and the strength to endure despite the ongoing challenges of daily life.

Monday, April 28, 5:45 PM - TLB3

Wednesday, April 30, 11:30 AM - TLB4

ENDLESS COOKIE

D: Seth Scriver, Peter Scriver | P: Daniel Bekerman, Chris Yurkovich, Alex Ordanis, Jason Ryle, Seth Scriver | Canada | 2024 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere
A colourful collage of psychedelic, animated vignettes explore the complex bond between two half-brothers—one Indigenous, one white—with humorous and heartfelt tales (and the odd interruption) that span the bustling 1980s Toronto to the present-day isolated First Nations community in Northern Manitoba.

Friday, April 25, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Sunday, April 27, 10:15 AM - TLB4

GHOSTS OF THE SEA

D: Virginia Tangvald | P: Isabelle Couture, Éline Hébert, Nathalie Cloutier, Frédéric Corvez, Maéva Savinien | Canada, France | 2024 | 97 min | Ontario Premiere

When the daughter of renowned sailor Peter Tangvald investigates her brother's mysterious death at sea, her search evolves into a gripping quest to uncover dark family secrets and confront the complex legacy of her infamous father.

Sunday, April 27, 10:30 AM - TLB1

Wednesday, April 30, 5:15 PM - TLB4

PAUL

D: Denis Côté | P: Karine Bélanger, Hany Ouichou | Canada | 2025 | 87 min | Canadian Premiere

To cope with depression and social anxiety, Paul finds comfort in doing domestic chores for dominant women. By sharing his cleaning routines on social media with a goal of self-improvement, he fights to achieve inner peace by pleasing his favourite dominatrices, one reel at a time.

Saturday, April 26, 1:30 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 28, 7:45 PM - TLB2

SHAMED

D: Matt Gallagher | P: Cornelia Principe | Canada | 2025 | 90 min | World Premiere

An online vigilante, self-described as the "Creeper Hunter," seeks out potential sexual predators and ambushes them in videotaped confrontations, exposing them to the court of public opinion. Ultimately, his actions land him in a legal battle to justify his ethically questionable actions.

Monday, April 28, 8:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Friday, May 2, 2:45 PM - TLB1

SHIFTING BASELINES

D: Julien Elie | P: Andreas Mendritzki, Aonan Yang, Julien Elie | Canada | 2025 | 100 min | North American Premiere

Where the Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX rockets blast skyward, astronomers gaze upon stars and satellites, hawkers sell their wares and environmentalists survey the damage. Welcome to Boca Chica, USA.

Saturday, April 26, 8:00 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 28, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

SIKSIKAKOWAN: THE BLACKFOOT MAN

D: Sinakson Trevor Solway | P: Coty Savard | Canada | 2025 | 77 min | World Premiere
Amidst a sweeping Prairies backdrop, this luminous exploration of strength and vulnerability spans generations of Siksika men and boys as they learn to embrace the intricacies of self-discovery, identity and love in a world that often misunderstands and stigmatizes them.

Saturday, April 26, 5:45 PM - TLB2
Monday, April 28, 11:00 AM - TLB2

#SKODEN

D: Damien Eagle Bear | P: Damien Eagle Bear | Canada | 2025 | 75 min | World Premiere
An iconic Indigenous meme sparks a poignant exploration of the unhoused Albertan man behind the viral phenomenon. Living life with resilience, determination, and humour, his story offers a humanist perspective on Canada's growing street population and reveals the complexities of digital sovereignty and Indigenous peoples reclaiming their representation.

Tuesday, April 29, 8:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema
Thursday, May 1, 11:45 AM - TLB1

THE TRACK

D: Ryan Sidhoo | P: Ryan Sidhoo | Canada | 2025 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere
A contemporary coming-of-age journey of three Muslim teenagers in post-war Bosnia chasing their improbable Olympic dreams on a decaying luge track from the 1984 Winter Games. Guided by a dedicated coach, they battle the odds, fueled by hope and determination to build a brighter future despite the arduous path back from conflict.

Sunday, April 27, 8:30 PM - TLB2
Wednesday, April 30, 1:30 PM - TLB2

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[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 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

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