

**CITIZEN MINUTES RETURNS:  
SIX NEW CANADIAN DOC SHORTS CELEBRATING INSPIRING COMMUNITY  
CHANGEMAKERS TO PREMIERE AT HOT DOCS 2025**

NOW IN SERIES 3, HOT DOCS-COMMISSIONED SHORT DOC SERIES *CITIZEN MINUTES*  
SPOTLIGHTS EVERYDAY CANADIANS MAKING EXTRAORDINARY IMPACTS IN THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs will premiere six original short documentaries commissioned for the third instalment of the *Citizen Minutes* series at the 2025 Hot Docs Festival, April 24 to May 4 in Toronto. *Citizen Minutes* is an initiative that seeks to inspire viewers to become change agents in their own communities and invite them into civic engagement. These remarkable short docs come from Canadian filmmakers looking to highlight bold and unlikely changemakers, ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things to improve their communities. The *Citizen Minutes* project is made possible through support by The Rossy Foundation.

“Audiences at Hot Docs Festival 2025 will be moved by these essential stories about regular Canadians working to impact their home communities for the better,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs’ Industry Programs Director. “It is invigorating to see how this new batch of shorts about civic engagement where changemakers taking proactive steps to improve the lives of people in their spheres. Audiences need to see stories where they can see themselves reflected and be inspired to take action on an issue they care about.”

The third edition follows the success of the *Citizen Minutes* series in 2021 and 2023, which includes 15 short docs that have gone on to screen independently and win awards at almost 100 Canadian and international film festivals, as well as streaming on Crave and CBC Gem.

The six *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 short films will be distributed across Canada over the following months, with select shorts submitted to other festivals. *Citizen Minutes*, with Hot Docs and the filmmakers, will use the films for positive change in educational, community and professional settings. The series is also part of Docs for Schools, Hot Docs’ educational program supporting curricula for students (grades 5-12) nationwide, spotlighting youth-led civic engagement through community screenings and educational resources for educators.

Hot Docs’ world premiere of *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 will take place on **Wednesday, April 30 at 5:30 PM** at **TIFF Lightbox**.

The full lineup of *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 films appears below. Filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the 2025 Festival program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on](http://www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on).

### **BECOMING RUBY**

D: Quan Luong | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Follow Ruby Chopstix, Canada's first drag artist in residence, as they navigate the complexity of being an underrepresented drag performer while creating a special showcase to create space for other queer BIPOC performers.

### **CROSSING THE DIVIDE**

D: Chrisann Hessing, Ashley Brook | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Two Canadians, one Liberal and one Conservative, attend a U.S. convention focused on depolarizing politics, determined to engage in tough conversations for a healthier democracy.

### **LA FEMME ÉQUI-LIBRE**

D: Hélène Lebon | Canada | 2025 | 9 min | World Premiere

In Prince Edward Island, Josée Gallant-Gordon is reinventing mental health care through her bilingual equine therapy centre, proving that with ideas, one person can transform their community.

### **HOMMES-RELAIS**

D: Vladimir Chindea | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Amid migration grief and integration challenges, Manuel, a former doctor turned community leader, guides immigrant men in a life-changing program, forging resilience, belonging and solidarity.

### **RED GIRL RISING**

D: Faith Howe, Kim Stadfeld | Canada | 2025 | 12 min | World Premiere

Joyce Jonathan Crone—Mohawk matriarch, retired teacher, activist, humanitarian—reaches forward into her community of Huntsville, Ontario, opening hearts and bridging gaps for Indigenous education.

### **A STOP GAP MEASURE**

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 2025 | 11 min | World Premiere

When temporary solutions become the status quo, who gets left behind? *A Stop Gap Measure* follows disability activist Luke Anderson in his fight for accessibility to be a right, not a privilege.

To learn more about *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 visit <https://www.citizenminutes.ca>

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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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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

[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)