

HOT DOCS BRINGS FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS TO STUDENTS DURING 2025 FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 25, 2025 – Hot Docs will provide free documentary screenings to students during this year's Festival through its **Docs For Schools** program. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival runs April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Since 2006, Docs For Schools has engaged students with thought-provoking documentaries that connect to course subjects and current events. Covering topics from history and science to media studies and global issues, the program is designed to enrich classroom learning, spark discussion and inspire young minds. All film selections are carefully curated to foster meaningful conversations.

Docs For Schools celebrates Hot Docs Festival 2025 with four in-cinema screenings:

The Docs For Schools Festival program invites teachers and students to the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema between April 28 – May 1 for special screenings of nine selected films premiering at the 2025 Hot Docs Festival. Films in this program, except for Citizen Minutes Series 3, are eligible for the **Docs For Schools Student Choice Award**, which will award the winning film's director with a CAD 5,000 cash prize, courtesy of Scotiabank, as selected by student vote.

For more information on Docs For Schools programs, please visit: <https://hotdocs.ca/docs-for-schools/dfs-fest/dfs-fest-cinema>

Support for Docs For Schools comes from lead partner Rogers. Additional support is provided by the Pitblado Family Foundation and through contributions of individual donors.

Docs For Schools Festival In-Cinema films appear below.

CITIZEN MINUTES SERIES 3

D: Various | Canada | 2025 | 58 min | World Premiere

Back for a third series, *Citizen Minutes* is a short doc collection commissioned by Hot Docs aimed at celebrating and inspiring civic engagement. Be among the first to see the incredible stories of ordinary Canadians doing extraordinary things to make their communities better places.

SAINTS AND WARRIORS

D: Patrick Shannon | Canada | 2024 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere

For over sixty years, teams have gathered on the Pacific west coast for the All Native Basketball Tournament. As the defending champions, the Skidegate Saints, battle to keep their title, it's clear the event has become a symbol of resilience, community and culture.

SPREADSHEET CHAMPIONS

D: Kristina Kraskov | Australia | 2025 | 86 min | Canadian Premiere

Six students from around the world show off their impressive spreadsheet skills as they excel in the hyper-competitive Microsoft Excel World Championships—the most challenging and prestigious Microsoft Office competition category—where a win could change their life.

WRITING HAWA

D: Najiba Noori | France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan | 2024 | 85 min | Canadian Premiere

After freeing herself from a constraining 40-year arranged marriage, the filmmaker's mother hopes for a brighter future, not only for herself but also her daughter and granddaughter, but her dreams are decimated by the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan.

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[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca) (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](http://www.hotdocs.ca) 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



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

balexander@hotdocs.ca

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

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
506 Bloor St. W, Toronto ON, Canada M5S 1Y3

WWW.HOTDOCS.CA