

HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2025 *MADE IN EXILE* PROGRAM TO SHOWCASE STORIES OF DISPLACEMENT, MEMORY AND PERSEVERANCE

LONG-TIME COUNTRY SPECIFIC PROGRAM SHIFTS TO SPOTLIGHT EXILED VOICES

Toronto, March 25, 2025 – Hot Docs announced today that the upcoming Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival 2025, April 24 to May 4 in Toronto, will boldly expand the scope of its popular *Made In* program, shifting the spotlight from a single country to instead celebrate the powerful voices of filmmakers and protagonists in exile.

For the first time in the program's history, *Made In* will showcase documentaries created by filmmakers and participants who, driven from their homelands by war, conflict or humanitarian crises, continue to tell stories that demand to be heard. This year's lineup will include deeply personal and timely narratives from Afghanistan, Sudan, Ukraine, Palestine and beyond, offering audiences a rare and resonant perspective on survival, displacement and the enduring strength of the creative spirit.

"This special program has been years in the making. With each festival, we've seen a growing number of projects addressing exile and displacement, and it feels as though we've reached a boiling point in history. We deeply believe in the power of documentary filmmaking to build bridges, foster empathy and bear witness to the world's most urgent realities," shared **Heather Haynes**, Director of Programming, Hot Docs. "Through the *Made In Exile* program, we urgently amplify the critical work of filmmakers and participants who, despite unimaginable challenges, continue to tell their stories and bring them to the public. These are stories of survival, courage and unyielding hope that must be heard."

Receiving a world premiere as part of *Made In Exile* is *The Longer You Bleed*, which explores the emotional toll that constant consumption of war imagery takes on a group of Gen Z Ukrainians in Berlin.

Receiving a Canadian premiere in *Made In Exile* are *Khartoum*, in which a group of displaced Sudanese filmmakers empower five fellow citizens to re-enact dramatic testimonies of their nation's descent into civil war; *Writing Hawa*, in which a mother is freed from the constraints of a 40-year arranged marriage, only to see her hopes for a brighter future decimated by the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan; and *Yalla Parkour*, a nostalgia-fuelled journey that reveals the harsh realities facing Palestinians through the forming of a relationship between a filmmaker and a young parkour athlete in Gaza.

Past *Made In* programs have showcased the vibrant documentary traditions of countries including Spain (2024), Ukraine (2023), Chile (2022), Colombia (2021), Northern Ireland (2020), Italy (2019), Mexico (2018), Japan (2017), Australia (2016), India (2015), Denmark (2014), Poland (2013), Southeastern Europe (2012), Italy (2011), South America (2010), South Korea (2009), Mexico (2008), Brazil (2007), Japan (2006), South Africa (2004) and Taiwan (2003).

Hot Docs *Made in Exile* program is supported by PEN Canada.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the *Made In Exile* 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.

KHARTOUM

D: Phil Cox, Ibrahim Ahmed, Anas Saeed, Timeea Ahmed, Rawia Alhag | P: Talal Afifi, Giovanna Stopponi | UK, Germany | 2025 | 80 min | Canadian Premiere

Employing green screen storytelling to evocative effect, a group of displaced Sudanese filmmakers empower five of their fellow citizens to re-enact dramatic testimonies of their nation's descent into civil war and their journeys to neighbouring East Africa seeking refuge.

Sunday, April 27, 5:30 PM – TLB2

Tuesday, April 29, 2:15 PM - TLB2

THE LONGER YOU BLEED

D: Ewan Waddell | P: Liubov Dyvak, Ewan Waddell | Germany, Ukraine | 2025 | 73 min | World Premiere

What's the emotional toll of compulsively consuming war imagery on your smartphone? For a group of Gen Z Ukrainians living in Berlin, compassion fatigue and an embrace of absurdist humour are the all-too-relatable byproducts of this uniquely twenty-first century phenomenon.

Tuesday, April 29, 8:00 PM - TLB2

Thursday, May 1, 2:15 PM - TLB2

WRITING HAWA

D: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori (co-director) | P: Christian Popp, Hasse van Nunen, Renko Douze | 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.

Tuesday, April 29, 5:45 PM - TLB1

Friday, May 2, 11:45 AM - TLB1

YALLA PARKOUR

D: Areeb Zuaiter | P: Basel Mawlawi | Sweden, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine | 2024 | 89 min | Canadian Premiere

Seeking connection to her homeland, the director forms a relationship with a young parkour athlete in Gaza. The nostalgia-fuelled journey ultimately reveals the harsh realities facing Palestinians, and grows into an exploration of identity, belonging and the haunting legacy of a home left behind.

Saturday, April 26, 8:30 PM - TLB2

Monday, April 28, 2:00 PM - TLB1

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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](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

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