

HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES
PARADE: QUEER ACTS OF LOVE & RESISTANCE
DIRECTED BY AWARD-WINNING CANADIAN FILMMAKER NOAM GONICK AND
PRODUCED BY JUSTINE PIMLOTT FOR THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF
CANADA AS 2025 FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT FILM

THE NFB PRODUCTION WILL SEE ITS WORLD PREMIERE AT HOT DOCS 2025,
THE FILM REVISITS PIVOTAL MOMENTS AND ACTIONS IGNITING CANADA'S 2SLGBTQ+
MOVEMENT

Toronto, March 25, 2025 – Hot Docs announced today that *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* (Canada | 2025 | 96 min), directed by award-winning Canadian filmmaker **Noam Gonick** and produced by **Justine Pimlott** for the National Film Board of Canada, will open this year's Hot Docs Festival on **Thursday, April 24 at 6:15 PM at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema**. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance captures pivotal moments that sparked Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ movement, honouring the activists and elders whose resistance led to the rights we have today. Through rarely seen archival footage and first-person accounts, audiences are brought to the frontlines of the struggle. From police raids to early drag shows, community organizing to the House of Commons—the complex history of the country's diverse communities is brought to life. Key milestones illustrate the power of taking it into the streets and underscore how easily the rights we've fought for can be revoked, making the documentary essential viewing for all Canadians. Unflinching, bold, enraging, hopeful; *Parade* is a vital new chapter in the queer canon.

"I am honoured to open this year's Hot Docs Festival with a Canadian film that shines a bright and bold light on the history of Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ community," shared **Heather Haynes**, Director of Programming, Hot Docs. "Our country's important queer activism has for so long taken a back seat to that of the U.S., and the important work that has been done here at home for the past 50 years is perhaps lesser known because of that. This film speaks to that history, but also to the times we're living in today, where rights and identities are under attack across the border, and the threat of the same thing happening here at home feels all too real. I am also thrilled to welcome back Noam Gonick to Hot Docs. Noam's already strong legacy within the queer community is sure to be further elevated with this historically and culturally significant work."

Born in Winnipeg, Noam Gonick has exhibited films at the Venice Film Festival, the Berlin Film Festival, TIFF, Sundance and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Gonick's films have been collected by the National Gallery of Canada, the National Library and the Australian Cinematheque. His work has been released theatrically, broadcast and distributed internationally. After studies at Ryerson Polytechnical University, Gonick mentored under directors Guy Maddin and Bruce LaBruce. Gonick's first film, the award-winning *1919* (1997), was a radical re-visioning of the Winnipeg General Strike. His first feature, *Hey, Happy!* (2001) is a queer cult film set in the Winnipeg rave scene on the eve of an apocalyptic flood.

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

He has been on the Executive of the Board of Directors on the Plug In ICA since 1997 and a member of the House of Aviance since 1994. His film *Guy Maddin: Waiting for Twilight* won the award for Best Arts documentary at Hot Docs in 1998.

Justine Pimlott is a multiple-award-winning producer with over 25 years' experience in the film industry, bringing often marginalized stories to the screen. Justine's selected body of work at the National Film Board of Canada includes the powerful co-productions *A Better Man* (2017), *What Walaa Wants* (2018), *Inconvenient Indian* (2020) and *Borealis* (2021). Her most-recent releases include the award-winning festival favourites *Boat People* (2023, Helen Hill Award for Animated Short at the New Orleans Film Festival), *Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story* (2024, Hot Docs DGC Special Jury Prize for Canadian Feature Documentary, Hot Docs Top 10 Audience Favourite, TIFF Canada's Top Ten Honouree, the TFCA Award for Best Canadian Documentary) and *A Mother Apart* (2024, Hot Docs Top Three Audience Favourite, Best First Feature, Best Canadian Feature, and Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the Inside Out Toronto 2SLGBTQI+ Film Festival). Upcoming releases include the feature documentaries *The Nest* and *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance*.

Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance is a National Film Board of Canada production, produced by Justine Pimlott. Executive producers are Chanda Chevannes and Anita Lee.

Director Noam Gonick, producer Justine Pimlott and special guests from the film will attend the Hot Docs Festival 2025 Opening Night screening at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema (506 Bloor Street West) to introduce the film and participate in a post-screening audience Q&A.

In addition to its opening night screenings on April 25 at 6:15 PM (Industry screening) and 9:30 PM (public screening), the film will also screen on Saturday, April 26, at 11:15 AM at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema and Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 AM at TIFF Lightbox 1.

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Hot Docs (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

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