

**HOT DOCS 2025 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:  
WORLD PREMIERES OF HIGHLY ANTICIPATED DOCUMENTARIES SET TO IGNITE  
THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL**

PROGRAM WILL FEATURE MARLEE MATLIN, NOAM SHUSTER ELIASSI, CHRISTO GROZEV, ANDREA GIBSON, SELENA QUINTANILLA, CHASE STRANGIO, AND FILMS BY DAVIS GUGGENHEIM, MSTYSLAV CHERNOV, PETRA COSTA, CHASE JOYNT, JULIETTA SINGH AND RASHAAD NEWSOME

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – **Hot Docs** is excited to announce the full lineup of new documentary features that will screen in this year's Festival's **Special Presentations** program, a stellar lineup of films that promise to inspire, inform, and entertain Festival audiences. Titles in this program feature visionary filmmakers, intriguing subjects, and riveting storytelling. This year's Special Presentation titles have been previously announced; however, previously unreleased screening times are included below. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

The 2025 Special Presentations program will delve into powerful stories of activism, justice and identity, with films from celebrated filmmakers and profiles of intriguing subjects and personalities, including British Columbia's All Native Basketball Tournament, the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship, China's controversial dating boot camp, the Queen of Tejano Music, and much more.

Making its world premiere at Hot Docs Festival 2025 is the Canadian doc ***The Nest***, a deeply personal exploration of memory, identity, and intergenerational storytelling by co-directors Chase Joynt and Julietta Singh.

International premieres are ***Come See Me in the Good Light***, which follows spoken word artist and poet laureate of Colorado Andrea Gibson after an incurable cancer diagnosis; ***Deaf President Now!***, a powerful chronicle of the landmark student protest that transformed accessibility rights in the US; ***Life After***, in which celebrated filmmaker Reid Davenport investigates the troubling implications of assisted suicide laws for disabled people; and ***Selena y Los Dinos***, a riveting look at the life and legacy of the "Queen of Tejano Music" Selena Quintanilla.

Canadian Premieres include ***2000 Meters to Andriivka***, the latest from Academy Award-winning filmmaker Mstyslav Chernov (*20 Days in Mariupol*) following a Ukrainian platoon as they navigate a heavily fortified forest to liberate the strategic village of Andriivka; ***Antidote***, a gripping real-life thriller following investigative journalist Christo Grozev and activist Vladimir Kara-Murza as they challenge Russia's political machine; ***Apocalypse in the Tropics***, Petra Costa's timely and incisive look at the rise of religious fundamentalism in Brazil; ***Assembly*** sees interdisciplinary artist Rashaad Newsome turn documentarian, capturing his groundbreaking 2022 exhibition that transformed a historic military facility into a queer, Afro-futurist utopia; ***Coexistence, My Ass!***, where comedian Noam Shuster Eliassi boldly navigates the Israel-Palestine conflict with razor-sharp wit; ***The Dating Game*** delves into the

consequences of China's one-child policy, as three men, faced with a skewed gender ratio, enroll in a controversial dating boot camp that promises romantic success through deception; ***Heightened Scrutiny*** follows ACLU attorney Chase Strangio as he takes on an uphill battle for trans rights, preparing to become the first openly trans person to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court; ***Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore***, an intimate portrait of the trailblazing Deaf actor; ***Saints and Warriors***, which captures the fierce competition and deep community spirit of the All Native Basketball Tournament in British Columbia; and ***Spreadsheet Champions*** spotlights six talented students from around the world as they compete in the Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship—the ultimate test of spreadsheet mastery, where a win could be life-changing.

Screening times and descriptions for the Special Presentations 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](http://www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on).

### 2000 METERS TO ANDRIIVKA

D: Mstyslav Chernov | P: Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath | Ukraine | 2025 | 106 min | Canadian Premiere

From the Academy Award-winning director of *20 Days in Mariupol* comes an immersive and harrowing look at a Ukrainian platoon on the front lines of the war as they traverse a heavily fortified forest to liberate the strategic village of Andriivka.

Sunday, April 27, 4:45 PM - TLB1

Tuesday, April 29, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### ANTIDOTE

D: James Jones | P: James Jones | United Kingdom | 2024 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

How does it feel to be on Putin's most-wanted list? Christo Grozev, an investigative journalist and co-founder of Bellingcat, is on the run, while Vladimir Kara-Murza, a political activist, stands trial for treason. A riveting doc-thriller about those resisting and confronting the blood-chilling Russian regime.

Saturday, April 26, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Monday, April 28, 10:45 AM - TLB1

### APOCALYPSE IN THE TROPICS

D: Petra Costa | P: Petra Costa, Alessandra Orofino | Brazil, USA, Denmark | 2024 | 110 min | Canadian Premiere

In Oscar-nominated filmmaker Petra Costa's latest excursion into the state of democracy, she turns her attention to Brazil's most prominent televangelist, Silas Malafaia, delving into the rise of religious fundamentalism in politics and its close ties to the far-right nationalist movement.

Tuesday, April 29, 2:30 PM - TLB1

Friday, May 2, 8:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### **ASSEMBLY**

D: Rashaad Newsome, Johnny Symons | P: Rashaad Newsome, Johnny Symons | USA | 2025 | 99 min | Canadian Premiere

Interdisciplinary artist Rashaad Newsome adds “documentarian” to his extensive CV with this dazzling record of his titular 2022 exhibition, a multisensory extravaganza that summons a cast of global performers to transform a historic military facility into a queer, Afro-futurist utopia.

Tuesday, April 29, 5:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Friday, May 2, 11:00 AM - Hot Docs Cinema

### **COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!**

D: Amber Fares | P: Rachel Leah Jones, Amber Fares, Valérie Montmartin | USA, France | 2025 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

Mixing the personal with the political, comedian Noam Shuster Eliassi boldly confronts the Israel-Palestine conflict in her one-woman show. Skillfully navigating massive social and political divides with wit and humour, she challenges audiences with hard truths that are no laughing matter.

Monday, April 28, 5:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Wednesday, April 30, 2:15 PM - TLB1

Sunday, May 4, 5:00 PM - TLB3

### **COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT**

D: Ryan White | P: Jessica Hargrave, Ryan White, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen | USA | 2025 | 104 min | International Premiere

After receiving an incurable cancer diagnosis, spoken word artist and poet laureate of Colorado Andrea Gibson, alongside their partner and fellow poet Megan Falley, embarks on a poignant journey filled with humour and love that culminates in a final career-defining performance.

Saturday, April 26, 9:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Saturday, May 3, 4:15 PM - TLB1

### **THE DATING GAME**

D: Violet Du Feng | P: Violet Du Feng, Joanna Natasegara, James Costa, Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas | USA, UK, Norway | 2025 | 86 min | Canadian Premiere

In China, where men vastly outnumber women, three desperate bachelors join a controversial dating boot camp promising romantic success through deception. Their journey exposes the harsh realities of modern dating in a post-one-child-policy world.

Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Thursday, May 1, 2:30 PM - TLB1

### **DEAF PRESIDENT NOW!**

D: Nyle DiMarco, Davis Guggenheim | P: Nyle DiMarco, Davis Guggenheim, Amanda Rohlke, Jonathan

King, Michael Harte | USA | 2024 | 100 min | International Premiere

When Gallaudet University's board selected a hearing president over two deaf candidates in 1988, the almost entirely Deaf and hard-of-hearing student body pushed back, sparking a revolution that influenced the future of disability rights.

Thursday, May 1, 5:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 PM - TLB1

### HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY

D: Sam Feder | P: Amy Scholder, Sam Feder, Paola Mendoza | USA | 2025 | 85 min | Canadian Premiere

As assaults on trans rights sweep across America, ACLU attorney Chase Strangio must fight legal battles and public opinion pitched against his community as he prepares to be the first openly trans person to argue in front of the Supreme Court.

Thursday, May 1, 5:30 PM - TLB1

Saturday, May 3, 8:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### LIFE AFTER

D: Reid Davenport | P: Colleen Cassingham | USA | 2025 | 99 min | International Premiere

Disability cinema auteur Reid Davenport takes on assisted suicide, exploring how a practice intended to empower end-of-life decision-making has exposed the long-standing devaluation of disabled life.

Saturday, April 26, 4:30 PM - TLB1

Tuesday, April 29, 11:15 AM - TLB1

### MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE

D: Shoshannah Stern | P: Robyn Kopp, Justine Nagan, Bonni Cohen, Shoshannah Stern | USA | 2025 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere

Pioneering Deaf performer Marlee Matlin candidly opens up about her life and career. Her meteoric and tumultuous rise to fame with her Oscar-winning performance in *Children of a Lesser God* is just one chapter of an iconic legacy that continues to resonate.

Sunday, April 27, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema (Big Ideas screening)

Wednesday, April 30, 8:30 PM - TLB1

Sunday, May 4, 11:15 AM - TLB3

### THE NEST

D: Chase Joynt, Julietta Singh | P: Alicia Smith, Justine Pimlott | Canada | 2025 | 89 min | World Premiere

At the end of her mother's life, director Julietta Singh returns to her childhood home, where centuries of forgotten matriarchs emerge to reveal stories of resistance and resilience. Indigenous, Deaf, Japanese and South Asian histories intertwine, buried in a house full of secrets.

Sunday, April 27, 8:00 PM - TLB1  
Wednesday, April 30, 11:15 AM - TLB1

### SAINTS AND WARRIORS

D: Patrick Shannon | P: Michael Grand | 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.

Monday, April 28, 5:00 PM - TLB1  
Wednesday, April 30, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### SELENA Y LOS DINOS

D: Isabel Castro | P: Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, J. Daniel Torres, David Blackman, Simran Singh | USA | 2025 | 106 min | International Premiere  
Dubbed the "Queen of Tejano Music," Selena Quintanilla was an iconic superstar whose voice continues to resonate across generations. Exquisite family archives and intimate testimonies chart the rise of this vocal powerhouse who broke down barriers for women in the genre.

Thursday, May 1, 8:45 PM - Hot Docs Cinema  
Saturday, May 3, 5:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### SPREADSHEET CHAMPIONS

D: Kristina Kraskov | P: Anna Charalambous, Charlotte Wheaton, Nick Batzias | 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 Office Specialist World Championship—the most challenging and prestigious Excel competition—where a win could change their life.

Sunday, April 27, 11:30 AM - Hot Docs Cinema  
Friday, May 2 5:15 PM - Hot Docs Cinema  
Sunday, May 4, 3:45 PM - Hot Docs Cinema (Relaxed Screening)

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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>

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