

## NEW TIPPING POINT PROGRAM BRINGS URGENT STORIES TO HOT DOCS SCREENS

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs introduces the lineup of films that will make up its new **Tipping Point** program, featuring four feature docs, one mid-length and three short documentaries, all of which give hard-hitting accounts of some of today's most pressing issues. From the crossroads of political intrigue and wartime diplomacy to cultural and social upheaval, these films expose the raw tensions and powerful forces driving global unrest and transformation. They grapple with the urgent challenges of our time, where the fight for justice, democracy and human rights hangs precariously in the balance. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Tipping Point includes the world premiere of ***Night Watches Us***, a poetic blend of music, dance and spoken word, chronicling a family's desire for justice after a 23-year-old Black father—grappling with a mental crisis—was shot and killed by Montreal police. North American premieres include ***An American Pastoral***, in which a heated school board election in a conservative Pennsylvania town becomes ground zero for America's culture wars; ***Colossal***, an exploration of the director's politically polarized family and role they played during the authoritarian regime of longtime Dominican Republic president Joaquín Balaguer; and ***Facing War***, in which NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg needs to use all of his diplomatic skills to keep the Alliance together and committed to standing by Ukraine.

The program also includes the Canadian premiere of ***Mr. Nobody Against Putin***, a slice-of-life documentary about a young teacher who bravely documents and exposes Putin's cruel propaganda machine.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the Tipping Point 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).

### AN AMERICAN PASTORAL

D: Auberi Edler | P: Serge Lalou | France | 2024 | 120 min | North American Premiere

In a conservative Pennsylvania town, a heated school board election becomes ground zero for America's culture wars. As Christian fundamentalists campaign to control the curriculum, battle lines form over book bans and LGBTQ+ rights, revealing deep divisions in American democracy.

Monday, April 28, 8:15 PM - TLB1

Saturday, May 3, 4:45 PM - TLB2

### COLOSSAL

D: Nayibe Tavares-Abel | P: Lei González | Dominican Republic | 2025 | 76 min | North American Premiere

Personal history and collective memory intertwine in this captivating exploration of the director's politically polarized family and role they played during the authoritarian regime of Joaquín Balaguer, president of the Dominican Republic for over 20 years.

Wednesday, April 30, 8:15 PM - TLB4

Saturday, May 3, 12:00 PM - TLB3

### **FACING WAR**

D: Tommy Gulliksen | P: Anne Marte Blindheim, Danielle Turkov Wilson | Norway | 2025 | 100 min | North American Premiere

NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg promised President Zelenskyy he would stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes. He also promised his wife he'd come home. As war rages on and tensions rise among allies, will he be able to keep his word?

Thursday, May 1, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Saturday, May 3, 1:45 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### **MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN**

D: David Borenstein, Pavel Talankin (co-director) | P: Helle Faber | Denmark, Czech Republic | 2025 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

In this daring slice-of-life documentary, a young teacher bravely documents and exposes Putin's cruel propaganda machine and the militarization of schools at a time when Russian citizens face many such impossible choices.

Saturday, April 26, 2:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Sunday, April 27, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### **NIGHT WATCHES US**

D: Stefan Verna | P: Kat Baulu, Ariel Nasr | Canada | 2024 | 43 min | World Premiere

In August 2018, a 23-year-old Black father was shot and killed by Montreal police while grappling with a mental crisis. Through a poetic blend of music, dance and spoken word, his family's desire for justice is brought to life.

*Screening with*

### **PLONGEURS**

D: Hector Aponysus | UK, France | 12 min

*and*

### **A VIEW FROM HOME**

D: Mingzhe Zhou | Canada | 16 min

*and*

### **WE BEG TO DIFFER**

D: Ruairi Bradley | Ireland | 13 min

Thursday, May 1, 5:00 PM - TLB2

Saturday, May 3, 2:45 PM - TLB3

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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](http://www.hotdocs.ca) 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

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