

For Immediate Release: September 24, 2025

HOT DOCS SHARES A FIRST LOOK AT SPEAKERS AND SUBJECTS TAKING TO THE STAGE AS PART OF CURIOUS MINDS FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 6 TO 9

FULL SCHEDULE AND MEMBER TICKETS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 30, PUBLIC TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 7

Toronto, Canada – Hot Docs announces a first look at the dynamic lineup of speakers and subjects coming together as part of **Curious Minds Festival**, taking place at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema this **November 6 to 9**. Curious Minds Festival will spotlight stories, voices, issues and ideas that shape our present and challenge us to think deeply about the world we inhabit.

Confirmed to participate in the four-day event are creators, artists, change makers and thought leaders, all of whom will share their experience and expertise live on stage with inquisitive audiences.

Speakers announced today include AI experts **Daniel Wigdor**, **Shingai Manjengwa** and **John Weigelt**; Munk Debates *Friday Focus* podcast hosts **Rudyard Griffiths** and **Janice Stein**; author, scholar, *New York Times* contributor and former White House official **Tim Wu**; CBC podcast host **Kathleen Goldhar** and Governor General Award-winning artist **Adrian Stimson**; author and astrologer **Chani Nicholas**, and author and journalist **Jesse Wente**.

Below is a first look at Curious Minds Festival subjects and participants announced to date. The full lineup of events and speakers will be announced on September 30. Member tickets and all-access passes will be available on September 30, and single tickets for the general public will go on sale on October 7.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON AI WITHIN CANADIAN CULTURE

Join AI Experts Daniel Wigdor, Shingai Manjengwa and John Weigelt for an in-depth exploration of how AI is reshaping life in Canada

Daniel Wigdor, Co-Founder and CEO of AXL and Professor, University of Toronto

Shingai Manjengwa, Senior Director, Education and Development, Talent & Ecosystem at Mila Institute

John Weigelt, National Technology Officer, Microsoft Canada

LIVE PODCAST: MUNK DEBATES

Sit in on a live recording of the *Friday Focus* podcast from Munk Debates with hosts Janice Stein and Rudyard Griffiths

Janice Stein, Founding Director, Munk School of Global Affairs

Rudyard Griffiths, Chair, Munk Debates

AUTHOR TALK: TIM WU

Celebrate the release of “The Age of Extraction” from Tim Wu, the preeminent scholar, *New York Times* contributor and former White House official who coined the phrase “net neutrality”

Tim Wu, Law Professor, Columbia University

SCREENING WITH EXTENDED Q&A: STILL SINGLE

Enjoy a screening of the new Toronto-focused documentary *Still Single* about Michelin-honoured chef Masaki Saito followed by a post-screening discussion with special guests

Guests to be announced

LIVE PODCAST: CRIME STORY x FORGED

Listen in as CBC’s *Crime Story* host Kathleen Goldhar interviews artist Adrian Stimson, host of *Forged*, a new investigative podcast about legendary Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau and what is believed to be the largest art crime fraud in the world.

Kathleen Goldhar, Host, *Crime Story*

Adrian Stimson, Artist and Host of *Forged*

LIVE ASTROLOGY READING & DISCUSSION: CHANI NICHOLAS

Take part in the live birth chart reading of a special guest by influential Canadian astrologer and activist Chani Nicholas

Chani Nicholas, Astrologer and Activist

AUTHOR TALK: JESSE WENTE

Bring the whole family along to mark the release of author and journalist Jesse Wente’s new children’s book “Danger Eagle”

Jesse Wente, Author and Journalist

The Curious Minds Festival is supported by the Government of Canada through the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario).

For more information on Curious Minds Festival, visit hotdocs.ca/festivals/curious-minds-festival

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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 33rd edition in Spring 2026, in Toronto. Since its inception in 1993, Hot Docs has supported the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and production fund portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Hot Docs Incubator.

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