

**HOT DOCS 2025  
MEDIA KIT CONTENTS**

Hot Docs General Media Release

Opening Night Presentation

Special Presentations

Big Ideas

Canadian Spectrum Competition – Films in juried competition

International Spectrum Competition – Films in juried competition

Made In Exile

Nightvision – Future Cult Classics

Persister – Women Speaking Up and Being Heard

Shorts Programs

Artscapes - Creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking

Tipping Point – Docs grappling with the urgent challenges of our time

World Showcase

Citizen Minutes Series 3 - Supported by The Rossy Foundation

Hot Docs 2025 Venues

Awards and Awards Presentation

Grant Recipients & Alumni Films and Filmmakers in the 2025 Festival

Docs For Schools

Hot Docs by the Numbers: Quick Facts on the 2025 Festival

Films by Interest

## **HOT DOCS 2025 FESTIVAL FEATURES 113 DOCUMENTARIES FROM 47 COUNTRIES**

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America's leading documentary festival, conference and market, announces the program for its 2025 Festival, taking place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto. Showcasing the best in Canadian and international documentary, this year's Festival features 113 documentaries from 47 countries.

Hot Docs 2025 will feature the following programs:

### **BIG IDEAS**

Hear from notable subjects and experts on the issues featured in thought-provoking documentaries

### **CITIZEN MINUTES SERIES 3**

A short doc collection commissioned by Hot Docs aimed at celebrating and inspiring civic engagement  
*Supported by The Rossy Foundation*

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Award-winning films, celebrated filmmakers, high-profile subjects and special screenings

### **CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION**

*Sponsored by TVO Docs*

A competitive program of compelling Canadian stories and perspectives

### **INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM COMPETITION**

*Supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation*

A curated competition of world and international premieres from around the globe

### **WORLD SHOWCASE**

A popular global selection of the year's finest docs

### **MADE IN EXILE**

*Supported by PEN Canada*

Powerful stories of displacement, memory and perseverance, from filmmakers and protagonists in exile

### **PERSISTER**

Presenting films about women speaking up and being heard

### **TIPPING POINT**

The struggle for justice, democracy and human rights in a world of unrest and change

#### **ARTSCAPES**

Art on film, featuring creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking

#### **NIGHTVISION**

A program that highlights future cult classics and diverse, creative approaches to filmmaking

#### **SHORTS PROGRAMS**

A specially curated selection of Canadian and international short films

###

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca) ([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**

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

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

**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.

###

[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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)



**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)

###

[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>

### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## BIG IDEAS SERIES RETURNS TO HOT DOCS FESTIVAL IN 2025

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** - Hot Docs announced today the return of the staple Festival series **Big Ideas**. The popular series—now entering its 12<sup>th</sup> year—is part of the 2025 Hot Docs Festival, April 25 to May 5 in Toronto. Big Ideas offers audiences the opportunity to experience four thought-provoking documentaries and then hear, first-hand, from the notable subjects and experts on the issues featured in the films.

The 2025 Big Ideas series presents a compelling lineup of inspiring and compelling stories, from the politically charged artistry of Ai Weiwei through a reimagining of Puccini's *Turandot* to the dangerous world of investigative journalism in today's volatile landscape. The series will also explore Oscar-winning actor Marlee Matlin's trailblazing career, her advocacy for the Deaf community and women's rights—and examine the complexities of dating in modern-day China.

"We are thrilled about this year's Big Ideas lineup," shared **Heather Haynes**, Hot Docs' Director of Programming. "It is an honour to welcome such visionary filmmakers and captivating subjects to the Hot Docs stage. This year's program promises to ignite an exciting exchange of bold ideas, powerful stories and diverse perspectives. The series continues to be a cornerstone of the Festival and an audience favourite, and with guests like these, it's easy to see why."

Screening times and film descriptions appear below. Tickets for each presentation are \$27.00.

### AI WEIWEI'S TURANDOT

Director Maxim Derevianko and special guests of *Ai Weiwei's Turandot* explore the complexities of Weiwei's politically visionary art in the current global landscape and his powerful vision behind the operatic reimagining of Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*.

Guests: Director Maxim Derevianko and special guests  
Moderator: Journalist Glenn Sumi

Friday, April 25, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

### ANTIDOTE

Director James Jones is joined by *Antidote* protagonist, investigative journalist Christo Grozev of Bellingcat, in a gripping conversation about his groundbreaking work exposing a Russian government assassination squad targeting opposition figures, as well as the high-stakes challenges and dangers of investigative journalism in today's volatile landscape.

Guests: Director James Jones and journalist Christo Grozev  
Moderator: Journalist, author, filmmaker and podcaster Michelle Shephard

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



**MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE**

Join legendary actress Marlee Matlin and director Shoshannah Stern for an engaging post-screening conversation about Marlee's rise to stardom, the challenges she faced and her advocacy for the Deaf community and women's issues. They'll share insights into the making of the film, which celebrates her groundbreaking career and activism.

Guests: Director Shoshannah Stern and actress Marlee Matlin

Moderator: Journalist and television personality Johanna Schneller

Sunday, April 27, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

**THE DATING GAME**

Join director Violet Du Feng for a conversation about the complex and often challenging world of dating in modern-day China—where eligible men significantly outnumber women—including the role of technology in shaping romantic connections, shifting societal expectations, and the pressures individuals face in the search for love.

Guest: Director Violet Du Feng

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

###

[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

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## HOT DOCS' CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION STRAND BRINGS HOMEGROWN PREMIERES TO 2025 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs is pleased to present 10 feature documentaries to screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2025 **Canadian Spectrum Competition**, a competitive program showcasing the work of Canadian directors. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Canadian Spectrum Competition films receiving their world premiere at Hot Docs 2025 are **#skoden**, in which an iconic Indigenous meme sparks a poignant exploration of the unhoused Albertan man behind the viral phenomenon; **Casas Muertas**, a lyrical meditation on loss, strength and hope that follows the resilience of three generations of Venezuelans, bound by uncertainty amidst a country-wide economic crisis; **Shamed**, following an online vigilante and self-described “Creeper Hunter” who seeks out potential sexual predators and ambushes them in videotaped confrontations; and **Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man**, a luminous exploration of strength and vulnerability that spans generations of Siksika men and boys as they learn to embrace the intricacies of self-discovery amidst a sweeping Prairies backdrop.

North American premieres include **Agatha's Almanac**, a cinematic portrait of simple seasonal living that follows a fiercely independent 90-year-old woman living alone on her ancestral farm in Manitoba; and **Shifting Baselines**, at look at Boca Chica, USA, where the Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX rockets blast skyward, hawkers shill their wares and environmentalists survey the damage.

Canadian premieres include **Endless Cookie**, a colourful collage of psychedelic, animated vignettes that explores the complex bond between two half-brothers—one Indigenous, one white; **Paul**, in which Paul copes with depression and social anxiety through his work doing domestic chores for dominant women; and **The Track**, a contemporary coming-of-age journey of three Muslim teenagers in post-war Bosnia chasing their improbable Olympic dreams on a decaying luge track from the 1984 Winter Games; and the Ontario premiere of **Ghosts of the Sea**, in which the daughter of renowned sailor Peter Tangvald investigates her brother's mysterious death at sea.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award and the DGC Special Jury Prize - Canadian Feature Documentary Award. Directors in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program with fewer than two previous feature film credits are also eligible to win the Earl A. Glick Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award.

The Canadian Spectrum Competition is presented in partnership with TVO Docs.

Screening times and descriptions for the Canadian Spectrum Competition 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).

### **AGATHA'S ALMANAC**

D: Amalie Atkins | P: Amalie Atkins | Canada | 2025 | 86 min | North American Premiere  
A fiercely independent Mennonite woman lives alone on her ancestral farm in Southern Manitoba in this cinematic portrait of simple seasonal living. Despite health challenges, this hardy 90-year-old tends to her land by hand, cultivating heirloom seeds passed down through generations.

Sunday, April 27, 1:30 PM - TLB4

Friday, May 2, 11:00 AM - TLB2

### **CASAS MUERTAS**

D: Rosana Matecki | P: Rosana Matecki, Mariana Andrade, Patricio Andrade | Canada, Venezuela, Ecuador | 2025 | 83 min | World Premiere  
Three generations of Venezuelans, bound by uncertainty amidst a country-wide economic crisis, share their lives of resilience. A lyrical meditation on the themes of loss and hope, and the strength to endure despite the ongoing challenges of daily life.

Monday, April 28, 5:45 PM - TLB3

Wednesday, April 30, 11:30 AM - TLB4

### **ENDLESS COOKIE**

D: Seth Scriver, Peter Scriver | P: Daniel Bekerman, Chris Yurkovich, Alex Ordanis, Jason Ryle, Seth Scriver | Canada | 2024 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere  
A colourful collage of psychedelic, animated vignettes explore the complex bond between two half-brothers—one Indigenous, one white—with humorous and heartfelt tales (and the odd interruption) that span the bustling 1980s Toronto to the present-day isolated First Nations community in Northern Manitoba.

Friday, April 25, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Sunday, April 27, 10:15 AM - TLB4

### **GHOSTS OF THE SEA**

D: Virginia Tangvald | P: Isabelle Couture, Éline Hébert, Nathalie Cloutier, Frédéric Corvez, Maéva Savinien | Canada, France | 2024 | 97 min | Ontario Premiere

When the daughter of renowned sailor Peter Tangvald investigates her brother's mysterious death at sea, her search evolves into a gripping quest to uncover dark family secrets and confront the complex legacy of her infamous father.

Sunday, April 27, 10:30 AM - TLB1

Wednesday, April 30, 5:15 PM - TLB4

**PAUL**

D: Denis Côté | P: Karine Bélanger, Hany Ouichou | Canada | 2025 | 87 min | Canadian Premiere

To cope with depression and social anxiety, Paul finds comfort in doing domestic chores for dominant women. By sharing his cleaning routines on social media with a goal of self-improvement, he fights to achieve inner peace by pleasing his favourite dominatrices, one reel at a time.

Saturday, April 26, 1:30 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 28, 7:45 PM - TLB2

**SHAMED**

D: Matt Gallagher | P: Cornelia Principe | Canada | 2025 | 90 min | World Premiere

An online vigilante, self-described as the "Creep Hunter," seeks out potential sexual predators and ambushes them in videotaped confrontations, exposing them to the court of public opinion. Ultimately, his actions land him in a legal battle to justify his ethically questionable actions.

Monday, April 28, 8:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Friday, May 2, 2:45 PM - TLB1

**SHIFTING BASELINES**

D: Julien Elie | P: Andreas Mendritzki, Aonan Yang, Julien Elie | Canada | 2025 | 100 min | North American Premiere

Where the Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX rockets blast skyward, astronomers gaze upon stars and satellites, hawkers sell their wares and environmentalists survey the damage. Welcome to Boca Chica, USA.

Saturday, April 26, 8:00 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 28, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

**SIKSIKAWAN: THE BLACKFOOT MAN**

D: Sinakson Trevor Solway | P: Coty Savard | Canada | 2025 | 77 min | World Premiere  
Amidst a sweeping Prairies backdrop, this luminous exploration of strength and vulnerability spans generations of Siksika men and boys as they learn to embrace the intricacies of self-discovery, identity and love in a world that often misunderstands and stigmatizes them.

Saturday, April 26, 5:45 PM - TLB2  
Monday, April 28, 11:00 AM - TLB2

**#SKODEN**

D: Damien Eagle Bear | P: Damien Eagle Bear | Canada | 2025 | 75 min | World Premiere  
An iconic Indigenous meme sparks a poignant exploration of the unhoused Albertan man behind the viral phenomenon. Living life with resilience, determination, and humour, his story offers a humanist perspective on Canada's growing street population and reveals the complexities of digital sovereignty and Indigenous peoples reclaiming their representation.

Tuesday, April 29, 8:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema  
Thursday, May 1, 11:45 AM - TLB1

**THE TRACK**

D: Ryan Sidhoo | P: Ryan Sidhoo | Canada | 2025 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere  
A contemporary coming-of-age journey of three Muslim teenagers in post-war Bosnia chasing their improbable Olympic dreams on a decaying luge track from the 1984 Winter Games. Guided by a dedicated coach, they battle the odds, fueled by hope and determination to build a brighter future despite the arduous path back from conflict.

Sunday, April 27, 8:30 PM - TLB2  
Wednesday, April 30, 1:30 PM - TLB2

###

[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>

#### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2025

#### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## HOT DOCS UNVEILS INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM COMPETITION STRAND FOR 2025 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 25, 2025**— Hot Docs, North America's premier documentary festival, proudly unveiled today the lineup of 10 feature and two short documentaries, together spanning 14 countries, set to screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2025 **International Spectrum Competition** (previously International Competition). This program is renowned for showcasing captivating stories and innovative filmmaking, while offering audiences unique perspectives from around the world. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Thirty years after his forced disappearance, the filmmaker's Afro Colombian father comes to her in a dream, asking her to find him. With her sister, she sets out on a journey of discovery across Colombia's painful history, reconnecting with their father and his activism.

The 2025 edition of the International Spectrum Competition program includes a compelling lineup of world premieres: ***Heritage*** is a meticulously crafted family snapshot in which two siblings alternate shifts caring for their elderly parents; ***I Dreamed His Name*** follows the filmmaker and her sister on a journey of discovery across Colombia's painful history, thirty years after their Afro-Colombian father's forced disappearance; ***I, Poppy*** follows a son's fight against corrupt officials while his mother tends their poppy farm in India; ***King Matt the First*** takes us on an enchanting journey into the inner world of young Polish sisters as they grapple with impending adulthood; and ***Unwelcomed*** examines contrasting perspectives around the migrant crisis in Chile following its most violent anti-immigrant protest in late 2021, sparked by an unprecedented influx of migrants from Venezuela.

International premieres include ***Holloway***, in which six women gather for a deeply cathartic journey within the decaying walls of England's soon-to-be demolished Holloway Prison; ***Neshoma***, a Jewish woman's story that through vibrant archival footage of 1920s Amsterdam and intimate letters to her distant brother, captures her community's rich cultural and artistic life before its heartbreaking transformation under Nazi occupation; ***River of Grass***, an ode to the Florida Everglades that explores its historical and ongoing challenges, past colonial violence and its current ecological impact; ***The Secret Lives of My Three Men***, in which the filmmaker explores the legacies of her grandfather, father and godfather and how they are intertwined with Brazil's unique history; and ***Walls – Akinni Inuk***, in which a project to document life inside a Greenlandic prison evolves into an intimate journey of healing for a filmmaker and a convicted murderer.

The International Spectrum Competition program is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

All feature-length titles in the program are eligible for the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary. Emerging directors in the International Spectrum Competition with two or fewer previous feature film credits are also eligible for the Emerging International Filmmaker Award, supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

Hot Docs is an Academy Award® qualifying festival for feature documentaries. The recipient of Hot Docs' Best International Feature Documentary Award will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Feature Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the International Spectrum Competition 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).

#### **HERITAGE**

D: Mir Mohammad Najafi | P: Mohsen Ostad Ali | Iran | 2025 | 73 min | World Premiere

Every day like clockwork, two siblings alternate shifts caring for their elderly parents: one with Alzheimer's, the other diminishing with age. This meticulously crafted family snapshot asks how we can reconcile the needs of those we love with the pursuit a life true to ourselves.

Wednesday, April 30, 5:00 PM - TLB3

Friday, May 2, 2:30 PM – TLB4

#### **HOLLOWAY**

D: Sophie Compton, Daisy-May Hudson | P: Alice Hughes, Polly Creed, Sophie Compton, Tarquin Ramsay | UK | 2024 | 87 min | International Premiere

Within the decaying walls of England's soon-to-be demolished Holloway Prison, six women gather for a deeply cathartic journey. Unearthing memories and sharing personal experiences, they unflinchingly reveal the hidden traumas underlying women's imprisonment and the healing that comes through sisterhood.

Sunday, April 27, 8:45 PM - TLB3

Monday, April 29, 10:45 AM - TLB3

#### **I DREAMED HIS NAME**

D: Angela Carabali | P: Sandra Tabares Duque, Angela Carabali | Colombia | 2025 | 86 min | World Premiere

Thirty years after his forced disappearance, the filmmaker's Afro Colombian father comes to her in a dream, asking her to find him. With her sister, she sets out on a journey of discovery across Colombia's painful history, reconnecting with their father and his activism.

Friday, April 25, 4:15 PM - TLB3

Saturday, April 26, 10:45 AM – TLB4

#### **I, POPPY**

D: Vivek Chaudhary | P: Vivek Chaudhary, Xavier Rocher | India | 2024 | 81 min | World Premiere



A son fights corrupt officials while his mother tends their poppy farm in India. As authorities strike back at their lower-caste family, they must choose between keeping food on the table and standing up for what's right.

Thursday, May 1, 8:00 PM - TLB2

Sunday, May 4, 1:30 PM – TLB2

### **KING MATT THE FIRST**

D: Jaśmina Wójcik | P: Marta Duźbabeł, Agnieszka Rostropowicz | Poland | 2025 | 75 min | World Premiere

Do you remember what it feels like to be a child? This enchanting documentary takes us on a journey into the inner world of young Polish sisters as they grapple with impending adulthood. Filled with whimsical games and unrestrained curiosity, it is the perfect remedy for whatever ails you.

*Screening with*

### **BALANCE**

D: Luiza Cocora | Canada | 21 min

Tuesday, April 29, 5:00 PM – TLB2

Thursday, May 1, 10:45 AM - TLB4

### **NESHOMA**

D: Sandra Beerends | P: Floor Onrust | Netherlands | 2024 | 85 min | International Premiere

Through intimate letters to her distant brother, a Jewish woman's story unfolds through vibrant archival footage of 1920s Amsterdam, capturing her community's rich cultural and artistic life before its heartbreaking transformation under Nazi occupation.

Wednesday, April 30, 4:30 PM - TLB2

Friday, May 2, 2:15 PM – TLB3

### **RIVER OF GRASS**

D: Sasha Wortzel | P: Danielle Varga, Sasha Wortzel | USA | 2025 | 83 min | International Premiere

An ode to the Florida Everglades, this immersive essay explores its historical and ongoing challenges through the writings of environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas and testimonies of Miccosukee educator Betty Osceola and current denizens who contend with past colonial violence and its current ecological impact.

Monday, April 28, 4:45 PM - TLB2

Wednesday, April 30, 10:45 AM – TLB3

### **THE SECRET LIVES OF MY THREE MEN**

D: Letícia Simões | P: João Vieira Jr., Nara Aragão, Letícia Simões | Brazil | 2025 | 75 min | International Premiere

Summoning three ghosts from her past—her grandfather, father and godfather—each of whom played a unique role in Brazil’s history, the director explores how their legacies intertwined with the country’s violent history reflect on its modern-day identity.

Thursday, May 1, 7:30 PM - TLB4

Saturday, May 3, 3:00 PM - TLB4

### UNWELCOMED

D: Amilcar Infante, Sebastian Gonzalez Mendez | P: Sebastian Gonzalez Mendez | Chile | 2025 | 68 min  
| World Premiere

In late 2021, Chile experienced its most violent anti-immigrant protest, sparked by an unprecedented influx of migrants from Venezuela. This evocative cinematic experience examines contrasting perspectives around the migrant crisis that is driving anger and violence towards the migrants.

*Screening with*

### LOOKING FOR A DONKEY

D: Juan Vicente Manrique | Mexico, Venezuela | 17 min

Wednesday, April 30, 7:45 PM - TLB3

Saturday, May 3, 1:45 PM - TLB2

### WALLS – AKINNI INUK

D: Sofie Rørdam, Nina Paninnguaq Skydsbjerg | P: Emile Hertling Péronard | Greenland, Denmark | 2025  
| 84 min | International Premiere

A project to document life inside a Greenlandic prison evolves into an intimate journey of healing as two women united by trauma—a filmmaker and a convicted murderer—discover how small acts of compassion can lead to the profound release they desperately seek.

Saturday, April 26, 8:45 PM - TLB3

Monday, April 28, 3:00 PM - TLB3

###

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca) ([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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## 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](http://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

###

[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](https://www.hotdocs.ca) at [www.hotdocs.ca](https://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

#### **Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## NIGHTVISION PROGRAM BEAMS UP BRAZEN TALES OF PROTECTIVE TALISMAN INSURANCE POLICIES, FOOTBALL CLUB ULTRAS, AND ALIENS AMONG US

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs is excited to unveil the lineup for **Nightvision**, featuring three features and one short destined to become cult doc classics. This program is renowned for showcasing distinct and imaginative filmmaking and is ideal for those seeking boundary-pushing, outside-the-box docs that transport viewers to a world of boundless creativity, boldness and occasional strangeness. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

The Nightvision program includes the North American premiere of ***Garanti 100% Kréol***, a journey into the world of “magical insurance policies” on the island of Réunion, as those seeking health and peace of mind head to a “guesser,” hoping to secure a protective talisman proffered by witchcraft and religion, including the director himself, desiring such a guarantee for his own film.

Also receiving a North American premiere at Hot Docs 2025 is ***Ultras***, an immersive and electrifying mosaic of soccer’s “ultras,” the uber fans whose monumental collective displays transform global stadiums into cauldrons of sound and colour. More than just a fandom, being an ultra is a way of life.

The program also includes the Canadian premiere of ***They're Here***, in which a community of UFO witnesses in New York State seek to make sense of their life-changing experiences, drawn together by the extraordinary, grappling with the answer to humanity’s greatest question.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the Nightvision 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).

### **GARANTI 100% KRÉOL**

D: Laurent Pantaléon | P: Kristel Séraphin | Réunion | 2024 | 63 min | North American Premiere  
On Réunion island those seeking health and peace of mind head to a “guesser” to secure a protective talisman. Through striking cinematography, journey into the world of “magical insurance policies” proffered by witchcraft and religion as the director seeks such a guarantee for his own film.

*Screening with*

### **LA MAYORDOMÍA**

D: Martin Edralin | Canada | 23 min

Monday, April 28, 8:30 PM - TLB4

Friday, May 2, 8:15 PM - TLB3

### **THEY'RE HERE**

D: Daniel Claridge, Pacho Velez | P: Pacho Velez, Daniel Claridge | USA | 2024 | 74 min | Canadian Premiere



They're here and we'd better get used to it. A community of UFO witnesses in New York State seek to make sense of their life-changing experiences in this playful and heartfelt portrait of people drawn together by the extraordinary, grappling with the answer to humanity's greatest question.

Friday, May 2, 8:45 PM - TLB1

Sunday, May 4, 1:00 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

### **ULTRAS**

D: Ragnhild Ekner | P: Tobias Janson | Sweden, Denmark, Finland | 2025 | 90 min | North American Premiere

Feast your senses on this immersive and electrifying mosaic of soccer's "ultras," the uber fans whose monumental collective displays transform global stadiums into cauldrons of sound and colour. More than just a fandom, being an ultra is a way of life.

Wednesday, April 30, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

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

###

[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

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## HOT DOCS 2025 PERSISTER PROGRAM SHARES STORIES OF WOMEN SPEAKING UP AND BEING HEARD

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs is pleased to announce seven feature documentaries screening as part of the popular **Persister** program during the 2025 Festival. The films included in this program shine a light on the voices of strong, inspirational women who are speaking up and being heard. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

The Persister program will feature the world premieres of **MAMA**, in which the filmmaker moves beyond the repair of her broken body into to a deeper, more vulnerable soul healing, following a breast cancer diagnosis; and **Widow Champion**, in which a widow rises to help other widows reclaim their rightful property, in rural Kenya where women lose their homes after a husband's death.

The program will feature the international premiere of **Mama Goals**, in which Charlotta abandons a secure full-time healthcare job to pursue her dream of becoming a comedian.

North American premieres include **9-Month Contract**, in which a Georgian woman becomes a repeat surrogate in the country's under-regulated system in order to secure a safe future for her teenage daughter; **The Last Ambassador**, about Afghanistan's only female ambassador who fearlessly defies the Taliban's gender discrimination by enabling the secret education of girls; and **My Missing Aunt**, in which a South Korean filmmaker uncovers the erased existence of her aunt who died by suicide before graduating college.

Persister will also see the Canadian premiere of **I Died**, in which three women with a shared past in the Zapatista Army of National Liberation now fight to overcome broken dreams, gender violence and grief.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the Persister 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).

### 9-MONTH CONTRACT

D: Ketevan Vashagashvili | P: Anna Khazaradze, Nino Chichua, Sylvia Nagel, Martichka Bozhilova | Georgia, Bulgaria, Germany | 2025 | 80 min | North American Premiere

In this tender yet harrowing tale of mother-daughter love, a Georgian woman will do anything to secure a safe future for her teenage daughter, including being a repeat surrogate in the country's under-regulated system until the physical toll nearly destroys her.

Monday, April 28, 8:45 PM - TLB3

Thursday, May 1, 11:15 AM - TLB2

### I DIED

D: Ana Ts'uyeb | P: Ana Ts'uyeb, Benjamin Fash | Mexico | 2024 | 74 min | Canadian Premiere

Three women in Chiapas, Mexico, who've shared a past in the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, now fight to overcome broken dreams, gender violence and grief to build a better life for their children and themselves within their patriarchal Tsotsil community through achieving autonomy and the right to own land.

Thursday, May 1, 1:45 PM - TLB4

Saturday, May 3, 5:45 PM - TLB3

### THE LAST AMBASSADOR

D: Natalie Halla | P: Peter Drössler, Arash T. Riahi, Sabine Gruber, Natalie Halla | Austria | 2025 | 80 min | North American Premiere

From her now unofficial office in Vienna, Manizha Bakhtari remains Afghanistan's only female ambassador. As she fearlessly defies the Taliban's gender discrimination by enabling the secret education of girls, she becomes one of the most important voices for women in her country.

Friday, April 25, 8:00 PM - TLB3

Sunday, April 27, 11:30 AM - TLB2

### MAMA

D: Ana Cristina Benítez | P: Bernarda Cornejo Pinto, Ana Cristina Benítez | Ecuador | 2025 | 95 min | World Premiere

After a breast cancer diagnosis, the director dives into a healing journey with delicate sensitivity. Moving beyond the repair of her broken body, she progresses to a deeper, more vulnerable soul healing as she grapples with memories, family dynamics and love.

Sunday, April 27, 4:30 PM - TLB4

Tuesday, April 29, 11:45 AM - TLB4

### MAMA GOALS

D: Ellen Fiske | P: Ina Holmqvist | Sweden | 2025 | 70 min | International Premiere

Charming and fearless, Charlotta abandons a secure full-time healthcare job to pursue her dream of becoming a comedian, jeopardizing her relationship with her family. Can she reconcile her responsibilities as a wife and mother with her drive for comedic success?

Wednesday, April 30, 7:30 PM - TLB2

Friday, May 2, 2:00 PM - TLB2

### MY MISSING AUNT

D: Juyeon Yang | P: Duhyun Ko, Sarah Kang | South Korea | 2024 | 78 min | North American Premiere

A South Korean filmmaker uncovers the erased existence of her aunt who died by suicide before graduating college. As she confronts family secrets and dating violence, she exposes generations of patriarchal damage inflicted on women expected to live as "good daughters."

Saturday, April 26, 11:45 AM - TLB3  
Wednesday, April 30, 10:30 AM - TLB2

## WIDOW CHAMPION

D: Zippy Kimundu | P: Heather Courtney, Zippy Kimundu | Kenya | 2025 | 95 min | World Premiere  
In rural Kenya where women lose their homes after their husband's death, a widow rises as a fierce advocate to help other widows reclaim their rightful property and provide a home for their children.

Saturday, April 26, 2:30 PM - TLB2  
Monday, April 28, 5:15 PM - TLB4

###

[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>

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



**PRESS RELEASE**

Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

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

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL  
506 Bloor St. W, Toronto ON, Canada M5S 1Y3

[WWW.HOTDOCS.CA](http://WWW.HOTDOCS.CA)

## **HOT DOCS 2025 BRINGS SHORT STORIES OF HEALING, BONDING, COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE VIA FOUR THEMED SHORTS PROGRAMS SPANNING 13 COUNTRIES**

\*UPDATED MARCH 31 TO INCLUDE A FULL LIST OF SHORTS SCREENING IN ALL PROGRAMS

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs will present a specially curated selection of Canadian and international short films as part of the Festival's **Shorts Programs**. These shorts will screen as part of four individual shorts programs, each one aiming to excite and inspire with its unique collection of fresh filmmaking talent. The Hot Docs 2025 Shorts Program brings 18 films from 13 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, UK and USA. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Shorts screening as part of 2025 Shorts Programs join additional short films screening with mid-length and feature docs in other programs throughout the 2025 Hot Docs Festival, and shorts screening as part of Citizen Minutes. A total of 36 short films will screen as part of this year's Festival. See below for a complete list of all shorts screening in this year's Festival.

The full lineup of 2025 Shorts Program films appear below with screening information. 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).

### **HEAL & RELEASE**

Stories of individual and collective healing while giving us permission to honour the past, celebrate our growth and learn to let go.

*Screening*

#### **ORGY EVERY OTHER DAY**

D: Samuel Döring | USA, Germany | 13 min

#### **COMO SI LA TIERRA SE LAS HUBIERA TRAGADO**

D: Natalia León | France | 14 min

#### **NILO**

D: Isadora Carneiro | Brazil | 17 min

#### **I WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE**

D: James Pellerito | USA | 12 min

#### **THE BLACK STAIN**

D: Yareni Velázquez Mendoza | Mexico | 5 min

#### **THE SNIP**

D: Alain Delannoy | Canada | 10 min

Saturday, April 26, 7:30 PM – TLB4

Monday, April 28, 11:45 AM – TLB4

### LEARNING TO FLY

Films that explore how we build, break and renew bonds with the people and passions in our lives.

*Screening*

#### KING'S COURT

D: Serville Poblete | Canada | 20 min

#### MY THERAPIST SAID, I AM FULL OF SADNESS

D: Monica Vanesa Tedja | Indonesia | 23 min

#### VOICES FROM THE ABYSS

D: Irving Serrano, Victor Rejón | Mexico | 23 min

#### ALICE

D: Gabriel Novis | Brazil | 17 min

Thursday, May 1, 4:30 PM – TLB4

Saturday, May 3, 12:15 PM – TLB4

### PERSISTER

Ingeniously crafted narratives by and about women who are unafraid to defy expectations, prioritize their needs and be entirely unapologetic in their pursuit of self-fulfillment, healing and justice.

*Screening*

#### DELTA DAWN

D: Asia Youngman | Canada | 26 min

#### PLUNGE

D: Ellie Land | UK | 8 min

#### BLOODY MESS

D: Megan Wennberg | Canada | 10 min

#### IT'S DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS

D: Billie JD Porter | USA | 39 min

Sunday, April 27, 11:45 AM – TLB3

Friday, May 2, 8:30 PM – TLB4

### THROUGH THE CRACKS

A program of films that journeys across the world through stories of unimaginable courage and stubborn hope.

*Screening*

#### IN MY HAND

D: Marja Helander, Liselotte Wajstedt | Norway, Sweden, Finland | 23 min

#### THE GRANNY & FISHES

D: Maria Mavati, Ehsan Farokhi Fard | Iran | 27 min

#### MY MEMORY-WALLS

D: Axel Robin | Canada | 12 min

#### MOTHER OF CHOOKS

D: Maite Martin Samos, Jesse Samos Leaman | Australia | 19 min

Friday, April 25, 8:45 PM – TLB4  
Tuesday, April 29, 2:45 PM – TLB4

The above films are screening as part of the 2025 Shorts Program. Below is a list of all short films screening at Hot Docs 2025, including all short films screening alongside mid-length and feature docs in other programs, and Citizen Minutes titles, all of which were announced in additional press releases as part of the Hot Docs 2025 Media Kit.

*Full lineup of short films screening at Hot Docs 2025 (Shorts Program titles and shorts screening with mid-length and feature docs)*

### **ALICE**

D: Gabriel Novis | Brazil | 17 min

### **BALANCE**

D: Luiza Cocora | Canada | 21 min

### **THE BLACK STAIN**

D: Yareni Velázquez Mendoza | Mexico | 5 min

### **BLOODY MESS**

D: Megan Wennberg | Canada | 10 min

### **CITIZEN-INMATE**

D: Hesam Eslami | Iran | 15 min

### **COMO SI LA TIERRA SE LAS HUBIERA TRAGADO**

D: Natalia León | France | 14 min

### **THE CONSCIENCE FILES**

D: Brian Bolster | USA | 14 min

### **DELTA DAWN**

D: Asia Youngman | Canada | 26 min

### **THE FLOWERS STAND SILENTLY, WITNESSING**

D: Theo Panagopoulos | UK | 17 min

### **THE GRANNY & FISHES**

D: Maria Mavati, Ehsan Farokhi Fard | Iran | 27 min

### **I WANTED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE**

D: James Pellerito | USA | 12 min

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



### **IN MY HAND**

D: Marja Helander, Liselotte Wajstedt | Norway, Sweden, Finland | 23 min

### **INTO THE DARK**

D: Fiona Otway | USA | 18 min

### **IT'S DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS**

D: Billie JD Porter | USA | 39 min

### **KING'S COURT**

D: Serville Poblete | Canada | 20 min

### **LA MAYORDOMÍA**

D: Martin Edralin | Canada | 23 min

### **LIFE INVISIBLE**

D: Bettina Perut, Iván Osnovikoff | UK, Chile, Sweden | 20 min

### **LOOKING FOR A DONKEY**

D: Juan Vicente Manrique | Mexico, Venezuela | 17 min

### **MOTHER OF CHOOKS**

D: Maite Martin Samos, Jesse Samos Leaman | Australia | 19 min

### **MY MEMORY-WALLS**

D: Axel Robin | Canada | 12 min

### **MY THERAPIST SAID, I AM FULL OF SADNESS**

D: Monica Vanesa Tedja | Indonesia | 23 min

### **NILO**

D: Isadora Carneiro | Brazil | 17 min

### **ORGY EVERY OTHER DAY**

D: Samuel Döring | USA, Germany | 13 min

### **PLONGEURS**

D: Hector Aponysus | UK, France | 12 min

### **PLUNGE**

D: Ellie Land | UK | 8 min

**SIMPLY DIVINE**

D: Mélody Boulissière, Bogdan Stamatina | France, Romania | 14 min

**THE SNIP**

D: Alain Delannoy | Canada | 10 min

**A VIEW FROM HOME**

D: Mingzhe Zhou | Canada | 16 min

**VOICES FROM THE ABYSS**

D: Irving Serrano, Victor Rejón | Mexico | 23 min

**WE BEG TO DIFFER**

D: Ruairi Bradley | Ireland | 13 min

*Citizen Minutes short films screening at Hot Docs 2025*

**BECOMING RUBY**

D: Quan Luong | Canada | 10 min

**CROSSING THE DIVIDE**

D: Chrisann Hessing, Ashley Brook | Canada | 10 min

**LA FEMME ÉQUI-LIBRE**

D: Hélène Lebon | Canada | 9 min

**HOMMES-RELAIS**

D: Vladimir Chindea | Canada | 10 min

**RED GIRL RISING**

D: Faith Howe, Kim Stadfeld | Canada | 12 min

**A STOP GAP MEASURE**

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 11 min

###

[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>

### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2025

### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## ARTSCAPES PROGRAM CELEBRATES ARTISTS, MUSIC AND RESISTANCE WITH FOUR DOC PREMIERES

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs announced today that four features will screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2025 **Artsclapes** program, featuring creative minds, artistic pursuits and inventive filmmaking. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

"Each of these films pays tribute to the creativity and resilience of artists whose work has become a powerful tool for resistance and social change," shared **Heather Haynes**, Hot Docs Director of Programming. "In this year's Artsclapes, we will showcase bold films that celebrate the transformative power of art and push boundaries in exciting ways."

This year's North American premieres include ***Queer as Punk***, following the trans-fronted Muslim punk band Shh...Diam!, whose electrifying performances in Kuala Lumpur defy the harsh criminal penalties faced by Malaysia's LGBTQ community. Brash, fearless, and wickedly funny, the band's members put their safety on the line in the fight for visibility and queer rights. Also making its North American premiere is ***The Flamenco Guitar of Yerai Cortés***, shot on richly textured 16mm. This evocative portrait of Spanish guitarist Yerai Cortés explores the spiritual power of flamenco, as he uses his music to reconcile the past and present, healing his family and Gypsy community through the sound of the "music of the pained heart."

***Ai Weiwei's Turandot***, a Canadian premiere, sees the renowned dissident artist reimagine Puccini's opera as a bold critique of modern totalitarianism. Set against the backdrop of Rome, the film transforms this century-old tale of power and prejudice into a mirror reflecting today's global crises.

Rounding out the lineup is ***At All Kostos***, an Ontario premiere, in which a fearless group of Haitian theatre artists resist political instability and gang violence through live performance. As Haiti navigates a period of intense turmoil, the film captures the resilience of its people and the power of art to challenge fear and oppression.

The full lineup of 2025 Artsclapes films appear below with screening information. 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).

### AI WEIWEI'S TURANDOT

D: Maxim Derevianko | P: Marta Zaccaron, Christine La Monte, Andrew Cohen | Italy, USA | 2025 | 78 min | Canadian Premiere

Dissident artist Ai Weiwei confronts modern totalitarianism through an unlikely canvas: directing Puccini's controversial opera *Turandot* in Rome. He transforms this century-old tale of power and prejudice into a mirror reflecting today's global crises, from pandemic politics to war.

Friday, April 25, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema

Sunday, April 27, 1:45 PM - TLB1

## AT ALL KOSTS

D: Joseph Hillel | P: Joseph Hillel | Canada | 2024 | 84 min | Ontario Premiere

Responding to a particularly turbulent chapter in Haiti's history, marked with political unrest and gang violence, a group of fearless theatre artists choose to resist the climate of insecurity around them through live performance, showcasing the courage and resilience of the Haitian people.

Sunday, April 27, 2:45 PM - TLB3

Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 PM - TLB4

## THE FLAMENCO GUITAR OF YERAI CORTÉS

D: Antón Álvarez | P: Cris Trenas, Antón Álvarez, Santos Bacana | Spain | 2024 | 95 min | North American Premiere

Shot in richly textured 16mm cinematography, this musical séance follows the Spanish guitarist Yeraí Cortés, who uses his talent to reconcile the past and present, healing his family and Gypsy community through the spiritual power of the "music of the pained heart."

Saturday, April 26, 5:30 PM - TLB3

Monday, April 28, 1:45 PM - TLB2

## QUEER AS PUNK

D: Yihwen Chen | P: Yihwen Chen | Malaysia | 2024 | 88 min | North American Premiere

Brash, fearless and wickedly funny, the trans-fronted Muslim punk band Shh...Diam! are a cult sensation in Kuala Lumpur. But given the harsh criminal penalties faced by Malaysia's LGBTQ community, the band's defiant calls for queer rights put its members at risk of state persecution.

Thursday, May 1, 8:30 PM - TLB1

Saturday, May 3, 10:45 AM - Hot Docs Cinema

###

[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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## 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

###

[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

#### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## HOT DOCS 2025 WORLD SHOWCASE PROGRAM PRESENTS A DIVERSITY OF COMPELLING GLOBAL STORIES FROM 24 COUNTRIES

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs will present a rich tapestry of compelling stories from around the world as part of the Festival's **World Showcase** program—featuring 14 feature, four mid-length, and six short documentaries from 24 countries, including Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Taiwan, UK and USA. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

This year's World Showcase will bring to Hot Docs the world premieres of ***Aisha's Story***, in which a Palestinian grain miller in a Jordanian refugee camp safeguards her culture and shares her people's history through food; ***Betrayal***, following the brother-in-law of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor as he becomes a courageous whistleblower against the dictator's regime; ***The Gardener and the Dictator***, offering a unique glimpse into China's tumultuous last century through memories of the filmmaker's elderly grandparents and their quirky love story; ***Marriage Cops***, in which an all-women police unit in northern India tackles troubled marriages with unexpected wisdom and authority; and ***Spare My Bones, Coyote!***, the story of a Mexican American couple who, for 12 years, have organized biweekly search and rescue missions along the desert border.

International premieres include ***Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women***, in which three women lovingly record their Mundurucu traditions and use the camera as a weapon to defend their ancestral land in Brazil, and ***My Boyfriend the Fascist***, offering a candid portrait of the turmoil and transformation that can arise when love mixes with politics.

North American premieres include ***Always***, about a young boy growing up in rural China, separated from his mother since infancy and using poetry to reflect on his family's hardships; ***Circusboy***, a dive into a world of whimsy and wonder as one of Germany's last great circus men tells his great grandson stories of magic and entertainment; ***Climate in Therapy***, bringing together seven climate scientists as they gather to discuss a taboo subject in their field: emotions; ***Higher than Acidic Clouds***, in which a filmmaker defies Iran's travel ban and chronicles his confinement in smog-choked Tehran after authorities raid his home and seize his work; ***Lichens Are the Way***, a lush, hypnotic dive into the oft overlooked world of lichens, the "most abstract art among living beings;" ***Supernatural***, about a physician grappling with this father's legacy as a famous shaman, after crossing paths with a devout believer claiming his father saved her life; ***The Tree of Authenticity***, a cinematic essay looking into the soul of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's forests to expose the repercussions of the country's colonial past; ***Voyage Along the War***, in which, a month after the Russian invasion, a Ukrainian French filmmaker travels to Lviv accompanied by his friend, a Ukrainian refugee; and ***We Live Here***, in which, on a desolate steppe in Kazakhstan, generational trauma looms over inhabitants of a former nuclear test site as they confront the haunting legacy of the past.

Canadian premieres include ***Cutting Through Rocks*** (اوزاک یوللار), following Sara Shahverdi's battle against strict patriarchal traditions after being elected the first councilwoman of her Iranian village, and ***How Deep Is Your Love***, a visually stunning look at the Earth's last unexplored wilderness, under the looming threat of deep-sea mining.

The full lineup of 2025 World Showcase films appear below with screening information. 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).

### AISHA'S STORY

D: Elizabeth Vibert, Chen Wang (co-director) | P: Elizabeth Vibert, Salam Barakat Guenette | Canada | 2025 | 62 min | World Premiere

A Palestinian grain miller in a Jordanian refugee camp safeguards her culture and shares her people's history through food prepared with love, longing and sumud—the Palestinian spirit of steadfastness.

*Screening with*

### THE FLOWERS STAND SILENTLY, WITNESSING

D: Theo Panagopoulos | UK | 17 min

Saturday, April 26, 2:45 PM - TLB3

Monday, April 28, 2:30 PM - TLB4

### ALWAYS

D: Deming Chen | P: Hansen Lin | USA, France, China | 2025 | 84 min | North American Premiere

In this emotional coming of age story, a young boy growing up in rural China who's been separated from his mother since infancy uses poetry to reflect on his family's hardships, all the while facing the approaching realities of adulthood.

Saturday, April 26, 1:45 PM - TLB4

Tuesday, April 29, 5:15 PM - TLB3

### BETRAYAL

D: Lena Macdonald | P: Lena Macdonald, Noah Bingham | Canada | 2025 | 90 min | World Premiere

The brother-in-law of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor becomes a courageous whistleblower against the dictator's regime. Risking everything, including his own family, he fights to bring Taylor to justice, confronting the legacy of fear and corruption that has shaped his life.

Tuesday, April 29, 8:45 PM - TLB1

Thursday, May 1, 11:00 AM - TLB3

### CIRCUSBOY

D: Julia Lemke, Anna Koch | P: Katharina Bergfeld, Martin Heisler | Germany | 2025 | 86 min | North American Premiere

Dive into a world of whimsy and wonder as one of the last great circus men tells his great grandson stories of magic and entertainment in this vibrant look at a generational tradition of circus life in Germany.

Friday, May 2, 5:00 PM - TLB2  
Sunday, May 4, 10:30 AM - TLB2

### CLIMATE IN THERAPY

D: Nathan Grossman | P: Cecilia Nessen | Sweden, Norway | 2025 | 64 min | North American Premiere  
Seven climate scientists gather to discuss a taboo subject in their field: emotions. What emerges is a transformational discussion that humanizes the enormity of the climate crisis, powerfully voicing the unspeakable.

*Screening with*

### INTO THE DARK

D: Fiona Otway | USA | 18 min

Saturday, April 26, 4:45 PM - TLB4  
Monday, April 28, 12:00 PM - TLB3

### CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS (اوزاک یوللار)

D: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni | P: Mohammadreza Eyni, Sara Khaki | Iran, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Qatar, Chile | 2025 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere

As the first elected councilwoman of her Iranian village, Sara Shahverdi battles strict patriarchal traditions by halting child marriages and training young women to ride motorcycles—in the process, becoming a powerful symbol inspiring others to rise up.

Friday, May 2, 5:45 PM - TLB1  
Saturday, May 3, 8:15 PM - TLB2

### THE GARDENER AND THE DICTATOR

D: Hui Wang | P: Jun Zhang, Hui Wang | Canada | 2025 | 98 min | World Premiere

This profoundly intimate and quirky love story features the filmmaker's elderly grandparents as they care for each other in their final years while revisiting both joyous and painful memories that offer a unique glimpse into China's tumultuous last century.

Sunday, April 27, 2:30 PM - Hot Docs Cinema  
Friday, May 2, 8:00 PM - TLB2

### HIGHER THAN ACIDIC CLOUDS

D: Ali Asgari | P: Milad Khosravi, Ali Asgari, Yann Tonnar, Shawkat Amin Korki, Alireza Khatami | Iran, Luxembourg | 2024 | 70 min | North American Premiere

Defying Iran's travel ban, a filmmaker chronicles his confinement in smog-choked Tehran after authorities raid his home and seize his work. Through dreams and memories, he imagines soaring above a city where everyone is equal in this boundary pushing, hybrid film.

*Screening with*

### **CITIZEN-INMATE**

D: Hesam Eslami | Iran | 15 min

Thursday, May 1, 4:45 PM - TLB3

Saturday, May 3, 5:30 PM - TLB4

### **HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE**

D: Eleanor Mortimer | P: Jacob Thomas | UK | 2025 | 100 min | Canadian Premiere

In this visually stunning look at the Earth's last unexplored wilderness, scientists dive into the ocean's mysteries, discovering mesmerizing creatures and complex ecosystems as they race to collect and name species while under the looming threat of deep-sea mining.

Sunday, April 27, 2:15 PM - TLB2

Tuesday, April 29, 8:15 PM - TLB3

### **LICHENS ARE THE WAY**

D: Ondřej Vavrečka | P: Vít Janeček | Czech Republic, Slovakia | 2024 | 43 min | North American Premiere

A lush, hypnotic dive into the oft overlooked world of lichens, the "most abstract art among living beings," and the lessons they can impart on humans about existing in relationship with nature to ensure our survival as a species.

*Screening with*

### **THE CONSCIENCE FILES**

D: Brian Bolster | USA | 14 min

*and*

### **LIFE INVISIBLE**

D: Bettina Perut, Iván Osnovikoff | UK, Chile, Sweden | 20 min

Tuesday, April 29, 8:30 PM - TLB4

Friday, May 2, 11:15 AM - TLB3

### **MARRIAGE COPS**

D: Shashwati Talukdar, Cheryl Hess | P: Diana Chiawen Lee | India, Taiwan, USA | 2025 | 90 min | World Premiere

In northern India's Dehradun, an all-women police unit tackles troubled marriages with unexpected wisdom and authority. Inside the bustling station, couples confront domestic turmoil while the officers balance tough love with surprising moments of humour.

Sunday, April 27, 5:45 PM - TLB3

Tuesday, April 29, 11:00 AM - TLB2

## **MUNDURUKUYÜ – THE FOREST OF THE FISH WOMEN**

D: Aldira Akay, Beka Munduruku, Rilcélia Akay | P: Estêvão Ciavatta | Brazil | 2025 | 72 min |

International Premiere

Using the camera as a weapon to defend their ancestral land in Brazil, three women of the Daje Kapap Eypi audiovisual collective lovingly record their Munduruku traditions and their mythology of humans transforming into forest plants and animals.

Thursday, May 1, 2:00 PM - TLB3

Sunday, May 4, 5:30 PM - TLB4

## **MY BOYFRIEND THE FASCIST**

D: Matthias Lintner | P: Martin Rattini | Italy | 2025 | 95 min | International Premiere

Set against the Alps's astonishing beauty, the left-wing director's evolving relationship with his Cuban activist boyfriend, whose disillusionment has shifted his politics to the right, offers a candid portrait of the turmoil and transformation that can arise when love mixes with politics.

Thursday, May 1, 7:45 PM - TLB3

Saturday, May 3, 10:45 AM - TLB2

## **SPARE MY BONES, COYOTE!**

D: Jonah Malak | P: Dominique Dussault | Canada | 2025 | 84 min | World Premiere

For 12 years, a Mexican American couple have organized biweekly search and rescue missions along the desert border to find and return the bodies of migrants who died while trying to cross on foot to their families. Despite exhaustion, burnout and post-traumatic stress, they continue to bring closure to those who have lost loved ones in the pursuit of a better life.

Sunday, April 27, 7:30 PM - TLB4

Tuesday, April 29, 2:00 PM - TLB3

## **SUPERNATURAL**

D: Ventura Durall | P: Ventura Durall, Sergi Cameron, Charlotte Guénin, Kristian Van der Heyden | Spain, France, Belgium | 2025 | 81 min | North American Premiere

A physician grapples with family trauma and his father's legacy as a famous shaman and spiritual healer when he crosses paths with a devout believer who claims his father saved her life.

Wednesday, April 30, 2:30 PM - TLB4

Friday, May 2, 11:30 AM - TLB4

## **THE TREE OF AUTHENTICITY**

D: Sammy Baloji | P: Rosa Spaliviero | Belgium, Democratic Republic of the Congo | 2025 | 89 min | North American Premiere

Imaginatively constructed, this cinematic essay looks into the soul of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's forests to expose the repercussions of the country's colonial past. A stunning ode to nature, the film is above all a warning about human greed.

Friday, May 2, 5:30 PM - TLB4  
Sunday, May 4, 2:30 PM - TLB4

**VOYAGE ALONG THE WAR**

D: Antonin Peretjatko | P: Nicolas Anthomé | France | 2024 | 62 min | North American Premiere  
A month after the Russian invasion, a Ukrainian French filmmaker travels to Lviv accompanied by his friend, a Ukrainian refugee. Camera in hand, he captures a poignant and poetic road trip that vividly reflects the heartache and resilience of living amidst war.

*Screening with*

**SIMPLY DIVINE**

D: Mélody Boulissière, Bogdan Stamatina (co-director) | France, Romania | 14 min

Wednesday, April 30, 1:45 PM - TLB3  
Saturday, May 3, 8:45 PM - TLB4

**WE LIVE HERE**

D: Zhanana Kurmasheva | P: Banu Ramazanova | Kazakhstan | 2024 | 80 min | North American Premiere

On a desolate steppe in Kazakhstan, generational trauma looms over inhabitants of a former nuclear test site as they confront the haunting legacy of the past while fighting for hope and survival in a world on the brink of ruin.

Friday, May 2, 5:15 PM - TLB3  
Sunday, May 4, 2:15 PM - TLB3

###

[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

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



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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)



**CITIZEN MINUTES RETURNS:  
SIX NEW CANADIAN DOC SHORTS CELEBRATING INSPIRING COMMUNITY  
CHANGEMAKERS TO PREMIERE AT HOT DOCS 2025**

NOW IN SERIES 3, HOT DOCS-COMMISSIONED SHORT DOC SERIES *CITIZEN MINUTES*  
SPOTLIGHTS EVERYDAY CANADIANS MAKING EXTRAORDINARY IMPACTS IN THEIR  
COMMUNITIES.

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs will premiere six original short documentaries commissioned for the third instalment of the *Citizen Minutes* series at the 2025 Hot Docs Festival, April 24 to May 4 in Toronto. *Citizen Minutes* is an initiative that seeks to inspire viewers to become change agents in their own communities and invite them into civic engagement. These remarkable short docs come from Canadian filmmakers looking to highlight bold and unlikely changemakers, ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things to improve their communities. The *Citizen Minutes* project is made possible through support by The Rossy Foundation.

“Audiences at Hot Docs Festival 2025 will be moved by these essential stories about regular Canadians working to impact their home communities for the better,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs’ Industry Programs Director. “It is invigorating to see how this new batch of shorts about civic engagement where changemakers taking proactive steps to improve the lives of people in their spheres. Audiences need to see stories where they can see themselves reflected and be inspired to take action on an issue they care about.”

The third edition follows the success of the *Citizen Minutes* series in 2021 and 2023, which includes 15 short docs that have gone on to screen independently and win awards at almost 100 Canadian and international film festivals, as well as streaming on Crave and CBC Gem.

The six *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 short films will be distributed across Canada over the following months, with select shorts submitted to other festivals. *Citizen Minutes*, with Hot Docs and the filmmakers, will use the films for positive change in educational, community and professional settings. The series is also part of Docs for Schools, Hot Docs’ educational program supporting curricula for students (grades 5-12) nationwide, spotlighting youth-led civic engagement through community screenings and educational resources for educators.

Hot Docs’ world premiere of *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 will take place on **Wednesday, April 30 at 5:30 PM** at **TIFF Lightbox**.

The full lineup of *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 films appears below. Filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the 2025 Festival program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on](http://www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on).

**BECOMING RUBY**

D: Quan Luong | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Follow Ruby Chopstix, Canada's first drag artist in residence, as they navigate the complexity of being an underrepresented drag performer while creating a special showcase to create space for other queer BIPOC performers.

**CROSSING THE DIVIDE**

D: Chrisann Hessing, Ashley Brook | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Two Canadians, one Liberal and one Conservative, attend a U.S. convention focused on depolarizing politics, determined to engage in tough conversations for a healthier democracy.

**LA FEMME ÉQUI-LIBRE**

D: Hélène Lebon | Canada | 2025 | 9 min | World Premiere

In Prince Edward Island, Josée Gallant-Gordon is reinventing mental health care through her bilingual equine therapy centre, proving that with ideas, one person can transform their community.

**HOMMES-RELAIS**

D: Vladimir Chindea | Canada | 2025 | 10 min | World Premiere

Amid migration grief and integration challenges, Manuel, a former doctor turned community leader, guides immigrant men in a life-changing program, forging resilience, belonging and solidarity.

**RED GIRL RISING**

D: Faith Howe, Kim Stadfeld | Canada | 2025 | 12 min | World Premiere

Joyce Jonathan Crone—Mohawk matriarch, retired teacher, activist, humanitarian—reaches forward into her community of Huntsville, Ontario, opening hearts and bridging gaps for Indigenous education.

**A STOP GAP MEASURE**

D: Lulu Wei | Canada | 2025 | 11 min | World Premiere

When temporary solutions become the status quo, who gets left behind? *A Stop Gap Measure* follows disability activist Luke Anderson in his fight for accessibility to be a right, not a privilege.

To learn more about *Citizen Minutes* Series 3 visit <https://www.citizenminutes.ca>

###

[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>

#### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2025

#### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## **HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2025 BRINGS THE WORLD'S BEST DOCS TO TORONTO**

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs Festival returns to Toronto from April 24 to May 4, showcasing the most compelling, timely and visionary documentaries from around the world. Audiences, filmmakers and international delegates will gather to celebrate the art of documentary at select venues across the city, from the dynamic Entertainment District to the vibrant Annex neighbourhood.

Hot Docs remains committed to accessibility for all audience members and industry delegates. All regular screening and industry venues are wheelchair accessible.

### **FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE**

Visit [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca) or the **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** Box Office at 506 Bloor Street West.

### **FESTIVAL SCREENING VENUES**

- Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, 506 Bloor Street West
- TIFF Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King Street West

### **INDUSTRY VENUES**

- The Yorkville Royal Sonesta Hotel, 220 Bloor Street West
- INNIS, Innis College, 2 Sussex Ave

### **MEDIA DESK**

- The Yorkville Royal Sonesta Hotel, 220 Bloor Street West

**###**

**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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>  
Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## **HOT DOCS 2025 TO AWARD \$140,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES**

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs announced today that over CAD 140,000 in cash will be awarded to filmmakers at the 2025 Festival. These encompass a variety of accolades, including juried awards for films in competition, audience awards determined by ballot, industry prizes recognizing top works-in-progress projects and other special awards categories. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

All awards for films in competition will be decided by Hot Docs Festival Juries, with the winners set to be unveiled during the Hot Docs Awards Presentation on Friday, May 2.

Hot Docs is an Academy Award-qualifying Festival. The winner of the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the winners of the Best Canadian Short Documentary Award and the Best International Short Documentary Award at this year's Festival will qualify for consideration in the documentary feature and documentary short subject categories of the annual Academy Awards®, respectively, without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Unless otherwise noted, all prizes are awarded to the director of the winning film.

### **2025 FILM AWARDS AND PRIZES**

#### **FILMS IN COMPETITION:**

##### **HOT DOCS BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to an exceptional feature-length documentary in the International Competition program. Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$10,000 cash prize.

##### **HOT DOCS BEST CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to an exceptional feature-length documentary in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program.

Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$10,000 cash prize.

*Supported by Telefilm Canada*

##### **HOT DOCS JOAN VANDUZER SPECIAL JURY PRIZE-INTERNATIONAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to a feature-length documentary in the International Spectrum Competition program that the jury feels is deserving of special recognition.

Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$5,000 cash prize.

*Supported by Makeway Foundation-Harbinger Fund in memory of Joan VanDuzer*

##### **HOT DOCS DGC SPECIAL JURY PRIZE-CANADIAN FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to a feature-length documentary in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program that the jury feels is deserving of special recognition.

The award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize.  
*Sponsored by DGC National and DGC Ontario*

### **HOT DOCS EMERGING INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER AWARD**

Given to a first or second-time international filmmaker with a feature film in the International Competition program. The award includes a \$3,000 cash prize.  
*Supported by Donner Canadian Foundation*

### **HOT DOCS EARL A. GLICK EMERGING CANADIAN FILMMAKER AWARD**

Given to a first- or second-time Canadian filmmaker with a feature film in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program. The award, supported by Earl A. Glick, includes a \$3,000 cash prize.

### **HOT DOCS BILL NEMTIN AWARD FOR BEST SOCIAL IMPACT DOCUMENTARY**

The Award will recognize the producers of a film from the Canadian and International features that has the greatest potential to create social impact, in other words to change attitudes, behaviours and/or policy. The nominees include *Writing Hawa*, *Heightened Scrutiny*, *Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women*, *Life After*, *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* and *KHARTOUM*.  
The \$10,000 cash prize accompanying the award will help enable the winning film team to optimize the impact of the documentary through outreach and marketing activities.  
*Supported by the Bill Nemtin Legacy Fund*

### **HOT DOCS BEST MID-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to an exceptional documentary between 41 and 65 minutes in length.  
Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize.  
*Sponsored by Mubi*

### **HOT DOCS BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to an exceptional international documentary up to 40 minutes in length.  
Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize.  
*Sponsored by TVO Docs*

### **HOT DOCS BETTY YOUSON AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN SHORT DOCUMENTARY**

Awarded to an exceptional Canadian documentary up to 40 minutes in length. Hot Docs is pleased to present the winner with a \$3,000 cash prize courtesy of John and Betty Youson.  
*Supported by John and Betty Youson*

### **AUDIENCE AWARDS:**

#### **HOT DOCS AUDIENCE AWARDS**

Awarded to the feature/mid-length documentary and the short documentary that receive the highest rating in an audience poll. Announced after the close of the Festival.

#### **HOT DOCS ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY**



Awarded to the top Canadian feature documentary in an audience poll. The winner will receive a \$50,000 cash prize courtesy of Rogers, announced at a special encore screening on the Festival's final night.

**HOT DOCS DOCS FOR SCHOOLS STUDENT CHOICE AWARD**

Awarded to the documentary that receives the highest rating in the student audience poll. Announced at the end of the Docs for Schools program. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

**SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES:**

**HOT DOCS DON HAIG AWARD**

The Don Haig Award will be awarded annually to an outstanding Canadian independent producer with a film in the Festival. The Award recognizes creative vision and entrepreneurship as reflected in the work being showcased at Hot Docs, as well as a track record for nurturing emerging Canadian filmmakers. The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize courtesy of the Don Haig Foundation.

**LINDALEE TRACEY AWARD**

The award honours an emerging Canadian filmmaker working in the spirit of Lindalee Tracey, whose films reflect a passionate point of view, a strong sense of social justice and “a joie de vivre.” The winner will be awarded \$5,000 from the Lindalee Tracey Fund, a \$5,000 in kind voucher from Picture Shop for equipment rentals and services, and a beautiful hand-blown glass sculpture by Andrew Kuntz.

**2025 INDUSTRY PITCH PRIZES:**

**HOT DOCS *first look* AWARDS FOR WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**

Hot Docs *first look* is a curated access program for philanthropic supporters and documentary-loving investors that grants them behind-the-scenes access to new projects in development and the world of documentary pre-production and production financing. This year Hot Docs *first look* participants will award \$15,000 at our Works-In-Progress industry event.

###

[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>

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2025

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

## 14 FILMS SUPPORTED BY HOT DOCS' FUNDS AND MARKET PROGRAMS TO SCREEN AT 2025 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs is proud to present 14 films developed with support from its film fund portfolio and market programs, including the Hot Docs Forum and Deal Maker. These projects will screen as part of the 2025 Hot Docs Festival, running April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Grant recipients and alumni projects are listed below.

### **BETRAYAL**

*Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient*

D: Lena Macdonald | Canada | 90 min

The brother-in-law of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor becomes a courageous whistleblower against the dictator's regime. Risking everything, including his own family, he fights to bring Taylor to justice, confronting the legacy of fear and corruption that has shaped his life.

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

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker*

D: Amber Fares | USA, France | 95 min

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

### **CUTTING THROUGH ROCKS (اوزاک یوللار)**

*CrossCurrents International Doc Fund recipient*

D: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni | Iran, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Qatar, Chile | 95 min

As the first elected councilwoman of her Iranian village, Sara Shahverdi battles strict patriarchal traditions by halting child marriages and training young women to ride motorcycles—in the process, becoming a powerful symbol inspiring others to rise up.

### **THE GARDENER AND THE DICTATOR**

*CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund recipient*

D: Hui Wang | Canada | 98 min

This profoundly intimate and quirky love story features the filmmaker's elderly grandparents as they care for each other in their final years while revisiting both joyous and painful memories that offer a unique glimpse into China's tumultuous last century.

### **GHOSTS OF THE SEA**

*Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient*

D: Virginia Tangvald | Canada, France | 97 min

When the daughter of renowned sailor Peter Tangvald investigates her brother's mysterious death at sea, her search evolves into a gripping quest to uncover dark family secrets and confront the complex legacy of her infamous father.

### **HOLLOWAY**

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker*

D: Sophie Compton, Daisy-May Hudson | UK | 87 min

Within the decaying walls of England's soon to-be demolished Holloway Prison, six women gather for a deeply cathartic journey. Unearthing memories and sharing personal experiences, they unflinchingly reveal the hidden traumas underlying women's imprisonment and the healing that comes through sisterhood.

### **I, POPPY**

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker*

D: Vivek Chaudhary | India | 81 min

A son fights corrupt officials while his mother tends their poppy farm in India. As authorities strike back at their lower-caste family, they must choose between keeping food on the table and standing up for what's right.

### **I DREAMED HIS NAME**

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker*

D: Angela Carabali | Colombia | 86 min

Thirty years after his forced disappearance, the filmmaker's Afro Colombian father comes to her in a dream, asking her to find him. With her sister, she sets out on a journey of discovery across Colombia's painful history, reconnecting with their father and his activism.

### **LIFE AFTER**

*Participated in Hot Docs Forum*

D: Reid Davenport | USA | 99 min

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.

### **MARRIAGE COPS**

*Participated in Hot Docs Forum*

D: Shashwati Talukdar, Cheryl Hess | India, Taiwan, USA | 90 min

In northern India's Dehradun, an all-women police unit tackles troubled marriages with unexpected wisdom and authority. Inside the bustling station, couples confront domestic turmoil while the officers balance tough love with surprising moments of humour.

### **MY MISSING AUNT**

*CrossCurrents International Doc Fund recipient*

D: Juyeon Yang | South Korea | 78 min

A South Korean filmmaker uncovers the erased existence of her aunt who died by suicide before graduating college. As she confronts family secrets and dating violence, she exposes generations of patriarchal damage inflicted on women expected to live as “good daughters.”

### QUEER AS PUNK

*CrossCurrents International Doc Fund recipient*

D: Yihwen Chen | Malaysia | 88 min

Brash, fearless and wickedly funny, the trans-fronted Muslim punk band Shh...Diam! are a cult sensation in Kuala Lumpur. But given the harsh criminal penalties faced by Malaysia's LGBTQ community, the band's defiant calls for queer rights put its members at risk of state persecution

### RIVER OF GRASS

*Participated in Hot Docs Deal Maker*

D: Sasha Wortzel | USA | 83 min

An ode to the Florida Everglades, this immersive essay explores its historical and ongoing challenges through the writings of environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas and testimonies of Miccosukee educator Betty Osceola and current denizens who contend with past colonial violence and its current ecological impact.

### SAINTS AND WARRIORS

*CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund recipient*

D: Patrick Shannon | Canada | 97 min

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.

### SHIFTING BASELINES

*Participated in Hot Docs Forum*

D: Julien Elie | Canada | 100 min

Where the Rio Grande meets the Gulf of Mexico, SpaceX rockets blast skyward, astronomers gaze upon stars and satellites, hawkers sell their wares and environmentalists survey the damage. Welcome to Boca Chica, USA.

### WIDOW CHAMPION

*Hot Docs Blue Ice Documentary Prize recipient*

D: Zippy Kimundu | Kenya | 95 min

In rural Kenya where women lose their homes after their husband's death, a widow rises as a fierce advocate to help other widows reclaim their rightful property and provide a home for their children.

###

[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

### Media Contact:

Bill Alexander  
Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[baalexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:baalexander@hotdocs.ca)

## HOT DOCS BRINGS FREE DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS TO STUDENTS DURING 2025 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 25, 2025** – Hot Docs will provide free documentary screenings to students during this year's Festival through its **Docs For Schools** program. The 2025 Hot Docs Festival runs April 24 to May 4 in Toronto.

Since 2006, Docs For Schools has engaged students with thought-provoking documentaries that connect to course subjects and current events. Covering topics from history and science to media studies and global issues, the program is designed to enrich classroom learning, spark discussion and inspire young minds. All film selections are carefully curated to foster meaningful conversations.

Docs For Schools celebrates Hot Docs Festival 2025 with four in-cinema screenings:

**The Docs For Schools Festival** program invites teachers and students to the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema between April 28 – May 1 for special screenings of nine selected films premiering at the 2025 Hot Docs Festival. Films in this program, except for Citizen Minutes Series 3, are eligible for the **Docs For Schools Student Choice Award**, which will award the winning film's director with a CAD 5,000 cash prize, courtesy of Scotiabank, as selected by student vote.

For more information on Docs For Schools programs, please visit: <https://hotdocs.ca/docs-for-schools/dfs-fest/dfs-fest-cinema>

Support for Docs For Schools comes from lead partner Rogers. Additional support is provided by the Pitblado Family Foundation and through contributions of individual donors.

Docs For Schools Festival In-Cinema films appear below.

### **CITIZEN MINUTES SERIES 3**

D: Various | Canada | 2025 | 58 min | World Premiere

Back for a third series, *Citizen Minutes* is a short doc collection commissioned by Hot Docs aimed at celebrating and inspiring civic engagement. Be among the first to see the incredible stories of ordinary Canadians doing extraordinary things to make their communities better places.

### **SAINTS AND WARRIORS**

D: Patrick Shannon | 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.

### **SPREADSHEET CHAMPIONS**

D: Kristina Kraskov | 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 Excel World Championships—the most challenging and prestigious Microsoft Office competition category—where a win could change their life.

**WRITING HAWA**

D: Najiba Noori | 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.

###

[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



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

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

---

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL  
506 Bloor St. W, Toronto ON, Canada M5S 1Y3

[WWW.HOTDOCS.CA](http://WWW.HOTDOCS.CA)



## **HOT DOCS BY NUMBERS: QUICK FACTS ON THE 2025 FESTIVAL**

- Hot Docs received a total of 2662 submissions
- Hot Docs 2025 official selection includes 113 documentary films in the following 11 screening programs:
  - Special Presentations (16 features)
  - Canadian Spectrum Competition (10 features)
  - International Spectrum Competition (10 features, 2 shorts)
  - World Showcase (14 features, 4 mid-lengths, 5 shorts)
  - Made In Exile (4 features)
  - Persister (7 features)
  - Artscapes (4 features)
  - Tipping Point (4 features, 1 mid-length, 3 shorts)
  - Nightvision (2 features, 1 mid-length, 1 short)
  - Citizen Minutes Series 3 (6 shorts)
  - Shorts Program (18 short films in four shorts programs, in addition to the shorts screening in the programs above)
- Hot Docs 2025 includes:
  - 35 world premieres
  - 14 international premieres
  - 26 North American premieres
  - 29 Canadian premieres
  - 8 Ontario premieres
  - 1 Toronto premiere

Hot Docs drew selections for its film programs from 47 countries. Documentaries and projects were produced and/or co-produced by the following countries:

- 34 from Canada
- 21 from the USA
- 10 from France
- 9 from the UK
- 6 from Germany; Sweden
- 5 from Brazil; Iran
- 4 from Denmark; Mexico; Norway
- 3 from Netherlands; Qatar; Chile
- 2 from Australia; Belgium; Czech Republic; Ecuador; Finland; Italy; India; Ukraine; Venezuela; Spain
- 1 from Afghanistan; Austria; Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Congo (DRC); Dominican Republic; Georgia; Greenland; Indonesia; Ireland; Kazakhstan; Kenya; Luxembourg; Malaysia; Palestine;

Poland; Réunion; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Slovakia; South Korea; Taiwan

###

[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

**Media Contact:**

Bill Alexander

Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs

[balexander@hotdocs.ca](mailto:balexander@hotdocs.ca)

**Activism**

Antidote  
Betrayal  
Coexistence, My Ass!  
Cutting Through Rocks (اوزاک يوللار)  
Deaf President Now!  
Heightened Scrutiny  
I Died  
I Dreamed His Name  
I, Poppy  
La Femme Équi-Libre  
The Last Ambassador  
Life After  
Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore  
Mr. Nobody Against Putin  
My Boyfriend the Fascist  
Parade: Queer Acts of Love and Resistance  
Queer As Punk  
Shame  
A Stop Gap Measure  
Widow Champion

**African Cultures & Issues**

Betrayal  
Garanti 100% Kréol  
Khartoum  
The Tree of Authenticity  
Widow Champion

**Aging & the Elderly**

Agatha's Almanac  
The Gardener and the Dictator  
Heritage

**American Culture & Issues**

An American Pastoral  
Shifting Baselines

**Art & Artists**

At All Costs  
Ai Weiwei's Turandot

**Asian Cultures & Issues**

Always  
The Dating Game  
Garanti 100% Kréol  
The Gardener and the Dictator

I, Poppy  
The Last Ambassador  
Marriage Cops  
My Missing Aunt  
The Nest  
Queer As Punk  
We Live Here

**Black Culture & Issues**

Assembly  
Night Watches Us

**Canadian Culture & Issues**

#skoden  
Crossing the Divide  
Endless Cookie  
Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man

**Caribbean Cultures & Issues**

At All Costs  
Colossal

**Children & Youth**

Always  
Circusboy  
King Matt the First  
Spreadsheet Champions

**Crime & the Justice System**

Antidote  
Holloway  
Marriage Cops  
Night Watches Us  
Shame  
Walls – Akinni Inuk

**Deaf Culture & Issues**

Deaf President Now!  
Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore  
The Nest

**Disability**

Life After  
A Stop Gap Measure

**Ecology & the Environment**

Climate in Therapy

How Deep Is Your Love  
Lichens Are the Way  
Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women  
River of Grass  
Shifting Baselines  
The Tree of Authenticity  
We Live Here

### **Education**

An American Pastoral  
Deaf President Now!  
The Last Ambassador  
Mr. Nobody Against Putin  
Red Girl Rising  
Spreadsheet Champions

### **Faith & Spirituality**

Apocalypse in the Tropics  
Garanti 100% Kréol  
Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women  
Supernatural  
They're Here

### **Families & Family Stories**

9-Month Contract  
Always  
Casas Muertas  
Circusboy  
Colossal  
Endless Cookie  
The Flamenco Guitar of Yeraí Cortés  
Ghosts of the Sea  
Heritage  
I Dreamed His Name  
King Matt the First  
Mama  
Mama Goals  
Marriage Cops  
My Missing Aunt  
The Nest  
The Secret Lives of My Three Men  
Widow Champion  
Writing Hawa

### **Film & Filmmakers**

Higher than Acidic Clouds  
Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore  
Walls – Akinni Inuk

### **Food & Agriculture**

Agatha's Almanac  
Aisha's Story  
I, Poppy

### **Gender & Sexuality**

Becoming Ruby  
Come See Me in the Good Light  
Heightened Scrutiny  
Paul

### **Health & Mental Health**

#skoden  
9-Month Contract  
Climate in Therapy  
Come See Me in the Good Light  
Heritage  
Holloway  
La Femme Équi-Libre  
Life After  
Mama  
My Missing Aunt  
Night Watches Us  
Paul  
Spare My Bones, Coyote!  
We Live Here

### **Immigration, Migration & Refugees**

Casas Muertas  
Hommes-Relais  
Khartoum  
The Longer You Bleed  
Spare My Bones, Coyote!  
Unwelcomed  
Voyage Along the War  
Writing Hawa  
Yalla Parkour

### **Indigenous Cultures & Issues**

#skoden  
Endless Cookie  
I Died  
Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women  
The Nest  
Red Girl Rising  
Saints and Warriors  
Siksikakowan: The Blackfoot Man

Walls – Akinni Inuk

### **Jewish Interest**

Neshoma

### **Labour & Working People**

Agatha's Almanac

Aisha's Story

I, Poppy

### **Latin American Cultures & Issues**

Apocalypse in the Tropics

Casas Muertas

I Died

Mundurukuyü – The Forest of the Fish Women

The Secret Lives of My Three Men

Unwelcomed

### **LGBTQ Culture & Issues**

Assembly

Becoming Ruby

Come See Me in the Good Light

Heightened Scrutiny

My Boyfriend the Fascist

Parade: Queer Acts of Love and Resistance

Queer As Punk

### **Love & Relationships**

The Dating Game

The Gardener and the Dictator

Heritage

Mama

Marriage Cops

My Boyfriend the Fascist

My Missing Aunt

### **Media & Journalism**

Antidote

Heightened Scrutiny

### **Middle Eastern Cultures & Issues**

Aisha's Story

Coexistence, My Ass!

Cutting Through Rocks (اوزاک يوللار)

Heritage

Higher than Acidic Clouds

Writing Hawa

Yalla Parkour

### **Mortality & Loss**

Life After

My Missing Aunt

The Nest

Spare My Bones, Coyote!

### **Music & Musicians**

Ai Weiwei's Turandot

The Flamenco Guitar of Yeraí Cortés

Queer As Punk

Selena y Los Dinos

### **Performers & Performance**

Ai Weiwei's Turandot

Assembly

At All Costs

Becoming Ruby

Circusboy

Coexistence, My Ass!

Come See Me in the Good Light

Mama Goals

Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore

Selena y Los Dinos

### **Personal Histories**

Colossal

Come See Me in the Good Light

The Flamenco Guitar of Yeraí Cortés

Mama

Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore

My Missing Aunt

The Secret Lives of My Three Men

They're Here

### **Politics & Political Intrigue**

Ai Weiwei's Turandot

An American Pastoral

Apocalypse in the Tropics

Assembly

Betrayal

Casas Muertas

Colossal

Crossing the Divide

I Dreamed His Name

The Last Ambassador

Life After

My Boyfriend the Fascist

The Secret Lives of My Three Men  
We Live Here  
Facing War  
Heightened Scrutiny

### **Popular Culture**

Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore  
Paul  
Selena y Los Dinos  
Ultras

### **Postcolonial Cultures & Issues**

River of Grass  
The Tree of Authenticity

### **Russian Culture & Issues**

Antidote  
Mr. Nobody Against Putin

### **Science & Technology**

Shifting Baselines  
Spreadsheet Champions

### **War & Conflict**

2000 Meters to Andriivka  
Coexistence, My Ass!  
Facing War  
I Died  
I Dreamed His Name  
Khartoum  
The Longer You Bleed  
Mr. Nobody Against Putin  
Neshoma  
The Track  
Voyage Along the War  
Yalla Parkour

### **Women & Women's Stories**

9-Month Contract

They're Here

### **Social Media and the Internet**

#skoden  
The Longer You Bleed  
Paul  
Shame

### **Sports & Recreation**

Saints and Warriors  
The Track  
Ultras  
Yalla Parkour

### **Ukrainian Culture & Issues**

2000 Meters to Andriivka  
Facing War  
The Longer You Bleed  
Voyage Along the War

### **Visual Art & Artists**

Assembly  
Agatha's Almanac  
Cutting Through Rocks (اوزاک يوللار)  
Holloway  
I Died  
King Matt the First  
The Last Ambassador  
Mama  
Mama Goals  
Marriage Cops  
My Missing Aunt  
The Nest  
Walls – Akinni Inuk  
Widow Champion  
Writing Hawa

### **Writers**

Come See Me in the Good Light