

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, August 15, 2023

NOW ON SALE: NEW *CURIOUS MINDS SPEAKER SERIES* IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER EXPLORING ITALY'S CULINARY DELIGHTS, TIMELESS PARISIAN ELEGANCE, THE EPIC STORY OF THE ROLLING STONES, AND THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF ICONIC ARTWORKS

Toronto, ON – In September and October, **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** will launch a new installment of its widely acclaimed **Curious Minds Speaker Series**, encompassing a diverse array of topics and delving into varied subjects—from the genius music and excessive lifestyles of the Rolling Stones to the impossibly-chic style that dominates the streets of Paris. These fascinating lectures will be presented by leading experts in their respective fields.

All course instructors and Curious Minds programmer Will Di Novi are available for interviews.

Registration is limited. To register visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/curious-minds/curious-minds-cinema>.

Course registration: \$69 (Hot Docs Members: \$60, \$48, Free)

Single tickets will be available at box office and online following the second class of each course.

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF ITALIAN FOOD

In this exciting Curious Minds debut, **Dr. Teresa Lobalsamo**, a scholar of Italian food and cinema at the University of Toronto-Mississauga, will take us on a thrilling journey through the history of one of the world's most celebrated food cultures. As we take a journey across the Italian Peninsula, we'll survey the country's distinct regional food traditions before examining how immigration and popular culture have led to new (and sometimes amusing) interpretations of Italian food traditions all around the world. Powered by vivid slides and lively clips from films, and Teresa's voluminous knowledge of Italian food and history, this informative and entertaining series, structured like the courses of a lavish Italian banquet, will reveal *Il Bel Paese* as we've never seen—or tasted it—before.

This series is led by Dr. Teresa Lobalsamo, an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). An award-winning teacher and scholar, Dr. Lobalsamo specializes in the history of Italian food and cinema, and she is a faculty affiliate at the Culinaria Research Centre (University of Toronto Scarborough). An Executive Committee member for the Association of American Teachers of Italian, she has led students and colleagues on numerous international tours and experiential learning trips to Italy.

Fridays, October 27 - December 1, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PARIS STYLE

In this new series from Paris-based writer and Curious Minds favourite **Lisa Pasold** (*Inventing Modern Paris, Rebel Paris*), we'll explore how Parisians created a see-and-be-seen stylish city. Paris sets an international standard, not just for how we dress, but for many other aspects of urban life today: from the look of our streets and our buildings, to how we eat and drink. We'll explore how the City of Light has defined what it means to be "cultured," "sophisticated" and "chic," giving the world a template for a rich and meaningful life.

Led by Lisa Pasold, a Governor General's Award-nominated writer, journalist (*The Globe and Mail, Chicago Tribune*) and television host of Discovery World's *Paris Next Stop*. A Canadian now living in the City of Light, she previously led the popular Curious Minds series' *Inventing Modern Paris, Rebel Paris, Cafe Society* and *Learning from Paris*.

Tuesdays, September 26 - November 7, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

SATISFACTION: THE STORY OF THE ROLLING STONES

In this six-lecture series, musicologist, historian and Curious Minds favourite **Dr. Mike Daley** (*The Beatles and Their World, The Toronto Sound, Bob Dylan: Words and Music*) breaks down the electrifying story of a group widely considered "The World's Greatest Rock'n'roll Band," tracking their musical changes and innovations. As we follow the Stones' journey from the early days of the British Invasion to concert tour juggernauts and rock music institutions, we'll observe the development of their unique sound, survey their legendary excesses and confront the many obstacles that they had to overcome—including deaths, addictions and changing musical styles—to cement their place in history. We'll explore the thrilling rise—and enduring legacy—of one of the world's most exciting and influential bands.

This course is led by Dr. Mike Daley, a music historian and professional musician who has taught at Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo and York Universities. A longtime Curious Minds favourite, his past courses at Hot Docs have included *Leonard Cohen: Words and Music, The Music of Yonge St. and Yorkville* and *The Beatles and Their World*.

Wednesdays, September 27 – November 8, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

FAMOUS PAINTING AND THEIR STORIES

In this six-week lecture series, Curious Minds favourite **Barbara Isherwood** (*The Art of Picasso, The Great Photographers*) will examine some of history's most iconic paintings and explore how each fit into the context of their creators' careers and the broader culture from which they arose. As we survey works by legendary artists—Boticelli's *The Birth of Venus*, da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Velázquez's *Las Meninas*, Munch's *The Scream*, and many more—we'll take an exciting journey through the canon of Western art and receive a deeper immersion in the social words and creative practices that led to some of history's most stunning paintings.

This series is led by art critic and art historian Barbara Isherwood, the host of ArtSync TV and a frequent lecturer at the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto. An energetic educator who brings

infectious passion and clear-eyed analysis to history's greatest artworks, Barbara has led the popular Curious Minds courses *The Women Who Made Modern Art*, *The Art of Picasso*, *The Great Old Masters*, *The Great Photographers* and *The Art of Living: The History of Interior Design*.

Thursdays, September 28 – November 9, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

-30-

Owned and operated by Hot Docs, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is the world's largest documentary cinema. A historic, century-old landmark located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood, the Cinema is a year-round home for non-fiction film and storytelling, presenting first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, signature events including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, as well as hosting for some of the city's premier festivals and events. Since assuming management in 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,425 films to audiences of more than 1.3 million. In 2016, a generous \$5-million donation from Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase venue.

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano
Media Relations Manager
Hot Docs
jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca