

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

HOT DOCS PODCAST FESTIVAL UNVEILS ALL-STAR PODCAST LINEUP FOR OCTOBER 19 TO 22, 2023

- PRESENTED WITH LEAD SPONSOR CBC PODCASTS
- FEATURING LEGENDARY AUTHOR MARGARET ATWOOD, BON APPÉTIT'S CHRIS MOROCCO, FASHION DESIGNER AURORA JAMES, AND BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE'S KEVIN DREW
- CANADIAN PODCASTING LUMINARIES: *Q'S* TOM POWER; *CANADALAND'S* JESSE BROWN, ARSHY MANN, JONATHAN GOLDSBIE, MATTEA ROACH; *THE SECRET LIFE OF CANADA'S* FALEN JOHNSON AND LEAH-SIMONE BOWEN; AND *UNDER THE INFLUENCE'S* TERRY O'REILLY
- ON OCTOBER 19 AND 20, CREATORS FORUM TO FEATURE INSIGHTFUL SESSIONS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUDIO STORYTELLERS, BROADCASTERS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs is thrilled to unveil the lineup for its eighth annual **Hot Docs Podcast Festival**—presented in partnership with lead sponsor **CBC Podcasts**—returning to Toronto's iconic **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** (506 Bloor St. West) **October 19 to 22** with a captivating lineup of both beloved international and homegrown Canadian podcasters. Showcasing the best in non-fiction audio storytelling, this year's program features four full days of live podcast events from acclaimed shows that will intrigue and delight audiences as it celebrates the vibrancy and creativity of the booming podcast scene. This year's Festival will also offer a two-day installment of the renowned Creators Forum, an unparalleled opportunity for established and emerging podcasters to meet, exchange ideas, and fuel innovation.

Hot Docs Podcast Festival 2023 single tickets and live podcast bundles are available now at www.hotdocs.ca/festivals/podcast-festival.

Single tickets: \$33, \$36, \$39 (Members: \$29.70, \$32.40, \$35.10) / 3-Pack: \$99 (Members: \$89).

All Access and Creators Forum passes are on sale at special early-bird rates until September 11.

Hot Docs members save on Festival tickets and passes. To join, visit www.hotdocs.ca/join/memberships.

Presenting an exceptional roster of influential thought leaders, cultural commentators, authors, and artists, the Festival will welcome **The New Yorker Fiction Podcast** for its first-ever live episode featuring host **Deborah Treisman** and literary legend **Margaret Atwood**; gourmet favourite **Dinner SOS** with Bon

Appétit's revered food director **Chris Morocco**; and the sartorially-forward *Articles of Interest*, led by host **Avery Trufelman** and joined by fashion visionary **Aurora James** and shoe historian **Elizabeth Semmelhack**. Heralding Canadian podcast excellence, the 2023 Festival will feature esteemed interviewer **Tom Power** in a live version of *Q* with special guest Broken Social Scene's **Kevin Drew**; acclaimed journalists **Jesse Brown**, **Jonathan Goldsbie**, **Arshy Mann**, and **Mattea Roach** taking the spotlight for *Canadaland*'s 10th anniversary; hosts **Falen Johnson** and **Leah-Simone Bowen** delving into Canada's rich past in *The Secret Life of Canada*; and **Terry O'Reilly** unlocking the mysteries of advertising in his wildly popular podcast *Under The Influence*.

"We are thrilled to announce the eagerly awaited in-person return of the Hot Docs Podcast Festival," shared **Will Di Novi**, the Festival's lead programmer. "With some of the brightest stars in the podcast landscape converging in Toronto from October 19 to 22, this year's Festival will feature captivating stories and thought-provoking conversations. We hope that it will inspire both our passionately curious public audiences and the talented creators who attend our industry programs."

Complementing the Festival is this year's **Creators Forum**—the Festival's industry conference offering a robust lineup of insightful and inspiring panels exploring the art, craft, and business of podcasting, and featuring top executives, producers and hosts from Acast, Bumper, Canadaland, CBC Podcasts, Condé Nast, HBO, Media Girlfriends, NPR, Pushkin Industries and more—taking place on **October 19 and 20**.

The 2023 Creators Forum will feature an exciting variety of sessions including: **How to Build a Career—and Get Your Projects Made—in the Canadian Podcast Industry**, a lively primer on the Canadian podcast landscape, its latest creative and commercial trends, and the career paths available to creators; **10 Lessons from 100 Launches**, in which three senior members of the CBC Podcasts leadership team share their top 10 learnings from launching over 100 series and seasons; **What Makes a Great Episode? A Narrative Masterclass**, welcoming two of North America's leading producers—99% Invisible's Chris Berube and The Globe and Mail's Adrian Cheung—to lead an in-depth masterclass on building rich and satisfying podcast episodes; **Podcasts and Multi-Platform Storytelling**, a candid assessment of how podcasts complement other media projects; **Masterclass: Condé Nast's Chris Bannon on Spotting and Supporting Exciting New Talent**, in which one of the most impactful tastemakers in the nascent history of podcasting discusses developing new shows and cultivating talent; and many others.

Hot Docs Podcast Festival is especially proud to partner with the Indigenous Screen Office on **Celebrating Indigenous Voices**, an in-depth conversation between three gifted podcasters who will discuss the unique synergy between podcasting and Indigenous storytelling traditions, and the new opportunities for funding and support behind this creative renaissance. This year's Creators Forum will also offer networking opportunities with industry heavyweights that will arm attendees with skills-building tools and expert guidance into the key creative and commercial trends shaping the podcast industry.

LIVE PODCAST EVENT LINEUP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Owned and operated by the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, the historic Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is one of the world's only documentary cinemas.

7:30 PM

CANADALAND

Ten years ago, journalist Jesse Brown picked up a microphone and launched Canadaland to give audiences an opportunity to sit in on off-the-record conversations that journalists have when nobody is listening. A decade in, Canadaland has become one of our country's preeminent media outlets and independent podcast networks: breaking news, starting national conversations, holding the powerful to account, telling stories otherwise unreported, and proving that Canada is anything but boring. To open the Hot Docs Podcast Festival, join Jesse Brown (host, *CANADALAND*), Arshy Mann (host, *COMMONS*), Jonathan Goldsbie (host, *Wag the Doug*), Mattea Roach (host, *The Backbench*), along with a stacked roster of Canadaland contributors, frenemies, and some very special guests for a 10th-anniversary live podcast recording. Prepare for bold conversations, unexpected surprises, and an evening where we get together to talk shit about the news.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

7:30 PM

ARTICLES OF INTEREST - WITH AVERY TRUFELMAN, FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS AURORA JAMES AND ELIZABETH SEMMELHACK

Named one of the 10 best podcasts of the year by The New Yorker and The New York Times, Avery Trufelman's hit fashion podcast *Articles of Interest* dives deep into what we wear. For this live episode, Trufelman teams up with influential designer and activist Aurora James and director and senior curator of the Bata Shoe Museum Elizabeth Semmelhack for what is sure to be a memorable conversation. Take an immersive journey through the aesthetic influences and creative practice of the Toronto-raised, NYC-based James, who recently graced the cover of Vogue: from the founding of her award-winning label, Brother Vellies, to her groundbreaking campaigns on behalf of Black businesses in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder. Sharing examples from the growing international collection at Toronto's own Bata Shoe Museum, these three brilliant fashion minds will bring to life the history and innovations which shape the contemporary design practices of footwear. On the Hot Docs stage, these influential tastemakers will discuss the world of shoes, along with James's new memoir, *Wildflower*, and her innovative design practices which have led to zeitgeist-defining pieces for the likes of Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

1:00 PM

THE SECRET LIFE OF CANADA

It's the show Dan Savage calls "consistently wonderful," and every historian (and would-be historian) from ages nine to 99 can't get enough of: CBC Podcasts' *The Secret Life of Canada* is returning to Hot Docs Podcast Festival! Join beloved hosts Falen Johnson and Leah-Simone Bowen for a live show on the beautiful, weird and terrible things you didn't learn in high school, paired with their sharp, observant and hilarious commentary.

4:15 PM

THE NEW YORKER FICTION PODCAST - FEATURING MARGARET ATWOOD

At this first-ever live episode of *The New Yorker's Fiction* podcast, host Deborah Treisman will take the Hot Docs stage with another literary legend, Margaret Atwood. In this beloved monthly podcast, the world's leading writers join host Treisman, *The New Yorker's* celebrated fiction editor, for a reading and discussion of a brilliant short story from the magazine's archives. At Hot Docs Podcast Festival, we will hear a reading of one of Atwood's favourite *New Yorker* stories and engage in an extended conversation on the art and craft of bringing great stories to life.

8:00 PM

DINNER SOS - WITH BON APPÉTIT FOOD DIRECTOR CHRIS MOROCCO

We've all been there: cooking emergencies, kitchen dilemmas, dinner party disasters. *Bon Appétit's* brilliant new podcast, *Dinner SOS*, is here to save the day—and they're gathering their friends to help guide the cooking-curious and food-obsessed to success. At this special live event, *Bon Appétit's* food director Chris Morocco will invite some of his favourite food experts to the Hot Docs stage to take your most pressing culinary questions—and offer up their mouth-watering tips, tricks and solutions. Stay tuned as we announce special guests! Come ready to join the party and learn from these expert cooks in a one-of-a-kind celebration of food, glorious food.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

1:00 PM

UNDER THE INFLUENCE WITH TERRY O'REILLY

One of Apple Podcasts Top Shows and Most-Followed Shows of 2022, Terry O'Reilly's pioneering podcast *Under The Influence* has over 7.5 million annual listeners in Canada. At this year's festival, host O'Reilly will dazzle audiences with live storytelling, rich audiovisual excerpts from the history of advertising, special guests on stage and, of course, his trademark wit and wisdom. Plus, you won't want to miss the podcast's house band playing the theme—every element of the episode will be performed live! Don't miss this chance to peek behind the curtain at a live recording for an upcoming *Under The Influence* episode.

5:30 PM

Q WITH TOM POWER - FEATURING BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE'S KEVIN DREW

On every episode of *Q with Tom Power*, acclaimed interviewer Tom Power sits down with the artists, writers, actors and musicians who define pop culture. In this special live taping, Tom joins Toronto songwriter Kevin Drew, the iconic co-founder of Broken Social Scene, for an in-depth conversation of his evolving career and a special first look at his upcoming solo album, *Aging*. Tom and Kevin will share the stage for an intimate, career-spanning interview, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of Arts & Crafts, the now legendary indie record label that Kevin co-founded in 2003. Exclusive to this event, Kevin will share a short documentary from his experience releasing the album, and live performance with a special guest.

The Hot Docs Podcast Festival 2023 is presented in partnership with lead sponsor CBC Podcasts; major partners Acast, Inspirit Foundation, and RBC Foundation; event partners Amazon Music Canada, iHeartRadio, and Muskoka Brewery; and industry partner Indigenous Screen Office.

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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.

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