

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA UNVEILS  
EXCITING LINEUP OF FILMS AND EVENTS FOR APRIL**

PREMIERES OF THE HOTTEST NEW DOCS: *REMEMBERING GENE WILDER*, *VESELKA: THE RAINBOW ON THE CORNER AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD*, AND *FOOD INC. 2*

POPULAR SERIES IN APRIL: DOC SOUP SCREENS *STOLEN TIME*, FAMILY SCREENINGS SERIES PRESENTS *THE LORAX* WITH ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE, THE FANGIRL PICTURE SHOW PRESENTS *THE HUNGER GAMES WATCH-ALONG: CATCHING FIRE* EDITION, CURIOUS MINDS FURTHER VIEWING PRESENTS *BEST WORST THING THAT EVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED* AND *MARGARET ATWOOD: A WORD AFTER A WORD AFTER A WORD IS POWER*

GENE WILDER TRIBUTE SCREENINGS OF *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* AND *WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY*

SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE: *SEX WITH SUE* WITH DIRECTOR LISA RIDEOUT, SCREENINGS OF DIANNE WHELAN'S HIT *500 DAYS IN THE WILD*, AND A FREE SCREENING OF *SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE JOURNEY OF ROMÉO DALLAIRE* FOR NATIONAL CANADIAN FILM DAY

CURIOUS MINDS AUTHOR TALKS WELCOMES LEADING ROMANCE WRITERS TESSA BAILEY AND YULIN KUANG, AND YA MEGA-STAR HOLLY JACKSON

FREE SCREENINGS FOR HOT DOCS MEMBERS

HOT DOCS FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR ITS 2024 EDITION APRIL 25 – MAY 5: 168 NEW DOCS FROM 64 COUNTRIES

**Toronto, ON - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** is pleased to announce its program for the month of April, which includes an exciting selection of premiere titles covering a wide range of topics, from the highly anticipated *Food Inc. 2*, centering around the innovative farmers, food producers and workers' rights activists who are facing down the multinational corporations who have tightened their stronghold on our food supply, to *Remembering Gene Wilder*, a loving tribute that shines a light on the essential

performer, writer, director, and all-around mensch, Gene Wilder.

**Hot Docs Festival** returns to the Cinema **April 25 to May 5**, premiering high-profile films that include *Daughters*, *The Ride Ahead*, *Never Look Away*, *Born Hungry*, *Curl Power*, *Fire Tower*, *Love Machina*, *Eno*, and many more.

To view the full April 2024 calendar, please visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/watch-cinema>.

## PREMIERES

- In April, Hot Docs Cinema will premiere *Veselka: The Rainbow on the Corner at the Center of the World*, a timely and thoughtful film chronicling New York City's beloved Ukrainian restaurant Veselka—a beacon of hope for the Ukrainian community; and *Food Inc. 2*, the sequel to the 2008 Oscar-nominated and Emmy-award winning documentary *Food, Inc.* centering around the innovative farmers, food producers and workers' rights activists who are facing down the multinational corporations who have tightened their stronghold on our food supply.
- Hot Docs Cinema will present a loving tribute to the great Gene Wilder, featuring the new documentary *Remembering Gene Wilder* and two of his most memorable roles: the extravagant and ever-so-slightly ominous Willy Wonka in the original *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and his career-defining performance as Dr. Frankenstein in Mel Brooks' over-the-top comedy *Young Frankenstein*.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Hot Docs Cinema will host a fun and informative celebration of sex educator and Canadian cultural icon Sue Johanson with a memorial screening of *Sex with Sue*, exploring Sue's prolific career and revealing the unexpected and exciting ways her legacy lives on today. Director Lisa Rideout, producer Sam Dunn and Sue Johanson's daughter Jane Johanson will participate in a lively post-screening Q&A moderated by Dr. Nadine Thornhill, an internationally renowned sexuality educator, advocate and media creator.
- The Cinema will also host a return of the popular cross-Canada journey *500 Days in the Wild*. Join award-winning filmmaker Dianne Whelan on her incredible six-year journey as the first person to travel 24,000 km over land and water on the Trans Canada Trail—the longest trail in the world.
- In commemoration of National Canadian Film Day, the Cinema will host a free screening of *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*, this groundbreaking documentary feels just as important today in our current moment of global humanitarian crises as it was twenty years ago.
- **Hot Docs Festival**, North America's largest doc fest, returns April 25 to May 5, premiering 168 films from 64 countries.

## SERIES

- In ***Stolen Time***, the **Doc Soup** screening for the month of April, charismatic elder rights lawyer Melissa Miller and hundreds of aggrieved families take on the corporate for-profit nursing-home industry—an industry notorious for its lack of transparency and accountability. Award-winning director Helene Klodawsky will be present for post-screening Q&As.
- **Curious Minds Author Talks** welcomes **Tessa Bailey** and **Yulin Kuang**, two of the leading authors keeping love alive in the twenty-first century, to celebrate the rom-com renaissance; and **Holly Jackson**, author of the multi-million copy bestselling *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* series, to discuss her latest novel *The Reappearance of Rachel Price*.
- **Curious Minds Further Viewing**: For those looking to dive deeper into the fascinating subjects explored at the ongoing Curious Minds Speaker Series, the Cinema will screen ***Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened***, the story of one of the truly legendary musicals in the history of Broadway, connected to **The Stars of the Broadway Stage** series: *Merrily We Roll Along*; and ***Margaret Atwood: A Word After A Word After A Word is Power***, chronicling the life and prolific career of author, poet and activist Margaret Atwood, connected to the **Banned Books and the Brilliant Authors Who Write Them** series.
- **The Fangirl Picture Show** returns with a screening of ***Hunger Games: Catching Fire***, hosted by comedian Carley Thorne.
- The **Family Screening** series will celebrate **Earth Day** with a screening of ***The Lorax*** in partnership with the **Ontario Science Centre**. Prior to the screening, special guests from the Ontario Science Centre will invite families to participate in interactive activities about animals in their natural habitats.

## FREE FOR MEMBERS

Visit <https://hotdocs.ca/join/memberships> for more information on memberships.

Hot Docs offers free Bronze memberships to those 25 and under.

- In April, Hot Docs members can enjoy a variety of free screenings and events, including *The Lorax*, *Willy Wonka*, and *Young Frankenstein*.

Cinema Ticket: \$15 (Members tickets from \$10)\*

\*Unless otherwise specified

## PREMIERES

Premiere

### REMEMBERING GENE WILDER

D: Ron Frank | USA | 92 min | 2023

This loving tribute full of exclusive clips, outtakes, and interviews with a roster of brilliant friends and collaborators shines a light on the essential performer, writer, director, and all-around mensch, Gene Wilder.

Opens Friday, April 5

Premiere

**VESELKA: THE RAINBOW ON THE CORNER AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD**

D: Michael Fiore | USA | 106 min | 2023

New York City's beloved Ukrainian restaurant Veselka has become a beacon of hope for Ukraine in this thoughtful and touching story of family, hope, resilience, and borscht.

*Join writer/director Michael Fiore and special guests for a post-screening Q&A after the April 14 screening. A LIVE performance of "On the Corner at the Centre of the World" by Clamp with Jeff Heisholt will also be featured. Panel guests include Michael Fiore, writer/director; Clamp, singer/songwriter "On the Corner at the Centre of the World;" Jeff Heisholt, additional music; Jason Birchard, film subject and Veselka 3<sup>rd</sup> generation owner; Tom Birchard, film subject and Veselka 2<sup>nd</sup> generation owner; and Vitalii D., film subject.*

Opens Friday, April 12

Premiere

**FOOD INC. 2**

D: Robert Kenner, Melissa Robledo | USA | 94 min | 2023

This sequel to the 2008 Oscar-nominated and Emmy-award winning documentary Food, Inc. centers around the innovative farmers, food producers and workers' rights activists who are facing down the multinational corporations who have tightened their stronghold on our food supply.

Opens Friday, April 19

**GENE WILDER FOREVER SERIES**

Join us for a loving tribute to the great Gene Wilder, featuring a new documentary and two of his most memorable roles.

Gene Wilder Forever

**YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**

D: Mel Brooks | USA | 106 min | 1974

Gene Wilder delivers a career-defining performance as Dr. Frankenstein in Mel Brooks' over-the-top and loving sendup of classic monster movies.

Friday, April 5 / 9:45 PM

\*Free for members

Gene Wilder Forever / Family Screening

**WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY**

D: Mel Stuart | USA | 98 min | 1971

Enter a world of pure imagination with the confectionary classic starring the late great Gene Wilder. Full of familiar songs and delectable visuals, this film remains a family favourite for a reason.

Sunday, April 7 / 1:30 PM

\*Tickets: \$15 (\$7.50 for 12 and under) | Free for members

### **SERIES & SPECIAL EVENTS**

Doc Soup

#### **DOC SOUP: STOLEN TIME**

D: Helene Klodawsky | Canada | 85 min | 2023

In *Stolen Time*, charismatic elder rights lawyer Melissa Miller and hundreds of aggrieved families take on the corporate for-profit nursing-home industry—an industry notorious for its lack of transparency and accountability.

*Official Selection, FIPADOC 2024, RIDM 2023, and AIFF 2023.*

*Award-winning director Helene Klodawsky will be present for post-screening Q&As.*

Tuesday, April 2 / 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 3 / 6:30 PM

\*Subscribers and Founders Circle Members can claim their tickets for the April 2 and April 3 screening starting Monday, March 11.

Tickets on sale to the public starting Thursday, March 14.

Subscribers can view online from Thursday, April 4 to Sunday, April 7. During this time, the film will be available on the [watch.hotdocs.ca](http://watch.hotdocs.ca) portal. Please sign in with your email and password.

Special Event

#### **SEX WITH SUE**

D: Lisa Rideout | Canada | 90 min | 2022

Join us for a fun and informative celebration of sex educator and Canadian cultural icon Sue Johanson with this memorial screening of the doc that explores Sue's prolific career, revealing the unexpected and exciting ways her legacy lives on today.

*Join director Lisa Rideout, producer Sam Dunn and Sue Johanson's daughter Jane Johanson for a post-screening Q&A. Moderated by Dr. Nadine Thornhill, an internationally renowned sexuality educator, advocate and media creator.*

Sunday, April 7 / 7:00 PM

Curious Minds Further Viewing

#### **MARGARET ATWOOD: A WORD AFTER A WORD AFTER A WORD IS POWER**

D: Nancy Lang, Peter Raymont | Canada | 52 min | 2019

From her childhood in the Canadian wilderness to her lauded global tours, discover the life and prolific career of author, poet and activist Margaret Atwood.

*Complement the exciting themes and stories of Ira Wells' Curious Minds series on Banned Books and the Brilliant Authors Who Write Them with this screening.*

Tuesday, April 9 / 4:00 PM

\*Tickets: \$15 (Members from \$10) | \$5 for Banned Books and the Brilliant Authors Who Write Them attendees

Special Event

**500 DAYS IN THE WILD**

D: Dianne Whelan | Canada | 124 min | 2023

Tag along with award-winning filmmaker Dianne Whelan on her incredible six-year journey as the first person to travel 24,000 km over land and water on the Trans Canada Trail—the longest trail in the world—with this special preview screening in partnership with Paramount+ Canada.

Thursday, April 11 / 6:45 PM

Monday, May 13 / 3:30 PM

Special Event

**THE FANGIRL PICTURE SHOW PRESENTS THE HUNGER GAMES WATCH ALONG: CATCHING FIRE EDITION**

D: Francis Lawrence | USA | 146 min | 2013

This movie has everything: our baby boy Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark, Effie Trinket's high-camp outfits, and the one and only Finnick Odair. Hosted by comedian Carley Thorne keeping the energy appropriately chaotic with a special intro, this night is for the fangirls.

*Hosted by comedian Carley Thorne keeping the energy appropriately chaotic with a special intro, this night is for the fangirls.*

Friday, April 12 / 8:45 PM

\*Tickets: \$20 (Members: \$15)

Curious Minds Further Viewing

**BEST WORST THING THAT EVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED**

D: Lonny Price | USA | 97 min | 2016

Stephen Sondheim, Hal Prince, Jason Alexander and more tell the story of one of the truly legendary musicals in the history of Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along*.

*Complement the exciting themes and stories of Michael Rubinoff's Curious Minds series on The Stars of the Broadway Stage with this screening.*

Monday, April 15 / 4:00 PM

\*Tickets: \$15 (Members from \$10) | \$5 for The Stars of the Broadway Stage attendees

Curious Minds Author Talk

**YA MEGA-STAR HOLLY JACKSON ON THE REAPPEARANCE OF RACHEL PRICE**

From the author of the multi-million copy bestselling *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* series comes the exclusive Canadian launch event for this YA star's latest novel.

*Moderated by Nita Prose, the author of The Maid, a #1 New York Times bestseller and a Good Morning America Book Club Pick.*

Monday, April 15 / 7:00 PM

Curious Minds Author Talk

**ROMANCE NOVEL NIGHT WITH TESSA BAILEY AND YULIN KUANG**

Celebrate the rom-com renaissance with two of the leading authors keeping love alive in the twenty-first century. Bring your besties, lovers and beating hearts!

*In conversation with Ameema Saeed, the Books Editor for She Does the City.*

Tuesday, April 16 / 7:00 PM

National Canadian Film Day

**SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE JOURNEY OF ROMÉO DALLAIRE**

D: Peter Raymont | Canada | 90 min | 2004

Help us mark National Canadian Film Day with this free screening of Peter Raymont's groundbreaking documentary that feels just as important today in our current moment of global humanitarian crises as it was twenty years ago.

Wednesday, April 17 / 3:00 PM

\*Free event

Family Screening

**THE LORAX W/ ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE**

D: Chris Renaud | USA | 86 min | 2012

Celebrate Earth Day with Hot Docs and the Ontario Science Centre! Inspire climate action in your young ones with a special screening of *The Lorax*. Featuring the voices of Taylor Swift and Zac Efron, 12-year-old Ted lives in Thneedville, where the trees are artificial, and the residents buy oxygen by the bottle.

*Arrive early to join special guests from the Ontario Science Centre for an interactive activity about animals in their natural habitats!*

Sunday, April 21 / 1:30 PM

\*Tickets: \$15 (\$7.50 for 12 and under) | FREE for members

###

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  
Senior Media Relations Manager  
Hot Docs  
[jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca](mailto:jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca)