

For Immediate Release: Thursday, April 5, 2024

NOW ON SALE: NEW *CURIOUS MINDS SPEAKER SERIES* IN MAY DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF GREAT CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE, BEATLEMANIA, ITALY'S PICTURESQUE REGIONS, AND CULTURE-SHIFTING CINEMA

Toronto, ON – In May, **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** will launch a new installment of its wildly popular **Curious Minds Speaker Series**, encompassing a diverse range of fascinating topics—from the architectural marvels of the 21st century to the most ground-breaking movies in cinema history. 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 class: \$21, \$17, \$14, Free

GREAT BUILDINGS OF THE 21ST CENTURY: ARCHITECTURE IN A TIME OF SPECTACLE

In this new series, former Toronto Star architecture critic **Christopher Hume** (*The Secret Life of Architecture*, *Architectural Wonders*) returns to Curious Minds to offer a spirited survey of the most stunning—and thought-provoking—buildings of the past two decades. Taking us on a globetrotting journey from the glittering new high-rises of Asia and New York to Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao; from epic German concert halls to the projects that global "starchitects" have launched here in Toronto, Hume will assess the power of architecture, the most functional of art forms, to inspire us, to make us think and, above all, to entertain.

This series is led by **Christopher Hume**, who was the architecture critic and urban issues columnist for the *Toronto Star* from the early 1980s until his retirement in 2016. He is the recipient of many of Canada's country's top awards in the field, including the National Newspaper Award and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada President's Award.

TUESDAYS, MAY 14 - JUNE 16, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

THE BEATLES AND THEIR WORLD

In this series from Curious Minds favourite, **Dr. Mike Daley**, we track the musical development of the Beatles, starting from the earliest days in Liverpool, moving through the excitement of Beatlemania, the rush of psychedelia, and the maturity of their studio years. While the focus is on the music, we also consider how recording techniques, the music business, the music of other

artists, and the larger culture of the 1960s affected John, Paul, George and Ringo as they created their classic works.

This course is led by **Dr. Mike Daley**, a music historian and professional musician who has taught at Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo and York Universities. His past courses at Hot Docs have included *Leonard Cohen: Words and Music*; *The Music of Yonge St. and Yorkville*; and *Satisfaction: The Story of the Rolling Stones*.

THURSDAY, MAY 16 - JUNE 20, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ROAMING THE REGIONS OF ITALY: AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT 'IL BEL PAESE'

This spring at Curious Minds, join **Professor Teresa Lobalsamo** (*Cucina Italiana: A Mouthwatering History of Italian Food*) for a spirited journey across Italy and its multifaceted regions. As we roam across the diverse landscapes of il bel paese ('the beautiful country'), we'll bring a fresh perspective to old, familiar spaces while pulling back the curtain on hidden secrets and gems. Pick up an expression or two, see the concept of la bella figura come to life in Italian fashion and art, and gain a deeper appreciation for the country's distinctive regional cultures — each with its own colourful history, traditions and identity.

This course is led by **Professor Teresa Lobalsamo**, PhD, an Associate Professor Teaching Stream of Italian Food Studies, Cinema, and Language at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) where she has also had the honour of receiving awards for teaching excellence. Her current research centres on the curation of a digital archive titled "Italian Canadian Foodways," and the publication of an e-Textbook on Italian Culture for which she gets to shoot various virtual tours in Italy.

FRIDAYS, MAY 17 - JUNE 21, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FILMS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

In this exciting new series for lovers of pop culture and 20th century history, acclaimed film critic and *New Yorker* contributor **Adam Nayman** surveys some of the most dramatic flashpoints in the history of the movies. As he surveys provocative crowd-pleasers like *Midnight Cowboy*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Citizen Kane*, and filmic cause celebres like *Lolita* and *Last Tango in Paris*, he'll explore the cultural changes these landmark films brought about, reflecting shifting currents in politics and society—and the evolving limits of what is acceptable in art and entertainment. Powered by expertly chosen film clips, and the incisive wit that has made Adam's past courses (*A Brief History of Satire*, *Politics at the Movies*) Curious Minds favourites, he'll reveal the history of the movies as you've never seen it before: A relentlessly inventive, subversive, zeitgeist-defining art form, worthy of fighting for—and about.

This series is led by **Adam Nayman**, a film critic and lecturer based in Toronto, and the author of several acclaimed books, including *The Coen Brothers: This Book Really Ties the Films Together* and *Paul Thomas Anderson: Masterworks*. Adam is a popular lecturer at the University of Toronto, the Chang School and the Miles Nadal JCC.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 22 - JUNE 26, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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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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