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**HOT DOCS 2024 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:  
WORLD PREMIERES OF HIGHLY ANTICIPATED DOCUMENTARIES SET TO IGNITE  
THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL**

PROGRAM WILL SHOWCASE UNFORGETTABLE TRUE-LIFE STORIES AND FEATURE THE LIKES OF MICHEL GONDRY, MARTIN SCORSESE, LUCY LAWLESS, SASH SIMPSON, AMY HOGGART, SAMUEL HABIB, SHAWN FARQUHAR, MARGARET MOTH, MICHAEL POWELL AND EMERIC PRESSBURGER

**Toronto, ON – 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. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in cinemas across Toronto.

The 2024 Special Presentations program will delve into narratives of power, corruption and tragedy, offering a critical lens on societal issues. Additionally, it will turn the camera onto celebrated artists and filmmakers themselves, providing audiences with intimate insights into their lives and creative processes. The program will also transport audiences on immersive journeys into the worlds of BASE jumping, magic, psychics, and cats, enticing them to explore a captivating array of diverse and fascinating subjects.

World premieres include ***Red Fever***, which sees Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond travel to the four corners of Turtle Island and across Europe to explore the world's fascination with Native Americans; ***American Cats: The Good, the Bad, and the Cuddly***, in which hilarious *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee* correspondent Amy Hoggart explores the controversial practice of declawing cats; ***The Ride Ahead***, an expansion of co-director Samuel Habib's short film *My Disability Roadmap* (Honourable Mention, Best International Short Documentary, Hot Docs Festival 2022), exploring a typical 21-year-old itching to move out, start a career and find love—all while navigating life with a disability; ***Lost in the Shuffle***, which follows world champion magician Shawn Farquhar as he simultaneously devises a new trick and delves into a medieval murder cold case; and ***Le Mans 55: The Unauthorized Investigation***, which explores the tragic Le Mans race in 1955 where more than 80 spectators were killed.

Hot Docs 2024 will also see the International Premiere of the thrilling new National Geographic doc ***Fly***, in which incredible cinematography and all-access storytelling follow three couples whose passion for BASE jumping means they'll risk everything for the rush of feeling alive; and the North American Premiere of ***Michel Gondry, Do It Yourself***, an intimate look at the music video director and filmmaker's life, work and creative process.

2024 Special Presentations will also include the Canadian premieres of ***Power***, examining the history, scale and social effects policing has had on the United States and its culture; ***Black Box Diaries***, which sees journalist and filmmaker Shiori Ito take on one of the most powerful institutions in Japan to prosecute her high-profile sexual assailant in a landmark legal case; ***Union***, in which a group of Amazon workers on New York City's Staten Island take on one of the world's largest and most influential companies in the fight to unionize; ***Never Look Away***, the directorial debut of Lucy Lawless that follows CNN combat camerawoman Margaret Moth, whose appetite for danger is challenged following a life-changing injury; ***Look Into My Eyes***, acclaimed filmmaker Lana Wilson's new film featuring an eclectic group of New York City psychics; ***Born Hungry***—the latest from acclaimed Canadian filmmaker Barry Avrich—chronicles the rags-to-riches tale of Sash Simpson, a runaway child from the streets of India, who was adopted into a Toronto family with 31 siblings before becoming a world-renowned chef; and ***Made in England: The Films of Powell and Pressburger***, in which Martin Scorsese shares his lifelong love affair with the “subversive commercial movies” of filmmakers Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, whose collaboration thrived in the adversity of WWII.

Descriptions for films in the Special Presentations program appear below. In many cases, filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the program visit <http://hotdocs.ca/festivals/hot-docs-festival/announcements>.

Film stills of Special Presentation titles are available at <https://tinyurl.com/79ar2vdt>.

### **AMERICAN CATS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE CUDDLY**

D: Todd Bieber | P: Grace Leeson | USA | 2024 | 88 min | World Premiere

Ontario is the only province in Canada without a ban on cat declawing. Amy Hoggart, the hilarious correspondent from *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, cracks jokes, cuddles kittens and attacks this controversial practice using satire to expose a heart-wrenching catspiracy.

### **BLACK BOX DIARIES**

D: Shiori Ito | P: Eric Nyari, Hanna Aqvilin, Shiori Ito | Japan, UK, USA | 2024 | 104 min | Canadian Premiere

Journalist Shiori Ito takes on one of the most powerful institutions in Japan to prosecute her high-profile sexual assailant in a landmark legal case. Using personal footage and hidden cameras, Ito puts it all on the line for justice.

### **BORN HUNGRY**

D: Barry Avrich | P: Jay Hennick, Mark Selby, Barry Avrich | Canada | 2024 | 77 min | Canadian Premiere

The true rags to riches tale of Sash Simpson, a runaway child from the streets of India, who was adopted into a Toronto family with 31 siblings before becoming a world-renowned chef.

### **FLY**

D: Shaul Schwarz, Christina Clusiau | P: Christina Clusiau, Shaul Schwarz | USA | 2023 | 106 min | International Premiere

To stand on the edge and jump into the wind, one must be willing to lose everything. That could mean

the love of your life, or the life you love. Three couples in the world of BASE-jumping risk everything to feel alive.

**LE MANS 55: THE UNAUTHORIZED INVESTIGATION**

D: Emmanuel Reyé | P: Isabelle Dagnac | France | 2023 | 90 min | World Premiere

The Le Mans race in 1955 made history through tragedy when more than 80 spectators were killed. Uncover the story of the crash that took the lives of so many and, to this day, looms over the world of motorsports.

**LOOK INTO MY EYES**

D: Lana Wilson | P: Kyle Martin, Lana Wilson | USA | 2023 | 105 min | Canadian Premiere

In this unique journey into the human desire for connection, acclaimed filmmaker Lana Wilson follows an eclectic group of New York City psychics whose intimate readings reveal a kaleidoscopic view of loneliness, connection and healing with humour and intrigue.

**LOST IN THE SHUFFLE**

D: Jon Ornoy | P: Jon Ornoy, Ana Carrizales | Canada | 2024 | 100 min | World Premiere

Pick a card, any card! World champion magician Shawn Farquhar delves into a medieval murder cold case among Jacks, Queens and Kings as he devises a new trick inspired by the world's best sleight-of-hand artists.

**MADE IN ENGLAND: THE FILMS OF POWELL AND PRESSBURGER**

D: David Hinton | P: Matthew Wells, Nick Varley | UK | 2024 | 131 min | Canadian Premiere

Martin Scorsese tells of his lifelong love affair with the movies of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger and their "subversive commercial movies." Drawing on a rich array of archival material, Scorsese explores their collaboration that thrived in the adversity of WWII.

**MICHEL GONDRY, DO IT YOURSELF**

D: François Nemeta | P: Olivier de Bannes, Robin Accard, Philippe Savine | France | 2023 | 80 min | North American Premiere

French filmmaker Michel Gondry re-invented the music video and challenged Hollywood with his distinctive handmade visual style. Intimately documented, Gondry's career and playful creative process receive an overdue review, from his earliest music videos to his latest feature film at Cannes.

**NEVER LOOK AWAY**

D: Lucy Lawless | P: | New Zealand | 2024 | 85 min | Canadian Premiere

CNN camerawoman Margaret Moth was facing down war's inhumanity when one bullet changed everything but her resolve. Debut filmmaker Lucy Lawless turns the camera's gaze on this groundbreaking woman and her legacy.

**POWER**

D: Yance Ford | P: Sweta Vohra, Jess Devaney, Yance Ford, Netsanet Negussie | USA | 2024 | 87 min | Canadian Premiere

Part essay, interview and archival collage, *Power* traces the explosion of police power from the founding of the U.S. to our present. *Power* makes the historical continuity of unchecked police power legible—examining who’s policed, who’s protected and why.

**RED FEVER**

D: Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge | P: Lisa M. Roth, Rebecca Lessard | Canada | 2024 | 104 min  
| World Premiere

Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond travels to the four corners of Turtle Island and across Europe to explore the world’s fascination with Native Americans, recognizing the profound impact Indigenous people have had in shaping modern Western culture.

**THE RIDE AHEAD**

D: Samuel Habib, Dan Habib | P: Dan Habib, Erica Lupinacci | USA | 2024 | 97 min | World Premiere

An expansion of his short film *My Disability Roadmap*, Samuel Habib is a typical 21-year-old, itching to move out, start a career and find love. But “no one tells you how to be an adult, let alone an adult with a disability.”

**UNION**

D: Brett Story, Stephen Maing | P: Samantha Curley, Mars Verrone, Martin DiCiccio | USA | 2024 | 104 min | Canadian Premiere

The Amazon Labor Union (ALU)—a group of current and former Amazon workers on New York City’s Staten Island—takes on one of the world’s largest and most powerful companies in the fight to unionize.

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America’s largest 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 31<sup>st</sup> annual edition from April 25 to May 5, 2024, 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 Forum and Hot Docs Deal Maker. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio, and 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 26, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 2, 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 5:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC and CBC Gem.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers as its Founding Partner; CBC as its Signature Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters.

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