

13 HOT DOCS FILM FUND AND MARKET PROGRAM ALUMNI TO SCREEN AT HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2024

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs Festival 2024 is pleased to present 13 films produced with the support of Hot Docs' film fund portfolio and/or its Hot Docs Forum and Hot Deal Maker market programs. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

Grant recipients and alumni projects are listed below.

ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE

Participated in Deal Maker.

D: Shannon Walsh | P: Ina Fichman | Canada | 2023 | 86 min | Canadian Premiere

Alan and Adrienne built an ornate castle as a representation of their other-worldly love for each other. Now, Alan faces a future alone and grapples with his grief through creative musical re-enactments, transporting him back to the fantasy world they created together.

THE BATTLE FOR LAIKIPIA

Participated in Hot Docs Forum.

D: Daphne Matziaraki, Peter Murimi | P: Toni Kamau, Daphne Matziaraki | Kenya, USA, Greece | 2024 | 94 min | Canadian Premiere

The past and present collide in a high-stakes conflict between Indigenous pastoralists and white landowners in Laikipia, Kenya, a wildlife conservation haven. Amidst stunning landscapes and generational tensions, the country's future is on the line.

BLACK BOX DIARIES

Participated in Hot Docs Forum.

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.

DISCO'S REVENGE

Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund recipient.

D: Omar Majeed, Peter Mishara | P: Noah Segal, Sam Sutherland, Christina Piovesan, Dave Harris | Canada | 2024 | 100 min | World Premiere

Born underground and taken on a wild ride into the mainstream, disco was co-opted, exploited and then tossed aside to the fringes. This is the true story of disco music and the communities who hustled for their freedom on the dance floor.

INTERCEPTED

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, Ted Rogers Fund recipient.

D: Oksana Karpovych | P: Rocío B. Fuentes, Giacomo Nudi, Pauline Tran Van Lieu, Lucie Rego, Darya Bassel, Olha Beskhnelynsina | Canada, France, Ukraine | 2024 | 93 min | Canadian Premiere
Layered over the visible evidence of their destruction, covertly recorded conversations between Russian soldiers provide a shocking and revealing soundtrack of those who destroy amidst the futility and inhumanity of a prolonged war in Ukraine.

WINNER – CMF-Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize 2023

THE FABULOUS GOLD HARVESTING MACHINE

Participated in Deal Maker, CrossCurrents Doc Fund recipient.

D: Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza | P: Francisco Hervé, Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza, Annemiek van der Hell | Chile, Netherlands | 2024 | 77 min | World Premiere
After 40 years working in the mine at Tierra del Fuego, Toto doesn't qualify for the social security that would allow him to retire. So his son Jorge attempts to build a gold harvesting machine to bring them a better future.

MY SEXTORTION DIARY

Participated in Deal Maker.

D: Patricia Franquesa | P: Patricia Franquesa, Mireia Graell | Spain | 2024 | 64 min | Canadian Premiere
A woman's worst nightmare comes true when her laptop is stolen and the thieves threaten to share her sexually explicit photos. When the Spanish police and courts are unable to help, she takes the law into her own hands.

RISING UP AT NIGHT

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund recipient

D: Nelson Makengo | P: Dada Kahindo Siku, Rosa Spaliviero | Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, Germany, Burkina Faso, Qatar | 2024 | 95 min | North American Premiere
After an election in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shakes its political and economic stability, its capital, Kinshasa, remains in darkness. This immersive, cinematic depiction of life in spite of everything portrays a population reinventing itself in the face of uncertainty.

SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

Participated in Deal Maker.

D: Tasha Hubbard | P: Tasha Hubbard, Jason Ryle, George Hupka | Canada | 2024 | 98 min | Canadian Premiere
Travel with acclaimed Cree filmmaker Dr. Tasha Hubbard through the North American plains as Indigenous nations reintroduce the keystone species to the land and help reclaim territories and cultures that signal a turning point for long-term, collective survival.

STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS

Participated in Deal Maker.

D: Jalena Keane-Lee | P: Erin Lau, Amber Espinosa-Jones | USA | 2024 | 85 min | World Premiere

When the Thirty Meter Telescope is set to be built on Mauna Kea, three Native Hawaiian families risk it all to defend their sacred mountain. *Standing Above the Clouds* explores intergenerational healing and the struggle to retain ancient ceremonies.

UNION

Participated in Hot Docs Forum.

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.

WILFRED BUCK

Participated in Hot Docs Forum, Ted Rogers Fund recipient.

D: Lisa Jackson | P: Lauren Grant, Alicia Smith, Lisa Jackson | Canada | 2024 | 92 min | North American Premiere

A hybrid, time-travelling road trip takes us into the harrowing life of charismatic Cree elder, star expert and ceremonial leader Wilfred Buck. Adapted from his memoir, this hybrid film charts his journey back to his people’s ways of coming to knowledge.

WINNER – DGC Hot Docs Forum Canadian Pitch Prize 2021

YINTAH

Participated in Deal Maker.

D: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano | P: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano, Bob Moore | Canada | 2024 | 125 min | Canadian Premiere

Following members of the Wet’suwet’en nation along with Hereditary Chiefs and their communities of land defenders, Yintah, meaning land, tells the story of the Wet’suwet’en people resisting the construction of multiple pipelines across their territory.

###

[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 31st 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](https://www.hotdocs.ca) at 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.

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2024

Media Contact:

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