

## SPECIAL GUESTS AND NOTABLE FILMMAKERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE GATHER IN TORONTO FOR HOT DOCS 2022

Toronto, April 26, 2022– Hot Docs is thrilled to welcome noteworthy guests and film subjects to this year's Festival, taking place in Toronto April 28 to May 8. Special guests include members of **The Kids In The Hall**, actor **Jay Baruchel**, activist and Walt Disney's great-niece **Abigail Disney**, Bellingcat's **Christo Grozev**, and many more. The Festival will also host over 190 directors to introduce their films and participate in post-screening audience Q&As.

Featured guests are listed below. In most cases, the guests will be present at one or more screenings.

Scott Thompson, Bruce McCulloch, and Mark McKinney from **THE KIDS IN THE HALL: COMEDY PUNKS** (D: Reg Harkema | P: Nick McKinney, Kim Creelman | Canada, USA | 2022 | 95 min) – Iconic members of the legendary Canadian sketch comedy troupe will reunite at Hot Docs 2022.

Jay Baruchel from **WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE (EVEN JAY BARUCHEL)** (D: Victoria Lean | P: Stuart Henderson, Victoria Lean, Ben Travers | Canada | 2022 | 60 min) – Canadian actor, director, stand-up comedian, and host of the new series about the end of the world.

Christo Grozev from **NAVALNY** (D: Daniel Roher | P: Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Shane Boris | USA | 2022) – A Bulgarian investigative journalist known for his work as the lead Russia investigator with Bellingcat, whose investigation of the suspicious string of Novichok agent poisonings in the UK earned him awards and worldwide notoriety.

Abigail E. Disney from **THE AMERICAN DREAM AND OTHER FAIRY TALES** (D: Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen Hughes | P: Aideen Kane, Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen Hughes | USA | 2022 | 87 min) – A prominent social activist, an Emmy-winning documentary film producer, and director. She is also the granddaughter of Roy O. Disney, co-founder of The Walt Disney Company. In recent years, Disney has advocated for workers' rights and condemned modern corporate practices.

Moto Yasu Kinoshita, John Kutsch, Eric Meyer, Iida Rushalme, Prof. Jim Smith, Madison Czerwinski, and Michael Shellenberger from **ATOMIC HOPE – INSIDE THE PRO-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT** (D: Frankie Fenton | P: Frankie Fenton, Kathryn Kennedy | Ireland | 2022 | 82 min) – Moto Yasu Kinoshita is a renowned engineer working on solutions for nuclear power radioactive waste. John Kutsch is the Executive Director of the Thorium Energy Alliance, promoting the use of thorium as an energy source. Eric Meyer is the founder and Director of Generation Atomic, a nuclear advocacy non-profit. Iida Rushalme is a biologist and nuclear power supporter. Jim Smith is a Professor of Environmental Science researching the consequences of radioactive pollutants in the environment while offering solutions on how to best manage this waste. Madison Czerwinski is the founder and executive director of Campaign for a Green Nuclear Deal. Michael Shellenberger is an American author writing about the intersection of climate change, nuclear energy, and politics.

Pavla Holcová and Eva Kubanoviá from **THE KILLING OF A JOURNALIST** (D: Matt Sarnecki | P: Signe Byrge Sørensen | Denmark, Czech Republic, USA | 2022 | 100 min) – Pavla is an investigative journalist from the Czech Republic who works across borders to expose crime and corruption at the highest levels of government. Her investigation into the brutal murder of her colleague unmasked the culprits and contributed to the downfall of the former Slovak government. Eva is an award-winning journalist based in Prague covering organized crime topics, including the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová.

Christine Choy and Wu'erkaixi from **THE EXILES** (D: Ben Klein, Violet Columbus | P: Maria Chiu, Ben Klein, Violet Columbus | USA | 2022 | 95 min) – Christine Choy is a Chinese American Oscar-nominated filmmaker (*Who Killed Vincent Chin?*) and educator (NYU, Cornell, and Yale). Choy's unfinished Tiananmen Square massacre project is re-examined in *The Exiles*. Wu'erkaixi is a political commentator known for his leading role during the Tiananmen protests of 1989.

Sophia Dunkley from **DON'T COME SEARCHING** (D: Andrew Moir | P: Michelle Serieux, Sherien Barsoum, Andrew Moir | Canada | 2022 | 72 min) – In *Don't Come Searching*, Sophia's partner, Delroy, returns to his native Jamaica to be reunited with his family after doing seasonal work in Canada. He brings Sophia an engagement ring and an unexpected diagnosis of terminal cancer. This is a moving portrait of a resilient, contemporary Jamaican woman, determined to find her own way in life.

Hrefna Lind Lárusdóttir, Petur Eggertsson, Saga Sigurðardóttir from **BAND** (D: Álfrún Örnólfsdóttir | P: Þórður Jónsson, Heather Millard | Iceland | 2022 | 88 min) – Hrefna Lind Lárusdóttir is a performance artist working across physical theatre, dance, video installations, and music. Petur Eggertsson is a performance and media artist working across many mediums. Saga Sigurðardóttir is a dancer and performance artist based in Reykjavik.

Sam Harkness from **SAM NOW** (D: Reed Harkness | P: Jason Reid | USA | 2022 | 85 min) – The subject of *Sam Now* is director Reed Harkness' younger half-brother, who grapples with the disappearance of his mother during the most formative years of his life.

Garry Gadd, Brian Gadd, Raymond Owl, Carey Gillam, Brent Wisner, Robin Greenwald, Nancy Miller, Araceli Johnson, and Dewayne "Lee" Johnson for **INTO THE WEEDS: DEWAYNE "LEE" JOHNSON VS. MONSANTO COMPANY** (D: Jennifer Baichwal | P: Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier | Canada | 2022 | 96 min) – Dewayne "Lee" Johnson is a former groundskeeper who takes on a multinational agrochemical corporation after his terminal cancer diagnosis. He will be accompanied by his wife, Araceli Johnson. Raymond Owl is a Traditional Ecological Knowledge Elder. Garry Gadd is a Saskatchewan farmer, and Brian is his son. Robin Greenwald, Nancy Miller, and Brent Wisner are attorneys featured in the film. Carey Gillam is the author of *Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer and the Corruption of Science* and *The Monsanto Papers*, and worked as a story consultant on the film.

Saira Rao, Genevieve Swift, and Regina Jackson from **DECONSTRUCTING KAREN** (D: Patty Ivins | P: Katherine Montgomery, Mikell Ivey, Jessica Lipman | USA | 2021 | 75 min) – Saira Rao is a political

activist, author, publisher, and co-founder of Race2Dinner, a series of anti-racist dinner parties. Genevieve Swift is a business developer for Race2Dinner. Regina Jackson is an education advocate and co-founder of Race2Dinner.

Marinela Piedrahita from **MY TWO VOICES** (D: Lina Rodriguez | P: Brad Deane, Lina Rodriguez | Canada | 2022 | 68 min) – Marinela was born in Canada but was sent back to Colombia at age four. *My Two Voices* captures her return to Canada as an adult and offers a compelling portrait of her life in the diaspora.

Kang-Won Song from **QUEER MY FRIENDS** (D: Ah-hyun Seo | P: Sarah Kang | South Korea | 2022 | 82 min) – *Queer My Friends* captures Kang-Won's search for identity and belonging as he comes out publicly as a gay man in South Korea.

Doris Muñoz from **MIJA** (D: Isabel Castro | P: Tabs Breese, Yesenia Tlahuel | USA | 2022 | 88 min) – Doris Muñoz is the daughter of immigrants and a manager and advocate for LatinX music artists.

Annet Negesa from **CATEGORY: WOMAN** (D: Phyllis Ellis | P: Phyllis Ellis, Howard Fraiberg | Canada | 2022 | 80 min) – A Ugandan former record-breaking middle-distance runner whose career ended after the International Amateur Athletics Federation (now World Athletics) forced her to medically alter her healthy body.

Phyllis Jack-Webstad from **RETURNING HOME** (D: Sean Stiller | P: Andrew Lovesey, Gilles Gagnier | Canada | 2021 | 72 min) – A Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) author from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band) and the creator of Orange Shirt Day. She is a First Nations residential school survivor.

Michelle Rempel Garner from **HUNTING IN PACKS** (D: Chloe Sosa-Sims | P: Hannah Donegan, Ann Shin | Canada | 2022 | 80 min) – Michelle Rempel Garner is a Canadian politician who sits in the House of Commons as a member of Parliament for the Alberta riding of Calgary Nose Hill.

Julia Bruzzese from **THE QUIET EPIDEMIC** (D: Lindsay Keys, Winslow Crane-Murdoch | P: Daria Lombroso, Lindsay Keys, Chris Hegedus | USA | 2022 | 102 min) – Julia, who was diagnosed with Lyme disease and lost the ability to walk, is featured as a subject in *The Quiet Epidemic*.

Antonio Regalado and Ben Hurlbut from **MAKE PEOPLE BETTER** (D: Cody Sheehy | P: Samira Kiani, Cody Sheehy, Mark Monroe | USA | 2022 | 83 min) – Antonio Regalado is the senior editor for biomedicine for MIT Technology Review and works on stories about the changes that tech has brought to medicine and biomedical research. J. Benjamin Hurlbut, PhD is an Associate Professor in the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University and focuses on bioethics and the history of modern biomedical and life sciences.

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 29th annual edition from April 28 to May 8, 2022 in cinemas across Toronto as well as online to audiences throughout Canada. The Festival will offer a dynamic hybrid experience for industry delegates, including a live three-day program of knowledge sessions and networking events on its first weekend and online market programs and sessions, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production 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, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Wednesday, March 30, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 5, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed online 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 screenings). Single tickets are \$19 to regular Festival screenings and \$22 to Special Presentations and events. A Festival 6-Pack is \$99 (on sale April 5), a Festival 12-Pack is \$189, and a Festival 20-Pack is \$269. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to those 60+ and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability. Free screenings for students courtesy of CBC GEM.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Cineplex and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

#### FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

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

Password: hdmedia22

#### Media Contact:

Virginia Kelly

V Kelly & Associates, Inc.

Telephone: 416-839-9239

Email: [info@vkpr.ca](mailto:info@vkpr.ca)