

**HOT DOCS AT HOME LAUNCHES NEW ONGOING SERIES FEATURING CANADIAN FILMS AND STORIES WITH A SPOTLIGHT ON ALBERTA**

Toronto, January 28, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce a new ongoing documentary series on its Hot Docs at Home streaming platform that will spotlight talented filmmakers and engaging stories from across the country. Paying tribute to what makes each Canadian province unique and different, each edition of the series will feature a curated selection of four to five films that have either been created by a filmmaker from that province or explore a story or subject specific to it. Spotlight on Alberta, the first edition of the series, will include: *John Ware Reclaimed*, about the life and legacy of the first Black cowboy who settled in Alberta; University of Alberta professor Tasha Hubbard's award-winning doc *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*, an examination of racism in Canada's legal system told through the story of slain Cree boy Coulten Boushie; *Digging in the Dirt*, which reveals the mental health crisis plaguing the province's oil sands workers; and a shorts program with two films by Cree director Alexandra Lazarowich, *Lake* and *Fast Horse*. Spotlight on Alberta will be available exclusively for free to Hot Docs members from January 28 to March 25 on the Hot Docs at Home streaming platform, available at [hotdocs.ca](http://hotdocs.ca). To become a Hot Docs member, please visit [hotdocscinema.ca/membership](http://hotdocscinema.ca/membership).

"Canada is such a vast and diverse country, from its landscape to its citizens. This new series presents a great opportunity to dig deeper into the unique stories that make each of its provinces special," said **Alan Black**, managing director of Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. "We also have such a deep well of filmmaking talent in Canada, and we're excited to showcase the work of filmmakers from East to West, acknowledging the influence that growing up in each province has had on their career as a documentary filmmaker."

"Thank you, Hot Docs, the Edmonton Screen Industries Office, the Calgary Economic Development Film Commission and the Documentary Organization of Canada Alberta chapter for partnering with us to shine a light on the talented filmmakers and diverse stories in our province. I am thrilled to see five outstanding Alberta-made documentaries brought to homes across Canada," said **Leela Sharon Aheer**, Alberta's Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

Films featured in the Spotlight on Alberta series are:

**DIGGING IN THE DIRT**

D: Dylan Rhys Howard | Canada | 44 mins | 2019 | PG13

An eye-opening exploration of the isolation and loneliness experienced by men living in the industry's work camps near Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie. With lengthy stays away from families and friends and a lack of recreation opportunities and support services, this film explores the psychological costs of working in Alberta's oil sands, and the mental health crisis that has been ignored for a decade.

**JOHN WARE RECLAIMED**

D: Cheryl Foggo | Canada | 72 mins | 2020 | PG

Follow filmmaker Cheryl Foggo on her quest to re-examine the mythology surrounding John Ware, the Black cowboy who settled in Alberta, Canada, before the turn of the 20th century. In this fascinating film, Foggo uncovers who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means in terms of anti-Black racism, both past and present.

**NĪPAWISTAMÂSOWIN: WE WILL STAND UP**

D: Tasha Hubbard | Canada | 98 mins | 2019 | PG13

A grieving family's pursuit of justice becomes a flashpoint of the inequity and racism in the Canadian legal system after the killer of Colten Boushie, a young Cree man in Saskatchewan, is acquitted of murder charges.

Shorts Program:

**FAST HORSE**

D: Alexandra Lazarowich | Canada | 2018 | 14 mins | PG

The Blackfoot bareback horse-racing tradition returns in the astonishingly dangerous Indian Relay. In this captivating film, Siksika horseman Allison Red Crow struggles with secondhand horses, and a new jockey on his way to challenging the best riders in the Blackfoot Confederacy.

and

**LAKE**

D: Alexandra Lazarowich | Canada | 2019 | 5 mins | PG

Cree director Alexandra Lazarowich riffs off classic verité cinema to craft a contemporary portrait of Métis women net fishing in Northern Alberta.

This program is supported by Calgary Economic Development Film Commission, Edmonton Screen Industries Office, and the Government of Alberta, in partnership with DOC Alberta.

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[Hot Docs](#) 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 Canadian International Documentary Festival, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, welcomes audiences of over 228,000 and more than 2,600 industry delegates to Toronto each year. 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, which presents first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, and signature events, including the Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Festival. While audiences find themselves at home, Hot Docs has pivoted to offer its signature Festival and Cinema programming on its new TVOD streaming platform, Hot Docs at Home.

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