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## HOT DOCS 2025 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE AND MARKET: WHERE DOCUMENTARY MEETS OPPORTUNITY

THE 2025 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE REIMAGINES THE FUTURE OF DOCUMENTARY FINANCING WITH WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SCREENINGS, PITCH MEETINGS AND EXCLUSIVE INDUSTRY SESSIONS

**Toronto, Canada** – Hot Docs announced today the full schedule for its 2025 **Industry Conference and Market**, taking place at Toronto’s **Yorkville Royal Sonesta Hotel** from **April 28 to April 30**, as part of Hot Docs Festival 2025, running from April 24 to May 4.

This year’s Industry Conference will feature a dynamic lineup of Works-in-Progress screenings, exclusive one-on-one pitch meetings with key financiers and industry representatives, and a diverse range of panels addressing new trends and challenges in the documentary landscape. As the world looks to documentaries for truth, insight and perspective, this gathering remains a vital space for creators to connect, collaborate and secure financing.

“We are committed to showcasing extraordinary storytelling and creating a welcoming space for film business development and industry connections,” shared **Elizabeth Radshaw**, Hot Docs’ Director of Industry Programs. “Our 2025 Industry Conference and Market is designed to be an intimate yet impactful gathering where diverse filmmakers of all career stages are supported, and emerging voices are uplifted. From networking with industry leaders to collaborative learning, we’re building a vibrant community for authentic connections and meaningful exchanges in the documentary space.”

The 2025 Hot Docs Industry Conference will kick-off on Monday, April 28 with **Works-in-Progress** screenings at Innis College Cinema. This program will showcase clips from 10 documentary projects at various production stages, offering audiences a glimpse into powerful new works in development. Project teams will be present for post-screening discussions, providing valuable insight into their creative process. **Netflix** proudly supports this program.

From April 29 to 30, **Hot Docs Deal Maker**, the Festival’s signature one-on-one pitch meeting program, will connect 52 pre-selected projects with top broadcasters, funders and distributors. Supported by Telefilm Canada, Ontario Creates and the City of Toronto, Deal Maker offers filmmakers an exclusive opportunity to secure partnerships and advance their projects through curated meetings with key industry representatives.

In a special **In Conversation** session, **Andrew Peterson**, Head of YouTube Canada, will reflect on YouTube’s role in the creator economy and how it’s shaping the future of documentary storytelling. This fireside chat will be moderated by CBC’s **Takara Small**.

This year's Conference will feature **Close Up With...** sessions, a series of intimate roundtable discussions where passholders can engage directly with leading industry experts. These sessions provide a rare chance for meaningful dialogue with representatives from CBC, ARTE, Impact Partners, PBS, Al Jazeera, IMAX, OutTV, Paramount+ and Films We Like, among others.

Throughout the week, the Conference will present a range of insightful panels and key conversations tackling some of the industry's most significant topics. **Meet the Broadcasters** will bring together executives from TVO, PBS, CBC and the likes for an in-depth discussion on the evolving broadcast landscape. The panel will offer filmmakers insights into current programming needs, strategies for adapting to industry shifts and the challenges posed by budget cuts, censorship and increasing polarization.

The Conference will also feature the **Music Publishers Canada Case Study**, which will bring together a member of Broken Social Scene, along with their music producer and publisher, to discuss the intricacies of music licensing for documentaries. This session will highlight practical strategies for filmmakers looking to integrate licensed music into their projects and connect with rights holders.

Hot Docs' panel **Truth of Bias: Making Documentaries in the Age of Polarization** will examine how political and social divides are influencing the documentary market. Moderated by renowned journalist **Anna Maria Tremonti**, the panel will feature industry experts and will explore how broadcasters navigate polarization and positioning documentaries in today's climate.

The Conference will also tackle emerging technologies with the panel **Ethical Use of AI in Documentaries**. Moderated by **Takara Small**, the discussion will explore how AI is influencing storytelling and how filmmakers can responsibly harness its power to enhance their projects.

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, strategic positioning and marketing are essential to a film's success. The panel **Position & Market Your Film** will bring together leading marketing and PR specialists to share their expertise on crafting compelling narratives, navigating public perception and maximizing audience engagement anchored by distribution specialist Jon Reiss.

This year, Hot Docs brings back **Hot Takes**, a series of short-format sessions designed to deliver rapid-fire industry insights. These 30-minute sessions will feature speakers such as **Emmanuelle Petrakis** from Canada Media Fund, **Chase Joynt and Julietta Singh** on Cross Community Collaboration in Documentary, and Impact Producer **Sholeh Fabbri**, who will present a case study on the social impact campaign behind *Plastic People*.

Throughout the week, industry delegates will have the opportunity to network at coffee breaks and at the Hot Docs Industry Reception.

The full Industry Conference and Market schedule is now available, offering filmmakers and industry professionals unparalleled access to insightful panels, exclusive market programs and strategic networking opportunities.

All-IN (Industry All-Access) passholders will gain entry to Deal Maker (pre-application required), exclusive Works-in-Progress screenings, industry sessions, networking opportunities and the Opening Night Industry screening and party. They will also enjoy access to the online community and Festival film screenings.

To learn more about the 2025 Hot Docs Conference and Market, and to register for a pass, please visit <https://hotdocs.ca/industry/conference>.

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's leading 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 32<sup>nd</sup> annual edition from April 24 to May 4, 2025, 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 Deal Maker and Works-in-Progress screenings. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio. Additionally, it 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 25, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 1, 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 4:00 p.m. to seniors and students with valid photo I.D., available online the day of the screening, subject to availability.

Hot Docs is proud to include Rogers as its Founding Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters. Full list of sponsors and partners: <https://hotdocs.ca/about/partners>

**FESTIVAL MEDIA KIT IS NOW AVAILABLE**

[www.hotdocs.ca/media](http://www.hotdocs.ca/media)

**FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.



**PRESS RELEASE**

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