

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

HOT DOCS CINEMA MAY PROGRAM TO FEATURE RENOWNED AUTHORS, ICONIC SUBJECTS, AND BRAND-NEW DOCS, FRESH OFF THEIR HOT DOCS FESTIVAL PREMIERES

- FEATURING THEATRICAL PREMIERES OF *LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING*, OLIVER STONE'S *NUCLEAR NOW*, THE YOGI BERRA DOC *IT AIN'T OVER*, HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2023 SELECTIONS *TWICE COLONIZED*, *THE LONGEST GOODBYE* AND *JULY TALK: LOVE LIVES HERE*, AND MORE
- SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE FREE **DOORS OPEN TORONTO** SCREENINGS OF MUSIC DOCS, A COLLECTION OF FILMS IN CELEBRATION OF **ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**, COMMUNITY CO-PRESENTATIONS, AND MORE
- **CURIOS MINDS AUTHOR TALKS** WELCOME INFLUENTIAL BESTSELLING AUTHORS **JO NESBO** AND **R.F. KUANG** TO INTRODUCE THEIR LATEST BOOKS

Toronto, ON – Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is pleased to announce its May films and events slate, which includes thrilling premiere titles covering an eclectic range of topics, from the revolutionary moves of Little Richard to the psychological prep work for NASA astronauts. A selection of May premieres and special events will feature riveting Q&As with special guest appearances, including musician **Tom Wilson**, July Talk singers **Peter Dreimanis** and **Leah Fay**, filmmakers **Shane Belcourt** and **Brittany Farhat**, and more.

To view the full May 2023 calendar, visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/watch-cinema>.

PREMIERES

- A slate of captivating new docs exploring the lives of cultural icons will premiere at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema in May, including *Little Richard: I Am Everything*, a revealing look at the Black queer musical star and his influence on rock 'n' roll; and *It Ain't Over*, an intimate portrait of American baseball legend Yogi Berra.
- Theatrical runs of films fresh off their premieres at Hot Docs Festival 2023 include *Twice Colonized*, the story of Greenlandic Inuk lawyer Aaju Peter as she embarks on a journey to bring her colonizing countries, Canada and Denmark, to justice, while reclaiming her language and culture; and *The Longest Goodbye*, in which an astute NASA psychologist prepares a group of space travellers for Mars-bound expeditions that will take place in the next decade.

- Film lovers will delight in ***A Bunch of Amateurs***, in which members of a quintessentially British working-class amateur filmmaking club grow old together amid flickering memories and challenging final years.
- Also premiering at Hot Docs Cinema in May is Oliver Stone's latest doc, ***Nuclear Now***, exploring the possibility of a brighter future through the power of nuclear energy; and ***Chiliheads***, a twisted tale of the burning love between humanity and its most delicious forbidden fruit – the chili pepper.

WATCH LISTS

Specially-curated collections of fiction and non-fiction films—both classic favourites and little-seen gems—to expand on the stories and themes of our first-run films.

- **Watch List: Play Ball!** explores the themes presented in ***It Ain't Over***, showcasing a curated selection of cinematic baseball classics. Watch List films include the beloved Penny Marshall film ***A League of Their Own***, the Academy Award-nominated ***Field of Dreams***, and the 1976 comedy ***The Bad News Bears***.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- May co-presentations include a watch-along screening of the Sandra Bullock action-comedy ***Miss Congeniality***, presented with The Tita Collective, an award-winning all-Filipina ensemble of multidisciplinary artists; ***Illuminating Ideas on Film***, presented with Luminato Festival, screening the short film ***Rebel*** and the feature doc ***We Are from Here***; and a free screening of ***Beautiful Scars*** with Made of Millions Foundation.
- Special events in celebration of **Asian Heritage Month** include one-night-only screenings of ***Big Fight in Little Chinatown***, a documentation of the devastating economic impact of the pandemic on Chinatowns across North America; ***Bring Minyo Back!***, in which a group of passionate neo-traditionalists from Tokyo are on a mission to recover Japanese folk songs called Minyo from oblivion; and a family screening of the magical Hayao Miyazaki classic ***Spirited Away***, winner of the 2003 Best Animated Feature Oscar.
- Hot Docs Festival 2023 selection ***July Talk: Love Lives Here***, the story of how a popular Toronto band prepared a massive concert during the global pandemic and live music shutdown, will screen on May 27, with director Brittany Farhat and July Talk singers Peter Dreimanis and Leah Fay in attendance.
- The **Twilight Fangirl Picture Show** is back by popular demand with a screening of the third installment of the *Twilight* saga: ***Eclipse***.
- Hot Docs Cinema celebrates **Doors Open Toronto**, recognized as one of Toronto's most culturally significant events, which provides rare access to buildings that are not usually open to the public and free access to sites that would usually charge an admission fee. The Cinema will present free screenings of Toronto-centric music docs ***No Tickets at the Door***, a love letter to Toronto's diverse underground music scene; ***Drop the Needle***, the story of Play De Record—an unassuming family-run record store on Yonge Street that became a vital part of Toronto's music

ecosystem in the 90s; and **Revival69: The Concert That Rocked the World**, the remarkable, behind-the-scenes story of how a little known, but life-altering Toronto music festival came together—against all odds.

SERIES

- **Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies** returns in May with a screening of **American Yogi**, the story of an ex-hippy turned businessman who hears about a miracle-making saint and goes to India to find him to keep from living an empty life. The screening will feature a guided meditation from Toronto Mindfulness teacher Moustafa Abdelrahman.
- The acclaimed **Curious Minds Author Talks** series will welcome influential author **Jo Nesbo** to unveil **Killing Moon**, the gripping latest addition to his Harry Hole novels, an acclaimed, bestselling series about a rogue detective; and #1 New York Times bestselling author **R.F. Kuang**, offering Canadian readers their first look at one of the most anticipated books of the year: **Yellowface**, a deliciously dark-humoured satire on the publishing industry and the persistent erasure of Asian voices in white Western culture.

PREMIERES AND WATCH LISTS

Premiere

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

D: Lisa Cortés | USA | 98 min | 2023

It's time to set the record straight on the true story of the Black queer origins of rock n' roll. Exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music, *Little Richard: I Am Everything* reveals the innovator—the originator—Richard Penniman, aka Little Richard.

Opens Tuesday, May 9

Premiere

NUCLEAR NOW

D: Oliver Stone | USA | 104 min | 2023

With unprecedented access to the nuclear industry in France, Russia and the United States, legendary director Oliver Stone explores the possibility of a brighter future through the power of nuclear energy in *Nuclear Now*.

Opens Friday, May 12

Premiere

TWICE COLONIZED

D: Lin Alluna | Canada, Denmark, Greenland | 92 min | 2023

Aaju Peter is a force of nature. Upon the sudden and tragic death of her son, this fierce protector of her ancestral lands and renowned Greenlandic Inuk lawyer and activist embarks on a journey to bring her colonizing countries, Canada and Denmark, to justice, and to reclaim her language and culture.

Hot Docs Festival 2023 Opening Night Film.

Opens Friday, May 12

Premiere

THE LONGEST GOODBYE

D: Ido Misrahy | Israel, Canada | 87 min | 2023

In anticipation of Mars-bound space expeditions in the next decade, an astute NASA psychologist is tasked with protecting the mental health of these long-haul space travellers preparing to be disconnected from home for three years.

Opens Saturday, May 13

Premiere

A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

D: Kim Hopkins | UK | 96 min | 2022

Members of a quintessentially British working-class amateur filmmaking club, the Bradford Movie Makers, grow old together amid flickering memories and challenging final years.

Opens Tuesday, May 16

Premiere

CHILIHEADS

D: Julien Fréchette | Canada | 73 min | 2021

Explore the curious love story between humanity and this most delicious forbidden fruit - the chili pepper - in a twisted tale of love until you burn, and then love some more.

Opens Friday, May 19

Premiere

BRING MINYO BACK!

D: Yuji Morikawa | Japan | 83 min | 2022

The Minyo Crusaders, a group of passionate neo-traditionalists from Tokyo, are on a mission to recover Japanese folk songs called Minyo from oblivion, sharing their unique fusion with Latin and Afro rhythms all over the world.

Opens Saturday, May 20

Premiere

IT AIN'T OVER

D: Sean Mullin | USA | 98 min | 2023

An intimate portrait of a misunderstood American icon, this emotional and uplifting documentary about baseball legend Yogi Berra takes us beyond the caricatures and 'Yogisms,' and into the heart of a sports icon whose unparalleled accomplishments on the diamond were often overshadowed by his off-the-field persona.

Opens Friday, May 26

Watch List: Play Ball!

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

D: Penny Marshall | USA | 128 min | 1992

"You play ball like a girl!" couldn't be a bigger compliment in this baseball classic, directed by Penny Marshall. As America's stock of athletic young men is depleted during World War II, a professional all-female baseball league springs up in the Midwest

Sunday, May 28 / 6:45 PM

*Free for members

Watch List: Play Ball!

FIELD OF DREAMS

D: Phil Alden Robinson | USA | 107 min | 1989

Perhaps the most beloved baseball movie of all time, Field of Dreams follows Iowa farmer Ray (Kevin Costner) after he hears a mysterious voice one night in his cornfield saying, "If you build it, he will come."

Tuesday, May 30 / 4:00 PM

*Free for members

Watch List: Play Ball!

THE BAD NEWS BEARS

D: Michael Ritchie | USA | 102 min | 1976

Hard-drinking, ex-minor-league hopeful Morris Buttermaker (Walter Matthau) grumpily agrees to coach a Little League team at the behest of lawyer-councilman Bob Whitewood (Ben Piazza), who has a vendetta against the league for excluding his marginally talented son from play.

Saturday, June 3 / 2:15 PM

*Free for members

SERIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Curious Minds Author Talk

R.F. KUANG ON YELLOWFACE

Cultural phenomenon and #1 New York Times bestselling author R.F. Kuang is joining Hot Docs to offer Canadian readers their first look at one of the most anticipated books of the year: *Yellowface*, a

deliciously dark-humoured satire on the publishing industry and the persistent erasure of Asian voices in white Western culture.

Moderated by Thea Lim, author of An Ocean of Minutes.

Sunday, May 14 / 2:30 PM

*Free for members

Special Event

MISS CONGENIALITY WATCH-ALONG WITH TITA COLLECTIVE

D: Donald Petrie | USA | 125 min | 2000

Join award-winning performance ensemble, the Tita Collective, for an interactive screening of the film that taught us self-defense in a floor-length gown. Sandra Bullock shines as an unpolished FBI agent sent undercover as a beauty queen in the Miss United States Pageant.

Friday, May 19 / 9:00 PM

*Free for members

Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies

AMERICAN YOGI

D: Steven Newmark | USA | 79 min | 2017

When an ex-hippy turned businessman hears about a miracle-making saint, he goes to India to find him to keep from living an empty life.

Each Quiet Time screening features a Guided Meditation from Toronto Mindfulness teacher Moustafa Abdelrahman.

Sunday, May 21 / 1:45 PM

*Free for members

Family Screening – Asian Heritage Month

SPIRITED AWAY

D: Hayao Miyazaki | Japan | 125 min | 2001

Celebrate Asian Heritage Month with the game-changing animated classic from legendary Japanese filmmaker, Hayao Miyazaki.

WINNER - Academy Award for Best Animated Feature, 2003

Monday, May 22 / 1:00 PM

*Tickets: \$15 (\$7.50 for 12 and under)

*Free for members

Free Screening

THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY: MADE OF MILLIONS FOUNDATION PRESENTS “BEAUTIFUL SCARS”

D: Shane Belcourt | Canada | 91 min | 2022

Based on Tom Wilson's memoir of the same name, *Beautiful Scars* explores the Canadian musician's discovery of his Mohawk heritage and the web of family secrets that he had unwittingly been at the center of since his childhood

Followed by a Q&A with Made of Millions Foundation executive director Mary-Lyn Kieffer, film director Shane Belcourt and musician/film subject Tom Wilson.

Presented by Made of Millions, in partnership with Hot Docs.

Thursday, May 25 / 6:30 PM

*Free screening

Special Event

ECLIPSE: TWILIGHT FANGIRL PICTURE SHOW

D: David Slade | USA | 140 min | 2010

The Twilight Fangirl Picture Show is back by popular demand, so get ready to howl through the third installment of the *Twilight* saga: *Eclipse*.

Friday, May 26 / 9:00 PM

Doors Open TO

NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR

D: Danny Alexander | Canada | 83 min | 2022

A love letter to Toronto's diverse underground music scene, celebrating the musicians, promoters, and venues as they persevere through the challenges of COVID-19 and gentrification.

Saturday, May 27 / 11:00 AM

*Free Screening

Doors Open TO

DROP THE NEEDLE

D: Rob Freeman | Canada | 112 min | 2021

This is the story of Play De Record—an unassuming family-run record store on Yonge Street that became a vital part of Toronto's music ecosystem in the 90s.

Saturday, May 27 / 2:00 PM

*Free Screening

Special Event

JULY TALK: LOVE LIVES HERE

D: Brittany Farhat | Canada | 83 min | 2023

Grappling with a global pandemic and a live music shutdown, hard-touring band July Talk books a drive-in theatre and prepares for a massive concert brimming with professional and personal risks. Out of the crisis comes magic.

Followed by a Q&A with director Brittany Farhat, and July Talk singers Peter Dreimanis and Leah Fay.

Saturday, May 27 / 9:30 PM

Doors Open TO

REVIVAL69: THE CONCERT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD

D: Ron Chapman | Canada, France | 97 min | 2022

REVIVAL69: The Concert That Rocked the World is the remarkable, behind-the-scenes story of how a little known, but life-altering Toronto music festival came together—against all odds.

Sunday, May 28 / 11:00 AM

*Free Screening

Curious Minds Author Talk

JO NESBO ON KILLING MOON

In this exclusive Canadian premiere, influential author Jo Nesbo joins Hot Docs to unveil *Killing Moon*, the gripping latest addition to his Harry Hole novels, an acclaimed, bestselling series about a rogue detective.

Moderated by Richard Warnica, Feature Writer for the Toronto Star.

There will be a book signing following the talk.

Monday, May 29 / 7:00 PM

*Tickets: \$21 ground floor – stage view, \$18 balcony – screen view

Special Event – Asian Heritage Month

BIG FIGHT IN LITTLE CHINATOWN

D: Karen Cho | Canada | 90 min | 2022

With the devastating economic impact of the pandemic, Chinatowns in New York, Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto search for innovative ways to keep their communities thriving. Follow Chinese business owners, community groups and academics through the history of these communities and the city projects that threaten their existence.

Join director Karen Cho and Alexandra Hong, co-chair of the Toronto Chinatown Land Trust, for a post-screening Q&A.

Presented in partnership with Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

Tuesday, May 30 / 8:15 PM

*Free for members

Special Event

HOT DOCS AND LUMINATO FESTIVAL TORONTO PRESENT: ILLUMINATING IDEAS ON FILM

Hot Docs and Luminato Festival Toronto present two films that speak beautifully to the feelings of longing and remembrance that runs through so much of this year's Luminato festival programming. The short fiction film *Rebel*, together with the feature length documentary *We Are From There*, provide a framework for an illuminating panel discussion after the films with Leen Al Zaibek and Ahmed Moneka on experiences of displacement, movement, starting over, and home.

Screening

REBEL

D: Pier-Philippe Chevigny | Canada | 15 min | 2019

and

WE ARE FROM THERE

D: Wissam Tanios | Lebanon, France | 82 min | 2020

Programmed in partnership with Luminato Festival Toronto.

Wednesday, May 31 / 7:00 PM

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Owned and operated by [Hot Docs](#), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is the world's largest documentary cinema. A historic, century-old landmark located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood, the Cinema is a year-round home for non-fiction film and storytelling, presenting first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, signature events including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, as well as hosting for some of the city's premier festivals and events. Since assuming management in 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,425 films to audiences of more than 1.3 million. In 2016, a generous \$5-million donation from Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase venue.

Media Contact:



PRESS RELEASE

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

HOT DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
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WWW.HOTDOCS.CA

NOW ON SALE: NEW IN-CINEMA *CURIIOUS MINDS SPEAKER SERIES* IN MAY AND JUNE EXPLORING ITALY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES, THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF SOUTH ASIA'S MEDIEVAL KINGDOMS, THE HISTORY OF SATIRE, AND TORONTO'S GOLDEN AGE

Toronto, ON – In May and June, **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** will launch a new selection of its wildly-popular **Curious Minds Speaker Series**, covering a wide array of subjects ranging from Toronto's golden age and civic renaissance in the 1960s and '70s to the most jaw-dropping Italian cities beyond the tourist guides, all presented by leading experts in their respective fields.

All course instructors and Curious Minds programmer Will Di Novi are available for interviews.

Masking is strongly recommended for all in-person Curious Minds courses. Registration is limited.

To register visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/curious-minds/curious-minds-cinema>.

Course registration: \$69 (Hot Docs Members: \$60, \$48, Free)
Single tickets are available at the box office on the day of class.

Cultural Dynasties: The Art and Architecture of South Asia's Glorious Medieval Kingdoms

In this exciting new series from Curious Minds favourite **Professor Sudharshan Durayappah**, take a journey through the fascinating art and architecture that flourished in the kingdoms of South Asia during the Middle Ages. Exploring fascinating regions, kingdoms and epochs that were not covered in his previous, highly popular courses on South Asian art and design (*The Treasures of South Asia*, *The Treasures of the Ancient Silk Routes*), this new series will explore how the interactions and rivalries between three dynasties in modern day India and Sri Lanka produced a vibrant cosmopolitan culture and some of the most opulent art and architecture the world has ever seen.

This series is led by Professor Sudharshan Durayappah, who teaches in the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies at the University of Toronto. A leading scholar of art history, religion and culture, he has also served as a lecturer at the Aga Khan Museum and a history teacher at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Tuesdays, May 23 - June 27, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Italy's Most Beautiful Cities

You know Roma. You know Milano. But what about the Italian cities beyond the tourist guides? Join renowned scholar and Hot Docs favourite **Dr. Kenneth Bartlett** (*Venice: The City of Dreams*, *The Italian Renaissance*) for a colourful journey across the great regional cities of the Italian peninsula. As we

explore the rich history, art and architecture of these hidden gems, we'll experience La Bella Italia as we've never seen it before.

This course is led by Dr. Kenneth Bartlett, Professor of History and Renaissance Studies at the University of Toronto. A celebrated Canadian academic, Prof. Bartlett has published numerous influential books and over 40 articles on the Renaissance, most recently "The Renaissance in Italy: A History," and won world renown for his 5-video series for "The Great Courses." A recipient of the prestigious 3M National Teaching fellowship among other such awards, he regularly leads tours to Italy for museums and cultural organizations.

Wednesdays, May 24- June 28, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

A Brief History of Satire

In this new course from film critic and Curious Minds veteran **Adam Nayman** (*Politics at the Movies*, *Pop Music at the Movies*), we'll examine the style and substance of contemporary satire, with examples drawn from film, television and literature and placed within a larger context of social and political subversion. As we journey from 19th Century England to Cold War-era Hollywood to the wild days of Rob Ford's Toronto, these illustrated lectures, with vibrant slides and clips, will survey some of the most iconic examples of this great political and pop-cultural tradition—including landmark works like *Dr. Strangelove*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Daily Show*, *Roger and Me* and more.

This series is led by Adam Nayman, a film critic and lecturer based in Toronto, and the author of several acclaimed books, including *The Coen Brothers: This Book Really Ties the Films Together*, and *Paul Thomas Anderson: Masterworks*. Adam is a popular lecturer at the University of Toronto, the Chang School and the Miles Nadal JCC.

Thursdays, May 25 - June 29, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Toronto's Golden Age: The Glittering City of the 1960s and 70s

Take a blast to the past in this lively journey through Toronto's golden age, when the fashion was groovy, the cultural scene was booming, and a sense of possibility lingered in the air. Led by Curious Minds favourite **Dr. Laura Carlson** (*World-Changing Women*, *A Philosopher's Guide to Meaning and Happiness*), a historian and Public Programs Manager for Heritage Toronto, we'll explore Toronto's civic renaissance in the 1960s and 70s, with a focus on art and culture, architecture and planning. Revisit your favourite haunts, from Yorkville coffeehouses to beloved restaurants to the innovative theatres where big names were getting their start, and reconnect with the icons, like the fearless Jane Jacobs and rocker Ronnie Hawkins, who made the changing city such an exciting place to be. Learn how a sleepy colonial town opened itself to the world and became the cultural mecca we know and love today.

The course is led by Dr. Laura Carlson, who holds a doctorate in History from Oxford University and has taught history and classics at Queen's University and Centennial College. Dr. Carlson has taught the popular Curious Minds courses *World-Changing Women*, *Six Great Meals That Changed the World*, *An Edible History of Toronto* and *Living the Good Life: A Philosopher's Guide to Meaning and Happiness*.

Mondays, May 29 - July 3, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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Owned and operated by Hot Docs, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is the world's largest documentary cinema. A historic, century-old landmark located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood, the Cinema is a year-round home for non-fiction film and storytelling, presenting first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, signature events including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, as well as hosting for some of the city's premier festivals and events. Since assuming management in 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,425 films to audiences of more than 1.3 million. In 2016, a generous \$5-million donation from Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase venue.

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