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HOT DOCS FESTIVAL WRAPS WITH RESOUNDING SUCCESS, SHOWCASING THE BEST IN CANADIAN AND GLOBAL DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

YINTAH GRABS PRESTIGIOUS CAD 50,000 ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD,
WINS HOT DOCS 2024 AUDIENCE AWARD

Toronto, ON— Hot Docs wrapped up its exhilarating 11-day Festival last night, capturing audiences with a diverse lineup of 168 films hailing from 64 countries. The Festival featured 274 live screenings on seven screens at three venues across Toronto, with 248 live filmmaker Q&As, and five extended discussions with filmmakers and special guests as part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management. Special guests include legendary Academy Award-winning film editor Thelma Schoonmaker, celebrated actress Emmanuelle Béart, iconic Canadian electroclash musician Peaches, actress and director Lucy Lawless, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*'s Amy Hoggart, decorated Estonian Olympic freestyle skier Kelly Sildaru, founder of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Martine Rothblatt, Canadian Chef Sash Simpson, Ashford & Simpson's Valerie Simpson, author Staceyann Chin, and more.

"As I reflect on the whirlwind of the past 11 days, I am filled with gratitude for the profound connections, exhilarating stories, captivating filmmaking, and spirited discussions that took place throughout our 2024 Festival," shared Hot Docs President **Marie Nelson**. "Hot Docs stands tall as an essential nexus for documentary visionaries and the broader industry. It was an absolute joy to host our friends, new and old, in Toronto and to show them our warmth and support as they carve their path in our industry and shape their future creative endeavours. My heartfelt appreciation goes to our devoted Hot Docs team, our tireless and enthusiastic volunteers, and our invaluable sponsors and partners, who made this remarkable journey possible."

"We are deeply thankful to the filmmakers from Canada and around the world, who trusted us in sharing their powerful stories, in packed cinemas, with our dedicated Hot Docs audiences," added **Heather Haynes**, Hot Docs' Festival Programming Director. "We would not be here without the incredible staff at Hot Docs who, each year, deliver this Festival with full hearts, love and courage. This year's Festival embodied this very spirit, as our community came together to explore vital and urgent conversations. The outpour of support and encouragement from our community gave us strength and optimism as we look towards the future."

The **Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary**, which recognizes the top Canadian feature as determined by audience poll with a cash prize of CAD 50,000, was announced last night at a free encore screening at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. *Yintah* (D: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano | P: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano, Bob Moore | Canada | 2024), a compelling film chronicling the resilient journey of the Wet'suwet'en people as they confront the challenges of pipeline construction on their ancestral lands, received the prize, courtesy of Rogers.

With CAD 75,000 in cash and prizes announced at the Hot Docs Awards Presentation on Friday, May 3, CAD 47,000 in pitch prizes awarded at the close of Hot Docs Forum on Wednesday, May 1, and CAD 50,000 Rogers Audience Award, this year the Festival awarded a total of CAD 172,000 in cash and prizes to filmmakers.

Hot Docs Audience Awards are determined by votes submitted by Festival audiences after in-person screenings. At the close of the Festival, it was determined that ***Yintah***—placed first in the overall audience poll and won the **Hot Docs Audience Award**.

The top mid-length film in the audience poll, winning the **Audience Award for Mid-Length Documentary**, was ***Fire Tower*** (D: Tova Krentzman | P: Tova Krentzman | Canada | 2023). The top short film, winning the **Audience Award for Short Documentary**, was ***Nothing Special*** (D: Efrat Berger | France, Israel | 2024).

The 20 documentaries in the audience poll are:

1. ***Yintah*** (D: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano | P: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano, Bob Moore | Canada | 2024)
2. ***American Cats: The Good, the Bad, and the Cuddly*** (D: Todd Bieber | P: Grace Leeson | USA | 2024)
3. ***A Mother Apart*** (D: Laurie Townshend | P: Alison Duke, Ngardy Conteh George, Justine Pimlott | Canada | 2024)
4. ***Black Box Diaries*** (D: Shiori Ito | P: Eric Nyari, Hanna Aqvilin, Shiori Ito | Japan, UK, USA | 2024)
5. ***Wilfred Buck*** (D: Lisa Jackson | P: Lauren Grant, Alicia Smith, Lisa Jackson | Canada | 2024)
6. ***Luther: Never Too Much*** (D: Dawn Porter | P: Trish Chetty, Ged Doherty, Jamie Foxx, Datari Turner, Leah Smith | USA | 2024)
7. ***The Ride Ahead*** (D: Samuel Habib, Dan Habib | P: Dan Habib, Erica Lupinacci | USA | 2024)
8. ***Echo of You*** (D: Zara Zerny | P: Maria Møller Kjeldgaard | Denmark | 2023)
9. ***Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story*** (D: Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee | P: Amanda Burt, Sam Dunn, Scot McFayden, Michael Mabbott, Justine Pimlott | Canada)
10. ***Kelly – Someone Else's Dream*** (D: Helen Lõhmus, Leana Jalukse | P: Sten-Kristian Saluveer, David Lacote, Helen Lõhmus | Estonia, France | 2024)
11. ***My Dad's Tapes*** (D: Kurtis Watson | P: Rob Viscardis | Canada | 2023)
12. ***Secret Mall Apartment*** (D: Jeremy Workman | P: Jeremy Workman | USA | 2024)
13. ***Red Fever*** (D: Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge | P: Lisa M. Roth, Rebecca Lessard | Canada | 2024)
14. ***A French Youth*** (D: Jérémie Battaglia | P: Amélie Lambert Bouchard, Elodie Pollet, Valérie Dupin, Cyrille Perez, Gilles Perez | Canada, France | 2024)
15. ***Teaches of Peaches*** (D: Philipp Fussenegger, Judy Landkammer | P: Cordula Kablitz-Post, Robert Kreuzaler | Germany | 2024)
16. ***Devi*** (D: Subina Shrestha | P: Ashmita Chaudhary Khadka, Rosie Garthwaite, Heejung Oh | Nepal | 2024)

17. ***Singing Back the Buffalo*** (D: Tasha Hubbard | P: Tasha Hubbard, Jason Ryle, George Hupka | Canada | 2024)
18. ***Porcelain War*** (D: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev | P: Aniela Sidorska, Paula DuPré Pesmen, Camilla Mazzaferro, Olivia Ahnemann | Ukraine, USA, Australia | 2024)
19. ***Disco's Revenge*** (D: Omar Majeed, Peter Mishara | P: Noah Segal, Sam Sutherland, Christina Piovesan, Dave Harris | Canada | 2024)
20. ***This is Going to be Big*** (D: Thomas Charles Hyland | P: Josie Mason Campbell, Jim Wright, Catherine Bradbury | Australia | 2023)

In addition to the riveting film screenings, Hot Docs extended its reach through initiatives like the immensely popular Docs For Schools program, offering teachers across Canada free access to nine official selections from this year's Festival along with accompanying teaching resources linked to curriculum.

The Festival served as a vibrant hub for industry professionals, welcoming over 1,400 delegates from 69 countries to participate in the Hot Docs Industry Conference, which featured four days of enlightening knowledge sessions, two Works-in-Progress screenings—supported by Netflix—highlighting innovative Canadian projects presented by Hot Docs Incubator, and dynamic networking opportunities. Moreover, the 2024 Industry Conference presented the renowned Hot Docs Forum and Hot Docs Dealmaker, further solidifying its place as the premier platform for financing and talent discovery.

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Hot Docs (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.

Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed online 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

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