

HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2024 SPOTLIGHTS CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STORIES OF IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND STRUGGLE IN THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE PROGRAM

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs is thrilled to announce its continued partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP) for **The Changing Face of Europe**, a highly anticipated showcase of documentaries delving into the multifaceted cultural, economic, and political landscape shaping contemporary Europe. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

"The European documentary scene is keeping its tradition strong, crafting some truly visionary non-fiction films, and these nine docs are the cream of the crop," shared **Marie Nelson**, Hot Docs' President. "Entering our seventh year of collaboration with European Film Promotion, we eagerly await the opportunity to present these exceptional films at the 2024 Festival, poised to inspire and ignite the imaginations of Toronto audiences."

"Our mission is to bring European stories to the world. Many thanks to Hot Docs for the opportunity to highlight the strength and diversity of European documentary filmmaking and provide our filmmakers with an inspiring array of opportunities to network with the North American industry. The diversity of perspectives is all the more important as dialogue and exchange are at the heart of our The Changing Face of Europe programme," added EFP Managing Director **Sonja Heinen**.

The Changing Face of Europe program reflects EFP's commitment to introducing outstanding creative documentaries from Europe to North American audiences. Filmmakers selected for this initiative will also have the opportunity to participate in a number of industry market activities, fostering their professional development on an international scale, and expanding their film's reach in both North American and international markets. EFP aims to raise visibility and market prospects of distinctive, powerful and visionary European documentaries. Since its inception in 2017, it has provided invaluable film sales support to European world sales companies, enabling them to effectively market films selected for Hot Docs, increasing Europe's presence at the Festival and helping to stimulate distribution of European films to North America and beyond.

The Changing Face of Europe will include the world premiere of **Kelly – Someone Else's Dream**, in which freestyle skier Kelly Sildaru—just 13 when she won gold at the 2016 Winter X Games—sets a new standard for sports bravery by breaking her silence on the abuse of her coach and father.

International premieres include **Norwegian Democracy**, documenting the street-level battle for democracy after an anti-Islam racist publicly burns the Qu'ran and hides behind freedom of expression laws, and **Woman of God**, in which an underpaid and undermined Slovenian village pastor pours her heart and raw personal trauma into ministering to her parishioners.

North American premieres in this year's program include **Limits of Europe**, in which a prominent journalist goes undercover as a cheap migrant labourer across Europe in order to humanize the shocking

costs of late-stage capitalism; ***The Outpost***, the story of a Scottish eco-warrior's attempts to save the Amazonian rainforest from wildfires by staging a Pink Floyd concert from inside the burning bush; ***Pelikan Blue***, using animation to unearth the little-known story of how three pranksters forged train tickets for a generation of Hungarians to finally discover the world; and ***Stray Bodies***, in which cameras follow real people, performers and activists as they demonstrate just how arbitrary bodily autonomy can be.

Rounding out the program is the Canadian premiere of ***Echo of You***, in which elderly Danish men and women share frank and beautiful truths about life after love after having spent years or even decades without their loved ones, and the Ontario premiere of ***Such a Resounding Silence***, in which French star Emmanuelle Béart joins three other survivors of incest to share their stories of how France's laws and social mores enable a national child abuse crisis.

The Changing Face of Europe is presented in partnership with European Film Promotion (EFP).

Screening times and descriptions for films in The Changing Face of Europe program appear below. In many cases, filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the program please visit www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on.

ECHO OF YOU

D: Zara Zerny | P: Maria Møller Kjeldgaard | Denmark | 2023 | 76 min | Canadian Premiere
Life-long love stories are ultimately one-sided as one partner inevitably outlives the other. Having spent years and decades without their loved ones, elderly Danish men and women share frank and beautiful truths about this rarely explored life after love.

Monday, April 29, 10:45 AM - TLB2

KELLY – SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM

D: Helen Lõhmus, Leana Jalukse | P: Sten-Kristian Saluveer, David Lacote, Helen Lõhmus | Estonia, France | 2024 | 93 min | World Premiere
Freestyle skier Kelly Sildaru was just 13 when she won gold at the 2016 Winter X Games. After breaking countless records, she broke her silence when she accused her coach, and father, of abuse, setting a new standard for sports bravery.

Friday, May 3, 11:15 AM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

LIMITS OF EUROPE

D: Apolena Rychlíková | P: Tereza Horská, Filip Remunda, Joel Fergas, Peter Kerekes | Czech Republic, France, Slovakia | 2024 | 98 min | North American Premiere
From picking asparagus in Germany to cleaning hotel rooms in Ireland to caring for elders in France, a prominent journalist goes undercover as a cheap migrant labourer, humanizing the shocking costs of late-stage capitalism in this original exposé.

Sunday, April 28, 10:45 AM - SCOTIA 6

NORWEGIAN DEMOCRAZY

D: Fabien Greenberg, Bård Kjøge Rønning | P: Bård Kjøge Rønning, Fabien Greenberg | Norway | 2024 | 87 min | International Premiere

To promote SIAN (Stop the Islamization of Norway) racist-ivist Lars Thorsen publicly burns the Qu’ran, hiding behind freedom of expression laws. The outraged public pushes back in this revealing look at the street-level battle for democracy.

Thursday, May 2, 10:45 AM - TLB3

THE OUTPOST

D: Edoardo Morabito | P: Giulia Achilli, Marco Alessi, Nathalia Scarton, Fernando Meirelles | Italy, Brazil | 2023 | 84 min | North American Premiere

After a lifetime of unsuccessful plans to save the Amazonian rainforest from wildfires, a Scottish eco-warrior concocts a surefire media stunt—stage a Pink Floyd concert from inside the burning bush. Is it madness, one man’s desperate dream or both?

Monday, April 29, 5:45 PM - SCOTIA 5

PELIKAN BLUE

D: László Csáki | P: Ádám Felszeghy, Miklós Kázmér | Hungary | 2023 | 80 min | North American Premiere

When the Iron Curtain fell, travel for Hungarians was finally possible but completely unaffordable. Droll animation unearths the little-known story of how three pranksters forged train tickets for a generation to finally discover the world.

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

STRAY BODIES

D: Elina Psykou | P: Antigoni Rota, Ivan Madeo, Marco Visalberghi, Veselka Kiryakova | Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Bulgaria | 2023 | 100 min | North American Premiere

Access to abortion, IVF and assisted dying varies greatly amongst European Union countries but open borders allow residents to circumvent any restrictions with a plane ticket. Cameras follow real people, performers and activists as they demonstrate just how arbitrary bodily autonomy can be.

Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 AM - TLB1

SUCH A RESOUNDING SILENCE

D: Emmanuelle Béart, Anastasia Mikova | P: Emmanuelle Lepers | France | 2023 | 100 min | Ontario Premiere

In 2023, French star Emmanuelle Béart revealed she was a victim of incest from ages 10 to 14. Joined by three other survivors, Béart co-directs this deft critique of how France's laws and social mores enable a national child abuse crisis.

Friday, May 3, 4:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

WOMAN OF GOD

D: Maja Prettner | P: Boštjan Virč, Nataša Vugrinec | Slovenia | 2023 | 98 min | International Premiere
Underpaid and undermined, a Slovenian village pastor pours her heart and raw personal trauma into ministering to her parishioners. But as the cracks in her private life deepen, the woman beneath the collar must choose between true faith and real healing.

Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM - SCOTIA 5

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[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 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.

Starting Tuesday, March 26, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 2, 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 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.



PRESS RELEASE

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

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

Password: media2024

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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.