

**HOT DOCS PARTNERS WITH BELL LET'S TALK AND WORKMAN ARTS FOR
FREE MENTAL HEALTH FILM SERIES ON HOT DOCS AT HOME**

Toronto, January 4, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to partner with Bell Let's Talk and Workman Arts for a fourth year to present the free [Mental Health Film Series](#) throughout the month of January. Streaming nationwide on the Hot Docs at Home VOD platform, the series will feature three thought-provoking documentaries that raise awareness about different aspects of mental health and mental illness, and will culminate on Bell Let's Talk Day, January 28, with a live panel discussion with special guests. The all-Canadian film lineup includes the national premiere of *Connecting the Dots* (D: Noemi Weis), *Rat Park* (D: Shawney Cohen) and *Les Mondes de Vincent (The Worlds of Vincent)* (D: Rozenn Potin). All films will be available to stream for free from January 4 to 28 on Hot Docs at Home at hotdocscinema.ca

As seen in *Connecting the Dots*, mental health and youth is a timely and important topic, with today's young people facing a unique set of challenges, including the ongoing pandemic. A live panel discussion on January 28 featuring special guests, including *Connecting the Dots* director Noemi Weis and subjects from the film, will offer valuable insights into this topic, looking at the experiences of today's youth and factors affecting their mental health and well-being.

"This past year has been like no other. The pandemic has brought unparalleled loneliness and isolation and has only expanded the need for Canadians to talk more openly about mental health," said **Alan Black**, Managing Director of Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. "We remain committed to the idea that documentary film can help spark dialogue and make people feel far less alone. We are excited, once again, to partner with Bell Let's Talk and Workman Arts to present films that will bring us together and allow us to further a conversation that is more necessary than ever."

"Bell Let's Talk is proud to continue our partnership with Hot Docs and Workman Arts for a fourth consecutive year to present this important Mental Health Film Series," said Bell Let's Talk Chair **Mary Deacon**. "Each of these powerful documentaries highlight personal stories that will help encourage more conversations, lead to positive change in our communities and ultimately, move us further toward a Canada where everyone can get the mental health support they need."

"Workman Arts is thrilled to partner again with Bell Let's Talk and Hot Docs on the 2021 Mental Health Film Series, and very excited we're able to take the films and discussion to a national audience this year," said **Kelly Straughan**, Executive Artistic Director of Workman Arts. "This important series has become an annual platform to explore vital topics through recent films with growing audiences to expand knowledge around mental health and addictions issues in the lead up to and on Bell Let's Talk Day."

The three films that will be shown as part of this Series are:

[CONNECTING THE DOTS](#)

D: Noemi Weis | Canada | 2020 | 91 mins

A poignant look at youth mental health from a global perspective, this raw and intimate film showcases young voices breaking barriers surrounding mental illness and young people. From

Edmonton and New York to Nigeria and Australia, young people talk openly about their experiences in a way you have never seen or heard before. Through their heartfelt personal stories and character-driven storytelling, *Connecting the Dots* brings youth mental health to the surface, while shedding light on the inspiring ways we can break through barriers and take action.

[Connecting the Dots](#) is produced in association with Indiecan Entertainment, Filmblanc, Telus Fund, Ontario Creates, TV5, Graham Boeckh Foundation, Echo Foundation and the Government of Canada.

Featuring a post-screening Q&A with director Noemi Weis.

Noemi Weis is available for media interviews.

RAT PARK

D: Shawney Cohen | Canada | 2019 | 92 mins

Using a forgotten Canadian psychological experiment from the 1970s involving rats and heroin as a metaphor, *Rat Park* examines the complex issue of drug laws and addiction in the USA, Philippines and Portugal, exploring why the problem may not be about the drugs themselves, but the environments we live in.

THE WORLDS OF VINCENT / LES MONDES DE VINCENT

D: Rozenn Potin | Canada | 2015 | 80 mins

An intimate film that brings us into the real and fantasy worlds of the filmmaker's brother, Vincent, who has been living with schizophrenia for 16 years. Now 36, Vincent is a charismatic, funny and endearing character who we follow from his careless childhood into his more complex adult years. Punctuated with archival images, this film brilliantly captures the life of a loved one before and after this illness, while offering a glimpse into the still mysterious world of schizophrenia.

In French with English subtitles.

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Join the conversation on Bell Let's Talk Day

On January 28, Canadians everywhere will join in the mental health conversation, along with a growing number of participants around the globe. You can use a wide range of communications platforms to join in on Bell Let's Talk Day – and directly drive Bell's donations to Canadian mental health programs at no extra cost to you.

On Bell Let's Talk Day, Bell donates 5 cents to Canadian mental health programs for every applicable text, local or long distance call, tweet or TikTok video using #BellLetsTalk, every [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), [Snapchat](#), [TikTok](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) view of the Bell Let's Talk Day video, and every use of the Bell Let's Talk Facebook frame or Snapchat filter. All at no cost to participants beyond what they would normally pay their service provider for online or phone access.

To learn more, please visit Bell.ca/LetsTalk.

[Workman Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary arts organization that promotes a greater understanding of mental health and addiction issues through creation and presentation. We support artists living with mental health and addiction issues through peer-to-peer arts education, public presentations and partnerships with the broader arts community.

[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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