

HOT DOCS PRESENTS FREE EDUCATIONAL SCREENINGS NATIONWIDE FOR STUDENTS THROUGH DOCS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM DURING 2024 FESTIVAL

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs announced today that it will provide students across Canada with free screenings of exceptional documentaries during this year’s Festival through its Docs For Schools program. Hot Docs Festival 2024 will take place in Toronto from April 25 to May 5.

Since its inception in 2006, the popular Docs For Schools program has presented students with fresh perspectives on global issues through compelling films that closely relate to course subjects and world events. Covering a wide range of topics including current affairs, the arts, economics, the environment, geography, history, media studies, politics, English, science and world issues, this program aims to engage young minds and inspire them. Each film selection is thoughtfully curated in consultation with professional educators to enrich classroom learning, foster important conversations and create room for discourse.

Docs For Schools celebrates Hot Docs Festival 2024 with two exciting film programs:

The Docs For Schools Festival In-Cinema program invites teachers and students to the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema between April 26 – May 2 for special screenings of eight selected films premiering at the 2024 Hot Docs Festival. Films in this program are eligible for the **Scotiabank Docs For Schools Student Choice Award**, which will award the winning film’s director with a CAD 5,000 cash prize as selected by student vote.

The Docs For Schools Festival In-School program, running April 15 to May 3, offers teachers the opportunity a selection of curated documentary films to create a mini in-school film festival. These films connect to various subjects for teachers in grades 5 - 12 to select and are available for classes across Canada to access.

For more information on these Docs For Schools programs, please visit: <https://hotdocs.ca/docs-for-schools>

Backing for Docs For Schools comes from lead partner Rogers and founding partner Scotiabank. Docs for Schools is generously supported by The Slight Family Foundation, The Rossy Foundation, and The TVO Media Education Group. Additional support is provided by the MakeWay Foundation-Harbinger Fund at MakeWay, Donner Canadian Foundation, the Pitblado Family Foundation, and through contributions by individual donors.

Docs For Schools Festival In-Cinema films appear below.

BILLY AND MOLLY: AN OTTER LOVE STORY

D: Charlie Hamilton James | UK | English | Captioned | 2023 | 77 min | Canadian Premiere

When a wild otter in desperate need of help washes up on their jetty in Shetland, Billy, his wife and their devoted sheepdog accept a unique new member into their family. Together, they explore how the ability to love reawakens us to nature's beauty.

CHASING TIME

D: Jeff Orlowski-Yang, Sarah Keo | Iceland, USA | English | 2024 | 39 min | World Premiere
Famed photographer James Balog returns to Iceland after 15 years to remove the last time-lapse camera that alerted the world to the melting glaciers in this portrait of the power of intergenerational relationships to inspire hope toward a sustainable future.

CURL POWER

D: Josephine Anderson | Canada | English | Captioned | 2023 | 85 min | World Premiere
Five best friends pursue their dreams of becoming Canadian National Curling Champions. Follow these girls through their high school years in British Columbia as they navigate the perils of modern teenage life on and off the ice.

DRAWING A LINE

D: Sama Pana | Belgium, Luxembourg | English w/ Subtitles | 2024 | 73 min | North American Premiere
Through stick figure cartoons, Rachita Taneja challenges India's entrenched social taboos like menstruation, mental health and queer rights. In the face of prosecution, she dedicates herself to amplifying the voices of young, liberal individuals in a society of eroding free speech.

FLYING HANDS

D: Marta Gómez, Paula Iglesias | Spain | Urdu, Balti, Pakistani Sign Language, American Sign Language w/ English subtitles | 2024 | 78 min | World Premiere
After giving birth to a deaf daughter, a Pakistani mother questions the custom that would have her hide her child out of family shame and ends up building a community that uplifts deaf children through education and respect.

LOVE MACHINA

D: Pete Sillen | USA | English | Captioned | 2024 | 97 min | Canadian Premiere
Can love last forever? Married over forty years, Martine and Bina Rothblatt commission Bina48, an "AI mindfile" of Bina's consciousness housed inside a robotic bust. Using cryopreservation, digital consciousness, xenotransplantation and space settlement, they prepare to extend their romance into infinity.

RED FEVER

D: Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge | Canada | English, Cree w/ English subtitles | 2024 | 104 min | World Premiere
Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond travels to the four corners of Turtle Island and across Europe to explore the world's fascination with Native Americans, recognizing the profound impact Indigenous people have had in shaping modern Western culture.

THE SHARP EDGE OF PEACE

D: Roya Sadat | Afghanistan, Qatar, USA, Belgium | Dari, Pashto, English w/ English subtitles | 2024 | 95 min | World Premiere

Sitting at the negotiating table with the Taliban, four extraordinary women navigate the harsh reality of Afghanistan's new chapter and the political impact on women's rights, proving their unyielding commitment to the people of their country.

THE STRIKE

D: JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey | USA | English w/ English subtitles | 2024 | 86 min | World Premiere

Follow the psychological and emotional journeys of California prisoners as they organize the largest hunger strike in US history. Intimate interviews and never-before-seen footage recount their struggle to regain their freedom from decades of solitary confinement.

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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.