

## BIG IDEAS SERIES RETURNS TO HOT DOCS FESTIVAL IN 2024

**Toronto, March 26, 2024** - Hot Docs is thrilled to announce the return of the staple Festival series **Big Ideas**, presented by *Presenting Platinum Partner* Scotia Wealth Management. The popular series—now entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year—is part of the 2024 Hot Docs Festival, April 25 to May 5 in Toronto. Big Ideas offers audiences the opportunity to experience five thought-provoking documentaries and then hear, first-hand, from the notable subjects and experts on the issues featured in the films.

The 2024 Big Ideas series presents a captivating lineup and promises a compelling exploration of a wide range of issues, from the rags-to-riches story of a runaway child from the streets of India, who was adopted into a Toronto family with 31 siblings before becoming a world-renowned chef, to the riveting portrait of three couples who live life to the hilt while participating in one of the world's most dangerous sports. Additionally, the series delves into the quest for immortality and eternal love through A.I., explores the life story of producer, musician and artist Brian Eno through a completely unique documentary experience that through the use of an A.I. algorithm is different with every viewing; and pays homage to the life and legacy of fearless photojournalist Margaret Moth.

“The Big Ideas series continues to showcase explosive subjects and riveting films that ignite profound conversations, delight audiences and often leave jaws dropped. It is no wonder it has become a cornerstone of our Festival,” remarked Hot Docs’ President **Marie Nelson**. “This year’s lineup features an array of captivating films and intriguing guests—fascinating subjects and visionary filmmakers—who will participate in enlightening discussions that are sure to ignite curiosity, challenge perspectives, and inspire action.”

Screening times and film descriptions appear below. Tickets for each presentation are \$27.00.

### **BORN HUNGRY**

Canadian filmmaker Barry Avrich traces the inspiring story of Sash Simpson, a runaway child from the streets of India who was adopted by a Canadian family and became one of the top chefs in the world. Avrich and his team share their challenges and experiences in crafting this story of how incomparable talent and artistry triumph over adversity.

*Guests: Director Barry Avrich and subject Sash Simpson*

Friday, April 26, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

### **LOVE MACHINA**

Can love last forever? The idea of an AI-powered digital consciousness has confounded and inspired scientists and artists for decades. Join director Pete Sillen and subjects Martine and Bina Rothblatt for a vital and profound conversation as they blend ferocious love, hard science and futurism in their quest to continue “MarBina’s” love affair into the infinite future.

*Guests: Director Pete Sillen and subjects Martine and Bina Rothblatt*

Saturday, April 27, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

**FLY**

Join co-directors Shaul Schwarz and Christina Clusiau in this wide-ranging conversation around their newest feature documentary, *Fly*. Equal parts love story and wild ride into the human psyche, they'll delve into the human need for independence, connection and risking it all to feel free.

*Guests: Co-directors Shaul Schwarz and Christina Clusiau and subjects Julia Botelho Morgan and Amber Forte*

Sunday, April 28, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

**ENO**

Famed producer, musician and artist Brian Eno (Talking Heads, David Bowie) is no ordinary creator. To tell the story of his life's work acclaimed director Gary Hustwit had to do something different. Using an AI algorithm, Hustwit created a unique documentary experience: a film that is different every time it is played. Join a deep dive into this original process of documentary filmmaking and the relationship between technology and creativity.

*Guest: Director Gary Hustwit*

Monday, April 29, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

**NEVER LOOK AWAY**

Get up close and personal with the life and legacy of photojournalist Margaret Moth. Hailing from New Zealand, Moth landed in major conflict zones around the world and was fearless in her coverage of war and its human toll. Settle in with key creatives from the film for a conversation about Moth's inspiring and fearless life and trailblazer spirit that has ignited journalists around the world to push themselves to the limit to share the truth.

*Guest: Director Lucy Lawless*

Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

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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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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

**Media Contact:**

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano  
Senior Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs  
[jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca](mailto:jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca)