

For Immediate Release: Monday, January 20, 2025

**HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA: FEBRUARY 8 TO MARCH 3  
PREMIERES, ANNIVERSARY SCREENINGS, NEW SERIES, COMMUNITY EVENTS  
AND AUTHOR TALKS**

- PREMIERING NEW CANADIAN DOC **7 BEATS PER MINUTE**, BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: **PLAY IT LOUD! – HOW TORONTO GOT SOUL** AND **THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN**
- A CELEBRATION OF BLACK COMMUNITY AND FILM WITH **HEY BLACK GIRL!** PRESENTING **LOVE & BASKETBALL** ON ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY
- FAMILY SCREENING OF **AKEELAH AND THE BEE**, SING-ALONGS OF **DREAMGIRLS** AND **MAMMA MIA!**, QUIET TIME PRESENTS **NOCTURNES**
- NEW SERIES! A YEAR OF AUSTEN, HONOURING JANE AUSTEN'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, SCREENS ANG LEE'S **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**; ART OF ANIME, CELEBRATING ANIME FILMS—CLASSIC AND NEW—ON THE BIG SCREEN, SCREENS JAPANESE CLASSIC **WHISPER OF THE HEART**; TRUTH AND DARE, HIGHLIGHTING CUTTING-EDGE DOCS THAT CHALLENGE THE GENRE ITSELF, SCREENS **DIG! XX**
- AUTHOR TALK WITH **CURTIS SITTENFELD** TO DISCUSS HER NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION **SHOW DON'T TELL**

**Toronto, ON** - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema kicks off February with a dynamic lineup that brings together a variety of premieres, special events, author talks and more. Ranging from much-awaited anniversary screenings of beloved films to the highly anticipated premiere of Canadian doc *7 Beats Per Minute*, the month offers a wide variety of compelling films and exciting events. Whether you're seeking powerful documentaries, timeless classics or family-friendly fun, Hot Docs Cinema has something for everyone this February.

To view the Hot Docs Cinema calendar, please visit [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)

**PREMIERES**

- Premiering at Hot Docs Cinema: **7 Beats Per Minute**, Yuqi Kang's moving documentary about freediving champion Jessea Lu as she returns to the site of her near-death descent, confronting trauma to rediscover connection.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Owned and operated by the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, the historic Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is one of the world's only documentary cinemas.

- Celebrate Black History Month at Hot Docs Cinema with a special 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary screening of ***Love & Basketball***, hosted by **Hey Black Girl!**, a Black-led, feminist, climate-conscious non-profit focused on developing programs that allow young Black women and non-binary folk to grow. This empowering event will bring together Black community, film, love and basketball, followed by a discussion of the film's lasting cultural impact.
- Back by popular demand: ***The Cowboy and the Queen***, a captivating story of an iconic British monarch's lifelong love of horses and a renegade California cowboy forging an unlikely friendship; and ***Play it Loud! - How Toronto Got Soul***, bringing the remarkable story of how musician Jay Douglas helped make Jamaican music an essential and unexpected part of Canadian culture. Following the screening, stick around for a lively Q&A with director Graeme Mathieson, musician Jay Douglas and producer Andrew Munger.
- On March 3, Author Talks welcomes novelist, writer and New York Times bestselling author **Curtis Sittenfeld**, who will discuss her new short story collection ***Show Don't Tell*** with Chatelaine editor-in-chief Maureen Halushak.

## SERIES

- New series are launching in February! **A Year of Austen**, a monthly screening series honouring Jane Austen's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, screens Ang Lee's beloved adaptation of ***Sense and Sensibility***; **Art of Anime**, celebrating anime films—classic and new—on the big screen, screens the enchanting Japanese classic ***Whisper of the Heart***; and **Truth and Dare**, highlighting cutting-edge docs that challenge the idea of what a doc needs to be, screens ***Dig! XX – The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Extended Edition***, capturing the love-hate rivalry between psych-rockers The Brian Jonestown Massacre and The Dandy Warhols.
- Get ready to sing your heart out at the popular **Let's Sing-Along & Shout-Along** screenings! Join Hot Docs Cinema for the **Dreamgirls Sing-Along** on February 9, where you can belt out the iconic songs from the beloved musical starring Beyoncé and Jennifer Hudson, and a **Mamma Mia! Valentine's Sing-Along** on February 14, where ABBA's greatest hits will have you dancing and singing along to the sunny Greek island vibes.
- For a truly mindful cinematic experience, don't miss **Nocturnes**, screening as part of the **Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies** series on February 16. This thoughtful documentary explores the hidden world of moths under the night's veil, accompanied by a guided pre-film meditation designed to help you relax and engage deeply with the film.
- **Family Screenings** presents ***Akeelah and the Bee*** on February 9, following a young girl from South Los Angeles who competes in a national spelling bee and overcomes challenges with grit and heart. Tickets for guests under 12 are only \$7.50!

Cinema Ticket: \$15 (Members: \$10, \$8, FREE) \*

\* Unless otherwise specified.

## PREMIERES

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Premiere

**7 BEATS PER MINUTE**

D: Yuqi Kang | Canada | 100 min | 2024

Freediving champion Jessea Lu returns to the site of her near-death descent, confronting past trauma to rediscover connection.

*Stick around for a pre-recorded Q&A with director Yuqi Kang after the Friday, February 14 screening.*

Friday, February 14 / 6:30 PM

Saturday, February 15 / 9:30 PM

**SERIES & SPECIAL EVENTS**

Encore Screening

**THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN**

D: Andrea Nevins | USA | 85 min | 2023

An iconic British monarch with a lifelong love of horses and a renegade California cowboy forge the most unlikely friendship—and fulfill shared goals of finding a better way to be with animals, and a kinder way to be in the world—in the eloquent, enlightening documentary *The Cowboy and the Queen*, from Academy Award-nominated and Emmy award-winning filmmaker Andrea Nevins.

Saturday, February 8 / 4:30 PM

Sunday, February 9 / 7:00 PM

Black History Month

**LOVE & BASKETBALL – 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

D: Gina Prince-Bythewood | USA | 124 min | 2000

Join Hey Black Girl! for an evening celebrating Black community, film, love and basketball.

Hey Black Girl! is a Black-led, feminist, climate-conscious non-profit focused on developing programs that allow young Black women and non-binary folk to grow. It was born through a yearning for a platform where individuals with shared lived experiences could inspire one another. Their programming is rooted in gender equity, intersectionality, climate justice and cultural relevance. Hey Black Girl! creates an environment where communities can be comfortable discussing their Blackness, their identity and their professional ambitions

*Stick around for a discussion of the film after the screening.*

Saturday, February 8 / 8:00 PM

Family Screenings

**AKEELAH AND THE BEE**

D: Doug Atchison | USA | 112 min | 2006

A young girl from South Los Angeles competes in a national spelling bee, overcoming challenges with grit and heart.

Sunday, February 9 / 12:00 PM

\*General: \$15 / Members: \$15 / 12 and under: \$7.50

Let's Sing-Along & Shout-Along

**DREAMGIRLS SING-ALONG**

D: Bill Condon | USA | 130 min | 2006

Sing along to the iconic songs of *Dreamgirls*, following a Black female trio's dazzling rise to stardom in the 1960s.

Sunday, February 9 / 3:30 PM

Let's Sing-Along & Shout-Along

**MAMMA MIA! VALENTINE'S SING-ALONG**

D: Phyllida Lloyd | Germany, USA, UK | 109 min | 2008

Celebrate Valentine's or Galentine's with a *Mamma Mia!* sing-along—love, laughter, and ABBA hits on a sunny Greek island!

*Wear your best linen shirts, overalls, bell bottoms, and feather boas!*

Friday, February 14 / 9:30 PM

A Year of Austen

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY – 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

D: Ang Lee | UK | 136 min | 1995

Start your Year of Austen with *Sense and Sensibility*, as the Dashwood sisters navigate love, heartbreak, and society's rules.

Saturday, February 15 / 6:00 PM

Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies

**NOCTURNES**

D: Anirban Dutta, Anupama Srinivasan | USA, India | 83min | 2024

*Nocturnes* takes us to the Eastern Himalayas, where two observers explore the hidden world of moths under night's veil.

*Featuring a guided pre-film meditation by Moustafa Abdelrahman, an Applied Mindfulness Meditation Specialist, teacher and registered psychotherapist who leads guided mindfulness courses and workshops with The 519.*

Sunday, February 16 / 12:00 PM

\*Free for members

Relaxed Screenings

**RELAXED SCREENING: 7 BEATS PER MINUTE**

D: Yuqi Kang | Canada | 100 min | 2024

Freediving champion Jessea Lu returns to the site of her near-death descent, confronting past trauma to rediscover connection.

Open to everyone, this screening offers a sensory friendly environment for those in the neuro-diverse community or for anyone who may benefit from a more informal viewing atmosphere.

- Throughout the screening, house lights will remain on a low level and the volume will be slightly turned down.
- No trailers will be shown.
- Audience members will be free to move around, leave the theatre, or take a break in a designated “quiet” area.

View the [venue guide](#) to the Cinema. For any questions or requests, contact the [box office](#).

*Stick around for a pre-recorded Q&A with director Yuqi Kang after the screening.*

Sunday, February 16 / 2:45 PM

Art of Anime

**WHISPER OF THE HEART – 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

D: Yoshifumi Kondō | Japan | 111 min | 1995

A girl discovers love, inspiration, and her path in life through a mysterious cat and a budding romance.

*The English dub of the film will be screened.*

Sunday, February 16 / 6:30 PM

Truth and Dare

**DIG! XX – 20TH ANNIVERSARY EXTENDED EDITION**

D: Ondi Timoner | USA | 140 min | 2004

Ondi Timoner’s *DIG!* captures the love-hate rivalry between psych-rockers The Brian Jonestown Massacre and The Dandy Warhols.

*Join us before the screening to receive a wild zine specially designed for the event and a music video by Toronto-based artist, Huxlii bands on the big screen!*

*Stick around after the Friday, February 21 screening for a special Q&A.*

*Presented in partnership with Insomniac Film Festival.*

Friday, February 21/ 7:30 PM  
Sunday, February 23 / 2:00 PM  
\*Free for members

Encore Screening

**PLAY IT LOUD! – HOW TORONTO GOT SOUL**

D: Graeme Mathieson | Canada | 90 min | 2024

Experience how musician Jay Douglas helped make Jamaican music an essential and unexpected part of Canadian culture.

*Recipient of Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund.*

*After the screening, stick around for a lively Q&A with director Graeme Mathieson, musician Jay Douglas and producer Andrew Munger.*

Saturday, March 1 / 7:30 PM

Author Talks

**CURTIS SITTFELD ON *SHOW DON'T TELL***

Curtis Sittenfeld joins Chatelaine editor-in-chief Maureen Halushak on the Hot Docs stage to discuss her new short story collection, *Show Don't Tell*.

*Books will be available for purchase, with a signing session following the Q&A.  
Presented in partnership with Penguin Random House Canada.*

Monday, March 3 / 7:00 PM

\*Orchestra: \$15 / Mezzanine and Balcony: \$12

###

Owned and operated by [Hot Docs](#), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary, Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is the world's largest documentary cinema. A historic, century-old landmark located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood, the Cinema is a year-round home for non-fiction film and storytelling, presenting first-run international and Canadian documentaries, curated film and speakers series, signature events including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, as well as hosting for some of the city's premier festivals and events. Since assuming management in 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,425 films to audiences of more than 1.3 million. In 2016, a generous \$5-million donation from Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase venue.

**Media Contact:**

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*PRESS RELEASE*

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