

**HOT DOCS INDEPENDENT CINEMA RELIEF FUND EXCEEDS GOAL TO RAISE \$72.9K
FOR INDEPENDENT CINEMAS ACROSS CANADA**

TWENTY-NINE CANADIAN CINEMAS TO RECEIVE \$2,500 CDN EACH IN FUNDING

Toronto, ON, June 8, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that its Independent Cinema Relief Fund surpassed its goal by 240 per cent to raise a total of \$72.9K, enabling Hot Docs to provide financial relief to more Canadian independent cinemas forced to suspend operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. All of the 29 cinemas that applied for funding will receive \$2,500 CDN, and an additional donation of \$2,500 CDN will be given to Toronto Restaurant Workers Relief Fund. Developed and administered in consultation with the Network of Independent Canadian Exhibitors (NICE), the Fund was launched this spring to help sustain independent cinemas across the country and prepare them for their eventual reopening and the continuation of their crucial role of bringing communities of all sizes together through the transformative power of cinema. Donations were collected through the Hot Docs website from March 23 until the end of the Hot Docs Festival on May 9.

“Thank you so much to Hot Docs audiences who donated to this Fund. Because of your generosity, we’re able to provide even more cinemas across the country with the financial relief they so urgently need,” says **Erin Lau**, managing director for Hot Docs. “Independent cinemas add so much to the cultural fabric of a community—both large and small—and from the response to this Fund, it’s clear that our audiences recognize that and wanted to help during this challenging time.”

“From Star Cinema on Vancouver Island to City Cinema on PEI, the funds from the Hot Docs Independent Cinema Relief Fund will buoy staffing, technical and popcorn costs across the country,” says **Wendy Huot**, co-chair of NICE and owner/operator of The Screening Room in Kingston, ON. “This Fund comes at a critical time for independent cinemas, who have weathered a tough 14 months and are set to navigate a complicated reopening. We’re grateful to Hot Docs for their ambition and big-picture thinking with this generous campaign, which helps ensure communities across Canada will be able to congregate in their local cinema again.”

The following independent cinemas will receive funding:

Acadia Cinema Cooperative's Al Whittle Theatre, Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Apollo Cinema, Kitchener, Ontario
The Bookshelf Cinema, Guelph, Ontario
Capitol 6 Theatres, Victoria, British Columbia
Cinéma Beaubien, Montréal, Québec
Cinéma du Musée, Montréal, Québec
Cinéma du Parc, Montréal, Québec
City Cinema, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
The Civic Theatre, Nelson, British Columbia
Dunbar Theatre, Vancouver, British Columbia
Film.Ca Cinema, Oakville, Ontario
The Gorge Cinema, Elora, Ontario
Hyland Cinema, London, Ontario
Kineto Theatre, Forest, Ontario

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

Mayfair Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario
The Original Princess Cinemas, Waterloo, Ontario
Paramount Theatre - Kamloops Film Society, Kamloops, British Columbia
Playhouse Cinema, Hamilton, Ontario
Port Theatre, Cornwall, Ontario
Princess Twin Cinemas, Waterloo, Ontario
The Regent Theatre, Picton, Ontario
Revue Cinema, Toronto, Ontario
The Ridge Film House, Fort Erie, Ontario
Roxy Theatres of Uxbridge, Uxbridge, Ontario
The Screening Room, Kingston, Ontario
Star Cinema, Sidney, British Columbia
Sudbury Indie Cinema, Sudbury, Ontario
Vernon Towne Theatre, Vernon, British Columbia
The Westdale, Hamilton, Ontario

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[Hot Docs](#), 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. 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, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

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