

## HOT DOCS UNVEILS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION STRAND FOR 2024 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 26, 2024** – Hot Docs, North America's premier documentary festival, proudly unveiled today the lineup of 10 films hailing from 14 countries, set to screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2024 **International Competition** (previously International Spectrum). This program is renowned for showcasing captivating stories and innovative filmmaking, while offering audiences unique perspectives from around the world. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

The 2024 edition of the International Competition program includes a compelling lineup of world premieres: ***The Weavers' Songs*** explores life in San Pedro Amuzgos, Oaxaca, where weaving transcends mere livelihood to become a vital economic backbone; ***Standing Above the Clouds*** chronicles the journey of three Native Hawaiian families as they risk it all to defend their sacred mountain where the Thirty Meter Telescope is set to be built on Mauna Kea; ***Farming the Revolution*** follows the protests of half a million of India's farmers as they rise up on an unprecedented scale against unjust new laws; ***Streets Loud with Echoes*** observes a society learning to raise its voice, despite decades of fear and oppression, after the murder of a young Olympic skater galvanizes Kazakhstan; ***Xixi*** explores themes of womanhood, autonomy and self-reinvention through video diaries and personal archive; ***Devi*** captures mother, rebel warrior, and sexual violence survivor, Devi, as she battles personal demons in her campaign against rape's erasure from the narrative of Nepal's civil war; and ***The Fabulous Gold Harvesting Machine*** follows Toto's quest for a better future after 40 years working in a mine, as his son Jorge attempts to build a gold harvesting machine to secure their retirement.

International premieres include ***Fragments of a Life Loved***, where the filmmaker intricately weaves together early recordings of her relationships since the tender age of 16, assembling a history of her heart; ***Porcelain War***, winner of the 2024 Sundance Festival Documentary Grand Jury Prize, following three Ukrainians fighting as both soldiers and artists as they craft fragile ceramics in an active war zone; and ***Death of a Saint***, in which the filmmaker—having given birth on the same day her mother was killed by two gunmen in their Ugandan home decades earlier—returns to her birthplace to reclaim what was stolen from her.

### **The International Competition program is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.**

All feature-length titles in the program are eligible for the Best International Feature Documentary Award and the Special Jury Prize – International Feature Documentary. Emerging directors in the International Competition with two or fewer previous feature film credits are also eligible for the Emerging International Filmmaker Award, supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation. Producers of the film in the International Competition program with the greatest potential to create social impact are eligible for The Bill Nemtin Award for Best Social Impact Documentary.

Hot Docs is an Academy Award® qualifying festival for feature documentaries. The recipient of Hot Docs' Best International Feature Documentary Award will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Feature Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the International Competition program appear below. In many cases, filmmakers will be in attendance for post-screening discussions. For more information on the program please visit [www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on](http://www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on).

**DEATH OF A SAINT**

D: Patricia Bbaale Bandak | P: Victor Rocha da Cunh | Denmark | 2024 | 91 min | International Premiere  
Filmmaker Patricia Bbaale Bandak gives birth on Christmas Eve, the same day her mother was killed by two gunmen in their Ugandan home decades earlier. Yearning to know her mother, she returns to her birthplace to reclaim what was stolen from her.

Tuesday, April 30, 2:30 PM - TLB3  
Thursday, May 2, 12:45 PM - TLB1

**DEVI**

D: Subina Shrestha | P: Ashmita Chaudhary Khadka, Rosie Garthwaite, Heejung Oh | Nepal | 2024 | 80 min | World Premiere  
Devi is a mother, a rebel warrior, and sexual violence survivor of Nepal's civil war. Inspiring and courageous to her core, she battles personal demons in her campaign against rape's erasure from the narrative of war.

Sunday, April 28, 7:30 PM - SCOTIA 5  
Wednesday, May 1, 5:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

**THE FABULOUS GOLD HARVESTING MACHINE**

D: Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza | P: Francisco Hervé, Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza, Annemiek van der Hell | Chile, Netherlands | 2024 | 77 min | World Premiere  
After 40 years working in the mine at Tierra del Fuego, Toto doesn't qualify for the social security that would allow him to retire. So his son Jorge attempts to build a gold harvesting machine to bring them a better future.

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 PM - SCOTIA 7  
Tuesday, April 30, 8:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

**FARMING THE REVOLUTION**

D: | P: | India | 2024 | 100 min | World Premiere  
Amidst COVID lockdowns, India's farmers rise up on an unprecedented scale against unjust new laws. Over half a million protesters—men and women from all generations, religions, classes and castes—gather and reinvent co-existence while winning a rare victory over the state.

Saturday, April 27, 2:15 PM - TLB3  
Monday, April 29, 4:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

**FRAGMENTS OF A LIFE LOVED**

D: Chloé Barreau | P: Matteo Rovere, Leonardo Godano | Italy | 2023 | 95 min | International Premiere  
From age 16, the filmmaker has recorded each of her male and female lovers. Using only these early videos and present-day interviews with each partner, she assembles her fluid lusts, loves, rejections and growth into a history of her heart.

Tuesday, April 30, 5:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

Thursday, May 2, 2:00 PM - TLB2

**PORCELAIN WAR**

D: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev | P: Aniela Sidorska, Paula DuPré Pesmen, Camilla Mazzaferro, Olivia Ahnemann | Ukraine, USA, Australia | 2024 | 87 min | International Premiere  
Why would anyone craft fragile ceramics in an active war zone? Three Ukrainians, fighting as both soldiers and artists, offer up an unexpected dispatch from the front lines. Creativity combats destruction in this gorgeous Sundance Best US Documentary award-winner.

Saturday, April 27, 5:30 PM - TLB3

Sunday, April 28, 5:45 PM - TLB1

**STANDING ABOVE THE CLOUDS**

D: Jalena Keane-Lee | P: Erin Lau, Amber Espinosa-Jones | USA | 2024 | 85 min | World Premiere  
When the Thirty Meter Telescope is set to be built on Mauna Kea, three Native Hawaiian families risk it all to defend their sacred mountain. *Standing Above the Clouds* explores intergenerational healing and the struggle to retain ancient ceremonies.

Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM - TLB3

Wednesday, May 1, 11:15 AM - TLB1

**STREETS LOUD WITH ECHOES**

D: Katerina Suvorova | P: Aruan Anartayev, Katerina Suvorova, Viktoriya Kalashnikova | Kazakhstan | 2024 | 95 min | World Premiere

When a young Olympic skater is murdered, it galvanizes Kazakhstanis. Tracing the steps of a young journalist and a strong-willed political scientist, the camera observes a society learning to raise its voice, despite decades of fear and oppression.

Sunday, April 28, 2:15 PM - TLB2

Wednesday, May 1, 4:15 PM - SCOTIA 7

**THE WEAVERS' SONGS**

D: Ismael Vásquez Bernabé | P: Emiliano Altuna, Abril Schmucler | Mexico | 2024 | 78 min | World Premiere

In San Pedro Amuzgos, Oaxaca, where weaving is not only a way of life but the main economic export, the importance of tradition and the responsibility of legacy are explored in this reflective debut feature by Ismael Vásquez Bernabé.

Tuesday, April 30, 2:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

Thursday, May 2, 11:30 AM - SCOTIA 5

**XIXI**

D: Fan Wu | P: Venice De Castro Atienza, Fan Wu, Sona Jo, Yoonsoo Her | Taiwan, Philippines, South Korea | 2024 | 100 min | World Premiere

An unexpected and joyous exploration of womanhood, autonomy and self-reinvention, told through the video diaries and personal archive of the free-spirited XiXi and the evolution of the friendship between her and the filmmaker.

Sunday, April 28, 4:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

Tuesday, April 30, 8:15 PM - SCOTIA 5

Saturday, May 4, 11:30 AM - SCOTIA 6

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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

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