

**HOT DOCS 2022 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS FEATURE EXPLOSIVE SUBJECTS,  
CANADIAN COMEDY LEGENDS, AND NEW WORKS FROM  
RENOWNED DIRECTORS**

Toronto, March 22, 2022 – Hot Docs announced today a slate of 11 additional films to screen at the 2022 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival as part of the Special Presentations program, exhibiting a selection of high-profile world and international feature-length documentary premieres. Hot Docs Festival returns to live screenings in Toronto for the first time in 2 years from April 28 to May 8, and streams online to audiences across Canada on Hot Docs at Home.

This year's Special Presentations program features big, bold, and daring storytelling. Director Cody Sheehy tells the inside story of the disappearance of the Chinese biophysicist who secretly created the first genetically designed babies in ***Make People Better***, a Festival world premiere. International premieres feature noteworthy titles like Ron Howard's ***We Feed People***, a chronicle of chef and Nobel Peace-Prize nominee José Andrés and his exhaustive work providing healthy food to those affected in disaster zones; ***Working 9 to 5***, an examination of the evolution of gender inequality and discrimination in the workplace since the 1980 release of the classic comedy *9 to 5*, starring Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton, and Lily Tomlin; ***Framing Agnes***, a 2021 Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund Awards recipient, features an all-star cast of transgender artists and tells the story of a young trans woman who entered a sex disorders study in 1958 seeking gender-affirming care; ***The Exiles*** follows Chinese-American documentarian Christine Choy as she explores the unseen footage of a documentary she began working on soon after the Tiananmen massacre; and ***The Smell of Money***, the story of a woman who, with the support of her rural North Carolina community, fights the world's largest pork corporation for the freedom to enjoy fresh air, clean water and a life without the stench of manure.

Making its Canadian Premiere is the much-anticipated ***The Kids In The Hall: Comedy Punks***, a new documentary produced by Blue Ant Studios that uses never-before-seen archival footage and interviews with the "Kids" themselves while celebrating their 40-year legacy as a renowned, cult comedy troupe. Also screening for the first time in Canada is doc of-the-moment ***Navalny***, a riveting doc-thriller about Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny that won the audience award at Sundance; and ***My Old School***, in which Scottish actor Alan Cumming re-enacts the jaw-dropping story of an odd 16-year-old boy enrolled in a posh Glasgow high school whose secret became shocking front page news.

These 11 films join the 15 titles previously announced for this year's Special Presentations program. The full selection of films to screen at Hot Docs 2022, including the opening night film, will be announced on March 30. Ticket packages and passes are now on sale online. Ticket package redemption and single ticket sales for Hot Docs members are available starting March 30. Single ticket sales open to the public on April 5.

This year's Special Presentations program is sponsored by CRAVE.

Hot Docs 2022 Special Presentations include:

### **2ND CHANCE**

D: Ramin Bahrani | P: Daniel Turcan, Johnny Galvin, Charles Dorfman, Ramin Bahrani, Jacob Grodnik | USA | 2022 | 90 min | Canadian Premiere

American Richard Davis went from bankrupt pizzeria owner to multi-millionaire after inventing the modern-day bulletproof vest—proving it worked by shooting himself 192 times—in this larger-than-life study of American entrepreneurial madness, in acclaimed filmmaker Ramin Bahrani’s feature documentary debut.

### **THE EXILES**

D: Ben Klein, Violet Columbus | P: Maria Chiu, Ben Klein, Violet Columbus | USA | 2022 | 95 min | International Premiere

Following the Tiananmen massacre, Chinese American filmmaker Christine Choy began a documentary project about student protest leaders forced to flee to the United States. Guided by Choy herself amidst her unseen footage, *The Exiles* reflects on the very nature of displacement.

### **FRAMING AGNES**

D: Chase Joynt | P: Samantha Curley, Shant Joshi, Chase Joynt | Canada, USA | 2022 | 75 min | International Premiere

With genre-blurring storytelling and re-enactments featuring an all-star cast of transgender artists, the story of a young trans woman who entered a sex disorders study in 1958 seeking gender-affirming care revives untold stories of those who redefined gender in the mid-twentieth century.

### **THE KIDS IN THE HALL: COMEDY PUNKS**

D: Reg Harkema | P: Nick McKinney, Kim Creelman | Canada, USA | 2022 | 95 min | Canadian Premiere  
Through never-before-seen archival footage and interviews with the “Kids” themselves, delve into the group’s mid-1980s post-punk origins and their 40-year legacy as a renowned, cult comedy troupe in the leadup to their iconic show’s impending reboot for Prime Video.

### **MAKE PEOPLE BETTER**

D: Cody Sheehy | P: Samira Kiani, Cody Sheehy, Mark Monroe | USA | 2022 | 83 min | World Premiere  
A rogue Chinese biophysicist disappears after developing the first designer babies, shocking the world and the entire scientific community, but an investigation shows he may not have been alone in his attempts to create a “better” human being.

### **MIDWIVES**

D: Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing | P: Bob Moore, Ulla Lehman, Mila Aung-Thwin, Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing | Myanmar, Germany, Canada | 2022 | 91 min | Canadian Premiere

Threatened by the locals, two courageous midwives, one Buddhist and the other Muslim, serve pregnant women in a makeshift clinic in Western Myanmar where Rohingya are persecuted. United by empathy and hope, they collaborate to deliver new life.

### **MY OLD SCHOOL**

D: Jono McLeod | P: John Archer, Olivia Lichtenstein | UK | 2022 | 104 min | Canadian Premiere  
Alan Cumming marvellously re-enacts the jaw-dropping scandal of an odd 16-year-old boy enrolled in a posh Glasgow high school whose unbelievable secret became shocking front page news.

**NAVALNY**

D: Daniel Roher | P: Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Shane Boris | USA | 2022 | 98 min | Canadian Premiere

In this riveting doc-thriller that won the audience award at Sundance, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny partners with international news organizations in the months after his attempted assassination by a poisonous nerve agent in 2020 to uncover proof of the Kremlin's involvement.

**THE SMELL OF MONEY**

D: Shawn Bannon | P: Shawn Bannon, Jamie Berger | USA | 2022 | 85 min | International Premiere  
A century after her grandfather claimed his freedom from slavery, Elsie Herring and her rural North Carolina community fight the world's largest pork corporation for their freedom to enjoy fresh air, clean water and a life without the stench of manure.

**STILL WORKING 9 TO 5**

D: Camille Hardman, Gary Lane | P: Camille Hardman, Gary Lane | USA | 2022 | 97 min | International Premiere

The highest grossing comedy of 1980, *9 to 5* delivered a serious message about American working women. Forty years later, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton discuss why workplace inequality is no laughing matter.

**WE FEED PEOPLE**

D: Ron Howard | P: Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Sara Bernstein, Justin Wilkes, Meredith Kaulfers, Walter Matteson | USA | 2022 | 89 min | International Premiere

Director Ron Howard spotlights chef José Andrés and his nonprofit World Central Kitchen's evolution from a scrappy group of grassroots volunteers to a highly regarded humanitarian aid organization, snapping into action to combat hunger by serving over 60 million meals to date.

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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 29th annual edition from April 28 to May 8, 2022 in cinemas across Toronto as well as online to audiences throughout Canada. The Festival will offer a dynamic hybrid experience for industry delegates, including a live three-day program of knowledge sessions and networking events on its first weekend and online market programs and sessions, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. 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.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Cineplex and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

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