

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

**HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA PRESENTS FREE SCREENING OF *WE WILL BE BRAVE* AS “FOR VIOLA” SERIES RETURNS ON OCTOBER 18**

- FOR VIOLA: HOT DOCS' SCREENING SERIES CENTRING BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOUR-LED STORIES AND FILMMAKERS, NAMED IN HONOUR OF CANADIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ICON VIOLA DESMOND
- TORONTO-BASED DOCUMENTARIAN CHRISANN HESSING'S DEBUT FEATURE *WE WILL BE BRAVE* FOLLOWS THE JOURNEY OF TORONTO'S 'GOOD GUISE' COLLECTIVE, WHO ARE COMMITTED TO SPARKING CONVERSATIONS AROUND HEALTHY MASCULINITY THROUGH ART
- THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE CINEMA'S LIMITED REOPENING AFTER ITS TEMPORARY SUMMER CLOSURE

**Toronto, ON** – Hot Docs is excited to announce the return of the **For Viola** screening series to **Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** after its temporary summer closure. The Cinema, which recently announced a limited reopening starting September 28 for third-party rentals and select partner screening events, will welcome audiences on **October 18 at 7 pm** for a **free screening of *We Will Be Brave*** (D: Chrisann Hessing | Canada | 78 mins | 2023), an eye-opening doc following the journey of Toronto's Good Guise, a collective committed to sparking conversations around healthy masculinity through art.

For Viola is Hot Docs' screening series centring Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC)-led stories and filmmakers, named in honour of Canadian civil rights icon Viola Desmond. This series seeks to affirm Hot Docs as a space of inclusion for BIPOC creators and audience members alike. In order to minimize barriers to audience participation, all screenings in this series are free of charge. For Viola is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

*We Will Be Brave*, a recipient of the Hot Docs CrossCurrents Doc Fund, is the debut feature of Toronto-based documentarian Chrisann Hessing. The film delves into Black and POC men's mental health in a way that is honest, vulnerable, timely and very rarely seen on screen. It follows the journey of Toronto's Good Guise, a creative collective of racialized men (Black, brown, Latinx, cis, trans, queer), who are committed to sparking conversations around healthy masculinity through art. From photography and beatboxing to poetry and martial arts, the artists in the collective share their unique lived experiences and welcome others to join in their mission of finding radical alternatives to shame and punishment. Explorations around what masculinity is, and re-evaluations of what it could be are intertwined with revelations about the unique mental health challenges faced by men of colour, who are often sidelined or exclusively villainized in these conversations.

This intimate local story explores questions of fatherhood and father figures for men of colour, in a way that doesn't hide the rough edges but also refuses to downplay the tenderness that is equally present.

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.

As each of the subjects grapples with upheavals in their personal lives, their resolve is further tested by a dire lack of resources and the burden of racialized discrimination. *We Will Be Brave* is a story about personal evolution, healing and an unlikely brotherhood forged in vulnerability.

**The screening will be followed by an insightful conversation with the film's director, Chrisann Hessing, and founding member of the Good Guise collective, Julian Diego—moderated by multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of The ANKOBEA Fatherhood Initiative, S-Quire Johnson.**

While this screening is presented free of charge, audience members are invited to make a donation of \$10 in recognition of the value of the work presented, and in honour of Viola Desmond, featured on the \$10 banknote, at checkout. Half the proceeds will be shared directly with the filmmakers, who also receive screening fees.

**For more information and tickets, visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/films/fv-we-will-be-brave>**

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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 such as Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, 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:**

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