

TECH DOCS LAND AT HOT DOCS FESTIVAL 2024: INTRODUCING EMERGENCE FESTIVAL STRAND

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs will premiere five features, one mid-length, and one short documentary as part of **Emergence**, a new thematic film program that highlights stories of our complicated relationship with technology and AI. Emergence will feature films from Canada, Germany, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

Emergence will include the world premiere of ***Ari's Theme***, a Canadian documentary about an award-winning composer with type-2 spinal muscular atrophy, and in which a kaleidoscopic creative process leads him to question the meaning of legacy.

The program will also feature the international premieres of ***Love Machina***, which follows a couple's commissioning of an "AI mindfile" that uses cryopreservation, digital consciousness, xenotransplantation and space settlement, in order to extend their romance into infinity, and ***Seeking Mavis Beacon***, in which two detectives seek out the Haitian-born cover model of *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing*—the software that taught millions globally how to type—who vanished decades ago.

Receiving its North American premiere is ***Cyborg Generation***, in which an 18-year-old musician designs a cybernetic organ and illegally implants it into his own body, acquiring a new sense that purportedly allows him to perceive sounds coming from outer space while on the surface of the Earth.

The program will see the Canadian premieres of ***Eternal You***, exploring how—driven by AI and Big Data—tech startups are racing to develop digital doppelgangers with the promise of immortality, and ***Whatever It Takes***, in which a couple's otherwise calm life is shaken by cyberstalking and a series of bizarre deliveries, including a bloody pig mask, and the FBI closes in on a Silicon Valley giant in a reveal you will never see coming.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the Emergence 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.

ARI'S THEME

D: Nathan Drillot, Jeff Lee Petry | P: Nathan Drillot, Jeff Lee Petry | Canada | 2024 | 99 min | World Premiere

Ari Kinarthy is an award-winning composer with type-2 spinal muscular atrophy. This aural and cinematic legacy of his memories through a kaleidoscopic creative process leads him to question the meaning of legacy and the relationship between himself and the audience.

Tuesday, April 30, 4:45 PM - TLB2

Thursday, May 2, 3:45 PM - TLB1

CYBORG GENERATION

D: Miguel Morillo Vega | P: Leonie Pokutta | Spain | 2024 | 63 min | North American Premiere

An 18-year-old musician designs a cybernetic organ and illegally implants it into his own body, acquiring a new sense that purportedly allows him to perceive sounds coming from outer space while on the surface of the Earth.

Screening with

THE CONQUEST OF SPACE

D: Albin Biblom | Sweden | 12 min

Friday, April 26, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Sunday, April 28, 7:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

ETERNAL YOU

D: Hans Block, Moritz Rieseewieck | P: Christian Beetz, Georg Tschurtschenthaler | Germany, USA | 2024 | 86 min | Canadian Premiere

If you could talk to loved ones you've lost, would you? Should you? Driven by AI and Big Data, tech startups are racing to develop digital doppelgangers with the promise of immortality and raising questions around love, loss and memory.

Monday, April 29, 7:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

Saturday, May 4, 8:45 PM - TLB3

LOVE MACHINA

D: Pete Sillen | P: Brendan Doyle, Peter Sillen | USA | 2024 | 97 min | International Premiere

Can love last forever? Married over forty years, Martine and Bina Rothblatt commission Bina48, an "AI mindfile" of Bina's consciousness housed inside a robotic bust. Using cryopreservation, digital consciousness, xenotransplantation and space settlement, they prepare to extend their romance into infinity.

Saturday, April 27, 6:00 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

Sunday, April 28, 8:00 PM - TLB3

SEEKING MAVIS BEACON

D: Jazmin Jones | P: Guetty Felin | USA | 2023 | 97 min | International Premiere

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing taught millions globally how to type, but the software's Haitian-born cover model vanished decades ago. Two detectives search for Beacon, revealing questions about identity and AI along the way.

Tuesday, April 30, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

Friday, May 3, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

WHATEVER IT TAKES

D: Jenny Carchman | P: Allyson Luchak, Ben Travers | UK, USA | 2024 | 92 min | Canadian Premiere
When cyberstalking leads to a series of bizarre deliveries, including a bloody pig mask, a couple's otherwise calm life is shaken. As the harassment intensifies, the FBI closes in on a Silicon Valley giant in a reveal you will never see coming.

Friday, April 26, 7:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

Saturday, April 27, 5:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

Sunday, May 5, 7:15 PM - SCOTIA 7

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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 31st 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 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



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Juan M. Gonzalez-Calcano
Senior Media Relations Manager, Hot Docs
jgonzalezcalcano@hotdocs.ca

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