

HOT DOCS CELEBRATES WORKS OF PROTEST AND CREATIVITY WITH 2024 FESTIVAL PROGRAM THE ART OF RESISTANCE

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs is pleased to unveil a selection of seven premieres for this year's Festival as part of **The Art of Resistance**, a slate of films that celebrates the intersection of protest and creativity. These remarkable films illuminate the profound impact of collective voices rallying for change and offer a glimmer of hope. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

The Art of Resistance will include the world premieres of ***Impasse***, in which a woman engages in conversations with her conservative family amidst the Women, Life, Freedom protesters in Tehran, in hopes of maintaining bonds across three generations under the pressures of a shifting society, and ***The Strike***, which follows the psychological and emotional journeys of California prisoners as they organize the largest hunger strike in US history. The program will also include the international premiere of ***Nice Ladies***, in which members of a 50+ women's cheerleading team chose to stay behind as Russia began bombing Kharkiv, Ukraine, using their sport they keep sane and connected even as cracks appear.

North American premieres include ***Drawing a Line***, in which an artist faces prosecution as she challenges India's entrenched social taboos like menstruation, mental health and queer rights through the use of stick figure cartoons, ***Immortals***, in which two protesters who participated in Iraq's 2019 October Revolution refuse to let it die, ***Land of My Dreams***, exploring the non-violent 100+ day protests of working class Muslim women in Delhi after the Indian government's passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act effectively excluded Muslims from citizenship, and ***Suspended – Diaries from Lebanon***, shot over the last four years and following three people from vastly different generations as they share the country's struggle to escape the vice-grip of dictatorship.

Screening times and descriptions for films in The Art of Resistance 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.

DRAWING A LINE

D: Sama Pana | P: Hanne Phlypo, Estelle Robin You, Marion Guth, François Le Gall | Belgium, Luxembourg | 2024 | 73 min | North American Premiere

Through stick figure cartoons, Rachita Taneja challenges India's entrenched social taboos like menstruation, mental health and queer rights. In the face of prosecution, she dedicates herself to amplifying the voices of young, liberal individuals in a society of eroding free speech.

Saturday, April 27, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 7

Monday, April 29, 11:30 AM - TLB1

IMMORTALS

D: Maja Tschumi | P: Nadine Lüchinger | Switzerland, Iraq | 2024 | 94 min | North American Premiere

Two protesters who participated in Iraq's 2019 October Revolution refuse to let it die. It marked the first time they'd ever felt safe—Khalili as a filmmaker and Milo as a feminist—and symbolized hope for peace and freedom in their country.

Friday, April 26, 2:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM - SCOTIA 7

IMPASSE

D: Rahmaneh Rabani, Bahman Kiarostami | P: Rahmaneh Rabani, Bahman Kiarostami | Iran | 2023 | 89 min | World Premiere

As the Women, Life, Freedom protests rage in Tehran, a woman from a conservative family engages in intimate conversations with them, struggling to maintain their bonds across three generations under the pressures of a shifting society.

Tuesday, April 30, 8:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Thursday, May 2, 1:45 PM - TLB3

LAND OF MY DREAMS

D: Nausheen Khan | P: Nausheen Khan | India | 2023 | 74 min | North American Premiere

When the Indian government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act, it effectively excluded Muslims from citizenship. Working-class Muslim women gathered in Delhi, staging a non-violent protest for over 100 days, galvanizing resistance into a nationwide pro-democracy movement.

Friday, April 26, 3:45 PM - TLB3

Sunday, April 28, 10:15 AM - SCOTIA 7

NICE LADIES

D: Mariia Ponomarova | P: Rogier Kramer, Maksym Nakonechnyi | Netherlands, Ukraine | 2024 | 90 min | International Premiere

When Russia began bombing Kharkiv, Ukraine, some members of a 50+ women's cheerleading team chose to stay while others escaped, and through their sport they keep sane and connected even as cracks appear. Witness true strength in this exceptional study of sisterhood.

Wednesday, May 1, 8:45 PM - TLB3

Saturday, May 4, 2:30 PM - TLB2

THE STRIKE

D: JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey | P: JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey | USA | 2024 | 86 min | World Premiere

Follow the psychological and emotional journeys of California prisoners as they organize the largest hunger strike in US history. Intimate interviews and never-before-seen footage recount their struggle to regain their freedom from decades of solitary confinement.

Sunday, April 28, 1:00 PM - SCOTIA 7
Monday, April 29, 1:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

SUSPENDED – DIARIES FROM LEBANON

D: Myriam El Hajj | P: | France, Lebanon | 2023 | 117 min | North American Premiere
Shot over the last four years, as Lebanon faced a series of mounting difficulties including an interrupted revolution and the devastating explosion that destroyed half of Beirut, three people from vastly different generations share the country's struggle to escape the vice-grip of dictatorship.

Monday, April 29, 8:45 PM - TLB3
Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 PM - 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 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.



PRESS RELEASE

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: media2024

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