

## HOT DOCS' CANADIAN SPECTRUM COMPETITION STRAND BRINGS HOMEGROWN PREMIERES TO 2024 FESTIVAL

**Toronto, March 26, 2024** – Hot Docs is pleased to present 12 feature, 1 mid-length and two short documentaries to screen at this year's Festival as part of the 2023 **Canadian Spectrum Competition** (formerly Canadian Spectrum), a competitive program showcasing the work of Canadian directors. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

Canadian Spectrum Competition films receiving their world premiere at Hot Docs 2024 are ***A French Youth***, following two young North African men in the South of France seeking to take life by the horns quite literally as they compete to survive in the traditional sport of Camargue races; ***Curl Power***, following five high school girlfriends as they pursue their dreams of becoming Canadian National Curling Champions; ***Karuara, People of the River***, in which a group of Indigenous women from Peru—facing cultural genocide—file a groundbreaking lawsuit demanding the government recognize the Marañón River as a person with human rights itself; ***My Dad's Tapes***, in which a trove of home video tapes spurs a filmmaker to investigate his father's sudden suicide and come to terms with his own identity; ***Fire Tower***, in which sentinels survey dramatic and awe-inspiring landscapes high above the boreal forest as a critical first line of defence in wildfire detection, and ***Me, Michael and I***, in which an ambitious young Quebecois man sacrifices everything in his obsession to resurrect the King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

North American premieres include ***The Soldier's Lagoon***, exploring the misty Páramo region to offer an elusive living archive that navigates the dense fog separating Simón Bolívar's past and Colombia's present; ***Okurimono***, a poetic observation on the process of letting go as a Japanese Canadian woman returns to empty her childhood home, and ***Wilfred Buck***, a hybrid time-travelling road trip through the life of charismatic Cree elder, star expert and ceremonial leader Wilfred Buck.

Canadian premieres include ***Adrienne & the Castle***, in which Alan—facing a future alone in the ornate castle he build with Adrienne—grapples with his grief through creative musical re-enactments; ***Seguridad***, in which director and former youth member of the Communist Party of Cuba explores her father's complicated life and her country's fractured political system; ***Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story***, sharing the life of one of music's first Black trans performers who vanished from the spotlight at the height of her fame; and ***7 Beats per Minute***, which sees freediving champion Jessea Lu return to the site of her near-death experience in the Bahamas, facing past traumas in her harrowing pursuit of the descent of a lifetime.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award and the DGC Special Jury Prize - Canadian Feature Documentary Award. Directors in the Canadian Spectrum Competition program with fewer than two previous feature film credits are also eligible to win the Earl A. Glick Emerging Canadian Filmmaker Award.

**The Canadian Spectrum Competition is presented in partnership with MUBI.**

Screening times and descriptions for the Canadian Spectrum 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).

**7 BEATS PER MINUTE**

D: Yuqi Kang | P: Ina Fichman, Sherien Barsoum | Canada | 2024 | 100 min | Canadian Premiere

In her harrowing pursuit of the freediving descent of a lifetime, champion Jessea Lu returns to the site of her near-death experience in the Bahamas to face past traumas and learn to trust herself and others.

Friday, April 26, 8:45 PM - TLB1

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 PM - TLB1

Sunday, May 5, 12:00 PM - TLB2

**ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE**

D: Shannon Walsh | P: Ina Fichman | Canada | 2023 | 86 min | Canadian Premiere

Alan and Adrienne built an ornate castle as a representation of their other-worldly love for each other. Now, Alan faces a future alone and grapples with his grief through creative musical re-enactments, transporting him back to the fantasy world they created together.

Friday, April 26, 4:45 PM - SCOTIA 5

Saturday, April 27, 2:00 PM - SCOTIA 5

**ANY OTHER WAY: THE JACKIE SHANE STORY**

D: Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee | P: Amanda Burt, Sam Dunn, Scot McFayden, Michael Mabbott, Justine Pimlott | Canada | 2024 | 99 min | Canadian Premiere

Outshining artists like Little Richard and Etta James, '60s soul singer Jackie Shane shattered barriers as one of music's first Black trans performers. Why did this trailblazing icon vanish from the spotlight at the height of her fame?

Saturday, April 27, 9:00 PM - TLB1

Sunday, April 28, 8:45 PM - TLB1

**CURL POWER**

D: Josephine Anderson | P: Mike Johnston | Canada | 2023 | 85 min | World Premiere

Five best friends pursue their dreams of becoming Canadian National Curling Champions. Follow these girls through their high school years in British Columbia as they navigate the perils of modern teenage life on and off the ice.

Sunday, April 28, 5:00 PM - TLB3

Monday, April 29, 9:30 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

**FIRE TOWER**

D: Tova Krentzman | P: Tova Krentzman | Canada | 2023 | 47 min | World Premiere

Gazing from one hundred feet above the boreal forest, *Fire Tower* draws us into the lookouts' world: a critical line of defense in wildfire detection; inviting us to contemplate how solitude inspires a different connection with nature, community and our creativity.

*Screening with*

**THE BIG WAIT**

D: Yannick Jamey | Australia | 15 min  
*and*

**ASBESTOS**

D: Vanessa Gauvin-Brodeur | Canada | 31 min

Monday, April 29, 5:45 PM - TLB3

Wednesday, May 1, 10:45 AM - TLB2

**A FRENCH YOUTH**

D: Jérémie Battaglia | P: Amélie Lambert Bouchard, Elodie Pollet, Valérie Dupin, Cyrille Perez, Gilles Perez | Canada, France | 2024 | 84 min | World Premiere

In the south of France, two young North African men seek a new life through Camargue races, a traditional sport where you survive by literally trying to take a bull by the horns.

Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 PM - TLB2

Friday, May 3, 11:15 AM - TLB1

**KARUARA, PEOPLE OF THE RIVER**

D: Miguel Aroaz Cartagena, Stephanie Boyd | P: Mariluz Canaquiri Murayari, Leonardo Tello Imaina, Stephanie Boyd | Peru, Canada | 2024 | 77 min | World Premiere

Facing cultural genocide, a group of Indigenous women from Peru file a groundbreaking lawsuit demanding the government recognize the Marañón River, which flows into the Amazon, as a person with rights in order to protect the world of powerful spirits led by the Karuara (people of the river).

Tuesday, April 30, 5:45 PM - SCOTIA 7

Friday, May 3, 10:45 AM - SCOTIA 7

**ME, MICHAEL AND I**

D: Nicolas Tremblay, Régis Coussot | P: Xavier Dufour-Larouche, Régis Coussot, Nicolas Tremblay | Canada | 2024 | 75 min | World Premiere

An ambitious young Quebecois man sacrifices everything in his obsession to resurrect the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. As he transforms physically to emulate his hero, dance moves and all, the lines between dreams and reality blur.

Tuesday, April 30, 8:45 PM - TLB1

Thursday, May 2, 11:15 AM - TLB2

**MY DAD'S TAPES**

D: Kurtis Watson | P: Rob Viscardis | Canada | 2023 | 82 min | World Premiere

A trove of home video tapes spurs a filmmaker to investigate repressed parts of his past and come to terms with his own identity. An investigation into his father's sudden suicide turns into a cathartic journey of reconnection and healing.

Thursday, May 2, 2:00 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

Friday, May 3, 2:00 PM - TLB2

### **OKURIMONO**

D: Laurence Lévesque | P: Rosalie Chicoine-Perreault, Catherine Boily | Canada | 2024 | 96 min | North American Premiere

Reconstructing the past culminates in a poetic observation on the process of letting go as a Japanese Canadian woman returns to empty her childhood home, reviving the memories of her mother, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb.

Friday, April 26, 2:30 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 29, 11:30 AM - SCOTIA 6

### **SEGURIDAD**

D: Tamara Segura | P: Annette Clarke, Rohan Fernando | Canada | 2024 | 76 min | Canadian Premiere  
Exploring the life of her father, a former youth member of the Communist Party of Cuba, director Tamara Segura reveals how a gifted, well-intentioned young man became an abusive alcoholic, drawing revealing parallels between her broken home and her country's fractured political system.

Monday, April 29, 3:00 PM - TLB3

Tuesday, April 30, 12:00 PM - SCOTIA 7

### **THE SOLDIER'S LAGOON**

D: Pablo Álvarez-Mesa | P: Pablo Álvarez-Mesa | Canada | 2024 | 76 min | North American Premiere  
Reflecting on the construction of oral history and its relation to the land, *The Soldier's Lagoon* dives into the misty Páramo region and offers an elusive living archive that navigates the dense fog separating Simón Bolívar's past and Colombia's present.

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

Friday, May 3, 11:30 AM - SCOTIA 6

### **WILFRED BUCK**

D: Lisa Jackson | P: Lauren Grant, Alicia Smith, Lisa Jackson | Canada | 2024 | 92 min | North American Premiere

A hybrid, time-travelling road trip takes us into the harrowing life of charismatic Cree elder, star expert and ceremonial leader Wilfred Buck. Adapted from his memoir, this hybrid film charts his journey back to his people's ways of coming to knowledge.

Friday, April 26, 8:00 PM - TLB2

Saturday, April 27, 2:15 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 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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