

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA'S SIZZLING MAY PROGRAM:
A TROVE OF PREMIERES, NEW SERIES, AND ACCLAIMED AUTHORS AWAIT**

- PREMIERES OF THE HOTTEST NEW DOCS: *THE ARC OF OBLIVION*, *CARLOS*, *LYD*, *MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING*, *PASANG: IN THE SHADOW OF EVEREST*, *TAKING VENICE*, *TISH*, AND *WILFRED BUCK*
- HOT DOCS CELEBRATES **ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH** WITH NEW DOCS, SPECIAL SCREENINGS, AND MORE
- POPULAR SERIES IN MAY: NEW SERIES IN TRIBUTE TO FAMED GRAPHIC DESIGNER **SAUL BASS** KICKS-OFF WITH SCREENING OF HITCHCOCK'S *VERTIGO*, **FAMILY SCREENINGS** PRESENTS MIYAZAKI'S *PONYO*
- NEW SERIES **YEAR OF THE VOTE** PRESENTS COMPELLING DOCS AS NEARLY HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS ELEGIBLE TO GO TO THE POLLS IN 2024
- SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE: **FREESTYLE SOCIALS** – A HILARIOUS POP CULTURE GAME, ONE-NIGHT-ONLY SCREENINGS OF *Q* AND *MANUFACTURING THE THREAT*, A SPECIAL SCREENING IN TRIBUTE TO STYLE ICON **IRIS APFEL**, **MOTHER'S DAY** SCREENINGS OF *MAMMA MIA*, *GREY GARDENS* AND *BYE BYE TIBERIAS*, A FREE DAY-LONG LIVE BROADCAST OF **THE WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW**
- **CURIOS MINDS AUTHOR TALKS** WELCOMES #1 NYT BESTSELLING CANADIAN AUTHOR **CARLEY FORTUNE**, ICONIC *CRAZY RICH ASIANS* AUTHOR **KEVIN KWAN**, AWARD-WINNING HOST OF CBC'S *IDEAS* **NAHLAH AYED**, INFLUENTIAL AUTISM ACCEPTANCE ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR **PAIGE LAYLE**, AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND BELOVED FORMER NYT RESTAURANT CRITIC **RUTH REICHL**
- FREE SCREENINGS FOR HOT DOCS MEMBERS

Toronto, ON - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is thrilled to unveil its **May** program, boasting an exciting lineup of premiere titles from some of the world's most compelling doc filmmakers. Spanning an eclectic array of subjects, this selection promises to captivate audiences: from the immersive journey through the life and musical odyssey of rock legend Carlos Santana in Rudy Valdez's *Carlos*, to the poignant exploration of Indigenous wisdom and the legacy of colonialism in Lisa Jackson's *Wilfred Buck*.

To view the full May 2024 calendar, please visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/watch-cinema>.

PREMIERES

- Compelling subjects abound in films premiering at Hot Docs Cinema in May: **Carlos**, an immersive and intimately-crafted film about rock legend Carlos Santana's life and historied musical trajectory; **Tish**, capturing the stunning work and tragic life of working-class photographer Tish Murtha, who captured the impact of Thatcherism on the north of England, but was unable to escape the poverty and inequality she exposed; **Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest**, the story of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the Indigenous trailblazer who battled racism, gender discrimination, and political opposition in her quest to become the first Nepali woman to summit Mt. Everest; **Wilfred Buck**, in which charismatic Cree Elder Wilfred Buck shares his embodied wisdom and profound reflections on colonial trauma in this expertly crafted adaptation of his autobiographical memoir *I Have Lived Four Lives*; and **Much Ado About Dying**, in which filmmaker Simon Chambers captures his madcap gay actor uncle, who teaches him a profound lesson on dying happy.
- Hidden and often jaw-dropping stories will screen at the Cinema in May: **The Arc of Oblivion** captures a filmmaker's quixotic quest to build an ark in Maine as he asks deeply existential questions; **Lyd**, a vividly animated story of a city that once connected Palestine to the world: what it once was, what it is now, and what it could have become; and **Taking Venice**, the true story behind rumours that the U.S. government and high-placed insiders rigged the 1964 Venice Biennale so their chosen artist could win the Grand Prize.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- One-Night-Only screening followed by director Q&A: **Q**, an intimate and haunting portrayal of a quest for love and acceptance at any cost, depicting the insidious influence of a secretive matriarchal religious order in Lebanon on three generations of women in the Chehab family.
- WOOF! Hot Docs Cinema presents a free live broadcast of **The Westminster Dog Show** on May 11.
- Hot Docs Cinema celebrates **Mother's Day** with screenings of **Bye Bye Tiberias**, a documentary following four generations of Palestinian women in filmmaker Lina Soualem's family, and **Grey Gardens**, the doc cult classic that captured the complex relationship between a larger-than-life mother-daughter pair and has spawned countless pop culture references.
- A special tribute screening of Albert Maysles' **Iris**, a touching portrait of iconoclastic fashion maven Iris Apfel.

SERIES

- Hot Docs celebrates **Asian Heritage Month**! On May 27, iconic internationally bestselling author **Kevin Kwan** (*Crazy Rich Asians*) will appear on the Hot Docs Cinema stage for the exclusive Canadian debut of his new novel *On Lies and Weddings*. In anticipation of this event, the Cinema will screen *Crazy Rich Asians*, hosted by the RepresentASIAN Project and featuring an in-depth discussion between Madelyn Chung, founder of the RepresentASIAN Project and Stacy Lee Kong

of Friday Things. **Family Screenings** will present Hayao Miyazaki's magical eight feature film, **Ponyo**. Hot Docs Cinema brings all of the slaps, chops, roundhouse kicks, and "hi-yah's" to the screen with **Enter the Clones of Bruce**, a wild examination of Bruce Lee megafandom that spawned its own film genre. On May 24, the Cinema will present a special screening of **The Last Year of Darkness**, a loving portrait of an LGBTQ+ bar in Chengdu, China.

- A plethora of iconic authors will join **Curious Minds Author Talks** in May: iconic internationally bestselling author **Kevin Kwan** (*Crazy Rich Asians*) for the exclusive Canadian debut of his new novel, bestselling author and beloved former restaurant critic of the New York Times, **Ruth Reichl**, as she unveils her mouthwatering new novel, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author **Carley Fortune** to discuss her tantalizing new novel *This Summer Will Be Different*; influential autism acceptance activist and author **Paige Layle** to present her new book **But Everyone Feels this Way** in a sensory-friendly environment for those in the neuro-diverse community; and writer and broadcaster **Nahlah Ayed**, the award-winning host of CBC's *Ideas*, for the exclusive Toronto debut of her new book, *The War We Won Apart*.
- Hot Docs Cinema presents **Year of the Vote**, a series of compelling documentaries marking the 'Year of the Vote,' as nearly half of the world's population is eligible to go to the polls in 2024. The series kicks-off with a screening of Vanessa Hope's **Invisible Nation**, investigating the election and tenure of Tsai Ing-wen, the first female president of Taiwan, and Anand Patwardhan's **Reason**, presenting eight stories of injustice in India, the world's largest democracy, where the battle between faith and reason relentlessly rages.
- New at Hot Docs Cinema: **Freestyle Socials**, the popular and hilarious live game for dissecting pop culture. Hosted by *The Nature of Things*' Anthony Morgan, the audience decides the outcome at this fun live game played from the Cinema seats.
- **The Art of the Title - That's Saul, Folks!** Hosted by Lola Landekic, designer, writer and editor in chief of *Art of the Title*, this film series will dive into the work of legendary graphic designer Saul Bass. The series will kick-off with a screening of Hitchcock's **Vertigo** on May 15.

FREE FOR MEMBERS

Visit <https://hotdocs.ca/join/memberships> for more information on memberships.

Hot Docs offers free Bronze memberships to those 25 and under.

- In May, Hot Docs members can enjoy a variety of free screenings and events, including *Iris*, *Grey Gardens*, and *The Westminster Dog Show Live Broadcast*.

Cinema Ticket: \$15 (Members tickets from \$10) *

*Unless otherwise specified

PREMIERES

Premiere

CARLOS

D: Rudy Valdez | USA | 87 min | 2023

This immersive and intimately-crafted documentary catapults us into rock icon Carlos Santana's life and musical trajectory as filmmaker Rudy Valdez bolsters this personal narrative with pulsating, never-before-seen footage—guided by Santana himself, and in his own words.

Opens Friday, May 10

Premiere

THE ARC OF OBLIVION

D: Ian Chaney | USA | 93 min | 2023

A filmmaker's quixotic quest to build an ark in Maine reveals an unexpectedly playful search for an answer to a deeply existential question: In a universe that erases its tracks, why are we so hellbent on leaving a trace?

Opens Friday, May 10

Premiere

TISH

D: Paul Sng | UK | 90 min | 2024

Discover the stunning work and tragic life story of working-class photographer Tish Murtha, who captured the impact of Thatcherism on the north of England but was unable to escape the poverty and inequality she exposed.

Opens Friday, May 17

Premiere / Asian Heritage Month

PASANG: IN THE SHADOW OF EVEREST

D: Nancy Svendson | USA | 72 min | 2024

The story of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the indigenous trailblazer who battled racism, gender discrimination, and political opposition in her quest to become the first Nepali woman to summit Mt. Everest, and whose courageous journey would greatly move her country, inspiring new generations to reach for their rights.

Opens Friday, May 17

Premiere

LYD

D: Rami Younis, Sarah Ema Friedland | Palestine, UK, USA | 79 min | 2023

A story of Lyd, a vibrant and historical city that once connected Palestine to the world—what it once was, what it is now, and what it could have become.

Opens Sunday, May 19

Premiere

TAKING VENICE

D: Amei Wallach | USA, France, Italy | 98 min | 2023

Uncover the true story behind rumours that the U.S. government and a team of high-placed insiders rigged the 1964 Venice Biennale so their chosen artist could win the Grand Prize.

Opens Friday, May 24

Premiere / Indigenous History Month

WILFRED BUCK

D: Lisa Jackson | Canada | 92 min | 2024

Weaving together moments of his life today as an expert in Indigenous cosmology and his past as a troubled young child and teen, charismatic Cree Elder Wilfred Buck shares his embodied wisdom and profound reflections on colonial trauma in this expertly crafted adaptation of his autobiographical memoir, *I Have Lived Four Lives*.

Hot Docs Festival 2024 Official Selection.

Winner: 2021 Hot Docs Forum Best Canadian Pitch Prize

Opens Friday, May 24

Premiere / Pride on the Big Screen

MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING

D: Simon Chambers | UK, Ireland | 84 min | 2023

Looking after his madcap gay actor uncle, filmmaker Simon is engulfed in a whirl of Shakespeare and clutter, as Uncle David lends his credit card to neighbours, greets visitors in the nude and teaches Simon a profound lesson on dying happy.

Winner - Award for Best Directing, International Feature Competition, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, 2022

Hot Docs Festival 2023 Official Selection

Opens Thursday, May 30

SERIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Curious Minds Author Talks

RUTH REICHL ON THE PARIS NOVEL

Join bestselling author and beloved former restaurant critic of the *New York Times* as she unveils her mouth-watering new novel: A dazzling, heartfelt adventure through 1980s Paris.

In conversation with writer and editor Ceri Marsh.

Thursday, May 9 / 7:00 PM

Special Event

Q

D: Jude Chehab | Lebanon, USA | 91 min | 2023

An intimate and haunting portrayal of a quest for love and acceptance at any cost, *Q* depicts the insidious influence of a secretive matriarchal religious order in Lebanon on three generations of women in the Chehab family.

WINNER - Albert Maysles Award for Best New Documentary Director, Tribeca Film Festival, 2023

WINNER - Best First Feature, Sheffield International Documentary Festival, 2023

Join writer/director Jude Chehab for a post-screening Q&A.

Friday, May 10 / 9:00 PM

Special Event

WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW: CANINE CELEBRATION DAY: FREE LIVE BROADCAST

Catch a free live broadcast of Canine Celebration Day brought to you by the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, featuring top dogs of all kinds performing incredible canine feats: corgis soaring through obstacle courses, Labradors diving off docks, golden retrievers showing off their obedience skills (aka, demonstrating that they are very good boys), and more!

This livestream will be on the big screen from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Stay for the day or pop in at any time.

Saturday, May 11 / 10:00 AM

*Tickets are FREE with opportunity to donate at the box office or online to Save Our Scruff.

Special Event

BYE BYE TIBERIAS

D: Lina Soualem | Palestine, Qatar, Belgium, France | 82 min | 2023

A special mother and daughter story spanning generations and continents, screening again in time for Mothers' Day. In her early 20s, Hiam Abbass (*Succession, Blade Runner 2049*) left her native Palestinian village to follow her dream of becoming an actress in Europe, leaving behind her mother, grandmother and seven sisters. Thirty years later, her filmmaker daughter Lina returns with her to the village and questions for the first time her mother's bold choices, her chosen exile and the way the women in their family influenced both their lives.

Sunday, May 12 / 5:00 PM

Monday, May 13 / 6:45 PM

Tuesday, May 14 / 4:00 PM

Special Event

GREY GARDENS

D: David Maysles, Albert Maysles, Ellen Hovde, Muffie Meyer | USA | 94 min | 1976

Dry clean those fur coats and come down to the cinema for a special Mother's Day screening of the documentary cult classic that has spawned countless pop culture references, but which still holds tremendous power in its empathetic and intimate portrait of a larger-than-life mother-daughter pair.

Sunday, May 12 / 7:30 PM

*Free for members

The Art of the Title - That's Saul, Folks!

VERTIGO

D: Alfred Hitchcock | USA | 128 min | 1958

Art of the Title curator Lola Landekic takes us behind one of the Greatest Films of All Time to dive deep into the iconic title sequence designed by famed designer Saul Bass.

Presented with an introduction by series host Lola Landekic.

Wednesday, May 15 / 6:30 PM

Special Tribute Screening

IRIS

D: Albert Maysles | USA | 79 min | 2014

Hot Docs pays tribute to the inspiring life of iconoclastic fashion maven Iris Apfel, who passed away at the tender age of 102 earlier this year with this classic doc portrait.

Friday, May 17 / 3:45 PM

Saturday, May 18 / 3:45 PM

*Free for members

Asian Heritage Month

CRAZY RICH ASIANS

D: Jon M. Chu | USA | 121 min | 2018

The first Hollywood film in 25 years to feature a predominantly Asian cast since *Joy Luck Club*, the box office hit showcased Asian characters who were not stereotypical nerds nor martial arts masters, but the leads of a romantic comedy. Based on the bestselling novel by Kevin Kwan.

Join Madelyn Chung, founder of the RepresentASIAN Project and Stacy Lee Kong of Friday Things, for a special pre-screening discussion of why Crazy Rich Asians is so impactful, and how far we've come in Asian representation since its release.

Friday, May 17 / 9:00 PM

Family Screening / Asian Heritage Month

PONYO

D: Hayao Miyazaki | Japan | 103 min | 2008

Celebrate Asian Heritage Month with a film by one of the greatest filmmakers of our time, Hayao Miyazaki. Revisit Miyazaki's eighth feature film, a modern seaside fairy-tale following Ponyo, a young goldfish who swims away from home and wishes to be human when she bonds with a little boy named Sōsuke. Featuring a symphony of colour and whimsical character design, *Ponyo* is a masterclass in the art of hand-drawn animation and should not be missed on the big screen.

Saturday, May 18 / 1:00 PM

*Tickets: \$15 (Members: \$13.50) | \$7.50 for 12 and under

Year of the Vote

INVISIBLE NATION

D: Vanessa Hope | Taiwan, USA | 85 min | 2023

With unprecedented access to Taiwan's sitting head of state, director Vanessa Hope investigates the election and tenure of Tsai Ing-wen, the first female president of Taiwan.

Featuring a pre-recorded intro by filmmaker Vanessa Hope.

Sunday, May 19 / 7:00 PM

Friday, May 24 / 3:45 PM

Year of the Vote

REASON

D: Anand Patwardhan | India | 104 min | 2018

With democracy under siege, Anand Patwardhan's intimate yet epic film brings us eight stories of injustice in India, the world's largest democracy, where the battle between faith and reason relentlessly rages.

Winner—Best Feature-Length Documentary, IDFA 2018

Featuring a pre-recorded intro from director Anand Patwardhan.

Sunday, May 19 / 1:30 PM

Curious Minds Author Talks

CARLEY FORTUNE ON THIS SUMMER WILL BE DIFFERENT

An exclusive first glimpse at the glorious and tantalizing new novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Carley Fortune. *This Summer Will Be Different* follows the romance of Lucy, a tourist vacationing at a beach house on Prince Edward Island, and Felix, the local lad who shows her a very good time. The only problem: Lucy doesn't know he's her best friend's younger brother.

Tuesday, May 21 / 7:00 PM

Curious Minds Author Talks

PAIGE LAYLE ON BUT EVERYONE FEELS THIS WAY - RELAXED EVENT

Open to everyone, this event offers a sensory friendly environment for those in the neuro-diverse community or for anyone who may benefit from a more informal viewing atmosphere. With over two million followers on TikTok, Paige Layle is one of the world's most influential advocates for a better understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Wednesday, May 22 / 7:00 PM

*Relaxed Event: Throughout the event, house lights will remain on a low level and the volume will be slightly turned down. No trailers will be shown. Audience members will be free to move around, leave the theatre, or take a break in a designated "quiet" area.

Asian Heritage Month / Pride on the Big Screen

THE LAST YEAR OF DARKNESS

D: Ben Mullinkosson | China, USA | 95 min | 2023

As the city of Chengdu changes, the future of beloved club Funky Town is unclear. For a vibrant group of DJs, drag artists, ravers, and skaters, it is a sanctuary that allows them to thrive after hours. But as the sun comes up, the friends must face what brought them to the party in the first place.

Friday, May 24 / 9:00 PM

Special Event

MANUFACTURING THE THREAT

D: Amy Miller | Canada | 84 min | 2023

Help us shine a light on the murky world of police infiltration, incitement, and agent provocateurs with this groundbreaking film and discussion that promises to expose the extreme lengths that Canadian law enforcement will go to protect its national security interests.

Featuring an illuminating post-screening discussion featuring director Amy Miller (Tomorrow's Power, No Land. No Food. No Life. and Myths for Profit) and other special guests. Panel guests include: Amy Miller, an award-winning director, producer and writer, Azeezah Kanji, a legal academic and journalist, whose work focuses on anti-colonial and anti-racist perspectives on international law, constitutional law and the "war on terror," Pamela Palmater, a Mi'kmaw lawyer, professor, author, and social justice activist and member of Eel River Bar First Nation in New Brunswick, and John Kingman Phillips, a barrister and member of the Law Societies of Alberta, Ontario and Nunavut.

Sunday, May 26 / 4:00 PM

Curious Minds Author Talk / Asian Heritage Month

KEVIN KWAN ON LIES AND WEDDINGS

Join the iconic internationally bestselling author of the *Crazy Rich Asians* trilogy for the exclusive Canadian debut of his new novel.

In conversation with Shinan Govani, a columnist with the Toronto Star, and long-time observer of all things society and celebrity.

Monday, May 27 / 7:00 PM

Curious Minds Author Talks

NAHLAH AYED ON THE WAR WE WON APART

Join writer and broadcaster Nahlah Ayed, the award-winning host of CBC's *Ideas*, for the exclusive Toronto debut of her new book, *The War We Won Apart*, a riveting true story of love, betrayal and a secret war.

In conversation with renowned broadcaster and journalist Anna Maria Tremonti, former host of CBC's The Current and voice of the CBC Podcast, More with Anna Maria Tremonti.

Tuesday, May 28 / 7:00 PM

Special Event

FREESTYLE SOCIALS – A HILARIOUS POP CULTURE GAME

Freestyle Socials are the new, popular and hilarious live game for dissecting pop culture. Hosted by *The Nature of Things*' Anthony Morgan, 'Lonely No More' unpacks the loneliness epidemic. Movie clips and live interviews dive into charmingly quirky communities you had no idea existed: Newfoundland's bearded mermen, international balloon twisting competitors and intergenerational nudists.

Wednesday, May 29 / 7:30 PM

Asian Heritage Month

ENTER THE CLONES OF BRUCE

D: David Gregory | USA | 100 min | 2023

Hot Docs brings all of the slaps, chops, roundhouse kicks, and "hi-yah's" to the screen with this wild examination of Bruce Lee megafandom that spawned its own film genre, just in time for Asian Heritage Month.

Friday, May 31 / 9:00 PM

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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 including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Hot Docs Podcast Festival and Curious Minds Weekend, 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.

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