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HOT DOCS FESTIVAL WRAPS 2025 EDITION AFTER 11 DAYS, 113 FILMS, 179 SCREENINGS AND OVER 150 FILMMAKER Q&As SHOWCASING TOP CANADIAN AND GLOBAL DOCUMENTARY FILM TALENT

***ENDLESS COOKIE* WINS HOT DOCS ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY AND TAKES HOME FESTIVAL'S LARGEST CASH PRIZE OF \$50,000**

Toronto, ON— Hot Docs wrapped its 2025 edition last night following an 11-day Festival that brought to Toronto cinema screens 113 of the finest documentaries from Canada and around the world, sharing the most pressing stories of our time with full houses of local film-loving audiences and showcasing global filmmaking talent from a total of 47 countries. The 32nd Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival featured 179 screenings on five screens at two venues across Toronto, with over 150 filmmaker Q&As, including four extended discussions with filmmakers and special guests as part of the Big Ideas Series, and a special panel discussion with filmmakers participating in our first-ever Made In Exile program.

“As we celebrate the close of Hot Docs this year, I’m struck by what a truly special festival this has been,” said **Diana Sanchez**, Executive Director, Hot Docs. “Conversations with excited audience members, top-notch film tips from our incredible volunteers, meeting so many visiting filmmakers from around the world and hearing the passion and pride they bring to their work, it has been a whirlwind of a week and I’ve enjoyed every minute of it. Our impactful Docs For Schools program filled our cinema with over 2,000 middle and high school students and became some of our visiting filmmakers’ most unforgettable festival screenings. So many subjects and special guests filled our hearts and minds with an endless outpouring of courage, authenticity and hope for the future. The Festival engaged audiences at every turn. I’m incredibly proud of our team and what they’ve accomplished to ensure Hot Docs continues to thrive in its mission of celebrating and advancing Canada’s rich documentary storytelling tradition.”

The **Hot Docs Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary**, which recognizes the top Canadian feature as determined by audience poll with a cash prize of \$50,000 CAD, was announced last night at a free encore screening at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. ***Endless Cookie*** (D: Seth Scriver, Peter Scriver | P: Daniel Bekerman, Chris Yurkovich, Alex Ordanis, Jason Ryle, Seth Scriver | Canada | 2024 | 97 min), a colourful collage of animated vignettes that explore the complex bond between two half-brothers—one Indigenous, one white—with humorous and heartfelt tales, received the prize, courtesy of Rogers.

“We’re thrilled that *Endless Cookie* has been selected by Hot Docs audiences as the winner of this year’s Hot Docs Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary,” said **Heather Haynes**, Director of Programming, Hot Docs. “This beautiful collaboration between two brothers brings to the screen an

authentic approach to storytelling that moves hypnotically across Toronto’s Kensington Market in the 1980s and present-day in the First Nations community of Shamattawa, in Northern Manitoba, resulting in an unforgettable work of cinema that shows us the endless boundaries of the documentary artform and where it can take us. As we close out this year’s Hot Docs Festival, I want to thank all of the filmmakers who trusted us to share their stories and their work over these past 11 days. It’s the coming together of filmmakers, audiences, industry and volunteers that creates the community of Hot Docs and leaves its mark on this city, and the world, year after year. Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible staff at Hot Docs. Thank you all for your dedication and the love and care you’ve shown in delivering a festival that has left our documentary makers, subject and guests absolutely swooning.”

With \$90,000 CAD in cash and prizes announced at the Hot Docs Awards Presentation on Friday, May 2, and \$50,000 CAD awarded yesterday as part of the Hot Docs Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary, this year the Festival awarded a total of \$140,000 CAD in cash and prizes.

Hot Docs Audience Awards are determined by votes submitted by Festival audiences after in-person screenings. At the close of the Festival, it was determined that ***Come See Me in the Good Light*** (D: Ryan White | P: Jessica Hargrave, Ryan White, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen | USA | 2025 | 104 min) placed first in the overall audience poll and won the **Hot Docs Audience Award**.

The top mid-length film in the audience poll, winning the **Audience Award for Mid-Length Documentary**, was ***Aisha’s Story*** (D: Elizabeth Vibert, Chen Wang (co-director) | P: Elizabeth Vibert, Salam Barakat Guenette | Canada | 2025 | 62 min). The top short film, winning the **Audience Award for Short Documentary**, was ***La Mayordomía*** (D: Martin Edralin | Canada | 2025 | 23 min).

The 20 documentaries in the audience poll are:

1. ***Come See Me in the Good Light*** (D: Ryan White | P: Jessica Hargrave, Ryan White, Tig Notaro, Stef Willen | USA | 2025 | 104 min)
2. ***Endless Cookie*** (D: Seth Scriver, Peter Scriver | P: Daniel Bekerman, Chris Yurkovich, Alex Ordanis, Jason Ryle, Seth Scriver | Canada | 2024 | 97 min)
3. ***Antidote*** (D: James Jones | P: James Jones | United Kingdom | 2024 | 90 min)
4. ***Coexistence, My Ass!*** (D: Amber Fares | P: Rachel Leah Jones, Amber Fares, Valérie Montmartin | USA, France | 2025 | 95 min)
5. ***Saints and Warriors*** (D: Patrick Shannon | P: Michael Grand | Canada | 2024 | 97 min)
6. ***2000 Meters to Andriivka*** (D: Mstyslav Chernov | P: Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath | Ukraine | 2025 | 106 min)
7. ***Mr. Nobody Against Putin*** (D: David Borenstein, Pavel Talankin (co-director) | P: Helle Faber | Denmark, Czech Republic | 2025 | 90 min)
8. ***Selena y Los Dinos*** (D: Isabel Castro | P: Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements, J. Daniel Torres, David Blackman, Simran Singh | USA | 2025 | 106 min)

9. **Cutting Through Rocks** (اوزاک یوللار) (D: Sara Khaki, Mohammadreza Eyni | P: Mohammadreza Eyni, Sara Khaki | Iran, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Qatar, Chile | 2025 | 95 min)
10. **Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance** (D: Noam Gonick | P: Justine Pimlott | Canada | 2025 | 96 min)
11. **Deaf President Now!** (D: Nyle DiMarco, Davis Guggenheim | P: Nyle DiMarco, Davis Guggenheim, Amanda Rohlke, Jonathan King, Michael Harte | USA | 2024 | 100 min)
12. **Facing War** (D: Tommy Gulliksen | P: Anne Marte Blindheim, Danielle Turkov Wilson | Norway | 2025 | 100 min)
13. **The Nest** (D: Chase Joynt, Julietta Singh | P: Alicia Smith, Justine Pimlott | Canada | 2025 | 89 min)
14. **Writing Hawa** (D: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori (co-director) | P: Christian Popp, Hasse van Nunen, Renko Douze | France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan | 2024 | 85 min)
15. **The Gardener and the Dictator** (D: Hui Wang | P: Jun Zhang, Hui Wang | Canada | 2025 | 98 min)
16. **Holloway** (D: Sophie Compton, Daisy-May Hudson | P: Alice Hughes, Polly Creed, Sophie Compton, Tarquin Ramsay | UK | 2024 | 87 min)
17. **The Last Ambassador** (D: Natalie Halla | P: Peter Drössler, Arash T. Riahi, Sabine Gruber, Natalie Halla | Austria | 2025 | 80 min)
18. **The Track** (D: Ryan Sidhoo | P: Ryan Sidhoo | Canada | 2025 | 90 min)
19. **Spreadsheet Champions** (D: Kristina Kraskov | P: Anna Charalambous, Charlotte Wheaton, Nick Batzias | Australia | 2025 | 86 min)
20. **Aisha's Story** (D: Elizabeth Vibert, Chen Wang (co-director) | P: Elizabeth Vibert, Salam Barakat Guenette | Canada | 2025 | 62 min)

The above titles join previously announced **Hot Docs Docs for Schools Student Choice Award** winner **Writing Hawa** (D: Najiba Noori, Rasul Noori (co-director) | P: Christian Popp, Hasse van Nunen, Renko Douze | France, Netherlands, Qatar, Afghanistan | 2024 | 85 min) to make up the [full list of awards](#) chosen by Hot Docs audiences as part of the 2025 Festival.

Hot Docs 2025 served as a vibrant hub for industry professionals, welcoming 985 delegates from 54 countries to participate in the Hot Docs Industry Conference & Market, which featured three days of professional programming, Works-in-Progress screenings, Hot Docs Deal Maker meetings, and networking opportunities. Hot Docs Industry welcomed special guests from across the documentary-making and marketing landscape, including Andrew Peterson, Head of YouTube Canada; *The Nest* filmmakers Chase Joynt and Julietta Singh; Impact Producer Sholeh Fabbri; and @ThatDocumentaryGirl Content Creator Christie Bosch.

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[Hot Docs \(www.hotdocs.ca\)](http://www.hotdocs.ca), North America's leading 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 32nd annual edition from April 24 to May 4, 2025, 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 Deal Maker and Works-in-Progress screenings. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar film fund portfolio. Additionally, it 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.

Hot Docs is proud to include Rogers as its Founding Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Canada Media Fund as its Major Supporters. Full list of sponsors and partners: <https://hotdocs.ca/about/partners>

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