

HOT DOCS INTRODUCES LAND|SKY|SEA COMPETITION PROGRAM AT 2024 FESTIVAL, PRESENTING DOCS THAT EXPLORE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO NATURE

Toronto, March 26, 2024 – Hot Docs will premiere seven films as part of **Land|Sky|Sea**, a new thematic film program exploring nature and our relationship to it. From the high-stakes conflict between Indigenous pastoralists and white landowners in Kenya to the reintroduction of buffalo to the North American plains, each film promises to ignite meaningful dialogue and invite audiences to reflect on our intricate and profound connection with the natural world. The 2024 Hot Docs Festival will take place April 25 to May 5 in Toronto.

Land|Sky|Sea will feature the world premiere of *The Here Now Project*, which constructs an international diary of the impact of climate change using thousands of hours of in-the-moment footage, and the international premiere of *Family Tree*, which uses a cinema vérité approach in sharing the story of two Black families in North Carolina fighting to preserve their land and generational legacy of sustainable forestry. Receiving a North American premiere is *Once Upon a Time in a Forest*, in which 22-year-old Ida becomes the leader of the new Forest Movement and finds himself facing off with Finnish forest industry giants.

The program will see the Canadian premieres of *The Battle for Laikipia*, capturing a high-stakes conflict between Indigenous pastoralists and white landowners in a Kenyan wildlife conservation haven; *Nocturnes*, in which two researchers spend their nights methodically researching moths deep within the Himalayas; *Singing Back the Buffalo*, which travels through the North American plains as Indigenous nations reintroduce the keystone species to the land; and *Yintah*, which shares the story of the Wet'suwet'en people resisting the construction of multiple pipelines across their territory.

All feature-length titles in this program are eligible to win the Land|Sky|Sea Award.

Land|Sky|Sea Competition is supported by the K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation.

Screening times and descriptions for films in the Land|Sky|Sea 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.

THE BATTLE FOR LAIKIPIA

D: Daphne Matziaraki, Peter Murimi | P: Toni Kamau, Daphne Matziaraki | Kenya, USA, Greece | 2024 | 94 min | Canadian Premiere

The past and present collide in a high-stakes conflict between Indigenous pastoralists and white landowners in Laikipia, Kenya, a wildlife conservation haven. Amidst stunning landscapes and generational tensions, the country's future is on the line.

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 PM - TLB2

Saturday, May 4, 5:00 PM - TLB1

FAMILY TREE

D: Jennifer MacArthur | P: Kelin Verrette, Rupert Maconick | USA | 2024 | 96 min | International Premiere

Two Black families in North Carolina fight to preserve their land and generational legacy of sustainable forestry. A cinema vérité approach reveals the monumental task of maintaining the land while navigating challenging family dynamics, unscrupulous developers and changing environmental needs.

Friday, April 26, 4:15 PM - SCOTIA 7

Monday, April 29, 1:30 PM - TLB2

THE HERE NOW PROJECT

D: Greg Jacobs, Jon Siskel | P: Greg Jacobs, Jon Siskel | USA | 2024 | 75 min | World Premiere

An international diary of the impact of climate change is constructed from thousands of hours of in-the-moment footage. Through the process, we witness the deep human resilience, resourcefulness and courage necessary to confront the world's most pressing challenge.

Friday, April 26, 5:15 PM - SCOTIA 6

Wednesday, May 1, 1:45 PM - TLB2

NOCTURNES

D: Anupama Srinivasan, Anirban Dutta | P: Anirban Dutta, | India, USA | 2024 | 80 min | Canadian Premiere

Two researchers spend their nights deep within the Himalayas, methodically researching moths, finding an all-encompassing view of the connections we have with the nature that surrounds us.

Tuesday, April 30, 2:00 PM - TLB2

Friday, May 3, 4:45 PM - TLB3

ONCE UPON A TIME IN A FOREST

D: Virpi Suutari | P: Virpi Suutari | Finland | 2024 | 93 min | North American Premiere

At 22, Ida becomes the leader of the new Forest Movement, coming face to face with Finnish forest industry giants and confronting generational bias. This modern fairy tale takes you into the heart of the woods and the center of the conflict.

Wednesday, May 1, 2:00 PM - TLB1

Friday, May 3, 1:45 PM - TLB3

SINGING BACK THE BUFFALO

D: Tasha Hubbard | P: Tasha Hubbard, Jason Ryle, George Hupka | Canada | 2024 | 98 min | Canadian Premiere

Travel with acclaimed Cree filmmaker Dr. Tasha Hubbard through the North American plains as Indigenous nations reintroduce the keystone species to the land and help reclaim territories and cultures that signal a turning point for long-term, collective survival.

Friday, April 26, 5:30 PM - TLB1

Monday, April 29, 12:00 PM - TLB3

YINTAH

D: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano | P: Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell, Michael Toledano, Bob Moore | Canada | 2024 | 125 min | Canadian Premiere

Following members of the Wet'suwet'en nation along with Hereditary Chiefs and their communities of land defenders, Yintah, meaning land, tells the story of the Wet'suwet'en people resisting the construction of multiple pipelines across their territory.

Saturday, April 27, 5:00 PM - TLB1

Sunday, April 28, 9:15 PM - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema

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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

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