

**HOT DOCS ANNOUNCES 15 SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS TITLES IN  
2021 FESTIVAL, STREAMING ACROSS CANADA APRIL 29 – MAY 9**

*Special Presentations program sponsored by Crave*

Toronto, March 9, 2021 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the first 15 documentary features that will be presented in this year’s Special Presentations program. Special Presentations features a high-profile collection of world and international premieres, award winners from the recent international festival circuit and works by master filmmakers or featuring star subjects. The 2021 Hot Docs Festival will be available for audiences across Canada to stream on the Hot Docs at Home VOD platform, available at hotdocs.ca, from April 29 - May 9.

Notable subjects featured as part of the Special Presentations program include Danish vocalist and multi-instrumentalist **Lukas Forchhammer** from the pop band Lukas Graham (*7 Years of Lukas Graham*); Australian diver and conservationist **Valerie Taylor** (*Playing with Sharks*); legendary Welsh recording industry figures **Kingsley and Charles Ward**, who turned their dairy farm into an iconic music studio (*Rockfield: The Studio on the Farm*); and Italian film director, producer, and screenwriter **Roberto Rossellini** (*The Rossellinis*).

This year’s Special Presentations will include the world premieres of ***Come Back Anytime***, the mouth-watering story of self-taught Japanese ramen master, Masamoto Ueda, and his legendary Tokyo ramen shop, Bizentei; ***Dirty Tricks***, a thrilling look into the cutthroat world of competitive bridge playing and its star player who’s accused of cheating; ***The Taste of Desire***, an exploration of humanity’s relationship to nature and how far we’ll go to satisfy our innate desires; and ***Wuhan Wuhan***, which features award-winning filmmaker Yung Chang teaming up with a group of intrepid videographers as they capture life in the Chinese city during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The full Festival lineup, including the opening night film, will be announced March 23. At that time, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Ticket packages and passes are now on sale online at hotdocs.ca. Single ticket sales open to the public on March 30.

Special Presentation titles appear below, ordered alphabetically:

**7 YEARS OF LUKAS GRAHAM**

D: René Sascha Johannsen | P: Sara Stockmann | Denmark | 2020 | 77 mins | International Premiere  
Danish band Lukas Graham has an uncanny ability of setting audacious goals and achieving them, but after scoring a hit with “7 Years,” Grammy nominations and a world tour, success and fame may have them changing their tune.

**ALL LIGHT, EVERYWHERE**

D: Theo Anthony | P: Jonna McKone, Sebastian Pardo, Riel Roch-Decter | USA | 2021 | 109 mins | Canadian Premiere  
Exploring the connections between technology, vision and power, this Sundance prize winner offers an illuminating investigation of ever-increasing surveillance technologies, exposing the complexities of objectivity and the biases inherent in both human perception and the camera lens.

**COME BACK ANYTIME**

D: John Daschbach | P: Wataru Yamamoto | Japan | 2021 | 81 mins | World Premiere  
Experience a year in the life of a self-taught Japanese ramen master, who considers his legendary noodle shop more than just a livelihood but his life, and his die-hard customers more than just regulars, but true friends.

**THE DEATH OF MY TWO FATHERS**

D: Sol Guy | P: Stine Chrono Moisen, Sol Guy, Travestine Guy - Tuggle | USA | 2021 | 84 mins | World Premiere  
The filmmaker turns the experience of watching videotapes that his terminally ill father recorded into an unforgettable contemplation of race, death and the importance of family, composed as a letter to his own children.

**DIRTY TRICKS**

D & P: Daniel Sivan | Israel | 2021 | 100 mins | World Premiere  
At the elite level, bridge—the world’s most popular card game—becomes a million-dollar cut-throat business. When the best competitive player is accused of cheating, the ensuing scandal confounds experts, criminal science, celebrities and basic belief in this hilarious true-crime thriller.

**MISHA AND THE WOLVES**

D: Sam Hobkinson | P: Jürgen Buedts, Poppy Dixon, Al Morrow, Matthew Wells, Gregory Zalcman | UK, Belgium | 2020 | 88 mins | Canadian Premiere  
Misha Defonseca’s 1997 Holocaust memoir about escaping the Nazis as a seven-year-old girl on foot across Europe with a pack of wolves took the world by storm. But when Hollywood comes knocking, an even more audacious story and darker deceptions come to light.

**PLAYING WITH SHARKS**

D: Sally Aitken | P: Bettina Dalton | Australia | 2020 | 91 mins | North American Premiere  
From filming *Jaws*’ near-lethal live scenes to saving a great white with her bare hands, underwater filmmaking legend Valerie Taylor faces her biggest challenge yet: fighting to conserve the world’s remaining sharks.

**THE RETURN: LIFE AFTER ISIS**

D: Alba Sotorra Clua | P: Alba Sotorra Clua, Vesna Cudic, Carles Torras | Spain, UK | 2021 | 90 mins | Canadian Premiere  
This provocative doc reveals the deeper stories that drove several women to uproot their lives in the West and join ISIS in Syria. Now, infamous and reviled in the media, they yearn for absolution and the homelands that bar their return.

**ROCKFIELD: THE STUDIO ON THE FARM**

D: Hannah Berryman | P: Catryn Ramasut | UK | 2020 | 91 mins | North American Premiere  
Featuring candid interviews with rock legends Robert Plant, Ozzy Osbourne and Liam Gallagher, this is the unlikely tale of how two Welsh brothers turned their dairy farm into one of the most successful recording studios of all time.

**THE ROSSELLINIS**

D: Alessandro Rossellini | P: Raffaele Brunetti, Uldis Cekulis | EP: Philippa Kowarsky, Laura Michalchyshyn | Italy, Latvia | 2020 | 90 mins | Special Screening

In this fascinating look inside a complicated cinema dynasty, the eldest grandson of Roberto Rossellini, one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, picks up the camera for himself and explores his family history.

**SUBJECTS OF DESIRE**

D: Jennifer Holness | P: Jennifer Holness, Sudz Sutherland | Canada | 2021 | 103 mins | Canadian Premiere

A much-needed deconstruction of race and the power of beauty, this thought-provoking doc lifts up the experiences of Black women in a moment when beauty standards are undergoing a cultural shift towards embracing Black aesthetics and features.

**THE TASTE OF DESIRE**

D: Willemiek Kluijfhout | P: Olivia Sophie van Leeuwen | Netherlands | 2021 | 87 mins | World Premiere

In this poetic trip around the world, the oyster acts as metaphor for life's passions and frustrations, linking stories of a New York burlesque dancer, French Michelin-starred chefs, a Swedish oyster diver, a Japanese pearl maker and a terminally ill English psychologist.

**WITH DRAWN ARMS**

D: Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | P: Glenn Zipper, Sean Stuart, Glenn Kaino, Afshin Shahidi | USA, Mexico | 2020 | 84 mins | International Premiere

When track star Tommie Smith and his teammate raised black-gloved fists at the 1968 Summer Olympics, their defiant gesture would reverberate through generations of civil rights activists. Fifty years on, the full breadth of his impact—and depth of his sacrifice—is revealed as America still reckons with racial injustice.

**WHO WE ARE: A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA**

D: Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler | P: Jeffery Robinson, Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler, Gbenga Akinagbe, Andrea Crabtree-Keller, Vanessa Hope, Susan Korda, Katharine Nephew, Jayashri Wyatt | USA | 2021 | 117 mins | International Premiere

Interweaving lecture and personal anecdotes, ACLU deputy legal director Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of post-racial America.

**WUHAN WUHAN**

D: Yung Chang | P: Peter Luo, Donna Gigliotti, Diane Quon | USA | 2021 | 90 mins | World Premiere

With unprecedented access to Wuhan, China, at the peak of the pandemic lockdown, award-winning director Yung Chang looks beyond statistics and headlines to reveal the emotions and resilience at the core of our shared humanity.

[Hot Docs](http://www.hotdocs.ca) ([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 28th annual edition online from April 29-May 9, 2021, during which a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs and a multi-million-dollar production 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, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Hot Docs is proud to include Scotia Wealth Management as its Presenting Platinum Partner; Rogers Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC Gem as its Signature Partner; Crave and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

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