

HOT DOCS WRAPS 2022 FESTIVAL
ETERNAL SPRING TAKING BOTH ROGERS AUDIENCE AWARD AND HOT DOCS
AUDIENCE AWARD; TOP THREE CANADIAN FEATURES SHARE \$50K PRIZE

Toronto, May 9, 2022— Hot Docs 2022 wrapped last night, bringing 225 films from 63 countries to audiences in Toronto cinemas and across Canada online. The 11-day hybrid festival featured 318 live screenings on nine screens at four venues across the city with 223 live filmmaker Q&As, and five special extended discussions with filmmakers and special guests as part of the Big Ideas Series, presented by Scotia Wealth Management. Further building on national audiences cultivated by the past two online editions, all official selections also streamed nationwide during the 2022 Festival with additional content, including recorded filmmaker Q&As, a panel discussion presented with UNHCR, and two special Curious Minds sessions, which paired films with panel discussions featuring subject experts.

“The past 11 days have been an exhilarating and deeply rewarding experience after a three-year pause to our in-person Festival,” shared **Chris McDonald**, President of Hot Docs. “We are proud of the multitude of rich, important, and timely stories that were shared at Hot Docs 2022, proving that documentary cinema matters more than ever. We are thankful to our volunteers, filmmakers, industry stakeholders and partners who helped make this year such a success, and we look forward to celebrating 30 years of Hot Docs at next year’s Festival.”

The Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary, which recognizes the top Canadian feature as determined by audience poll and awards cash prizes totaling \$50,000 to the top three Canadian features in that poll courtesy of Rogers Group of Funds, was announced last night at a special free encore screening at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. ***Eternal Spring*** (D: Jason Loftus | P: Jason Loftus, Masha Loftus, Yvan Pinard, Kevin Koo | Canada), in which exiled Chinese illustrator Daxiong recreates the daring hack of Chinese state television by activists, placed first and received the top prize of \$25,000 CDN. ***Okay! (The ASD Band Film)*** (D: Mark Bone | P: Gregory Rosati, Amalie Bruun | Canada), a backstage look at a band of four talented autistic musicians as they prepare for their first live show, placed second and received a \$15,000 CDN prize. ***Unloved: Huronia’s Forgotten Children*** (D: Barri Cohen | P: Craig Baines | Canada), a searing account of abuse inside Ontario’s oldest government-run home for disabled children, placed third and was awarded \$10,000 CDN.

Hot Docs Audience Awards are determined by votes submitted by Festival audiences after in-person screenings and via the Hot Docs at Home streaming platform. At the close of the Festival, it was determined that ***Eternal Spring*** also placed first in the overall audience poll and won the Hot Docs Audience Award in addition to the Rogers Audience Award.

The top mid-length film in the audience poll, winning the Audience Award for Mid-Length Documentary, was ***Sexual Healing*** (D: Elsbeth Fraanje | P: Willem Baptist, Nienke Korthof | Netherlands), in which a middle-aged disabled woman explores what intimacy means to her. The top short film, winning the Audience Award for Short Documentary, was ***Dad Can Dance*** (D: Jamie Ross | P: Jamie Ross | Canada), the self-affirming story of a son who discovers his father’s long-buried secret passion for ballet.

The 20 documentaries in the audience poll are:

1. **Eternal Spring** (D: Jason Loftus | P: Jason Loftus, Masha Loftus, Yvan Pinard, Kevin Koo | Canada)
2. **Okay! (The ASD Band Film)** (D: Mark Bone | P: Gregory Rosati, Amalie Bruun | Canada)
3. **Unloved: Huronia's Forgotten Children** (D: Barri Cohen | P: Craig Baines | Canada)
4. **Beautiful Scars** (D: Shane Belcourt | P: Corey Russell | Canada)
5. **Smell of Money** (D: Shawn Bannon | P: Shawn Bannon, Jamie Berger | USA)
6. **Navalny** (D: Daniel Roher | P: Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Shane Boris | USA)
7. **Handle with Care: The Legend of the Notic Streetball Crew** (D: Jeremy Schaulin-Rioux, Kirk Thomas | P: Ryan Sidhoo | Canada)
8. **Hunting in Packs** (D: Chloe Sosa-Sims | P: Hannah Donegan, Ann Shin | Canada)
9. **The Kids in the Hall: Comedy Punks** (D: Reg Harkema | P: Nick McKinney, Kim Creelman | Canada, USA)
10. **Batata** (D: Noura Kevorkian | P: Paul Scherzer, Noura Kevorkian | Canada, Lebanon, Qatar)
11. **Returning Home** (D: Sean Stiller | P: Andrew Lovesey, Gilles Gagnier | Canada)
12. **The Quiet Epidemic** (D: Lindsay Keys, Winslow Crane-Murdoch | P: Daria Lombroso, Lindsay Keys, Chris Hegedus | USA)
13. **Category: Woman** (D: Phyllis Ellis | P: Phyllis Ellis, Howard Fraiberg | Canada)
14. **In the Eye of the Storm: The Political Odyssey of Yanis Varoufakis** (D: Raoul Martinez | P: Sol Tryon, Amir Amirani | UK)
15. **How Saba Kept Singing** (D: Sara Taksler | P: Sara Taksler | USA)
16. **The Unsolved Murder of Beverly Lynn Smith** (D: Nathalie Bibeau | P: Tara Jan | Canada | 2022)
17. **Dad Can Dance** (D: Jamie Ross | P: Jamie Ross | Canada)
18. **Who We Will Have Been** (D: Erec Brehmer, Angelina Zeidler | P: Erec Brehmer | Germany)
19. **Alis** (D: Nicolas van Hemelryck, Clare Weiskopf | P: Alexandra Galvis, Radu Stancu, Nicolas van Hemelryck, Clare Weiskopf | Colombia, Romania, Chile)
20. **Relative** (D: Tracey Arcabasso Smith | P: Tracey Arcabasso Smith, Laura Poitras, Jenya James Hamidi | USA)

Hot Docs' wildly popular Docs For School program also ran during the Festival, offering teachers across Canada free access to 13 films, including five official selections from this year's Festival, and accompanying teaching resource linked to curriculum. Hot Docs also presented a hybrid edition of its annual market and conference, welcoming 1,941 delegates from 74 countries. The Hot Docs Industry LIVE program featured three days of knowledge sessions and networking events and online offerings included Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Dealmaker and Distribution Rendezvous, along with additional industry content.

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Hot Docs (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 presented its 29th annual

edition from April 28 to May 8 in cinemas across Toronto as well as online to audiences throughout Canada. The Festival offered a dynamic hybrid experience for industry delegates, including a live three-day program of knowledge sessions and networking events on its first weekend and online market programs and sessions, 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; Cineplex and Netflix as its Presenting Partners; and Telefilm Canada and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

FILM STILLS AVAILABLE

Media Download Site: <https://downloads.hotdocs.ca/downloads>

Password: hdmedia22

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