

For Immediate Release: Thursday, December 19, 2024

## HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA: FRESH STARTS AND FRESH DOCS!

- THEATRICAL PREMIERE OF **LIZA: A TRULY TERRIFIC ABSOLUTELY TRUE STORY, MEDIHA AND 1-800-ON-HER-OWN**
- BOB MACKIE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CANADIAN PREMIERE OF **BOB MACKIE: NAKED ILLUSION**
- BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE PREMIERES **IT'S ALL GONNA BREAK**, BLUE RODEO PREMIERES **BLUE RODEO: LOST TOGETHER**
  - DOC SOUP PRESENTS **THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN** IN JANUARY, **IGUALADA** IN FEBRUARY
    - FOR VIOLA SCREENS THE AWARD-WINNING **NO OTHER LAND** IN FEBRUARY
  - FAVOURITE SERIES ARE BACK! RELAXED SCREENINGS RETURN WITH **KEDI**, FAMILY SCREENINGS WITH A **FROZEN SING-ALONG**, AND QUIET TIME WITH **AGENT OF HAPPINESS**
- NEW SERIES! CRAFT-FOCUSED STITCHES AND SCENES SCREENS GRETA GERWIG'S **LITTLE WOMEN**, MOCKUMENTARY SCREENS **BEST IN SHOW**, RETRO DOC SCREENS **THE QUEEN OF VERSAILLES**, AND SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT SCREENS **THE WORLD'S END**

**Toronto, ON - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema** kicks off the new year with an exciting January lineup that offers something for everyone, from premieres of globally acclaimed documentaries to captivating events with fashion and entertainment icons. Highlights include a star-studded tribute to Liza Minnelli's journey through the 1970s and an intimate look at the extraordinary career of legendary costume and fashion designer Bob Mackie. With exclusive free-for-members events, family-friendly series for all ages, and a diverse selection of compelling Canadian music docs, Hot Docs Cinema's January offerings are sure to engage and enthrall audiences.

Special guests at Hot Docs Cinema in January and February include legendary costume and fashion designer **Bob Mackie** and his longtime design director **Joe McFate**; members of **Broken Social Scene**, *Blue Rodeo: Lost Together* director **Dale Heslip**, producer **Corey Russell**, and Blue Rodeo's **Jim Cuddy** and **Greg Keelor**; *Mediha* director **Hasan Oswald** and film subject **Mediha**; *Union* director **Brett Story**; and drag artist **Andy Fetamean**.

To view the full January 2025 calendar, please visit [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca)

### PREMIERES

- Premiering at Hot Docs Cinema in January: **Mediha**, Hasan Oswald's award-winning film following a teenage Yazidi girl as she turns the camera on herself to process her trauma and

rebuild her life after surviving ISIS captivity; **1-800-ON-HER-OWN**, Dana Flor's musical road trip through the life of feminist singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco, founder of the groundbreaking "woman-run non-corporate queer-happy" label Righteous Babe Records; and **Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story**, Bruce David Klein's star-studded tribute chronicling Liza Minnelli's dazzling and complex journey through the 1970s as she rose to legendary status following the tragic death of her mother, Judy Garland.

- The **Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2024** presents the best international ads of the year on the big screen.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Bob Mackie is coming to Hot Docs Cinema for a weekend of dazzling glamour! Escape the dreary January blues with the Canadian Premiere of **Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion**, a captivating new documentary offering an intimate look at the life and six-decade career of the legendary costume and fashion designer. Both screenings include exclusive live onstage conversations with Bob Mackie and his longtime design director Joe McFate.
- Craving more Mackie opulence? Check out the screening of **Pennies from Heaven** on January 17. A forgotten classic, this lavish musical features Academy Award-nominated costumes designed by the one and only Bob Mackie.
- Hot Docs Cinema and A24's residency of **Stop Making Sense**—the "greatest concert film of all time"—returns in January, featuring some of Talking Head's most memorable songs.
- For those who love audience-participation screenings, Hot Docs Cinema presents a **Shrek Shout-Along** on January 10 and a **Hairspray Sing-Along** on January 12. These are fun, interactive screenings where you can shout, sing and relive the magic of these beloved films with fellow fans.
- In honor of Groundhog Day, Hot Docs Cinema will screen... **Groundhog Day**! This beloved 1990s romcom tells the story of a cynical weatherman who finds himself reliving the same day over and over again, leading to a hilarious and heartwarming journey of self-discovery.

## SERIES

- The new season of the popular **Doc Soup** screening series continues into 2025, presenting featuring premieres of the hottest documentaries from the international festival circuit. On January 8, the series will present Andrea Nevins's **The Cowboy and the Queen**, a captivating story of an iconic British monarch's lifelong love of horses and a renegade California cowboy forging an unlikely friendship. On February 5, catch **Igualada**, a documentary exploring the profound racial and socio-economic disparities faced by a Black woman from a rural background who launches a presidential campaign in Colombia.
- **For Viola**, Hot Docs screening series centering Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC)-led stories and filmmakers, named in honour of Canadian civil rights icon Viola Desmond, returns on February 7 with a free screening of the award-winning film **No Other Land**, in which a Palestinian activist films his community's destruction by Israeli forces and builds an unlikely alliance with a journalist.

Owned and operated by the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, the historic Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is one of the world's only documentary cinemas.

- Hot Docs Cinema is your destination for the most talked-about documentaries this awards season. **The Hottest Docs** series includes: ***Ernest Cole: Lost and Found***, Raoul Peck's compelling portrait of Ernest Cole, a pioneering Black South African freelance photographer; ***Queendom***, following a 21-year-old queer artist who risks her life performing in surreal costumes across Moscow to defy Russia's anti-LGBTQ laws; ***A New Kind of Wilderness***, the story of a family seeking freedom and an untamed life on a small Norwegian farm; and ***Union***, which chronicles Amazon workers on Staten Island as they take on one of the world's largest corporations in their fight to unionize. The January 11 screening of *Union* will feature a live Q&A with director **Brett Story**, moderated by Hot Docs' Director of Programming, Heather Haynes.
- **Back to the Bloor** revisits Hot Docs Cinema's past life as the Bloor Cinema (1980–2010), a beloved home for long-running hits, cult classics, and midnight movie madness. This January, the series features ***Bridget Jones's Diary*** and the 1954 monster classic ***Godzilla***.
- Introducing new series in January: **Mockumentary** celebrates some of our favorite satirical works presented as documentaries, starting with the Christopher Guest classic ***Best in Show***. **Retro Doc** shines a spotlight on classic documentaries and Hot Docs team favorites, with the deliciously gaudy and highly campy ***The Queen of Versailles***. **Stitches and Scenes** welcomes audiences to enjoy cozy films while working on their creative projects—bring your latest crochet, knit, or embroidery project and stitch along to Greta Gerwig's ***Little Women***. Finally, **Service Industry Night** offers a monthly celebration for everyone who makes the magic happen: bartenders, waiters, stage managers, PAs, chefs, and dishwashers. The January screening features Edgar Wright's sci-fi comedy ***The World's End***.
- **Relaxed Screenings** presents ***Kedi***, a charming documentary about hundreds of thousands of Turkish cats roaming freely through Istanbul. The film tells the stories of seven of these cats. These screenings offer a sensory-friendly environment, open to everyone, including those in the neuro-diverse community or anyone who would benefit from a more informal viewing atmosphere.
- **Family Screenings**: All little royals are cordially invited to a ***Frozen*** sing-along on January 12! Don your finest royal wear and belt out to the songs you know by heart.
- **Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies** returns in January with a screening of ***Agent of Happiness***. Set in Bhutan, the film follows Amber, an agent tasked with assessing the well-being of its citizens. The screening will include a special pre-film guided meditation led by Moustafa Abdelrahman, an Applied Mindfulness Meditation Specialist, teacher, and registered psychotherapist who conducts mindfulness courses and workshops with The 519.
- Lovers of music that sounds like Canada will be thrilled by two new compelling docs: ***It's All Gonna Break*** explores the journey of Broken Social Scene, following the formation and evolution of this influential Canadian indie rock collective. Join members of Broken Social Scene for a Q&A after the January 24 screening. ***Blue Rodeo: Lost Together*** provides an intimate look at Canadian rock icons Blue Rodeo, featuring rare interviews and behind-the-scenes footage that capture the stories behind their most beloved songs and their enduring legacy on the Canadian music scene. Join director Dale Heslip, producer Corey Russell and Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor for a post-screening Q&A on February 1.
- Screening on February 2: ***Born Innocent: The Redd Kross Story*** tells the story of the pioneering punk band Redd Kross, tracing their rise from underground obscurity to mainstream recognition.

Owned and operated by the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, the historic Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is one of the world's only documentary cinemas.

Cinema Ticket: \$15 (Members: \$10, \$8, FREE) \*

\* Unless otherwise specified.

### **PREMIERES**

Premiere

#### **CANNES LIONS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CREATIVITY 2024**

105 min | 2024

Ads are art, and these ones will knock your socks off. Check out the best of the best of the 2024 Cannes Lions Festival. Prepare to be persuaded!

Opens Saturday, December 21

Premiere

#### **MEDIHA**

D: Hasan Oswald | USA | 90 min | 2024

From Executive Producer Emma Thompson, this award-winning film from Hasan Oswald is an incredible story of resilience. Mediha, a teenage Yazidi girl, turns her camera on herself to process her trauma after surviving ISIS captivity. As she bravely faces her past, Mediha and her younger brothers, Ghazwan and Adnan, now strive to rebuild their lives despite the uncertain fates of their father, mother, and baby brother.

*WINNER – 2023 DOC NYC Grand Jury Prize – U.S. Competition*

*The January 17 screening will be followed by a pre-recorded Q&A with director Hasan Oswald and film subject Mediha.*

Opens Friday, January 17

Premiere

#### **1-800-ON-HER-OWN**

D: Dana Flor | USA | 77 min | 2024

*1-800-ON-HER-OWN* is a cinematic musical road trip through the life of feminist singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco, founder of the first “woman-run non corporate queer-happy” record label Righteous Babe Records.

Opens Friday, January 31

Premiere

#### **LIZA: A TRULY TERRIFIC ABSOLUTELY TRUE STORY**

D: Bruce David Klein | USA | 104 min | 2024

This star-studded tribute brings into focus the dazzling, complex period of Liza Minnelli's life in the 1970s—just after the tragic death of her mother Judy Garland—as she confronts a range of personal and professional challenges on the way to becoming a bona fide legend.

Opens Friday, January 31

### **THE HOTTEST DOCS**

The Hottest Docs

#### **ERNEST COLE: LOST AND FOUND**

D: Raoul Peck | France, USA | 105 min | 2024

Ernest Cole was the first Black freelance photographer in South Africa, whose early pictures laid bare the injustices of apartheid for a world audience. Cole was exiled to the US, where his experiences were far from his expectations of the American Dream.

*WINNER—L'Oeil d'Or, Cannes 2024*

Friday, January 3 / 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 5 / 3:30 PM

The Hottest Docs

#### **QUEENDOM**

D: Agniia Galdanova | USA, France | 98 min | 2024

In defiance of Russia's anti-LGBTQ laws, a queer, 21-year-old artist risks her life performing in surreal costumes throughout Moscow. Jenna Marvin's radical public performances blend artistry and activism in this SXSW documentary.

*WINNER – CPH:DOX Next:Wave Award 2023*

Saturday, January 4 / 3:00 PM

Sunday, January 5 / 6:30 PM

The Hottest Docs

#### **A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS**

D: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen | Norway | 84 min | 2024

On a small farm in the Norwegian forest, a family seeks a wild free existence. However, after a tragic event changes everything, they are forced from their idyllic farm and into the expectations of modern society.

*WINNER—Grand Jury Prize for World Cinema, Documentary, Sundance 2024*

Friday, January 10 / 6:00 PM

Saturday, January 11 / 5:00 PM

The Hottest Docs

#### **UNION**

D: Brett Story, Stephen Maing | USA | 104 min | 2024

The Amazon Labor Union (ALU)—a group of current and former Amazon workers on New York City’s Staten Island—takes on one of the world’s largest and most powerful companies in the fight to unionize.

*The January 11 screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Brett Story, moderated by Hot Docs’ Director of Programming, Heather Haynes.*

Saturday, January 11 / 8:00 PM

Sunday, January 12 / 12:00 PM

### **BACK TO THE BLOOR**

Tickets: \$7.50

Back to the Bloor

### **BRIDGET JONES’S DIARY**

D: Sharon Maguire | UK | 96 min | 2001

Bridget Jones is determined to improve herself while she looks for love in a year in which she keeps a personal diary.

Friday, January 3 / 9:00 PM

Back to the Bloor

### **GODZILLA (1954)**

D: Ishirō Honda | Japan | 98 min | 1954

Underwater hydrogen bomb testing awakens a fire-breathing monster from its centuries-long sleep, and it soon starts to terrorise Japan.

Saturday, January 4 / 9:00 PM

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Doc Soup

### **DOC SOUP: THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN**

D: Andrea Nevins | USA | 85 min | 2023

An iconic British monarch with a lifelong love of horses and a renegade California cowboy forge the most unlikely friendship—and fulfill shared goals of finding a better way to be with animals, and a kinder way to be in the world—in the eloquent, enlightening documentary *The Cowboy and the Queen*, from Academy Award-nominated and Emmy award-winning filmmaker Andrea Nevins.

Wednesday, January 8 / 6:30 PM

\*Doc Soup Subscribers and Streaming Pass holders can view online starting Thursday, January 9, in an exclusive 4-day streaming window. During this time, the film will be available on the [watch.hotdocs.ca](http://watch.hotdocs.ca) portal. Please sign in with your email and password.

Special Event

**SHREK SHOUT-ALONG**

D: Andrew Adamson, Vicky Jenson | USA | 89 min | 2001

Calling someBODY to immerse yourself in this genre-defining classic best enjoyed with a few drinks and full permission to quote your favourite lines and sing along to the iconic soundtrack.

*Hosted by drag artist Andy Fetamean.*

Friday, January 10 / 9:30 PM

Stitches & Scenes

**STITCHES & SCENES: LITTLE WOMEN (2019)**

D: Greta Gerwig | USA | 135 min | 2019

Bring your latest crochet, knit, embroidery, or other creative project, and stitch away to cozy recent classic, Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*. Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel about Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up in nineteenth-century Massachusetts.

*Arrive early to participate in a craft supply swap! Give your lightly or unused craft supplies a new life and swap for something old but new to you. Excess supplies left at the end of the event will be donated to Creative Reuse Toronto.*

Saturday, January 11 / 1:30 PM

Family Screening

**FROZEN SING-ALONG**

D: Jennifer Lee, Chris Buck | USA | 102 min | 2013

All little royals are cordially invited to a *Frozen* sing-along! Don your finest royal wear and belt out to the songs you know by heart.

Sunday, January 12 / 3:30 PM

\*Tickets: General: \$15, Members: \$15, 12 and under: \$7.50

Special Event

**HAIRSPRAY SING-ALONG**

D: Adam Shankman | USA | 117 min | 2007

In 1960s Baltimore, dance-loving teen Tracy Turnblad auditions for a spot on *The Corny Collins Show*.

Sunday, January 12 / 7:15 PM

Special Event

**A WEEKEND WITH BOB MACKIE: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN**

D: Herbert Ross | USA | 108 min | 1981

A forgotten classic, this lavish musical features Academy Award-nominated costumes designed by the one and only Bob Mackie. Starring Steve Martin as Arthur Parker, a Depression-era sheet-music salesman with big dreams, he faces relationship problems with his wife, and he begins an affair with a withdrawn yet beautiful teacher, Eileen played by Bernadette Peters.

Friday, January 17 / 9:30 PM

Quiet Time: Mindfulness at the Movies

**AGENT OF HAPPINESS**

D: Arun Bhattarai, Dorottya Zurbó | Bhutan, Hungary | 94 min | 2024

In the country of Bhutan, Amber, an agent of Gross National Happiness, goes from house to house checking the levels of people's well-being.

*Featuring a special pre-film guided meditation by [Moustafa Abdelrahman](#), an Applied Mindfulness Meditation Specialist, teacher and registered psychotherapist who leads guided mindfulness courses and workshops with *The 519*.*

Saturday, January 18 / 12:00 PM

\*Free for Members

Special Event

**A CONVERSATION WITH BOB MACKIE: NAKED ILLUSION**

D: Matthew Miele | USA | 105 min | 2024

Bob Mackie is coming to Hot Docs Cinema for a weekend of dazzling glamour! Escape the dreary January blues with the Canadian Premiere of *Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion*, a captivating new documentary offering an intimate look at the life and six-decade career of the legendary costume and fashion designer.

*Both screenings include exclusive conversations with Bob Mackie and his longtime design director Joe McFate.*

Saturday, January 18 / 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 19 / 2:00 PM

\*Tickets: Orchestra (Stage View): \$49, Mezzanine and Balcony (Screen View): \$24

\*Members save 10%

\*Ticket sales open to the general public on Thursday, December 19, at 1 PM.

Special Event

**IT'S ALL GONNA BREAK**

D: Stephen Chung | Canada | 89 min | 2024

Behind-the-scenes look at the rise of early 2000s Canadian indie icons Broken Social Scene.

*Join members of Broken Social Scene for a Q&A after the January 24 screening.*

Friday, January 24 / 7:30 PM

Saturday, January 25 / 6:00 PM

Relaxed Screenings

**RELAXED SCREENING: KEDI**

D: Ceyda Torun | Turkey | 79 min | 2016

Hundreds of thousands of Turkish cats roam the metropolis of Istanbul freely. This is the story of seven of them.

Open to everyone, these screenings offer a sensory friendly environment for those in the neuro-diverse community or for anyone who may benefit from a more informal viewing atmosphere.

- Throughout the screening, 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.

View the [venue guide](#) to the Cinema. For any questions or requests, contact our [box office](#).

Saturday, January 25 / 3:15 PM

Special Event

**STOP MAKING SENSE – A24 RESIDENCY**

D: Jonathan Demme | USA | 88 min | 1984

Newly restored in 4K to coincide with its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this 1984 film is considered by many critics to be the greatest concert film of all time and is a long-held institution at the Hot Docs/Bloor Cinema. Shot over the course of three nights at Hollywood's Pantages Theater in December of 1983, *Stop Making Sense* also features some of Talking Heads' most memorable songs.

Saturday, January 25 / 9:00 PM

Retro Doc

**RETRO DOC: THE QUEEN OF VERSAILLES**

D: Laura Greenfield | USA | 103 min | 2012

The 2008 global economic crisis threatens the fortune of Florida billionaires David and Jackie Siegel just as they are in the middle of building a 90,000 square-foot estate.

Sunday, January 26 / 2:30 PM

Mockumentary

**MOCKUMENTARY: BEST IN SHOW**

D: Christopher Guest | USA | 90 min | 2000

A behind-the-scenes look into the cut-throat world of dog shows through the eyes of a group of ruthless dog owners.

Sunday, January 26 / 5:30 PM

Service Industry Night

**SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT: THE WORLD'S END**

D: Edgar Wright | UK | 109 min | 2013

20 years later, five friends reunite to retry an epic pub crawl, only for chaos to ensue.

*A monthly night celebrating everyone who makes the magic happen. Bartenders, waiters, stage managers, PAs, chefs and dishwashers—come on down to Hot Docs Cinema to watch a movie, put your feet up and enjoy some fun extras. Leave your customer service face at home.*

Sunday, January 26 / 9:00 PM

Special Event

**BLUE RODEO: LOST TOGETHER**

D: Dale Heslip | Canada | 88 min | 2024

*Blue Rodeo: Lost Together* is an engaging dive into the world of one of Canada's most beloved bands. With the unmistakable voices of Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor guiding the way, this documentary blends humour, honesty and heart to tell the story of their incredible 40-year journey.

*Join director Dale Heslip, producer Corey Russell and Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor for a post-screening Q&A.*

Saturday, February 1 / 8:00 PM

Sunday, February 2 / 4:30 PM

Special Event

**GROUNDHOG DAY**

D: Harold Ramis | USA | 101 min | 1993

A cynical TV weatherman finds himself reliving the same day over and over again when he goes on location to the small town of Punxsutawney to film a report about their annual Groundhog Day.

Sunday, February 2 / 1:30 PM

Special Event

**BORN INNOCENT: THE REDD KROSS STORY**

D: Andrew Reich | USA | 87 min | 2024

*Born Innocent* makes the case for Redd Kross as the seminal West Coast band of the last half century. Their influence reaches across the genres of punk, college rock, grunge, metal and indie rock.

Sunday, February 2 / 7:30 PM

Doc Soup

**DOC SOUP: IGUALADA**

D: Juan Mejía Botero | Colombia, USA, Mexico | 81 min | 2024

In Colombia, a nation marred by profound racial and socio-economic disparities, a Black woman from a rural background challenges the status quo by launching a presidential campaign.

Wednesday, February 5 / 6:30 PM

\* Tickets on sale to the public starting January 16 | Tickets: \$17 (non-member), \$15.30 (member).

\* Doc Soup Subscribers and Streaming Pass holders can view online starting Thursday, February 6, in an exclusive 4-day streaming window. During this time, the film will be available on the [watch.hotdocs.ca](https://watch.hotdocs.ca) portal. Please sign in with your email and password.

For Viola

**FOR VIOLA: NO OTHER LAND (FREE SCREENING)**

D: Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Yuval Abraham, Rachel Szor | Palestine, Norway | 95 min | 2024

Palestinian activist films his community's destruction by Israeli forces, building an unlikely alliance with a journalist.

*For Viola* is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council.

Friday, February 7 / 7:00 PM

\* While this screening is presented free of charge, please consider a donation of \$10 in recognition of the value of the work presented, and in honour of Viola Desmond, featured on the \$10 banknote, at checkout. Half the proceeds will be shared directly with the filmmakers, who also receive screening fees.

###

Owned and operated by [Hot Docs](https://www.hotdocs.ca), 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

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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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