

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

**HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA: MAY 18 TO JUNE 1
HOT DOCS OPENS IT CINEMA DOORS TO SHARE UNBELIEVABLE TRUE STORIES,
STUNNING VISUALS AND ICONIC FILMS SPANNING 60 YEARS OF FILM HISTORY**

- **NEW RELEASE: *SABBATH QUEEN* FOLLOWS THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A RABBI TURNED RADICAL DRAG QUEEN TURNED FOUNDER OF EVERYBODY-FRIENDLY, GOD-OPTIONAL, ARTIST-DRIVEN, POP-UP EXPERIMENTAL CONGREGATION**
- **DOORS OPEN: HOT DOCS TED ROGERS CINEMA DOES OPEN DOORS WITH ONGOING SCREENINGS OF SEASONS 1-3 OF *CITIZEN MINUTES***
- **SPECIAL EVENT SCREENING: *80 FACES OF FREEDOM* WITH *NESHOMA* COME TOGETHER TO EXPLORE STORIES OF WWII SURVIVORS FROM THE NETHERLANDS 80 YEARS LATER**
- **SPECIAL EVENT SCREENING: *OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH* BRINGS STUNNING OCEAN LIFE CINEMATOGRAPHY TO OUR CINEMA SCREEN**
- ***BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN* SHOWCASES THE STORY OF ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST CELEBRATED AND ICONIC ROCK BANDS**

Toronto, ON - Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is excited to unveil a dynamic lineup of screenings, series and special events running from May 18 to June 1. New release *Sabbath Queen* looks at the stranger-than-fiction story of Amichai Lau-Lavie, who journeys from radical drag queen to influential rabbi of a God-optional New York City synagogue. A Special Event Screening of both *80 Faces of Freedom* and *Neshoma* will bring together stories of World War II survivors from The Netherlands 80 years later. Doors Open programming offers up two days of ongoing screenings featuring seasons 1-3 of *Citizen Minutes*, a Hot Docs commissioned collection of 21 short films that showcase ordinary Canadians making extraordinary impacts in their communities. A special screening of *Ocean with David Attenborough* will bring stunning ocean life cinematography to the screen. The cinema will also bring titles spanning the past 60 years of film as part of ongoing series *Back to the Bloor*, *This Film Should Be Played Loud*, *A Year of Austen* and *Family Screenings*.

To view the Hot Docs Cinema calendar, please visit www.hotdocs.ca

All newly announced screenings and events appear below with dates and times. For ticket prices and information, visit <https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/watch-cinema>

NEW RELEASES

New Release

SABBATH QUEEN

D: Sandi DuBowski | USA | 105 min | 2024

Amichai Lau-Lavie journeys from radical drag queen to influential rabbi of a God-optional New York City synagogue.

Join director Sandi DuBowski for a Q&A after each screening.

Friday, May 30 / 7:00 PM

Sunday, June 1 / 10:30 AM

DOORS OPEN

CITIZEN MINUTES

D: Various | Canada

Once a year, Doors Open Toronto invites the public to explore many of the city's most-loved spaces—free of charge. Throughout the day, we will be screening our *Citizen Minutes* collection (citizenminutes.ca), which includes 21 short films that showcase ordinary Canadians making extraordinary impacts in their communities.

Free entry.

Saturday, May 24 / ongoing from 10:00 AM with last admittance at 3:00 PM

Sunday, May 25 / ongoing from 10:00 AM with last admittance at 3:00 PM

SERIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Event

80 FACES OF FREEDOM WITH NESHOMA

Join us for an afternoon of reflection with this double bill of *80 Faces of Freedom* (D: Jason van Bruggen | Canada | 17 min | 2024) and *Neshoma* (D: Sandra Beerends | Netherlands | 85 min | 2024), followed by a conversation with the film directors and special guests.

Directors Jason van Bruggen and Sandra Beerends, along with Leonard Vis—a Jewish survivor from Amsterdam—will join moderator Harman Idema, Consul-General of the Netherlands in Canada, for a thought-provoking panel discussion exploring themes of remembrance, identity, and the role of storytelling in preserving history.

Sunday, May 18 / 3:00 PM

This Film Should Be Played Loud

BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN

D: Bernard MacMahon | United Kingdom, USA | 121 min | 2025

An exploration of the origins of the iconic rock band and its meteoric rise—in just one year and against all odds.

Saturday, May 24 / 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 25 / 4:00 PM

Special Screening

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

D: Colin Butfield, Toby Nowlan, Keith Scholey | United Kingdom | 105 min | 2025

Stunning cinematography showcases the wonder of life in the ocean and exposes the unprecedented challenges it faces.

Saturday, May 31 / 3:30 PM

Family Screenings

TURNING RED

D: Domee Shi | USA | 100 min | 2022

As if the challenges of adolescence were not enough, whenever Mei Lee gets too excited she turns into a giant red panda.

Saturday May 24 / 4:30 PM

Back to the Bloor

BEFORE SUNRISE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

D: Richard Linklater | USA, Austria | 101 min | 1995

Jesse and Céline spend a romantic evening together in Vienna, knowing they may never see each other after they part.

Sunday, June 1 / 6:00 PM

A Year of Austen

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

D: Joe Wright | United Kingdom | 127 min | 2005

Celebrate the anniversary of Joe Wright's 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's best-known novel that has bewitched audiences for two decades.

Saturday, May 31 / 7:00 PM

Back to the Bloor

THE BIRDS

D: Alfred Hitchcock | USA | 119 min | 1963

A trip to Bodega Bay takes a bizarre avian turn in this Hitchcock classic that is one of the greatest horror films of all time.

Sunday, May 25 / 7:00 PM

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Owned and operated by [Hot Docs](#), 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 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 the venue.

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