

## HOT DOCS 2023 *MADE IN* PROGRAM TO SPOTLIGHT URGENT NEW DOCS FROM UKRAINE

Toronto, March 28, 2023 – Hot Docs is pleased to announce that the 2023 Festival will showcase recent works from **Ukraine** in its *Made In* program. This distinguished program will highlight stories being captured on the ground by filmmakers working in the country since the war began. Hot Docs 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Festival will take place April 27 to May 7 in Toronto. *Made In Ukraine* is presented in collaboration with Docudays UA and supported by the Temerty Foundation, Telefilm Canada, and the Shevchenko Foundation.

For the past 30 years, Hot Docs has charted the growth of Ukraine's independence, seeing films about a former region of USSR become independent submissions from Ukrainian filmmakers, producers and distributors. Hot Docs has proudly showcased the artistic and political expression of preeminent and rising Ukrainian artists for three decades, ensuring that these voices can tell their stories to the world in the years to come.

"Hot Docs stands with Ukraine. The fact that *Made In Ukraine* is even possible this year is inspiring," shared **Myrocia Watamaniuk**, Hot Docs senior international programmer. "That brand new Ukrainian documentaries have been made over the past 12 months, that filmmakers who volunteered to fight also continued to produce their art—this is astonishing. Hot Docs is honoured to provide this platform."

*Made In Ukraine* will introduce audiences to five Ukrainian teenagers escaping the reality at home and embarking on an adventure to the Himalayas in ***We Will Not Fade Away***; expose them to the horrors of the invasion in Mariupol in ***20 Days in Mariupol***; confront preconceived notions and oppressive Russian ideology that often fuels the narrative of the invasion in ***Eurodonbas***; revisit the investigation of the deadly Malaysian Airlines Flight 17, shot down by Russian forces over Eastern Ukraine, in ***Iron Butterflies***; and find signs of new life and regeneration in war-torn Bucha in ***When Spring Came to Bucha***.

Docudays UA, Ukraine's most venerable documentary film festival and the co-presenter of *Made In Ukraine*, defied the air raids and rocket fire and valiently presented its 2022 Festival. In it, they launched *Civil Pitch 2.0*, a competition to sponsor the production of brand new docs. More than 150 projects competed, and Hot Docs proudly presents the world premiere of all four winners in the shorts program **Films That Bring The Victory Closer: Civil Pitch 2.0 Winning Films presented by Docudays UA**: Pavlo Dorohoi's ***89 Days*** takes us into a Kharkiv subway-station-turned-bomb-shelter-turned-back-into-a-subway-station; Lesia Diak's ***Under the Wing of the Night*** follows 11-year-old Olesia's new life in Belgium as she waits for her father's nightly call from back home; Halyna Lavrynets's ***Guests from Kharkiv*** watches activist Nelia try to resettle city-dwellers into rural Ukrainian life; and Anastasiia Tykha's ***Our Robo Family*** celebrates the children's robotics and programming group Roboclub Vuhledar.

"We're incredibly grateful for having Hot Docs as our partner," said **Victoria Leshchenko**, Docudays UA

program director. “These films are telling some of the country's most urgent stories, but they also demonstrate the talent that is at risk. Connecting these artists with Canadian audiences is so important.”

Past **Made In** programs have focused on films from Chile (2022), Colombia (2021), Northern Ireland (2020), Italy (2019), Mexico (2018), Japan (2017), Australia (2016), India (2015), Denmark (2014), Poland (2013), Southeastern Europe (2012), Italy (2011), South America (2010), South Korea (2009), Mexico (2008), Brazil (2007), Japan (2006), South Africa (2004) and Taiwan (2003).

Screening times and descriptions for films in the *Made in Ukraine* 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](http://www.hotdocs.ca/whats-on).

## **20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL**

D: Mstyslav Chernov | P: Mstyslav Chernov, Michelle Mizner, Raney Aronson-Rath, Derl McCrudden | USA | 2022 | 94 min | Canadian Premiere

Arriving mere hours before the first bomb hits Mariupol, a journalist and his colleagues are trapped for 20 days. Their tireless reporting of the invasion's unspeakable horrors exposes Russian propaganda to the world in this staggering Sundance award-winning diary.

Saturday, April 29, 2:45 PM - TBLB2

Thursday, May 4, 5:30 PM - Isabel Bader

## **EURODONBAS**

D: Kornii Hrytsiuk | P: Anna Palenchuk | Ukraine | 2022 | 73 min | North American Premiere  
Stalinist industrial myths about Eastern Ukraine's Donbas region fuel separatist ideology and the war narrative, but this fascinating historical corrective to oppressive Russian propaganda reveals the land's true roots hidden in plain sight.

Sunday, Apr 30, 5:00 PM - SCOTIA 6

Friday, May 5, 8:45 PM - SCOTIA 5

## **IRON BUTTERFLIES**

D: Roman Liubyi | P: Andrii Kotliar, David Armati Lechner, Volodymyr Tykhyy, Isabelle Bertolone, Trini Götze | Ukraine, Germany | 2023 | 84 min | Canadian Premiere

In 2014, Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by Russian forces over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers. This meticulous investigation reveals Russia's outrageous attempts to avoid blame but more poignantly what is at stake by not confronting the guilty.

Tuesday, May 2, 2:15 PM - TBLB4

Friday, May 5, 8:45 PM - TBLB3

## **WE WILL NOT FADE AWAY**

D: Alisa Kovalenko | P: Valery Kalmykov, Stephane Siohan, Katarzyna Kuczynska, Tomasz Morawski, Oleksiy Kobelev | Ukraine, France, Poland | 2023 | 100 min | North American Premiere  
Teenagers from Donbas understand they had to live quickly in case catastrophe hits. Five join an absurd adventure mission to the Himalayas, but can their dreams of peace above the clouds escape the reality of what is to come?

Thursday, May 4, 8:00 PM - TBLB3

Sunday, May 7, 4:45 PM - TBLB3

### **WHEN SPRING CAME TO BUCHA**

D: Mila Tessaieva, Marcus Lenz | P: Marcus Lenz | Ukraine, Germany | 2022 | 64 min | North American Premiere

After weeks of unrelenting bombing, Russian forces pull out of Bucha long enough for residents to assess the damage. Respectful cameras find moments of new life among the horrors, quietly capturing the resilience of a people who will not be broken.

*Screening with*

### **I DID NOT WANT TO MAKE A WAR FILM**

D: Nadia Parfan | P: Daniel Lombroso | Ukraine, USA | 2023 | 18 min | Canadian Premiere

Wednesday, May 3, 2:30 PM - SCOTIA 7

Sunday, May 7, 2:45 PM - TBLB4

### **SHORTS PROGRAM**

#### **FILMS THAT BRING THE VICTORY CLOSER: CIVIL PITCH 2.0 WINNING FILMS PRESENTED BY DOCUDAYS UA**

Bombs couldn't stop Docudays UA Human Rights International Documentary Film Festival in 2022. Over 150 projects applied to their Civil Pitch 2.0 production competition; four projects were selected. We are proud to present the world premieres of Ukraine's freshest documentary talent.

### **89 DAYS**

D: Pavlo Dorohoi | P: Artem Prybilnov | Ukraine | 2023 | 20 min | World Premiere

### **UNDER THE WING OF THE NIGHT**

D: Lesia Diak | P: Lesia Diak, Natalia Libet, Andriy Stupak | Ukraine | 2023 | 20 min | World Premiere

### **GUESTS FROM KHARKIV**

D: Halyna Lavrynets | P: Alexandra Bratyshchenko | Ukraine | 2023 | 20 min | World Premiere

### **OUR ROBO FAMILY**

D: Anastasiia Tykha | P: Bohdanna Semen | Ukraine | 2023 | 19 min | World Premiere

Monday, May 1, 3:15 PM – TBLB

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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 30<sup>th</sup> annual edition from April 27 to May 7, 2023, in cinemas across Toronto, with a selection of films available online to audiences throughout Canada. 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, Hot Docs Deal Maker and The Doc Shop. In celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a dedication to excellence in non-fiction storytelling, Hot Docs will present the Podcast Festival Showcase, featuring a slate of today's hottest podcasts live on stage; along with a dynamic line-up of industry panels and master classes featuring podcast game-changers. 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, and operates Hot Docs at Home streaming platform.

Starting Tuesday, March 28, Festival ticket package holders, including Doc Soup subscribers, can redeem their ticket packages, and Hot Docs Members can purchase single tickets. Starting Tuesday, April 4, single tickets will be available to the public. Tickets and ticket packages can be purchased and/or redeemed online at [www.hotdocs.ca](http://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 screenings). Single tickets are \$19 to regular Festival screenings and \$22 to Special Presentations screenings (\$17-19 members). Special events vary in price. A Festival 12-Pack is \$199 and a Festival 20-Pack is \$279. Hot Docs offers free tickets for all screenings before 5:00 p.m. to those 60+ 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 Group of Funds as its Founding Partner; CBC as its Signature Partner; Netflix as its Presenting Partner; and Telefilm Canada, the City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario as its Major Supporters.

#### **FILM STILLS AVAILABLE**

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

Password: HD23Media

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