

Media Release

Event: 2024 DOXA Documentary Film Festival

Dates: May 2-12, 2024

Venues: in theatres (SFU Goldcorp Centre, VIFF Centre, The Cinematheque, The Vancouver Playhouse)

Admission: Generous ticket: \$18; General Admission ticket: \$16; Student/Seniors ticket: \$2 discount from general admission; Accessible ticket: \$4 discount from general admission; Special Presentations: \$19; 5 Ticket Pack: \$70; 10 Ticket Pack: \$120; Festival pass (excluding Industry program): \$195; Festival + Industry pass: \$245; Industry ticket: Sliding scale starting at \$13

Tickets: www.doxafestival.ca **Festival Box Office:** support@doxafestival.ca

For information: 604.646.3200 **Media contact:** Marnie Wilson 604.836.2409 or mwilson@theartsbiz.com

DOXA Documentary Film festival Announces 2024 Award Winners

Vancouver, BC / **EMBARGOED UNTIL: 8PM PDT Saturday May 11, 2024** – With still another full day of screenings ahead, DOXA Documentary Film Festival is pleased to announce the winners of its 2024 competitions.

Neil Diamond and Catherine Bainbridge's ***Red Fever*** is this year's winner of the **Nigel Moore Award for Youth Programming**. Jurors Olivia Moore, Anna Hetherington, Emily Ash Cutajar and Darius Darabi share that *Red Fever* "is a witty and dynamic film that highlights the deep and profound roots of Indigenous influence on western media, culture, and identity. The engaging and cohesive structure of the film, representing mind, body, soul, and heart has something to offer to everyone, examining the topics of fashion, sports, politics, and the environment... [firmly] grounding indigeneity in the present and pushing back against the persistent narrative of Indigenous peoples' [only] existing in the past, this film is a captivating and necessary watch that will resonate with all audiences."

As well, the jurors would like to acknowledge another film that deserves special mention, and that is ***Singing Back the Buffalo*** directed by Tasha Hubbard: "With its rich visuals and uplifting message, *Singing Back the Buffalo* is a vital film during this moment as we strive for reconciliation, sustainability, and climate justice. Highlighting survivance and revitalization through the movement to restore the buffalo, Hubbard's film provides a message of hope that will resonate and inspire youth audiences and generations to come."

Jurors Gianluca Matarrese, Éléonore Goldberg and Kimberly Ho are delighted to present this year's **Short Documentary Award** to Hao Zhou's ***Wouldn't Make It Any Other Way***. "Deploying a broad corpus of emotions, *Wouldn't Make it Any Other Way* deliciously combines elements of belonging, identity and hope, expertly highlighted by Hao Zhou's cinematography and editing. We fell under the spell of budding costume designer Marc Marcos, passionate, wholehearted and determined to be happy."

A special jury mention was given to Ibrahim Handal's ***A Short Film About a Chair***. Jurors shared: "It is quite an art to be able to give life to simple objects, seemingly of no particular interest. *A Short Film About*

a Chair proves that we can make a documentary about anything, with the art of noticing it. Like a closed session, through humor, the multiplicity of languages, a state of confinement and wandering, the film invites us to reflect on patience and change.”

Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada, the recipient of the **Colin Low Award for Best Canadian Director** is **Pablo Alvarez-Mesa** for *La Laguna del Soldado*. Jurors Florence Lamonthé, Ryan Ermacora and Hind Saïh recognize “his skillful layering of Colombian history and the specifics of place through an ecological perspective. A film that is as sensitive as it is critical, *La Laguna del Soldado* probes a lineage of colonial violence even as it continues into the present. Through its inventive and sensorial construction, distinctions between form and content dissolve into the fog. Pablo Alvarez-Mesa’s work has produced a singular grammar of cinema, providing access to the Páramo through a geological strata of image and sound. The film’s immersive use of offscreen audio and superimposition reflects upon environmental and Indigenous justice, blending the poetic and the political.”

A special jury mention is given to **Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell and Michael Toledano** of *Yintah* for “[the film’s] uncompromising commitment to Indigenous sovereignty and justice in the face of collusion between state violence and the resource extraction industry; for the enduring strength of all those involved in both the film’s production and greater struggle. *Yintah* is a film of historical importance and a testimony for generations to come.”

Another special jury mention is also given to **Lisa Jackson** for *Wilfred Buck*, for “its brilliant threading of archival material, re-creations and contemporary scenes to tell a story of displacement while offering paths towards communal healing. Bridging astral scales with microscopic imagery, *Wilfred Buck* brings us into a rich tapestry of Indigenous cosmology.”

Jurors Liz Marshall, Sara Wylie and Hejer Charf are delighted to select Lina Soualem’s ***Bye Bye Tiberias*** as the winner of this year’s **DOXA Feature Documentary Award**. “This urgent personal documentary of longing, displacement and connection illuminates Palestinian family archives at a time when these documents and stories are being erased in the ongoing genocide. Cinematically weaving generations of matrilineal history with that of her motherland, we honour filmmaker Lina Soualem for her courage and artistry.”

The jurors would also like to give two special mentions: “Made by a collective of neuro-diverse people, [The Neurocultures Collective and Steven Eastwood’s] ***The Stimming Pool*** is a unique and formally innovative example of participatory cinema, showcasing new ways of seeing and being seen.” The second special mention goes to ***Kamay*** by Ilyas Yourish and Shahrokh Bikaran: “This hauntingly powerful and poetic film masterfully uses cinematic language to contemplate love, loss and perseverance, while honouring the Hazara people and the women of Afghanistan.”

Finally, jurors Aya Garcia, Damien Eagle Bear and Brandon Wint are proud to present the **Elevate Award**, presented by Elevate Inclusion Strategies, to Ilyas Yourish and Shahrokh Bikaran for ***Kamay***. The jurors say that “while many of the films nominated for this year’s award possessed a compelling,

heart-wrenching level of cinematic intimacy, *Kamay*, more than perhaps any film, conveyed the relationship between resistance and familial love. We were both impressed and moved by the poetic cinematic language of the film, as *Kamay* immersed the viewer in a unique portrayal of resistance through unconditional family love.”

A special jury mention is given to Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell and Michael Toledano’s *Yintah*, for its “powerful story of resistance and resilience against colonial and imperial powers. It was very inspiring to see the Wet’suwet’en peoples’ devotion and commitment to fighting against the occupation of their lands. The film provides a strong example of community-led activism that we should all aspire to.”

Jury statements can be read in full on the [DOXA website](https://www.doxafestival.ca).

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Committed to cultivating curiosity and critical thought, DOXA 2024 delivers some of the very best in contemporary documentary cinema over 11 days. DOXA Documentary Film Festival runs May 2-12, 2024, offering an exceptional selection of films, filmmaker Q+A’s and Industry events. Select screenings will include live and pre-recorded filmmaker Q+As and extended discussions. Festival tickets and passes will be available starting Wednesday, April 3rd; for details, check www.doxafestival.ca. For further information, call the DOXA office at 604.646.3200.

DOXA is presented by The Documentary Media society, a Vancouver-based non-profit, charitable society. DOXA is presented on unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) territory.