

HOT DOCS PARTNERS WITH BELL LET'S TALK AND WORKMAN ARTS FOR FREE MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SERIES

Toronto, January 8, 2018 – Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is pleased to partner with Bell Let's Talk and Workman Arts this month for a special **Mental Health Film Series**, showcasing three documentaries that each explore a topic concerning mental health and the stigma that surrounds mental illness.

Intended to heighten awareness and generate discussion about mental illness, each screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by Geoff Pevere, Program Director of Workman Arts' *Rendezvous With Madness*, with filmmakers, subjects and experts, making each screening a thoughtful learning experience promoting the importance of mental health and how it's treated. The free Mental Health Film Series starts Wednesday, January 17, with *The S Word*, and will conclude on January 31, Bell Let's Talk Day, with *Darkness and Hope: Depression, Sports, and Me*.

"We're looking forward to partnering with Bell Let's Talk and Workman Arts, which have both helped lead the discussion around mental health," said **Alan Black**, Managing Director of Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. "With this new series, we hope to elevate this conversation by bringing experts, sufferers and filmmakers together to discuss and answer questions about mental health. Hopefully, by listening to these panelists, and by seeing real lives affected in these powerful films, it will inspire a broader sense of empathy and understanding."

"Bell Let's Talk is very proud to partner with Hot Docs and Workman Arts to support this series of compelling documentaries about mental illness," said **Mary Deacon**, Chair of Bell Let's Talk. "Each one of these documentaries puts a spotlight on personal stories of mental illness that will help to encourage more conversations about mental health and ultimately help end the stigma that surrounds mental illness."

"Workman Arts is thrilled to be working with Hot Docs and Bell Let's Talk on this exciting three-session film series in January," said **Scott Miller Berry**, Managing Director of Workman Arts. "Together, we're working to raise awareness of mental health, and to reduce stigma through public discussions that will follow each of these incredible films."

The three films that will be shown as part of the Mental Health Film Series are:

Wednesday, January 17 - 6:30 PM

THE S WORD

D: Lisa Klein | 93 min | 2017 | USA

Hot Docs is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to advancing the art of documentary and supporting opportunities for independent filmmakers.

Suicide touches many of our lives and yet our society has so much trouble understanding it, or even just talking about it. *The S Word* seeks to move the conversation forward by engaging with those coping with loss and grappling head on with suicide in all its complexity. Directed by Lisa Klein, who lost both her brother and father to suicide, and driven by survivor Dese'Rae Stage's mission to create a movement of greater understanding, *The S Word* is a deeply compassionate and courageous work of documentary filmmaking.

Wednesday, January 24 - 6:30 PM

MANIC

D: Kalina Bertin | 84 min. | 2017 | USA Canada | 14A

Filmmaker Kalina Bertin bravely turns the camera on her own household to find answers for her siblings Felicia and François Sean's mental health issues. Their father George was a prophet, scam artist, cult leader and father of 15 children from different parts of the world. Is this mysterious man's strange legacy connected to Felicia's struggle with bipolar disorder? An assembly of home movies, interviews and observations, the Hot Docs 2017 Festival favourite *Manic* is an urgent and compelling plunge into a family's troubling personal history and the intangible ties that bind us.

Wednesday, January 31 - 6:30 PM

DARKNESS AND HOPE: DEPRESSION, SPORTS, AND ME

D: Hubert Davis | 44 min | 2012 | Canada | STC

Celebrated athletes, including Olympian Clara Hughes, Stanley Cup champion Stéphane Richer, and World Series winner Darryl Strawberry, open up to Michael Landsberg, host of TSN 1050's [LANDSBERG IN THE MORNING](#), about their personal battles with depression. While facing his own mental health challenges, Landsberg brings insight and intelligence to an issue that often lives in the shadows of the professional sports world, shining a light on the stories of perseverance, vulnerability and humanity of our athletic heroes.

Free tickets (a maximum of two per person, per screening) can be obtained at the Hot Docs Box Office (506 Bloor St. W.) or online at www.hotdocscinema.ca.

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Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema is a historic, century-old cinema located in Toronto's vibrant Annex neighbourhood. Owned and operated by Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, the 684-seat venue is a year-round home for first-run Canadian and international documentaries, as well as special documentary presentations and showcases, including the popular Doc Soup screening series. Continuing its longstanding role as a community cinema, it also hosts many of the city's independent film festivals and is a proud member of the Bloor St.

Culture Corridor. In June 2016, a donation from the Rogers Foundation enabled Hot Docs to purchase the cinema.

[Workman Arts](#) is the longest-running multidisciplinary arts and mental health organization in the world. Founded in 1987 by Lisa Brown, a former psychiatric nurse at the CAMH, and guided by the principle that the creative process is integral to the quest for personal and spiritual development, Workman Arts has grown over the years from a theatre company of eight to a multidisciplinary arts organization with over 300-member artists.

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