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**YOU'D BE AMAZED (OR MAYBE HORRIFIED) AT
WHAT'S CRAWLING AROUND INSIDE YOUR HOME.
TO FIND OUT, WATCH A WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY
THAT NEVER GOES OUTSIDE**

THE GREAT WILD INDOORS

**CBC'S *THE NATURE OF THINGS WITH DAVID SUZUKI*
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 8pm (8:30pm NL)**

Watch the Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/198388690>

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(Toronto, January 11, 2017) – Forget the jungles of the Amazon, the African veldt, or the Alaskan wilderness. There's teeming wildlife much closer to home. In fact, it's right IN your home. **THE GREAT WILD INDOORS**, airing on **CBC The Nature of Things with David Suzuki on Thursday, February 9 at 8 pm (8:30 NL)**, offers viewers an up-close-and-personal look at the life and death drama of little creatures going on right now within the four walls of your Canadian home.

Yes, within the quiet confines of your own home, a myriad of wild creatures are stirring. The great struggle to survive, the cold calculation of the hunter, the terror of the hunted – it's going on all around you. In **THE GREAT WILD INDOORS**, directed by **Roberto Verdecchia for Toronto-based 52 Media Inc.**, every crevice is a potential lair, every carpet a dense forest, and the wide spaces of your kitchen are an open savannah where food is abundant, but so is deadly danger.

Welcome to the indoor biome: a world of insects and arachnids as rich, surprising and beautiful as any other ecosystem. The fact is, no matter how clean or tidy your home may be, it teems with wildlife.

"The wild space of our homes is really unknown terrain", says **Michelle Trautwein**, Research Entomologist at the California Academy of Sciences, who's featured in the hour-long documentary. "We know a lot about the pests like cockroaches and bedbugs, but we know very little about all the other creatures we live with, which are, in fact, the vast majority. Your own house is the next great frontier to explore."

Led by Trautwein, a team of young entomologists based in California and North Carolina have been doing a curious kind of fieldwork: entering homes on every continent to do an inventory of the mini-fauna they find. And now, for the first time, their global bug hunt comes to Canada, where they are joined by spider expert **Maydianne Andrade** of the University of Toronto, and fly-guy **Morgan Jackson**, from the University of Guelph.

The Vettese family in Toronto offer up their Toronto home to Trautwein and her team and, together, they explore every crack and crevice in the house, seeking to reveal the mysteries of the indoor biome. Who knows what they'll find lurking under the sink, behind the stove, in the corner, or in the couch. But whatever they find is sure to fascinate you – or maybe creep you out.

Says **THE GREAT WILD INDOORS** writer/director Roberto Verdecchia, "Honestly, I was never a "bug guy". Never one to go pick up a beetle outside or have a daddy longlegs crawl on my hand. But once I began to learn more about all the critters that make their homes inside our homes, I became fascinated. So part of my aim in making this film was to turn people on to the amazing wildlife that lives all around them. I'm hoping people may look a little differently at the spider in their bathroom if they knew more about it. Maybe even appreciate or admire it! It turns out you don't even have to leave your house to enjoy the marvels of Nature."

THE GREAT WILD INDOORS is the wildlife documentary that never goes outside, yet is filmed with all the highest-quality technology we've come to expect from the best outdoor nature documentaries, including super macro photography to allow us to see these often tiny critters in stunning detail, and ultra high-speed cameras to capture their movement, flight and behaviour. The film is a fascinating, humorous trip that will change the way you look at your life at home. Or rather, your life in the home you share with so many other amazing, little critters.

THE GREAT WILD INDOORS will have encore showings on News Network Saturday, February 11 at 7 pm ET and Sunday, February 12 at 4 am ET and again at 8 pm ET. As of February 9, it can also be streamed in its entirety for a limited period of time online at <http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/the-great-wild-indoors>

THE GREAT WILD INDOORS is written and directed by Roberto Verdecchia, produced by Bryn Hughes and executive produced by David York. DOP is Derek Rogers, Picture Editor is Daniel Sadler; Sound Recordist is David Best; Music Composers are Geoff Bennett and Andre

Hirz. For CBC: Sue Dando, Executive in Charge of Production, and Jennifer Dettman, Executive Director, Unscripted Content.

THE GREAT WILD INDOORS is produced by 52 Media Inc. in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and with the participation of the Canadian Media Fund (CMF), the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, the Ontario Media Development Corporation - Tax Credit Program, Rogers Telefund, and the Canadian Federation of Musicians.

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ABOUT THE INDOOR BIOME



- The rooms in our homes are almost like separate ecosystems. The creatures living in the kitchen will likely not be found anywhere else.
- Many of the tiny critters we live with are uniquely adapted to live in our heated and dry homes. For instance, booklice – tiny cousins of that other kind – produce offspring without mating and, when times are tough, can survive for more than a month without food. Even more importantly, they can live off tiny amounts of water vapour in the air, absorbing and storing it, swelling to several times their original mass. No other insect does that trick better.

- Those roly-poly bugs in your basement that roll up into a ball when touched are more closely related to crabs and lobsters than to ants or beetles.
- Your bathroom can take you straight back to the Paleozoic Era. Because those zig-zagging silverfish that live there are essentially the same as they were when they first appeared 400 million years ago.

ABOUT FILMMAKER ROBERTO VERDECCHIA



Roberto Verdecchia is an award-winning documentary writer-director. Over the past 20 years, he has worked on documentaries ranging in subject from the death of Edgar Allan Poe (in which he himself starred as Poe) to the worlds of nano-technology and high-speed particle physics. Other credits include *Untangling Alzheimer's*; David Suzuki's *Andean Adventure* (named Best Environmental Documentary at the Banff World Media Festival); and *The Real Avatar*. More recently, his films have looked at our relationship to the “wild” – from the mountain gorillas of Virunga (*The Gorilla Doctors*) to the creation of new wilderness in Europe (*Manufacturing The Wild*) to this new film, *The Great Wild Indoors*, about the hidden wildlife inside our homes. The trilingual (English, Spanish, French) filmmaker lives in Toronto, in a house with many tiny insects – just like yours!

ABOUT THE FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY 52 MEDIA INC.

52 Media Inc., based in Toronto, is an award-winning, Toronto-based production company founded and owned by David York. The company has made feature film, TV drama, and more than 100 hours of non-fiction television broadcast around the world. The company's credits include the International Emmy and Donald Brittain Award-winning feature-length documentary *Gerrie & Louise*, the feature-length documentary *Air India 182*, the CBC Nature of Things documentaries *Gorilla Doctors* and *The Beetles Are Coming*, and, with the NFB, the Genie

Award-nominated feature-length documentary *Wiebo's War*. With Barry Stevens, 52 Media has produced five seasons of the acclaimed, award-winning documentary series *War Story*, as well as the feature-length documentary *Sarajevo Sector*. <http://www.52media.ca/>

ABOUT THE BROADCASTER

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. We are Canada's trusted source of news, information and Canadian entertainment. Deeply rooted in communities all across the country, CBC/Radio-Canada offers diverse content in English, French and eight Indigenous languages. We also provide international news and information from a uniquely Canadian perspective. In 2017, CBC/Radio-Canada will be at the heart of the celebrations and conversations with special 2017-themed multiplatform programming and events across Canada.