

OCTOBER WINNERS

Thy Neighbor



Director: **George A. Johnson**

Award: **Best Feature Film**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A story that shows us the emotional weight bullying kids carry through life. A film with superb narrative and acting that supports the story and is allowing us to be invested in it and feel with the characters.

Dreaming Of Words



Director: **Nandan**

Award: **Best Feature Documentary**

Country: **India**

Jury Comment:

A film that stays with you. It is well-crafted from start to finish. Njattiyela's love for language is so pure it makes you care about it.

Star Child



Director: **Alex Guéry**

Award:

Best Short Film / Best Director Short Film / Best Cinematography / Best Production/ Best Sound Design / Best War Short Film / Special Mention: Drama Short Film/Special Mention: Actress Short Film / Special Mention: Actor Short Film/ Special Mention: Original Screenplay / Special Mention: Editing / Special Mention: Trailer/ Special Mention: Poster

Country: **France**

Jury Comment:

We appreciated it all, from the writing, to the directing, to the cinematography, to the acting, to the aesthetic. A great story told in a beautiful way.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark turtleneck, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is looking towards a long row of lit candles on a dark surface. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the warm glow of the candles. In the background, a framed picture hangs on a light-colored wall.

The Third Grace

Director: **Duval Louis-Pierre**

Award: **Best Short Documentary**

Country: **France**

Jury Comment:

The beautiful and peaceful portrayal of the Orthodox Church, its monks, and their everyday life is more than a joy to watch. You can almost feel the tranquility and silence in the monastery due to the excellent photography and attention to detail.



Dirt Town

Director: **Lisa Meuser**

Award: **Best Experimental Film**

Country: **Canada**

Jury Comment:

We loved Kyla's inner voice that was taking us through the story. The fall and the rise of the character we done with great sophistication. The awakening of her maternal feelings was shown in a very artistic way.

Yard Kings



Director: **Vasco Alexandre**

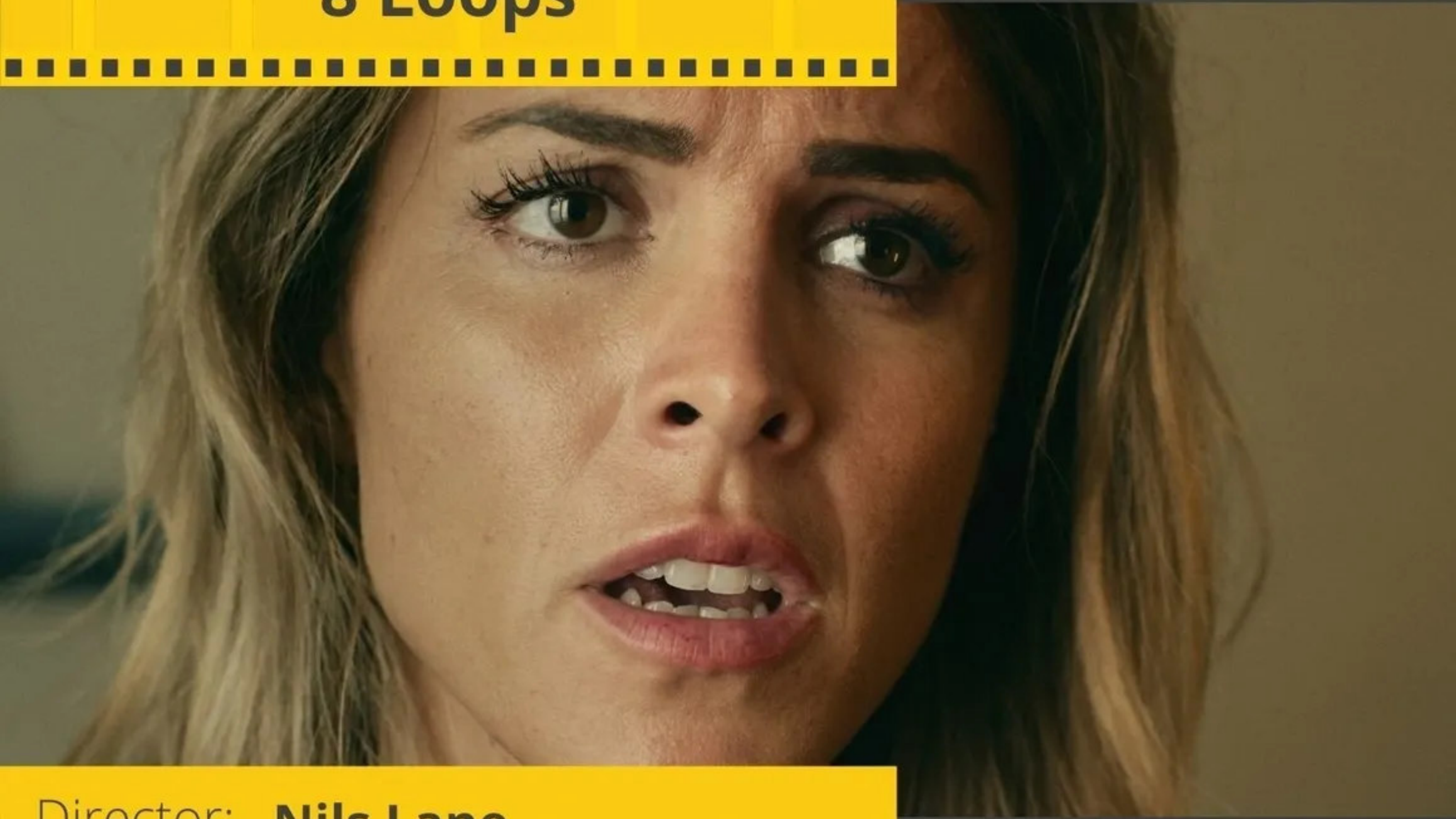
Award: **Best Student Film**

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

The filmmaker did an incredible job of weaving this fictional story into what's happening today through the eyes of the children. The film very moving and beautifully shot.

8 Loops



Director: **Nils Lane**

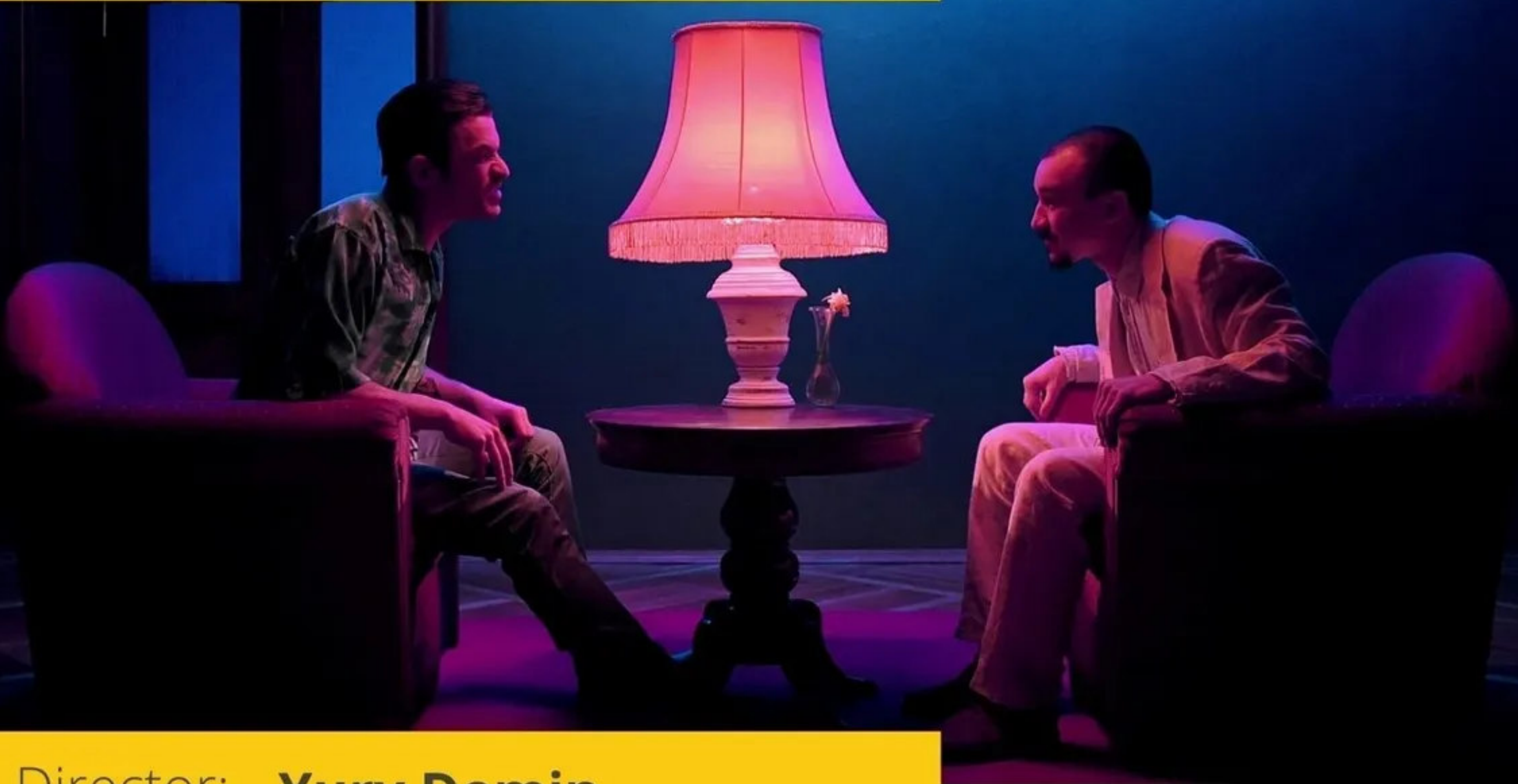
Award: **Best Super Short Film**
Best Editing
Best Poster
Special Mention: Actress Short Film

Country: **France**

Jury Comment:

Superb acting and storytelling in terms of cinematography, character depth and development. We loved the minimalistic use of the cinema language, all there to intensify the experience.

Escapelessness



Director: **Yury Demin**

Award: **Best Indie Short Film**

Country: **Russian Federation**

Jury Comment:

We appreciated the freedom the director takes in mixing the genres and styles in the film. The well-chosen cast and the impressive photography makes this film super exciting to watch.

Living On The Edge - Deglamourizing Bollywood



Director: **Opendar Chanana**

Award: **Best First Time Director
(Medium Length)**

Country: **India**

Jury Comment:

A film that provokes and shocks with every minute, you peek behind the scenes and see that there is no glamour there. A documentary that is a testimonial to all the sacrifices, sweat and tears.

The Choice

Director: **Abdelmoula El Hadi**

Award: **Best First Time Director (Short)**
Special Mention: Indie Short Film
Special Mention: Sound Design

Country: **Portugal**

Jury Comment:

We loved the high level of cinematography. The filmmaker created a world full of vigorous characters, a story that is unique and performances that are graceful and raw.

Congrats, You Lost.

Director: **İrem Baydar**

Award: **Best Director Student Film**

Country: **Turkey**

Jury Comment:

The director successfully and dynamically takes you through the story, in one location, in a duration of 30 minutes, which is not easy to achieve, and during that time, the two characters open their souls and tell their life story.

Trivial Loser



Director: **Aniez Atlas**

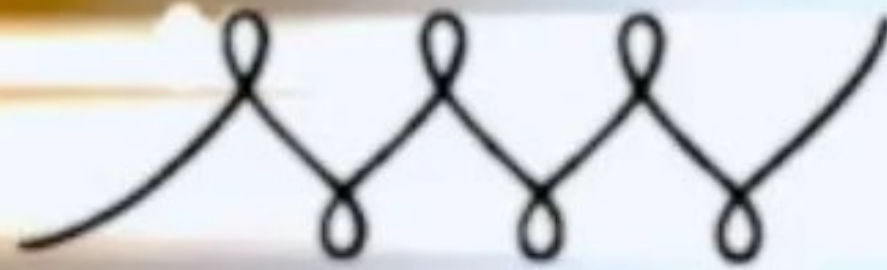
Award: **Best Ensemble Short Film**

Country: **Spain**

Jury Comment:

The shocking ending, the fresh approach to storytelling, and well-chosen casting makes this film a delightful experience.

Soft Strings



Director: **Takayuki Noami**

Award: **Best Director Music Video**

Country: **Japan**

Jury Comment:

A video that is innovative and artistic. The image and the tone together create a wonderful harmony.

Dead Man's Treasure



Director: **Brandon Hicks**

Award: **Best Animated Film**

Country: **Canada**

Jury Comment:

Very interesting style of animation. A story and characters have many obstacles to reach their goal. We loved the ending because it was unexpected and comical.

No One Left



Director: **Morgan Hamilton-Lee,
Brendan Smith, Jen Brown**

Award: **Best Drama Short Film**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

Watching this film you have a feeling of loneliness that absorbs you. The filmmaker did an incredible job of portraying the dystopia. The storyline is simply and elegantly done. Beautifully made film.

Strange Fruit



Director: **Issack Cintrón**

Award: **Best Thriller Short Film**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A film that is shocking and exciting to watch. The determination of Omar's character together with the exceptional photography makes this film a true delight



The Invitation (Die Einladung)

Director: **Thorsten Schade**

Award: **Best Horror Short Film**
Special Mention: Best Production

Country: **Germany**

Jury Comment:

An intelligent horror film that has developed characters, nicely thought out situations, and feels more like you are watching a big production feature film.

Induction To Purgatory

Director: **Ray Brady**

Award: **Best Fantasy Short Film**
Special Mention: Thriller Short Film

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

A conceptual film that is more of an experience than just a film. An experiment that takes the viewers through a journey, it's very intense and leaves no one indifferent.

Roller



Director: **Oscar Sayago**

Award: **Best Quarantine Film**
3rd Best Short Documentary

Country: **Venezuela,**
Bolivarian Republic of

Jury Comment:

Pure, heart whelming and inspirational story that focuses on solidarity. The filmmaker did a fabulous job of bringing this story in a way that is very honest and pure.

What The....!



Director: **Aniez Atlas, Sara Gracia**

Award: **Best Web/TV Series**

Country: **Spain**

Jury Comment:

A sketch that is light, entertaining, and at times makes the audience feel like an intruder.

Facing the Future



Director: **Jennifer Piper**

Award: **Best Mobile Phone Film**

Country: **Australia**

Jury Comment:

We loved the humor, the intelligence, and the critique on the current tendencies the film touches upon. Jennifer has so much compelling energy that makes this film super fun to watch.

First Signal



Director: **Mark Lund**

Award: **Best Actor Feature Film**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

Incredible production. We loved the portrayal of the characters that got us into the film. Superb acting and casting choice. Striking visuals that highlight the story.

Holestepper



Director: **Sergio Fernández Muñoz**

Award: **Best Actor Short Film**
Special Mention: Short Film

Country: **Peru**

Jury Comment:

We loved the delicate portrait of Angel's character and the story narrative, modernity crashes tradition. The acting is sensitive and engaging which makes this film a delight.

In Memoriam

Director: **Dimitrios Karas**

Award: **Best Actress Short Film**
Special Mention: Thriller Short Film

Country: **Greece**

Jury Comment:

Very honest and raw acting performance. Excellent storytelling. We loved the intelligence in the narrative and the relevance of the story at the moment.

Charlie & Yip



Director: **Alexander Williams**

Award: **Best Trailer**

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

Beautiful and elegantly simple style of animation. The trailer is fun and delightful. It makes your soul melt and you want to see more of Charlie and his unusual pet.

Ghost Of Spacetime



Director: **Karim Tajouaout**

Award: **2nd Best Short Film**

Country: **Morocco**

Jury Comment:

We loved the minimalistic and unusual use of the cinema language, all there to intensify the experience. The beautiful style of storytelling is a counterpoint to the difficult topic it deals with, and above all the topic that creates great sadness.

At Home With Anne Zieté



Director: **Jennifer Piper**

Award: **2nd Best Quarantine Film**

Country: **Australia**

Jury Comment:

Perfect portrayal of the superficiality of today's life, the blogger celebrity culture, the virtual world positioned against reality, the followers, their needs, and envies. We appreciate the intelligent criticism.

Backbeat



Director: **Martin Blank**

Award: **2nd Best Super Short Film**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

This compelling and sophisticated narrative gives a fresh and sharp perspective on the idea of life passing by while chasing after your dreams and passion.

Untouchable

乙亥年 腊月廿九

With the arrival of the Chinese New Year,
the COVID-19 begin to spread rapidly in China

Director: **PiChengdong**

Award: **2nd Best Student Film**

Country: **China**

Jury Comment:

A story that is very in the moment, every person on the planet can relate to it. The film is done exceptionally well in terms of acting and editing.

A close-up, artistic photograph of a violin and its bow. The violin is the central focus, with its body, f-hole, and strings clearly visible. The bow is positioned across the strings, and the player's hand is partially visible on the right. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the wood grain and the metallic parts of the instrument. The background is blurred, suggesting a concert hall or stage setting.

Music lives here

Director: **Polina Stepanova**

Award: **2nd Best Short Documentary**
Special Mention: **Poster**

Country: **Russian Federation**

Jury Comment:

A documentary that is great in terms of story, narrative and cinematography. The love for music invades your heart. Beautifully done.

The Burning Red



Director: **Fabrizio Ancillai**

Award: **2nd Best Director Short Film**
Special Mention: Short Film

Country: **Italy**

Jury Comment:

Very touching story. Film that is shocking, painful but most be watched. Wonderful performances and narrative that perfectly builds up to the climax. It was all impactfully done.

Left Behind



Director: **Carla Begg**

Award: **2nd Best First Time Director (Short)**

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

The way the director told this moving story through non-speaking is amazing. Wonderful cinematography and camera movement. A great film that stays with you.



Im Tired, I Dont Want To Talk

Director: **Victor Quach**

Award: **2nd Best Director Student Film**
3rd Best Student Film

Country: **Denmark**

Jury Comment:

It's not always easy to have different timelines in one short film but here it works great and in an artistic way. The characters are exceptionally developed. The film deals with important topics in a rarely seen way.

Merry Christmas



Director: **Elizabeth A KENNEDY**

Award: **3rd Best Super Short Film**

Country: **Canada**

Jury Comment:

Very short film that has new approach to religious experience.

The McHenry Trial – Don't Judge a Kid by Their Hoodie



Director: Ken Sagoes

Award: 3rd Best Short Film
3rd Best Director Short Film
Special Mention: Ensemble Short Film

Country: United States

Jury Comment:

A story beautifully told. Excellent acting and directing make this film a wonderful experience. We were impressed by how clever and unobtrusive it was.

Seeing



Director: **Patrick Smart**

Award: **3rd Best First Time Director (Short)**
Special Mention: Actress Short Film
Special Mention: Thriller Short Film

Country: **Australia**

Jury Comment:

We loved the characters and their drive. A supernatural film that is so well-crafted and authentic that it stays. Very brave and honest acting that makes the experience enjoyable.

Aicha

Director: **Graham Williamson**

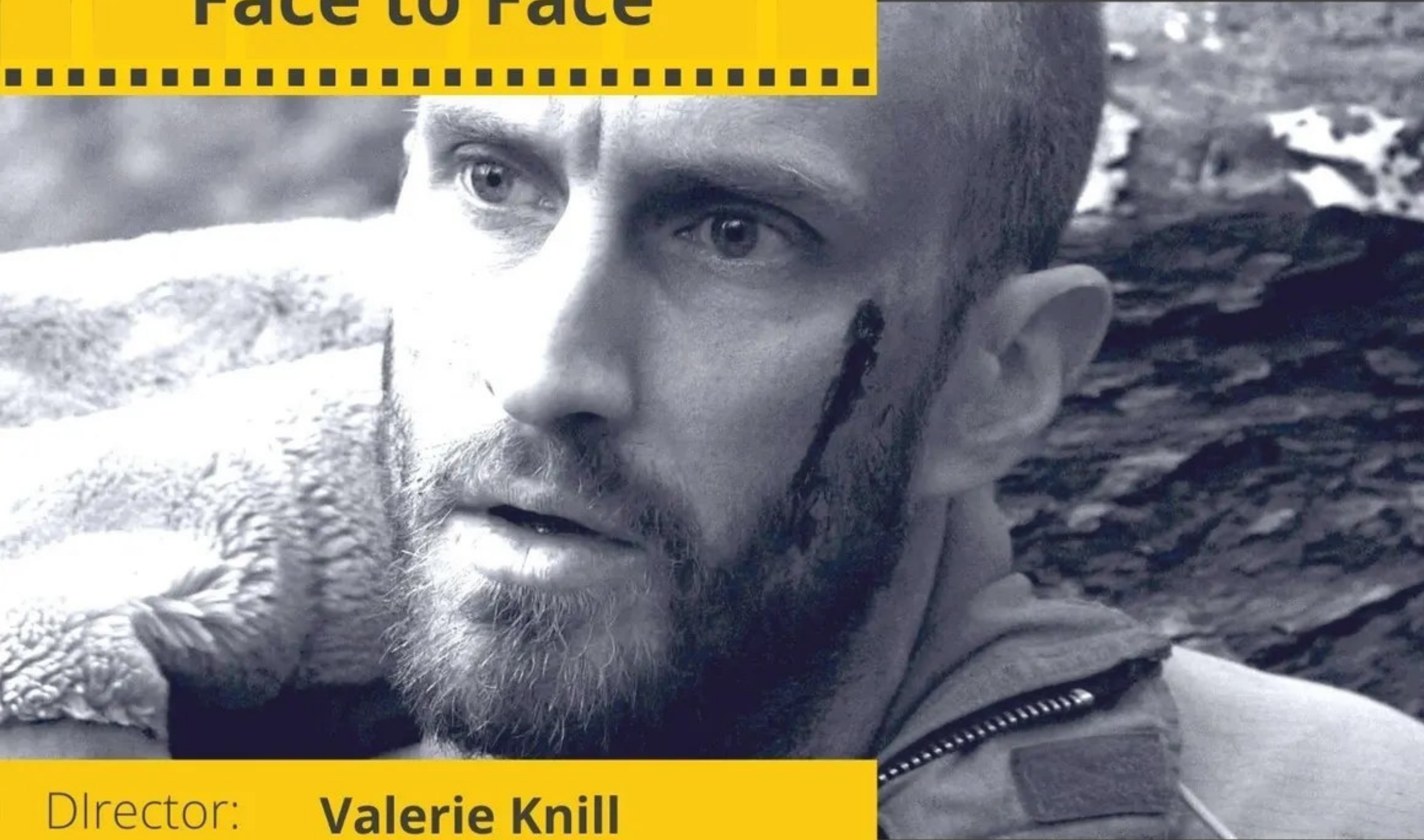
Award: **Best Short Film**

Country: **Morocco**

Jury Comment:

Grandious storytelling and narrative. A film that is crafted so well from start to finish. We appreciated the artistic and simple usage of cinema language.

Face to Face



Director: **Valerie Knill**

Award: **Special Mention: Student Film**

Country: **Germany**

Jury Comment:

With a philosophical approach to existential questions like, is there a future without a past? Excellent casting choice and impressive photography watching this film is a very enjoyable experience.

The Hypermonster

ZUCCHERARTE PONENTE

PRIMARY SCHOOL FERRAIRONI TRIORA

THE HYPERMONSTER

A SHORTFILM

BY

RICCARDO DI GERLANDO



Director: **Riccardo Di Gerlando**

Award: **Special Mention: Short Film**

Country: **Italy**

Jury Comment:

Loved the creativity, the intelligence, and the reflection on the idea that there's no bigger monster than the human being who is the ultimate destroyer and exploiter.



**Death Offers Life - last moments
of Vincent Van Gogh**

Director: **Saheer Abbas**

Award: **Special Mention: Short Film**

Country: **India**

Jury Comment:

A story superbly acted and told, in terms of storytelling as well as a cinematic form. The film deals with the concept of reincarnation in Hinduism, human modesty, and unselfishness.



Afraid Of The Dark

Director: **Ray Brady**

Award: **Special Mention: Indie Short Film**
Special Mention: Thriller Short Film

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

The film is so energetic, scary, and exciting at the same time. It is directed and edited in a way that supports the story. The sound is another character in the film and allows you to deeply feel the narrative.

Facetime With The Rickenbakker Family



Director: **Thomas Connelly**

Award: **Best Feature Documentary**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

The series uses very interesting techniques in filmmaking and narrative storytelling. You feel trapped in the family's whirlpool and drama. The actor showed a great range of playing all the characters.

Eye 4 An Eye

Director: **Joshy Lee**

Award: **Special Mention:
Director Short Film**

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

A story that is very relevant for the society we live in. It deals with the endless circle of vengeance and is important because of the raw way it focuses on peer-pressure and brutality.

Qualified



Director: **Bernardo R Pena**

Award: **Special Mention: Short Film**
Special Mention: Director Short Film
Special Mention: Poster

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

Simple and beautifully done. The directing and the cinematography was supporting the story, allowing you to feel the character's struggle to prove what makes someone qualified.

Forbidden Truth



Director: **Audrey Cuff**

Award: **Special Mention:
First Time Director (Short)**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A story that throws light on mental illness stigma. The camera movement and its restlessness assist the storyline in a very interesting way.

Boring Shmoring



Director: **Aniez Atlas**

Award: **Special Mention:
Actor Short Film**

Country: **Spain**

Jury Comment:

A film that is never boring. The acting is engaging and bold, making the whole cinematic experience pleasant and memorable.

My Honeysuckle Beekeeper



Director: **Vince Breheny,
Denisa Formánková**

Award: **Special Mention:
Short Documentary**

Country: **Ireland**

Jury Comment:

Incredibly engaging documentary filmmaking. We loved the conversations, their passion, every detail in it. It's a wonderful cinematic experience.



Mama

Director: **Hamza Baig**

Award: **Special Mention:
Indie Short Film**

Country: **Pakistan**

Jury Comment:

We loved how the cinematography was supporting the sensitivity of the story and was allowing us to really deeply on the character's narrative. The film is a raw comment on the lock-down and physical separation.

The Clip



Director: **Maria Forslin**

Award: **Special Mention:
Horror Short Film**

Country: **Sweden**

Jury Comment:

A terrifying horror film that gives you chills from the story development. The actress gives an emotionally powerful and truthful performance and lifts the experience to another level.

Super - Soup



Director: **Iacopo Fulgi,
Valerio Maggi**

Award: **Special Mention:
Short Film**

Country: **Italy**

Jury Comment:

We were impressed by the story of a cook that finds a new way of promoting her business. The film has a very distinctive director's style and feels alive and vital.

Family



Director: **Iván Molina Jiménez**

Award: **Special Mention:
Horror Short Film**

Country: **Spain**

Jury Comment:

A film with an amazing twist that makes you feel shocked that the father has to survive the murder of his daughter every day. You really get to see a horror film that offers the whole spectra of human emotions.

La Fumée Dort (The Smoke Sleeps)



Director: **Sydney Iodence**

Award: **Special Mention: First Time Director (Short)**
Special Mention: Cinematography
Special Mention: Actress Short Film

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

We loved the unique format of storytelling and the metaphor of the dream vs. reality. A very important film for the moment. It's moving and elegantly done.

A Song For Bacchus



Director: **Andrea Vaccarelli**

Award:

Special Mention: Short Film
Special Mention: Indie Short Film
Special Mention: Editing
Special Mention: Poster

Country: **Italy**

Jury Comment:

One couple. One apartment. A well-crafted film and a story that is very simply and beautifully done. We are observers in Ary and Back's world and witness what a change a day can bring.



Script

Director: **Piero Cannata**

Award: **Best Original Screenplay**
Special Mention: Horror Short Film

Country: **Italy**

Jury Comment:

Impressive photography and camera movement that emphasizes the horror aspect of the story. The authentic and bold acting that contributes to the whole experience of watching this film. A screenplay that offers many twists and turns.

Rhythm Adjustment



Director: **Adam Sturman**

Award: **Special Mention: Short Film**

Country: **United Kingdom**

Jury Comment:

An excellent portrait of a man that breaks his everyday routine. The way the camera follows the character is allowing us the feel for him and root for the change.

A Conversation With E

Director: **Esabella Anna Karena Strickland,
Taylor Mitchell, Skylar A**

Award: **Special Mention: Student Film**

Country: **Canada**

Jury Comment:

Hats off to the director. It's very rare to see such mature storytelling and narrative from someone so young. We loved the way the mystery was included in the story.



Suzanna Blana

Director: **Katerina Kalentzi**

Award: **Special Mention:
Actress Short Film**

Country: **Greece**

Jury Comment:

Showing the daily life of an actress. Obstacles that she must constantly overcome to achieve what she wants and to conquer her dreams. Authentical piece of filmmaking

I'm Ready



Director: **Benjamin Kapit**

Award: **Special Mention: Poster**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

Looking at the poster you experience the story and want to know more.

Warm Sea Of Memories

SCRIPT

Writer: **Olga Niekrasova**

Award: **Best Short Script**

Country: **Ukraine**

Jury Comment:

An emotional family story that deals with the clash of the new vs. the old times. In this particular story, the flashbacks work well and for the story.

One More California...

SCRIPT

Writer: **Dean H. Huh**

Award: **Best TV Pilot Script**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A story that you can easily imagine on a TV screen, it's exciting and compelling. The opening is very dramatic and catchy and takes you instantly inside the story. The characters are skillfully developed.

The Sick Woman

SCRIPT

Writer: **Katharine Russell**

Award: **Best First Time
Screenwriter (Short)**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A story that deals with the absurdity of the moment we all live in and it is done in a way that it stays with you. It's written very clearly and it is so easy to read.

The Last Shogun's Treasure

SCRIPT

Writer: **Jonathan Lucas**

Award: **3rd Best First Time
Screenwriter (Feature)**

Country: **Japan**

Jury Comment:

Very exciting and well-written story. As reading it, you feel so invested in the characters adventure. Although at times you felt a little overwhelmed with everything that is going on the entire story was very cleverly executed.

The Llandudno File

SCRIPT

Writer: **Stephen D Floyd**

Award: **2nd Best First Time
Screenwriter (Feature)**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

We loved the female leading character, her drive, her strength and determination are crucial for the storyline. A story that is very elegantly written in terms of narration, climax and situations.

A Warm Place in the Sun

SCRIPT

writer: **Brad Perrott**

Award: **Best First Time Screenwriter
(Feature)**

Country: **United States**

Jury Comment:

A story that takes you on a very exciting ride filled with suspense, mystery and keeps you invested in the character's mission. The screenplay is well-written and easy to read.