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A NEW CINEMATIC REVOLUTION IN HOLLYWOOD: AI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IGNITES A NEW ERA OF STORYTELLING

HOLLYWOOD, CA - Hollywood just caught a glimpse of its future, and there wasn't an empty seat in the house.

On Sunday, March 1, the AI International Film Festival and AI Music Video Festival transformed the Promenade Playhouse into the epicenter of modern storytelling. With every seat occupied by active filmmakers, the double-feature event proved that **the next great wave of cinema isn't just coming—it is already here.**

The cutting-edge, black-box environment of the Promenade Playhouse within the Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory provided the perfect canvas for a slate of films that left the audience breathless, with three winning filmmakers presenting in person, and 13 filmmakers presenting remotely via Zoom. The global importance of the showcase was underscored by the presence of Japanese national broadcasting service NHK, whose journalists filmed the event and interviewed creators in parallel with the festival's signature, unscripted live Q&A sessions.

"There was an absolutely electric charge in the room," says Bert Holland, Executive Director of the AI International Film Festival. "When you strip away the massive studio budgets and put these powerful new tools into the hands of passionate veteran storytellers, the result is pure, uncompromised art. **We aren't just screening films; we are witnessing a creative renaissance.**"

Unleashing the Directors Far from being a tech-demo, the festival proved that the most important element of any film remains the directors and their visions. The creators behind the selected works are artists with decades of experience in traditional filmmaking, television, and gaming.

One director after another explained that these new tools allow them to produce ambitious passion projects that had been stalled for years due to prohibitive funding requirements for traditional live-action filmmaking. In fact, some of the most striking selections of the night were created by seasoned industry professionals **experimenting with new AI tools for the very first time.**

Art Responding to Reality in Real-Time The immediacy of the passions was palpable on Sunday. "As it happens, five works about war selected weeks ago were screened at our event just two days after the Iran war erupted," says Holland. "The emphasis of these films was on the lasting impacts on the humans involved."

This emotional resonance carried through the afternoon's most celebrated works.

"**Léo Cannone's 'Costa Verde'** (France) was everyone's favorite short film," Holland notes. "It is nostalgic, sentimental, and beautifully reveals how a child absorbs and experiences a

summer vacation - a mix of fantasy, fond memories, and childhood innocence shot in the style of a boy's first home movie, but using only AI.

"In the music video festival, **David Alasian's 'The Distance of Power'** (UK) was the clear audience favorite—a powerfully executed statement using an angel-like entity visiting the halls of the central committees who wage war, acting as a messenger for those who suffer."

Looking Ahead: The Move to a Hollywood Legend

Fueling this explosive momentum, the festival is upgrading the venue to match. The next showcase will be hosted April 8th at 6:30pm at the storied El Cid in Los Angeles. **Built by cinematic pioneer D.W. Griffith as his personal home in 1906, El Cid is steeped in the history of Cinema**, for instance the first private screening of "The Birth of a Nation", and frequent visitors like Marlon Brando, Bette Davis, and David Brian.

It is only fitting that a space created by a key innovator of early cinema will now host the creators shaping its next century.

AI International Film Festival: March 2026 Award Winners

Official Selections: aifilmfest.org/march-2026

- **Best AI Film (Jury), Best Film (Audience), Most Surprising (Audience), Best Use of AI (Audience) – *Costa Verde*** (France, 12 min) – **Directed by Léo Cannone**. A deeply nostalgic, sentimental masterpiece built on the suspended time and quiet sensations of childhood summers.
- **Best Production (Jury), Best Message (Audience) – *A Nest in My Heart*** (South Korea, 12 min) – **Directed by Mira Kim**. A powerful, sensitive reflection on memory and a childhood shaped by scarcity.
- **Best Actor (Jury), Most Fun (Audience) – *A Day in Nevada*** (Romania, 5 min) – **Directed by Andrei Madalin Sava**. A hilariously confident and witty adventure that transforms an aimless journey into a playful, fractured reality.
- **Best Picture (Jury) – *Nashville Payphone*** (US, 9 min) – **Directed by Michael Eng**. A quiet, time-lapse observation of connection, change, and longing, anchored to a single, unmoving object.
- **Best Game Video (Jury) – *Model Professor*** (US, 10 min) – **Directed by Peter Brinson**. A thoughtful exploration of artificial intelligence in academia, questioning the limits of knowledge when stripped of human desire.
- **Best Music Video (Jury) – *Take Me. Want Me.*** (US, 4 min) – **Directed by Phillip Large**. A hypnotic, immersive visual experience that operates as a sustained emotional state.
- **Best Live-action Short (Jury) – *The Elimination of Franz Kutschera*** (Poland, 5 min) – **Directed by Matt Subieta**. A tense, historically-grounded hybrid production reimagining resistance under World War II occupation.

- **Best Documentary Short (Jury)** – *Fear Naught* (Poland, 5 min) – **Directed by Matt Subieta**. A dark, mockumentary-style portrait of fear, obedience, and the absurdity of military logic.
- **Best Art Direction (Jury)** – *Mutt* (Philippines, 5 min) – **Directed by Joseph Kerwin Aguirre Go**. A heartwarming and grounded story of war and tenderness told entirely through the eyes of a dog.

AI Music Video Festival: March 2026 Award Winners

Official Selections: aimusicvideofest.org/march-2026

- **Best Storytelling (Jury), Best Music Video (Audience)** – *The Distance of Power* (UK, 3 min) – Directed by **David Alasian**. A forceful critique of the machinery of war and the silence that enables it.
- **Best Music Video (Jury)** – *Nothing Happened* (UK, 4 min) – **Directed by Matt Burn (Oranguerillatan AI)**. A conceptually clear, unflinching representation of psychological stagnation and modern paralysis.
- **Best Documentary Music Video (Jury)** – *Freedom* (US, 5 min) – **Directed by Mike Bennion**. A poetic, classically composed portrait of life, hardship, and spiritual symbolism in a 1930s Louisiana village.
- **Best Historical Music Video (Jury)** – *Milivojka* (Slovenia, 3 min) – **Directed by Rok Kadoič**. A heart-wrenching Slavic tale of love, loss, and enduring cultural memory.
- **Best Human-AI Collab (Jury)** – *Répète si c'est oui* (France, 4 min) – **Directed by Oliver Conrad**. An offbeat, authentic electronic track with an intentional, disarming oddness.
- **Best Script (Jury)** – *Elephant* (South Korea, 4 min) – **Directed by Do young Jung**. A gentle, introspective K-pop narrative about memory, denial, and inner companionship.
- **Best Experimental (Jury)** – *fEver* (Trailer) (US, 5 min) – **Directed by David Stout**. An expansive, mythopoetic journey through the US-Mexico borderlands seen through the eyes of an immortal observer.

Press Contact For media inquiries, full digital press kits, or requests to interview filmmakers, please contact:

Bert Holland, Executive Director

AI International Film Festival — a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit

aifilmfest.org | filmfreeway.com/aiinternationalfilmfestival

WhatsApp/Text: +1-505-303-8579 | aifilmfestorg@gmail.com | [@aifilmfestorg](https://www.instagram.com/aifilmfestorg)

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