



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5 PM MDT on September 25, 2023

Announcing CIFF's 2023 Jury Award Winners!

Calgary, AB - The Calgary International Film Festival has welcomed 17 celebrated and revered voices in film communities from around the world to serve on the 2023 Jury to recognize this year's most exceptional feature and short films, which are currently screening until October 1, 2023.

With 12 awards and over \$60,000 CAD in cash and prizes, plus one winning short gaining eligibility for Academy Awards consideration, CIFF is proud to announce this year's winners!

RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Award (\$10,000 CAD)

This juried award is given to the Canadian director who creates the best first or second narrative feature film. Presented by RBC.

Jury members: Andrew Connors, Michelle Thrush, and Lindsay MacKay

Grand Jury Prize: HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON, directed by Ariane Louis-Seize

With a singular vision and strong performances, HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON's mixture of comedy, drama, and horror was handled with impressive skill by this exciting emerging filmmaker! The jury was drawn into and excited by her world and characters both emotionally and cinematically.

Special Jury Prizes:

HEY, VIKTOR!, directed by Cody Lightning

ASOG, directed by Sean Devlin

Air Canada Canadian Narrative Feature Award (\$5,000 CAD)

This juried award is given to the Canadian director who creates the best narrative feature film in the section. Presented by Air Canada.

Jury members: Andrew Connors, Michelle Thrush, and Lindsay MacKay

Grand Jury Prize: SUZE, directed by Linsey Stewart & Dane Clark

The well-drawn characters and relationships were such a pleasure to watch unfold. Its exploration of generations was both sympathetic and hilariously accurate. The unexpected arcs and relationships were exciting to watch. The jury enjoyed the journey of the family dynamics with both its humour and heart.

**Jury Prize for Lead Performance:
Ariane Castellanos in RICHELIEU**

**Jury Prize for Supporting Performance:
Charlie Gillespie in SUZE**

DGC Canadian Documentary Feature Award (\$5,000 CAD)

This juried award is given to the Canadian director who creates the best documentary in the section. Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada.

Jury members: Jon Joffe, Elizabeth Klinck, and Laura O'Grady

Grand Jury Prize: SWAN SONG, directed by Chelsea McMullan

This is a truly impressive performance documentary that moves away from traditional tropes with a cinema verité approach focusing on fantastic characters. The filmmaker's inspired choices make it a documentary for today and tomorrow.

Special Jury Prize: SUMMER QAMP, directed by Jen Markowitz

Best International Narrative Feature Award (\$1,000 CAD)

This juried award is given to the international director who creates the best narrative cinema from around the globe.

Jury members: Trond Trondsen, Natalie Metzger, and Michelle Morgan

Grand Jury Prize: ANIMALIA, directed by Sofia Alaoui

This film draws you in with an urgency of storytelling and riveting imagery. The blending of the spiritual and the otherworldly is at once gripping and nuanced. Its commentary on social class and women's place in society combined with beautiful cinematography, impressive world-building, and visceral and organic visual effects, creates a stunning first feature that demands attention.

**Special Jury Prize for Performance:
Elliot Page in CLOSE TO YOU, directed by Dominic Savage**

**Special Jury Prize for Director:
20,000 SPECIES OF BEES, directed by Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren**

International Documentary Feature Award (\$1,000 CAD)

This juried award is given to the international director who creates the most compelling non-fiction cinema from around the globe (U.S. & International).

Jury Members: Alex Eskandarkha, Sean Patrick Shaul, and Anastasiia Gushchina

Grand Jury Prize: BETWEEN THE RAINS, directed by Moses Thuranira, Andrew H. Brown

BETWEEN THE RAINS offers a compelling coming-of-age story against the backdrop of a microcosm of climate change. The film creates a juxtaposition between the stunning beauty of Kenyan landscapes and raw realities of the local communities' traditional lifestyle. BETWEEN THE RAINS is an immersive verité experience that the audience will never forget.

Special Jury Prize:

GREAT PHOTO, LOVELY LIFE, directed by Amanda Mustard & Rachel Beth Anderson

SHORTS IN COMPETITION

Jury for all Shorts Awards: Ryan Von Hagen, Robert Hilton, Benjamin Howar, Natalie Vargas, and Brock Davis Mitchell

Short Film Grand Jury Prize (\$2,500 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: PALM SUNDAY, directed by Wes Andre Goodrich

NBCUniversal Alberta Short Film Devon Bolton Memorial Award (\$1,000 CAD)

(+ \$10,000 Gift Card from William F. White International, Inc. toward the winner's next project)

Grand Jury Prize: MONSTR, directed by Tank Standing Buffalo

Special Jury Prize: CONVICTION, directed by Bruce Thomas Miller

NBCUniversal Youth by Youth Canada Short Film Award (\$1,000 CAD)

(+ up to \$18,000 scholarship to Vancouver Film School + \$2,500 Gift Card from William F. White International, Inc. toward the winner's next project)

Grand Jury Prize: OPERATION CARL, directed by Sandra Hurd

Special Jury Prize for Cinematography: ONLY YOU, directed by James Duric

Live Action Short Film Award (\$1,000 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: DEATH TO THE BIKINI!, directed by Justine Gauthier

Best Animated Short Film Award (\$1,000 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: BOAT PEOPLE, directed by Thao Lam & Kjell Boersma

Documentary Short Film Award (\$1,000 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: THE LAST REPAIR SHOP, directed by Ben Proudfoot & Kris Bowers

Student Short Film Award (\$1,000 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: SIMONE, directed by Aisha Amin

Youth by Youth Canada Short Film Award (\$500 CAD)

Grand Jury Prize: OPERATION CARL, directed by Sandra Hurd

Special Jury Award for Cinematography: ONLY YOU, directed by James Duric

BARCODE XR Award for Outstanding Experience: A HIGHLAND SONG by inkle Ltd.

An awards ceremony is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. MDT on Monday September 25 to announce these winners - media are invited to join us at the Be Kind, Unwind Lounge, at Eau Claire Market's Centre Court, for photos and interviews. Let us know if you're able to attend.

**Stay tuned for the 2023 CIFF AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS
PRESENTED BY TELUS**

The best of the fest, decided by the fans themselves! Most films at the festival are eligible for our Audience Awards, which are based on the collective score of the audience ballots collected at each screening online and in cinema. Winners will be announced post-festival.

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 21 - October 1, 2023

ciffcalgary.ca | @CIFFcalgary#260, 999 8 St. SW Calgary, AB

About the Calgary International Film Festival

Founded in 2000, the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Calgary for its annual Fall festival and year-round programming. CIFF is now the largest event of its kind in Alberta, bringing audiences together for remarkable and engaging cinematic experiences. CIFF is proud to present its festival from September 21 - October 1, 2023, with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

CIFF's Presenting Partner is



CIFF Thanks their 2023 Public Funders

