



22ND ANNUAL
GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 21-24
TICKETS AT GSFF.ORG



[2024 PROGRAM BOOK](#)

The Garden State Film Festival
Honorees

Honorary Chair

Mayor Janice Kovach

Exceptional Women in Film

Carla Raij

Educator of the Year

David Dianni

MVP

Tom Zapcic

Rising Star

Sophia Lucia Parola

The Garden State Film Festival
2024 Winners

Narrative Feature

"I Think I'm Sick"

Jonathan Applebaum, Andrew Bilindabagabo, Carley Bilindabagabo,
Tyler Wells, Matti Haapoja - Producers
Danny Gevirtz - Director

International Narrative Feature

"The Martini Shot"

Susan Ilott - Producer
Stephen Wallis - Director

Narrative Feature Horror

"A Town Called Purgatory"

Ken Arnold, Dan De Luca - Producers
Matt Servitto - Director



Narrative Feature Thriller

"The Nanny"

Morgan A. MacDouglas, Kimberly Connolly - Producers
Brian Reynolds - Director

Narrative Feature Horror International

"HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON"

Line Sander Egede - Producers
Ariane Louis-Seize - Director

M. Carroll Raver Award for Cinematography

"Karma Is A Hitch"

Ben Blaskovic, Claude Koenig - Producers
Oliver Kahl - Director

Live Action Short Film

"The Fuse"

Youmi Haefelin-Roch - Producer
Kevin Haefelin - Director

Short Horror/Thriller

"CHOMP"

Suki-Rose, Cricket Arrison - Director
Michael Scott, Josh Ascalon, Steve Smith, Meg Murnane - Producer

Science Fiction Short International

(Russian Federation)

"Future Ads"

Nikolay Renard - Director
Churilin Maxim - Producer

Lou Costello Award for Comedy Short

"Skunk Bite"

Mickel Cannon - Producer
Kelly Quinn, Grace Pomilla - Director



Narrative Short International

(Turkey)

“Game, Interrupted”

Fehmi Ozturk, Nefes Polat, Tolga Karacelik - Producers
Ilayda Iseri - Director

International Comedy Short

(Netherlands)

“LOS”

Ferdi Çelik - Producer
Karlijn Koel - Director

Emanuel “Manny” Berlingo Award for Best Feature Length Documentary

“Journey to the UFC: Joe Pyfer”

Alex Davis, Chandler Henry - Producers
Chandler Henry - Director

“American Royalty”

John Daniel Fisher, Stephen Andrew Fisher, Jay Pitts - Producers
John Daniel Fisher, Stephen Andrew Fisher - Directors

Trailer

“The Neglia Nexus: A Story About the Birth of MMA”

Peter Normandia - Director

International Feature Documentary

“The Film - Make - Her, The Lisa Azuelos Story”

David Serero - Director/Producer

Documentary Short Film

“Translators”

Rudy Valdez - Director
Andrea Cordoba, Megan Schale - Producer

International Short Documentary

(Turkey)

“The Syrian Cosmonaut”

Enis Ozkul - Producer
Charles Emir Richards – Director



Animation Short

“a tree once grew here”

Dara Semerad - Producer
Johnnie Semerad - Director

Animation Short - College

“Lost and Found“

Adin Brian Duncan – Director

Drama Short - High School

“The Last Liftoff”

(Oaks Christian High School in California)
Collin Nelson - Director

Comedy Short - High School

“Late Night Edit”

(Huntsville High School)
Kyle M. Wegler - Director

International Short - High School

“Supernova”

(Emerging Limerick Filmmakers)
Niamh Collins - Director

International Web Series/New Media

(Russian Federation)

“About People and About War”

Dmitrij Pasichnyuk, Anna Chizhova - Producers
Andrej Krasavin - Director

Narrative Short Documentary – College

“The Beatles And Beyond: A Lasting Legacy”

Mimi Freund - Producer
Clara McCourt - Director

Narrative Short - College/Graduate School

“Slobopoly”

Jennifer Baker, Kaan Berkant - Producers
Yinghui Li - Director



International Animation Short - High School

(Taiwan)

“1 2 3 Red Light, Green Light”

Liangyu Chen - Director/Producer

Voices of Neurodiversity in Cinema

“How to Survive Film Class”

Jackson Conroy - Director

Music Video

“The Ballad Of Jim Cramer”

Philip Curcuru - Director/Producer

TV Pilot

“East”

Jolie Curtsinger, Dana Marisa Schoenfeld - Producers

Dana Marisa Schoenfeld – Director

Broader Vision Award

“Be Not Afraid”

Chris Carden - Director/Producer

The Garden State Film Festival would like to recognize films shot in the State of New Jersey with the following winners in the “Home Grown Award” categories:

Home Grown Feature

“Jersey Bred”

Greg Russo - Director/Producer

Home Grown Documentary Feature

“Toothache: The Painful Truth”

Dr. Nicole McGrath - Barnes, Dr. Michal Herman, Andrea Wiley - Producers

Dr. Nicole McGrath - Barnes - Director

Home Grown Short

“The Handyman”

Adam Worth - Director



Home Grown Short Horror

“Hide Your Crazy”

Irina Slepneva – Producer

Austin Kase - Director Home Grown Animation Short

“Phoenix”

Kevin Miller, Matthew Santonocito - Producers

Shannon Miller - Director

Home Grown Documentary Short

“Truth to Transformation”

Christine Norbut Beyer, Benita Miller - Producers

Cheryl Miller Houser - Director

“This is Why We Train - The Sea Girt Beach Patrol”

Sean Bell, Kevin R. Nulty - Producers

Kevin R.Nulty - Director

Home Grown Student Short College

“Portrait of Two Steelers Fans”

Alexander Pasquale- Directorsteeler

“nothing, except everything.”

Wesley Wang – Director

Scott Aharoni - Producer

Home Grown PSA

“Monmouth County Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary”

Adam Worth - Director

Chrstine Giordano Hanlon, Ted Maturo - Producers

Home Grown Music Video

“Honey”

Brian Brodeur - Producer/Director

Home Grown Student Short Documentary - College

“Life on the Edge - Exploring New Jersey's Coastal Ecosystems”

Oscar Schofield-Producer

Angela Catt, Micah Seidel, Natalie Radu-Directors



Home Grown PSA - High School

"Sexual Harassment PSA"

(Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology)

Luisa Santos - Director

Home Grown Drama - High School

"Train Wreck"

(Middletown High School South)

Luke Roberts - Director

Home Grown Narrative - High School

"Panic"

(Middletown High School South)

Maura Catherine Collins, Mia Dimitry - Directors

Home Grown Short - High School

Sponsored by UArts

"Watch Your Back"

(River Dell Regional High School)

Ashley Chang - Director

Home Grown Animation - High School

Sponsored by UArts

"Tellurium vs Gold"

(East Brunswick Magnet High School)

Josias Ortiz - Director

New Jersey Hometown Documentary Short - High School

Sponsored by NJSBA

Winner: "The Challenge"

(Franklin High School)

Aryan Patel - Director

1st Runner Up: "Generations of Homemade Happiness"

(Westwood Regional High School)

Emma Lagatol - Director

The Garden State Film Festival Movie Music Competition Winners

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYTUdRi6WHDRKHzKLdiBz35vSC-ybmykL>



Best Pop Song

Ballad of Jim Cramer

Composer: Philip Curcuru

Performed by: The Atomik Age Project

Best Song from a Short Film

Millie's Carefree Day

Composer: Kevin Stahl & Spencer Camacho

Produced by: Kevin Stahl

Best Student Orchestral Score

Prey

Composer: Yi-Fan Chen

Performed by: New York University Orchestra

Best Song in a Short Drama

Mercy

Composers: Michael Gladstone & Rob Smith

Performed by: Junkyardfieldtrip

Best Score from an International Film

Force of Nature

Composer: Fadi Khoury

Performed by: Fadi Khoury, Cello Pierce Constanti

Best Score from a Feature Thriller

Mastermind

Composer: Jeff Tinsley

Performed by: Budapest Scoring Orchestra

Best Score from a Short Documentary

Messages To Self

Composer: Jarrod J. Radnich

Performed by: Jarrod J. Radnich



Feature Screenplay Winner

The Dude Is Legit!

Written by Dan Clemens and Laurie Clemens - Maier

Short Screenplay Winner

BTB

Written by Colin Hickey

Teleplay Screenplay Winner

Flawless: A Feminist Fairytale

Written by Deborah Rayne, Catherine Eaton

The Garden State Film Festival (GSFF) is proud to announce the winners for its acting awards.



Garden State Film Festival Acting Awards

Best Actor in a Feature

Armand Assante

"Don Q"

Best Actress in a Feature

Tia Tardy

"I Think I'm Sick"

Best Supporting Actor in a Feature

Ed Begley Jr.

"Don't Tell Larry"



Best Supporting Actress in a Feature

Saundra Santiago
"Don Q"

Best Ensemble in a Feature

Connor Russell, Tia Tardy, Wes Brooks,
Paul Arthaud, Richard Alexander, Drew Moore
"I Think I'm Sick"

Best Actor in a Short

Jorge Gabino
"The Fuse"

Best Actress in a Short

Lisa Edelstein
"SWIPE NYC"

Best Supporting Actor in a Short

Justin Marcel McManus
"SWIPE NYC"

Best Supporting Actress in a Short

Stephanie Wepler
"EAST"

Best Ensemble in a Short

Sebastian Gerold, Christina Hecke, Rony Herman, Paulina Rümmelein,
François Goeske, Clea Eden, Arne Kübler
"Karma is a Hitch"

Honorable Mention

"Step Into The Highway"
Frank Agosta - Director
Frank Agosta, Joseph Lanza - Producers