

# URBANWORLD19

## THE URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL

WITH FOUNDING SPONSOR HBO

### ANNOUNCES 2019 WINNERS

NEW YORK, NY (September 22, 2019) – The 23rd Annual Urbanworld Film Festival ([www.urbanworld.org](http://www.urbanworld.org)), along with founding partner **HBO**, announced the award winners for the best narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema), narrative short, documentary feature, documentary short, music video, screenplay, young creators, web originals as well as the audience award categories during its awards brunch, hosted by **Gia Peppers** (BET's Black Coffee) at Tribeca Grill Loft in New York City this afternoon.

The nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival screened 78 official selections, 7 spotlight selections, featured 3 original screenplay finalists and hosted numerous digital and music events. **Actors Cynthia Erivo, Tika Sumpter, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Tyrese Gibson, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Kelvin Harrison Jr., Meagan Good, Joe Morton, Nafessa Williams, Vondie Curtis Hall, Henry Hunter Hall, Yvette Nicole Brown, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Tim Blake Nelson, Karan Kendrick, RonReaco Lee, Mark Tallman and Tobias Truvillion; talk show host Tamron Hall; Academy Award® winning screenwriter Geoffrey Fletcher; directors Kasi Lemmons, Deon Taylor, Anthony Mandler and the Academy Award® winning Roger Ross Williams; producers Lori McCreary, Debra Martin Chase, Daniela Taplin Lundberg, Lisa Cortes, Tonya Lewis Lee, Alana Mayo and Nikki Silver; journalists Michelle Miller, Salamishah Tillet, Jelani Cobb, Cori Murray and Felice León, attorney Bryan Stevenson and artist Meshell Ndegeocello** were among the many that appeared throughout the five day festival this year.

The 2019 Urbanworld Film Festival winners are:

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (U.S. CINEMA) – Yellow Rose – Directed by Diane Paragas**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/yellow-rose>

THE JURY:

Doris Casap, SVP, Film Programming, HBO

Ellene V. Miles, SVP, Intersectional Marketing, Sony Motion Pictures

Tilane Jones, President, ARRAY

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (WORLD CINEMA) – The Ghost And The House Of Truth – Directed by Akin Omotoso**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/the-ghost-and-the-house-of-truth>

THE JURY:

Adriana Ambriz, VP, Content, One Community

Chika Chukudebelu, VP, Development, Universal Content Productions, NBCUniversal

Frida Torresblanco, Producer

Joe Morton, Actor/Director

Nnamdi Asomugha, Actor/Producer

**BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – Cap – Directed by Marshall Tyler**

Presented by HBO Collabs—\$5,000 Prize

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/cap>

Honorable Mention – Be A Fish – Directed by Aisha Ford

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/be-a-fish>

THE JURY:

Brenda Gilbert, Co-Founder & President, BRON Media Corp.

Dionne Harmon, VP, Development, Jesse Collins Entertainment

Talitha Watkins, Motion Picture Agent, Creative Artist Agency

**BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – The Remix: Hip Hop x Fashion – Directed by Lisa Cortés and Farah X**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/the-remix-hip-hop-x-fashion>

THE JURY:

Jackie Glover, SVP, Documentary Films, HBO

Rachel Watanabe-Batton, Producer & Founder, Contradiction and Struggle

Shola Lynch, Curator, Moving Image & Recorded Sound, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT – Black Girl Church – Directed by Marissa Pina**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/black-girl-church>

THE JURY:

Jackie Glover, SVP, Documentary Films, HBO

Rachel Watanabe-Batton, Producer & Founder, Contradiction and Struggle

Shola Lynch, Curator, Moving Image & Recorded Sound, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

**BEST YOUNG CREATOR – Tree #3 – Directed by Omer Ben-Shachar**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/tree-3>

Presented by NBCUniversal—\$2,500 Prize

THE JURY:

Diane Houslin, Producer

Matthew Thurm, Producer

Sharese Bullock-Bailey, Chief Strategy & Partnership Officer, Ghetto Film School

Tamir Muhammad, Producer & Founder, Populace

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO – Soif (Thirst) – Directed by Mimi Lee**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/soif-thirst>

THE JURY:

Kedar Massenburg, Co-Founder, Akonik Label Group

Naima Cochrane, Founder, This is cltr.

Richelle Cross, CEO, Class and Sass Promotions

Stephen G. Hill, CEO, Tricpelvis Productions, LLC

**BEST WEB ORIGINAL – Brothers from the Suburbs – Directed by Patrick Wimp**

Presented by Warner Media—\$2,500 Prize

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/brothers-from-the-suburbs>

Honorable Mention: Soul City: Grace – Directed by Coodie & Chike

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/soul-city-grace>

THE JURY:

Imran Siddiq, Executive, Warner Media's OneFifty  
Janine Sherman Barrois, Writer, Producer, Showrunner  
Jeron Smith, Co-Founder & CEO, Unanimous Media  
Kesila Childers, VP, Development, Powderkeg

**BEST SCREENPLAY – Midnight In Kansas – Written by Malik Aziz**

Presented by BET Networks—\$10,000 Prize

<https://www.urbanworld.org/screenplays>

THE JURY:

Jeremy Pikser, VP, Writer's Guild of America East  
Paige Simpson, Manager, Scripted TV, Will Packer Media  
Ty Bristol, Manager, Scripted Programming, BET Networks

**AUDIENCE AWARDS**

**BEST FEATURE – Yellow Rose – Directed by Diane Paragas**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/yellow-rose>

**BEST SHORT – Wonder – Directed by Javier Molina**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2019/wonder>

Founding partner HBO is joined by key supporters including **BET Networks** as prestige partner and **NBCUniversal, WarnerMedia** and **Warner Bros.** as premiere partners. Industry partners include **ARRAY, MPAA, ABC Studios, Screen Gems, UMC: Urban Movie Channel, Directors Guild of America, Producers Guild of America** and **Writers Guild of America East**. **The Root, Essence, WNYC** and **Power 105** are media partners. **Diageo** and **Crown Royal** are spirits partners, hosting the Crown Royal Lounge during the festival.

The 24th Annual Urbanworld Film Festival will be in New York in September 2020. Follow **@UWFilmFest** on Twitter and **@urbanworldfilmfest** on Instagram and use **#Urbanworld** to join the conversation on social media.

###

**ABOUT URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL**

Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in August 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, co-founder of MoviePass and a former executive at Miramax and October Films. With estimated attendance reaching over 15,000, the five-day festival anchored in film showcases narrative features, documentaries, short films, spotlight screenings and live staged screenplay readings; the Urbanworld Digital track focuses on digital panels and workshops; and the Urbanworld Music franchise highlights emerging talent in live performances during festival events. For over two decades, Hollywood studios and indie film distributors, as well as established and emerging filmmakers, have consistently chosen Urbanworld to premiere box office and award-winning hits. The Urbanworld Film Festival is an initiative of the Urbanworld Foundation Inc. Gabrielle Glore serves as Festival Director & Head of Programming. The organization's website is [urbanworld.org](http://urbanworld.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

Staci R. Collins Jackson, The Collins Jackson Agency  
312.600.7774 | [SRCJ@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com](mailto:SRCJ@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com)