



## THE URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL

WITH FOUNDING PARTNER HBO AND PRESTIGE PARTNERS WARNERMEDIA & ALLY

### ANNOUNCES 2021 WINNERS

NEW YORK, NY (October 4, 2021) – **The 25th Anniversary Urbanworld® Film Festival** ([www.urbanworld.org](http://www.urbanworld.org)), along with founding partner **HBO** and prestige partners **WarnerMedia** and **Ally**, announced the **2021 award winners** for the best narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema), documentary feature, documentary short, young creator, narrative short, animation short, experimental, environmental and social impact, web original, music video, screenplay, as well as the New York Women in Film and Television award for best female director, narrative features (U.S.); as it closed its hybrid festival yesterday.

The nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival screened 88 official selections, two spotlight screenings, ten spotlight conversations, and featured five Urbanworld Innovation sessions and four original screenplay finalists.

**Ava DuVernay, Patina Miller, RZA, Shameik Moore, Reinaldo Marcus Green, Aunjanue Ellis, Haile Gerima, Tristan Mack Wilds, Reggie Rock Bythewood, Brian Grazer, Quvenzhané Wallis, Jaden Michael, Isaiah Hill, Erika Alexander, Zolee Griggs, TJ Atoms, Aliyah Royale, Alexa Mansour, Joe Holt, Tananarive Due, Steven Barnes, Brande Victorian, Kelley Carter, Danielle Belton, Gia Peppers, Chuck Creekmur, Terrance J, Moikgantsi Kgama and Michelle Mitchell** were among the many that appeared throughout this year's five day edition.

**The 2021 Urbanworld Film Festival winners are:**

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (U.S. CINEMA) – 7th and Union – Directed by Anthony Nardolillo**

THE JURY:

Michele Arteaga, Executive Director, Program Acquisitions, STARZ

Mercedes Cooper, Vice President, Public Programming, ARRAY

Ryan Jones, Senior Vice President, Production Development, Universal Pictures

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (WORLD CINEMA) – The City of Wild Beasts – Directed by Henry E. Rincón**

THE JURY:

Carlos Aguilar, Film Critic

Leslie Cohen, Senior Vice President, Content Acquisitions, WarnerMedia

Stacy Spikes, Founder, Urbanworld Film Festival and Founder, Pre-Show

**BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – Target: St. Louis Vol. 1 – Directed by Damien D. Smith**

**Presented by NBCU News Group - \$2,500 Prize**

**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT - Ale Libre – Directed by Maya Cueva**

Honorable Mention: Wonderfully Made- Directed by Benita Ozoude

THE JURY:

Jackie Glover, Head of Documentary, ABC

Alexandra Hannibal, Director, Content Development, CNN Films

Dionne Harmon, Executive Vice President, Content & Strategy, Jesse Collins Entertainment

Yvette Miley, Senior Vice President, DEI, NBCU News Group

**BEST YOUNG CREATOR – All The Young Dudes – Directed by William Stead**

**Presented by Ally - \$10,000 Prize**

Honorable Mention: Sunday – Directed by Christian Schifano

THE JURY:

Greta Talia Fuentes, Vice President, Film Production and Development, MACRO

Cierra Glaude, Director

Erica Hughes, Director, Multicultural Marketing, Ally

**BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – Swimsuit – Directed by Hasan Hadi**

**Presented by WarnerMedia - \$5,000 Prize**

THE JURY:

Axel Caballero, Head of OneFifty and Vice President, WarnerMedia Artistic & Cultural Innovation

Brenda Gilbert, President, BRON Media

Maria Weaver, President, WEA, Warner Music Group

**BEST ANIMATION SHORT – Step Into The River – Directed by Weijia Ma**

THE JURY:

Stephanie Bang, Vice President, Feature Film Development, Dreamworks Animation

Helena Hilario, Writer & Producer

Carl Reed, President, Lion Forge Animation

**BEST EXPERIMENTAL SIDEBAR – Don't Go Tellin' Your Mama – Directed by Topaz Jones + rubberband.**

THE JURY:

Amy Andrieux, Executive Director & Chief Curator, MoCADA

Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Programs Officer, The Shed

Kyoko Minegishi, Founder, Maze Bright

**BEST ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL IMPACT – Youth V. Gov – Directed by Christi Cooper**

Honorable Mention: On The Fenceline – Directed by Tara Eng, Kristen Harrison, Alex Klein, Alisha Tamarchenko

THE JURY:

Carlton Eley, Environmental Expert

Dilshanie Perera, Fellow, Climate Museum

Katherine Weinstein, Acquisitions & Content Strategy, Discovery

**BEST WEB ORIGINAL – Our Shag Pad – Directed by Aldo Pisano**

THE JURY:

Sam Linsky, Co-Head, Scripted Original Programming, Warner Media  
Myles O’Connell, Director of TV/Film/SVOD Entertainment Partnerships, North America, Facebook  
Aisha Corpas Wynn, Senior Vice President, Alternative Television Programming, MACRO Television Studios

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO – North Star by Mumu Fresh feat. D Smoke – Directed by T.L. Benton**

THE JURY:

Jeff Burroughs, Senior Vice President, Brand Partnerships, Def Jam  
Colin Gayle, Founder, Africa Creative Agency  
Camille Hackney, Chief Partnerships Officer, Atlantic Records and Head, Global Brand Partnerships Council, Warner Music Group

**BEST SCREENPLAY – The 84 – Written by Sonja Perryman**

Honorable Mention: Inheritance – Written by Fedna Jacquet

THE JURY:

Tayo Amos, Writer + Director  
Patrick Coker, Writer/Director/Producer  
Melody Cooper, Writer  
Rashidi Hendrix, Founder, Metallic Entertainment  
Zora Howard, Writer + Performer

**BEST FEMALE DIRECTOR, US NARRATIVE FEATURE**

**Women Is Losers – Directed by Lissette Feliciano**

**This Is Not A War Story – Directed by Talia Lugacy**

**Presented by New York Women In Film & Television - \$1,000 Prize (Each)**

THE JURY:

Katie Chambers, Community Engagement Director, NYWIFT  
Cynthia Lopez, Executive Director, NYWIFT  
Zenaida Mendez, Board Member, NYWIFT

Urbanworld's founding partner **HBO** is joined by key supporters including **WarnerMedia** and **Ally** as prestige partners. Supporting partners include **AMC Network, Comcast Xfinity, Facebook, Hulu, OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network, NBCUniversal, Netflix, Shudder, STARZ** and **K. Period Media**. Industry partners include **ARRAY, MPA, WGAE, DGA** and **PreShow Interactive**. **Essence, iHeartRadio/Power 105.1, TheRoot.com, HuffPo** and **BuzzFeed** are media partners. Spirit and beverage sponsors are **Bulleit, Diageo** and **Fever Tree**.

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**ABOUT URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL**

The Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, co-founder of MoviePass, founder of PreShow Interactive, and a former executive at Miramax and October Films. With estimated

attendance reaching over 15,000 in-person, the five-day festival showcases narrative features, documentaries, short films, web originals, experimental, spotlight screenings and conversations, and music performances. Urbanworld's 2021 25th Anniversary edition will be available as a hybrid festival featuring an in-person footprint in NYC, as well as an online platform showcasing official selection projects and virtual spotlight conversations. Hollywood studios, networks and streamers, as well as established and emerging content creators, have consistently chosen Urbanworld to premiere box office hits and award-winning projects. Anchored in creativity, culture and community, Urbanworld is an initiative of the Urbanworld Foundation, which advances the inclusion and impact of diverse content creators through its platforms provided to storytellers from around the world. Gabrielle Glore serves as Festival Director and Head of Programming. The organization's website is [urbanworld.org](http://urbanworld.org).

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URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

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