NEW YORK, NY (October 4, 2021) – The 25th Anniversary Urbanworld® Film Festival (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, Tanañarive 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, WGA, 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.

###

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.

MEDIA CONTACT:
URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL
Staci R. Collins Jackson, The Collins Jackson Agency
312.600.7774 | SRCJ@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com