



Cordillera International Film Festival Winners Announced

Over 150 filmmakers, Grand and Special Jury members and celebrity guests from around the world gathered in Reno/Tahoe to celebrate the art of filmmaking and award over 300K in prizes.

RENO, Nev. (August 4, 2022)— Cordillera Int'l Film Festival (Cordillera), in partnership with Porsche, featured 150 Official Selections, chosen from a field of 2,000 submissions received from 83 countries in this year's festival which took place July 28 through August 1 in Reno and Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Cordillera's Grand Jury of revered industry professionals participated in screenings of official selection feature-length and short films, panels, screenplay readings, networking events and awarded prizes valued at \$300,000, including the 175K PITCHFEST! prize. In total, CIFF awarded 30 prizes in addition to five audience choice awards.

This year's Grand Jurors included: Directors: **Bruce Beresford, Benny Boom, Howard Deutch, Will Gluck, Alex Kalymnios, Mo Marable, David Nutter, Mikael Salomon and Simon West**; Producers: **Alexandra Derbyshire and Hunt Lowry**; Cinematographer: **Peter Menzies, Jr.**; Production Designer: **Derek Hill**; Costume Designer: **Karyn Wagner**; Casting Director: **Junie Lowry-Johnson**; Storyboard Artist: **Warren Drummond**; Colorist: **Mitch Paulson**; Industry Executive: **Dick Walsh**; Festival Programmer: **Greg Sorvig**; and Actors: **Bill Farmer, Kristoffer Polaha and Wes Studi**.

This year's Special Jury included: Chairman **Peter Menzies, Jr.**; LGBTQIA+ Jury: **Tammara Billik & Meredith Tanzer**; Music Video: **Benny Boom, Susan Drew, Emma Menzies and Connie Wray**; Female Focus: **Barbara Chase, Alexandra Derbyshire, Alex Kalymnios, and Kathryn Prescott**; John Singleton IMPACT Award: **Warren Drummond, Maasai Singleton, and Eric Wycoff**; Indigenous: **Jake Hart, DeLanna Studi, and Wes Studi**; Nevada Jury: **Steve Duval, Robin Holabird, Joe Ness, and Danette Tull**; and INNOVATE: **Mo Marable, Niels Mueller, and Dan Sasaki**.

The winners of the 2022 Cordillera Film Festival:

Grand Jury Awards

Best of Fest Feature – *Ninjababy*, presented by [Peter Menzies Jr](#) Winner receives \$70K Company3 Post Production Package and \$1,000 Cash Prize.

Best of the Fest Short Film – *Frimas*, presented by [Mikael Salomon](#). The winner receives \$30K Company3 Post Production Package and a \$1,000.00 Cash Prize.

Special Jury Awards

John Singleton Impact Award for stories that give a voice to the underrepresented and inspire change through the power of film *She Dreams at Sunrise* by Camrus Johnson, presented by [Peter Menzies Jr.](#) and [Eric Wycoff](#) with a special video message from Maasai Singleton. \$1,000 cash prize

Best Nevada Film – *Blunt*, presented by [Danette Tull](#). \$500 cash prize

Best Indigenous film - *Now Is The Time* presented by [DeLanna Studi](#). \$500 cash prize

Best Female Focus - *More Than I Remember*, presented by [Alex Kalymnios](#). \$500 cash prize

Best LBTQ+ award - *North Star*, presented by [Kathryn Prescott](#). \$500 cash prize

Best Music Video – *Zombified*, presented by [Emma Sydney Menzies](#). \$500 cash prize

Innovate Award: Stories told in bold, refreshing & unexpected ways – *Canceled*, presented by [Niels Mueller](#). \$500 Cash Prize

Audience Choice Awards

Best Short Film – *The Treatment*, presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#).

Best Feature Film - *Ninjababy*, presented by [Alex Kalymnios](#).

Best Screenplay – *Glitter Gulch*, presented by [Camrus Johnson](#).

Best Nevada Film with a \$500 cash prize - *Three weeks: The 1966 Winter Olympics and the Civil Rights Movement in Reno, Nevada*, presented by [Danette Tull](#).

Best of Festival with a \$500 cash prize - *Beautiful Minds*, presented by [Alexandra Derbyshire](#).

Feature Awards

Best Documentary Feature - *From The Hood To The Holler*, presented by [Mikael Salomon](#).

Best Narrative Feature - *I Love My Dad*, presented by Dick Walsh.

Best Performance in a Feature - Kristine Kuath Thorp, *Ninjababy*, presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#).

Best Director of a Feature - Yngvid Sve Flikke, *Ninjababy* presented by [Alex Kalymnios](#).

Screenplay Awards

Best of Fest Screenplay - *One Way*, presented by [Will Gluck](#).

Best Short Screenplay – *An Homme and a Lady*, presented by [Emma Sydney Menzies](#). Winner receives an option to be produced in Reno, NV by the award-winning Cordillera Films team with an in-kind value of up to \$10,000, courtesy of the Film Nevada Initiative.

Best Genre Screenplay – *Killer Crush*, presented by [Jake Hart](#).

Best Comedy Screenplay – *School's Out*, presented by [Eric Wycoff](#).

Best Dramatic Screenplay - *The Burden of Light*, presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#).

Short Film Awards

Best Documentary Short – *The Box*, presented by [Karyn Wagner](#).

Best Family Short - *The Night I Left America*, presented by [Camrus Johnson](#).

Best Animated Short – *Mr. Spam Gets A New Hat*, presented by [Alexandra Derbyshire](#).

Best Sci-fi/Fantasy short - *Censor of Dreams*, presented by [Greg Sorvig](#).

Best Horror/Thriller Short - *Sprite Fright*, presented by Dick Walsh

Best Comedy Short - *The One Who Never Watched Friends*, presented by [Will Gluck](#).

Best Drama Short – *Triggered*, presented by [Alexandra Derbyshire](#).

Best Intl Short – *Georgia*, presented by [Karyn Wagner](#).

Best Student Short - *Bad Hombrewood*, presented by [DeLanna Studi](#).

Best Performance in a Short - Isiah Whitlock, Jr., *Triggered*, presented by [Camrus Johnson](#).

Best Director of a Short – P.J. Palmer, *North Star*, presented by [Niels Mueller](#).

Cordillera Int'l Film Festival PITCHFEST Prize

In addition to celebrating completed films, Cordillera supports emerging voices through PITCHFEST!, a competition where filmmakers pitch ideas to a panel of Grand Jury members, in front of a live audience, for a chance to win a 175K production package. This year's prize includes a \$100K post production package from Company 3, a \$60K camera package grant from Panavision, 15K production consultation presented by the Film Nevada Initiative, including a consultation with CIFF Chairman, Australian Cinematographer, Peter Menzies Jr. (*Die Hard with a Vengeance, A Time to Kill, Shooter*). The 2022 PITCHFEST! panel included **Peter Menzies, Jr., Alexandra Derbyshire, Will Gluck, Alex Kalymnios, Kristoffer Polaha, Mikael Salomon, Greg Sorvig, Karyn Wagner, and Dick Walsh**. Twenty participants were pre-selected out of over 350 submissions and two raffle submissions were selected at the event to cold pitch. CIFF Executive Director, Emily Skyle presented the 2022 PITCHFEST! Award to Nevada-based filmmaker, Hisonni Mustafa Johnson, for his film, *The Beautiful Mind of Billy Benecito*, a provocative and timely film featuring social justice and mental health themes.

“It was an incredibly inspiring year for filmmaking and we were so honored to have so many of our Grand Jury and filmmakers join us in person to experience it all” shared Emily Skyle-Golden, executive director of Cordillera.

This year featured highly-acclaimed films that were previously screened at leading worldwide festivals including SXSW, Tribeca, Toronto, and Venice. The Opening/Centerpiece/Closing of the Festival included: *I Love My Dad*, *Justice for Bunny King*, *Beautiful Minds*, *Freaks Out*, *Disfluency*, *One Pint at a Time*, *From The Hood To The Holler*, and *Ninjababy*. Cordillera is proud to showcase official selections that honor our focus on Inclusion, and give a voice to the underrepresented in front of and behind the camera, including, Indigenous, female, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and the disability communities.

About the Cordillera International Film Festival

The 2022 Cordillera International Film Festival is Nevada’s largest premiere festival and a FilmFreeway top 100 Best Reviewed Festival out of more than 10,000 festivals worldwide. CIFF 2022 attracted a record number of film submissions from more than 80 countries and showcased 150+ official selections throughout the 5-day festival, which brought together filmmakers and audiences to celebrate the power of storytelling through film. For more information, visit www.ciffnv.org.

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