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### **CORDILLERA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS 2021 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS**

*Over 150 filmmakers, Grand & Special Jury members and celebrity guests gathered in Reno-Tahoe to celebrate the best in film and award over 100K in prizes to emerging filmmakers.*

**RENO, Nev. (August 2, 2021)**— Cordillera, in partnership with Bill Pearce Motors, featured 150 Official Selections, chosen from a field of 2000 submissions received from 83 countries. Cordillera’s Grand Jury of revered and expert voices came together to participate in interactive panels and award feature-length and short films shown at CIFF 2021 with prizes valued at \$100,000, giving filmmakers the chance to have their films seen by industry icons and emerging innovators.

#### **The winners of the 2021 Cordillera Film Festival:**

##### **Grand Jury Awards**

Best of the Fest Short Film - **Like the Ones I Used to Know** presented by [Mikael Salomon](#)  
Best of Best Screenplay - **The Minefield** presented by [Hunt Lowry](#)  
Best of Fest Feature - **Executive Order** presented by [Peter Menzies Jr.](#)

##### **Special Jury Awards**

Best Nevada Film - **All-in** presented by [Danette Tull](#)  
Best Indigenous film - **Joe Buffalo** presented by [Jake Hart](#)  
Best Female Filmmaker - **Ala Kachuu** presented by [Barbara Chase](#)  
Best LGBTQ award - **At Last** presented by [Ty DeFoe](#)  
Innovate Award - **Sloan Hearts Necklace** presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#)  
John Singleton Impact Award - **A Concerto is a Conversation** presented by [Selenesol Singleton](#) & [Peter Menzies Jr.](#)

##### **Audience Choice Awards**

Best Short Film - **Sloan Hearts Neckface**  
Best Feature Film - **Small Town Wisconsin**  
Best Screenplay - **Body of Chris**  
Best Nevada Film with a \$500 cash prize - **Stuck**  
Best of Festival with a \$500 cash prize - **Beans**



## Jury Awards

- Best Music Video - **We can't Breathe** presented by [Emma Sydney Menzies](#)
- Best Documentary Short - **Say His Name: Five Days for George Floyd** presented by [Mikael Salomon](#)
- Best Family Short - **Graceland** presented by [Elizabeth Frances](#)
- Best Animated Short - **Migrants** presented by [Bill Farmer](#)
- Best Sci-fi/Fantasy short - **Charon** presented by [Jasmeet Baduwalia](#)
- Best Horror Short - **Dead End Drive** presented by [Dick Walsh](#)
- Best Thriller Short - **Blue Bison** presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#)
- Best Comedy Short - **I Can Change** presented by [Bill Farmer](#)
- Best Drama Short - **The Criminals** presented by [Hunt Lowry](#)
- Best Intl Short - **Forbidden to See Us Scream in Tehran** presented by [Mitch Paulson](#)
- Best Student Short - **Bittu** presented by [DeLanna Studi](#)
- Best Performance in a Short - **Hiro Kanagawa in The Tailor** presented by [Antonio Jaramillo](#)
- Best Director of a short - **Annie St-Pierre with Like the Ones I Used to Know** presented by [Rainbow Dickerson](#)
- Best Genre Screenplay - **Lawman** presented by [Kelly Lynne D'Angelo](#)
- Best Comedy Screenplay - **Emergency Contact** presented by [Mitch Paulson](#)
- Best Dramatic Screenplay - **Connect** presented by [Camrus Johnson](#)
- Best Documentary Feature - **Not Going Quietly** presented by [Mikael Salomon](#)
- Best Narrative Feature - **Women is Losers** presented by [Dick Walsh](#)
- Best Performance in a Feature - **Riz Ahmed in Mogul Mowgli** presented by [Kristoffer Polaha](#)
- Best Director of a Feature - **Jonathan Keijser from Peace by Chocolate** presented by [Peter Menzies Jr.](#)
- Best Short Screenplay - **Tree o' Mine** presented by [DeLanna Studi](#)

In addition to celebrating completed films, Cordillera also strives to support emerging voices and offers PITCHFEST!, a competition where filmmakers pitch their ideas to a panel of industry icons, in front of a live audience, for a chance to win a 100K production package that includes a \$60K Panavision Production Package Grant, 12K production consultation - presented by the Film Nevada Initiative with consultation with Australian Cinematographer, Peter Menzies Jr.(Die Hard with a Vengeance, A Time to Kill, Shooter), a 25K Entertainment Attorney Package and \$3.5K - Executive Producer Fee from Upside Entertainment, LLC.(1917, Human Condition). Ten individuals were selected out of over 100 submissions. The winner of CIFF 2021 PITCHFEST! is **Life Unworthy** by filmmaker, actress and writer, Eileen Grubba.

“The level of talent that shared their work with us this year was humbling,” shared Emily Skyle-Golden, executive director of Cordillera. “The messages behind so many of the stories we shared were powerful, inspiring and impactful. I think we were all so ready to come together and experience the thrill of witnessing the reactions of a live audience.”



This year featured highly-acclaimed films that were previously screened at leading worldwide festivals including Berlin, SXSW, Toronto, and Tribeca. The Opening/Centerpiece/Closing of the Festival includes “Women is Losers,” “Not Going Quietly,” and “Peace By Chocolate”. Out of the 12 feature-length films carefully selected this year, an impressive 83% adhere to CIFF’s Focus on Inclusion, giving a voice to the underrepresented in front of and behind the camera, including indigenous, female, BIPOC, LGBTQ, and the disability communities. 42% of features this year are by first time directors, or making their narrative feature debut.

### **About the Cordillera International Film Festival**

The 2021 Cordillera International Film Festival 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](http://www.ciffnv.org).

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