

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS & WINNERS - JANUARY 2026

BEST FEATURE FILM

A Movie Trip Director Carlos Daniel Alvarado (WINNER)
Courage Director Ankur Arun Kakatkar
Invincibles Director Dan Panek

BEST SHORT FILM

Simplicity Director Sergey Khromykh (WINNER)
Mortain Director William Cherry
The Red & the Black Director Alessio Falbo
Voices from the Mekong Director Pham Quoc Anh

BEST UNDER 5 MINUTE FILM

Just Being Nice Director Jeronimo Geldart (WINNER)
Man of Another Time Director Yi Lu
The Last Fisherman of Jeju Director Kang Dae-hyun

BEST INDIE FEATURE

Courage Director Ankur Arun Kakatkar (WINNER)
The Mango Tree Season Director Luis Fernando Calderón

BEST INDIE SHORT

Man of Another Time Director Yi Lu (WINNER)
Bint, Bat Director Hanju David Youk
Voices from the Mekong Director Pham Quoc Anh

BEST SERIES PILOT

Alienated Director Tamara Hernandez (WINNER)

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Trials: Jamila Bouhired Director Ahmed Aboufotouh (WINNER)
My MAGA Director Seth Bernstein
215 Branch of Death Director Obadah Al-Baghdadi
Dignified: The Faisal Cup Story Directors Hazel Desmond, Jonathan Huet
Silver Sunrise Director James Jaeger

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

A Tail for a Tale Director Sofia Huang (WINNER)
The Newlyweds Director Hau Nguyen
Boonie, Bano Director Ziming Li
Where Care Breaks Director Kevin Cheng

BEST STUDENT FILM

Lonely People Director Esau Gomez Ang (WINNER)
Man of Another Time Director Yi Lu
Sara Director Kaisar Maxutov
Go for Gold Director Niko Chu
Where Care Breaks Director Kevin Cheng
Pioneer of Love Director Amber Yanguo Hou

BEST AI FILM

Servants in Disguise Director Donghun Lee (WINNER)
The Secret Life Of Display Artists Director Carmen Gloria Pérez
Chelsea Fan Tribute AI Video Director Soslan Chekhoev
Filmway. Made with AI. Shaped by People Directors Eradzh Nidoev,
Alexander Zarshchikov
Marked for Snuff Director Pavel Karusev
Space Odyssey Director Jorge Ospina
Bbini "X-mas" Director Donghun Lee

BEST MUSIC VIDEO	BEST TRAILER
<p>The Long Breath of Winter Director Eunhye Lee (WINNER) <i>All I Want Is Hope and Nothing More Director Rob McFadyen</i> <i>Mr Casual Directors Jazzie Young, Shelby Parks Parks</i> <i>Waiting on You! Directors Jazzie Young, Tatum Brontë</i> <i>Strong Enough Director Rose Maria Mitchell</i> <i>Just Like Selma Submitter Nolan Williams, Jr.</i> <i>1.21 Gigawatts Directors Erik Deutscher, Tamara Gray</i></p>	<p>Filmway. Made with AI. Shaped by People Directors Eradz Nidoev, Alexander Zarshchikov (WINNER) <i>The Last Fisherman of Jeju Director Kang Dae-hyun</i></p>
BEST COMMERCIAL	BEST COMEDY FILM
<p>Space Odyssey Director Jorge Ospina (WINNER) <i>Plastic Ocean Directors Alena Llopis, Vicent Llopis</i></p>	<p>A Movie Trip Director Carlos Daniel Alvarado (WINNER)</p>
BEST DARK COMEDY FILM	BEST THRILLER FILM
<p>Plucked Directors Usher Morgan, Katie Vincent (WINNER) <i>Collector Director Nathan Calev</i></p>	<p>Willow's Tree Director Darius L Francis (WINNER) <i>La Ciudad de los Patios Vacíos Director Mariana López Ríos</i></p>
BEST SCI-FI FILM	BEST DRAMA FILM
<p>Celestial Director P.M. Nelson (WINNER) <i>La Ciudad de los Patios Vacíos Director Mariana López Ríos</i></p>	<p>Invincibles Director Dan Panek (WINNER) <i>Downward Spiral Director Jerry Garcia</i> <i>The Last Fisherman of Jeju Director Kang Dae-hyun</i></p>
BEST HISTORICAL FILM	BEST NOIR FILM
<p>Inherited Shame Directors Fruzsina Skrabski, Sándor Kiss (WINNER)</p>	<p>Frame Director Andrew Akbari (WINNER)</p>
BEST ROMANCE FILM	BEST FAN FILM
<p>My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER) <i>Trilero Director Kat Nester</i></p>	<p>Chelsea Fan Tribute AI Video Director Soslan Chekboev (WINNER)</p>
BEST LGBTQ FILM	BEST BIOGRAPHICAL FILM
<p>Job Seeker Director Joon Han (WINNER)</p>	<p>Professor Maria Kopp Director István Borsody (WINNER)</p>

BEST INSPIRATIONAL FILM	BEST SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM
<p>Pioneer of Love Director Amber Yanguo Hou (WINNER) <i>Moving Past Trauma Director Fruzsina Skrabski</i></p>	<p>Where Care Breaks Director Kevin Cheng (WINNER)</p>
BEST SPORT FILM	BEST DIRECTOR
<p>Invincibles Director Dan Panek (WINNER) <i>Dignified: The Faisal Cup Story Directors Hazel Desmond, Jonathan Huet</i> <i>The Silver Team and the '38 World Cup Final Director István Borsody</i> <i>Chelsea Fan Tribute AI Video Director Soslan Chekhoev</i></p>	<p>A Movie Trip Director Carlos Daniel Alvarado (WINNER - Feature) Alienated Director Tamara Hernandez (WINNER - Short) <i>After the Rain in Ubud Director Made Arya Wijaya</i></p>
BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR	BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR
<p>My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER - Feature) Man of Another Time Director Yi Lu (WINNER - Short) <i>A Movie Trip Director Carlos Daniel Alvarado</i> <i>After the Rain in Ubud Director Made Arya Wijaya</i></p>	<p>The Entertainer Director Aleksei Furmanov (WINNER) <i>Man of Another Time Director Yi Lu</i> <i>A Tail for a Tale Director Sofia Huang</i> <i>Where Care Breaks Director Kevin Cheng</i></p>
BEST ART DIRECTOR	BEST PRODUCER
<p>(Anna Kavtaskina) My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER)</p>	<p>(Sushant Prashant Tungare) Courage Director Ankur Arun Kakatkar (WINNER) <i>After the Rain in Ubud Director Made Arya Wijaya</i></p>
BEST 1ST TIME PRODUCER	BEST ACTOR
<p>(Uday Devaskar) Courage Director Ankur Arun Kakatkar (WINNER)</p>	<p>(Johan Wickholm) Letters Of Love Director Johan Wickholm (WINNER)</p>
BEST ACTRESS	BEST YOUNG ACTOR
<p>(Anastasiya Panova) My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER) <i>(Daisy Donohue) Celestial Director P.M. Nelson</i></p>	<p>(William Cherry) Mortain Director William Cherry (WINNER)</p>
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY	BEST SOUNDTRACK
<p>(Grigoriy Maykov) My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER) <i>(Omaid Naskai, Andrew Akbari) Frame Director Andrew Akbari</i> <i>El Cielo de los Nadadores Director Tomás Echeverría</i></p>	<p>(Viktor Zhandarov, Alina Gaynanshina, Aydar Khuzin, Denis Sivtsev) My boyfriend, a mannequin Director Dmitry Nikolenko (WINNER) <i>El Cielo de los Nadadores Director Tomás Echeverría</i></p>
BEST DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY	BEST FEATURE SCRIPT
<p>(Nora Carmona) Lienzos Runway Submitter Nora Carmona (WINNER)</p>	<p>How To Eat A Liberal Writer David Gray (WINNER) <i>Sky King Writer Robby Gadsby</i> <i>Lovers and Gangsters Writer Patrick McKinley</i> <i>Sombras sobre Valparaíso Writer Ignacio Montalbán</i> <i>The Mad Dog and Miss Effie Writer Bret McCormick</i></p>

BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT	BEST SHORT SCRIPT
<p>Overboard Writer Samantha Reddy (WINNER)</p>	<p>The Temptation of Holding Tight Writer Oğuzhan Toker (WINNER) <i>Blank Canvas Writer Andrew Akbari</i> <i>A Personal Friend Writer Yi Lu</i> <i>12 Minutes Writer Ben Havis</i> <i>Home Safe Writer Dory Lorenz</i></p>
BEST DARK COMEDY SCRIPT	BEST DRAMA SCRIPT
<p>The Incident In Weeki Wachee Writer Christopher Laudando (WINNER)</p>	<p>Sky King Writer Robby Gadsby (WINNER) <i>Sombras sobre Valparaíso Writer Ignacio Montalbán</i></p>
BEST HISTORICAL SCRIPT	BEST NOIR SCRIPT
<p>House of Edith Writer Koren Zailckas (WINNER)</p>	<p>Love & Death: A Reckoning in Harlem Writer Chris M. Rutledge (WINNER)</p>
BEST ROMANCE SCRIPT	BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER
<p>Renewal Day Writers Jamie Lokoff, Catherine Bown (WINNER) <i>Letters from the Bamboo Coast Writer Nguyen Thi Mai</i></p>	<p>Sky King Writer Robby Gadsby (WINNER - Feature) 12 Minutes Writer Ben Havis (WINNER - Short) <i>Renewal Day Writers Jamie Lokoff, Catherine Bown</i> <i>Zachary, Book 1, Dawn Of The Awakening Writer Raymond Springer</i> <i>Overboard Writer Samantha Reddy</i> <i>Cactus Writer Olga Khokhlova</i> <i>A Personal Friend Writer Yi Lu</i></p>
BEST STUDENT SCREENWRITER	BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT
<p>A Personal Friend Writer Yi Lu (WINNER) <i>Self-Care Writer Ayla Jackson Hamilton</i> <i>Letters from the Bamboo Coast Writer Nguyen Thi Mai</i></p>	<p>Sky King Writer Robby Gadsby (WINNER) <i>Sombras sobre Valparaíso Writer Ignacio Montalbán</i></p>
HONORABLE MENTIONS	
<p>A Personal Friend Writer Yi Lu (Short Script)</p> <p>Dignified: The Faisal Cup Story Directors Hazel Desmond, Jonathan Huet (Doc Feature)</p> <p>Chelsea Fan Tribute AI Video Director Soslan Chekhoev (AI Film)</p> <p>Where Care Breaks Director Kevin Cheng (Student Director – Short)</p>	