NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS - APRIL 2026

BEST SHORT FILM	BEST INDIE FILM
Gardeners Director Merry May Ma Sometimes Candles Burn Director Sam Hoffman Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie Incense smoke curls within the Five Divisions Director Guo Wu The Border Director Carlo Fumo Two Shots Director Alan Vidot	Wake Up Director Anthony Azarcon Oslo Transfer Director Henrik Dahl Jakarta Warehouse Director Dimas Saputra The Appeal Director Jonathan Reeves
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE	**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT**
A Simple Soldier Directors Artem Ryzhykov, Juan Camilo Cruz The Engineer Director Sam Alexander Reynard Yugoslavia, elsewhere Director Linlang Zhao	Incense smoke curls within the Five Divisions Director Guo Wu Iammatthew Director Matthew Ma The Voiceless Director Alan Lau Before We Arrive Director Yoonah Lee Wilt Chamberlin: 100 Point Game Director Neda Toloui Semnani
BEST STUDENT FILM	**BEST SILENT FILM**
On Air Directors Jagger Cardinale, Jessica Tamari, Sophia Voicu Champion Director Leon Li Dream Director Junze Cai Second Skin Directors Jagger Cardinale, Jessica Tamari, Sophia Voicu In Passing Directors Lucas Nasu Nielsen, Ben Taylor Before We Arrive Director Yoonah Lee Wilt Chamberlin: 100 Point Game Director Neda Toloui Semnani	The blind fall of a treason Director Nicolas Gallegos Anda
BEST AI FILM	**BEST MUSIC VIDEO**
Baby Hero Uturi : Re-Bloom Director Nayeong Kim What we deserve Director Attila Lorant Hugo and the stray Director Sylvan Siyuan Zhao Timberland Director Soslan Chekhoev	As Strong as the Stars Director Steve A. Hall MerryGo Director John Laww Truth Barz Director Travis Williams
BEST TRAILER	**BEST COMEDY FILM**
After Ash Director Shaun Seong-young Kim	Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie Hanoi Ledger Director Nguyen Duc Huy
BEST FANTASY FILM	**BEST HORROR FILM**
Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott	Honeybun Director Palash Sharma
BEST HISTORICAL FILM	**BEST WAR FILM**
Yugoslavia, elsewhere Director Linlang Zhao Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott	Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott

BEST MUSICAL FILM	BEST BIOGRAPHICAL FILM
Baby Hero Uturi : Re-Bloom Director Nayeong Kim Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott	Hopscotch Director Alicia Betty Fall
BEST ETHNOGRAPHICAL FILM	**BEST DIRECTOR**
Incense smoke curls within the Five Divisions Director Guo Wu	Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie Wake Up Director Anthony Azarcon Incense smoke curls within the Five Divisions Director Guo Wu Porto Alegre Block Director Renata Silveira
BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR	**BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR**
Baby Hero Uturi : Re-Bloom Director Nayeong Kim Porto Alegre Block Director Renata Silveira The Field Report Director Andrew Collins	In Passing Directors Lucas Nasu Nielsen, Ben Taylor Five Minutes Director Kin Lun Alan Lao Fate Director Yudi Wei Dream Director Junze Cai
BEST ACTRESS	**BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**
(Karen Thomas) Trepidation Director Elgin Cahill	(Pam Renall) Trepidation Director Elgin Cahill
BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE	**BEST ACTING DUO**
Sometimes Candles Burn Director Sam Hoffman Panama City Desk Director Carlos A. Villarreal	(Eva Mairéad, Mia Joy Sweeney) Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY	**BEST SONG**
(Connor Lawson) Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie Seoul Dispatch Director Yoon Tae-kyung (Alan Vidot) Two Shots Director Alan Vidot	(Steve A. Hall) As Strong as the Stars Director Steve A. Hall
BEST SOUND DESIGN	**BEST SCREENPLAY**
Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie	(Anthony Azarcon) Wake Up Director Anthony Azarcon Seoul Dispatch Director Yoon Tae-kyung
BEST ORIGINAL STORY	**BEST FEATURE SCRIPT**
Juniper's Playbook Director Sydney Rose Schmieder (Haley Bella Seda)	Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra Fun City Writer Gordon Rayfield Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh 7 D.B.S. Writer Eugene Hattingh
BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT	**BEST SHORT SCRIPT**
Alphabet City Burning: Operation Pressure Point Writer Nik Prietus The Book Submitter Nyasha Foy The Allocation Writer Benjamin Clarke	Lights Out Writers Brandon Geer, Andrew Akbari, Will Lerberg Taipei Night Bus Writer Chen Wei-lun

BEST COMEDY SCRIPT	BEST ADVENTURE SCRIPT
Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh	Sarengeti Writer Greg Nichols
BEST ACTION SCRIPT	**BEST THRILLER SCRIPT**
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra	6 Pencils Writer Greyson Lemons Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
BEST FANTASY SCRIPT	**BEST SCI-FI SCRIPT**
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra	WarGames: AI WARS Submitter Dorian Baldari Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
BEST HORROR SCRIPT	**BEST DRAMA SCRIPT**
Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh	7 D.B.S. Writer Eugene Hattingh The Ripple Writer Sandra Jones Not Yet Submitter Taylor Bartczak
BEST DETECTIVE SCRIPT	**BEST WESTERN SCRIPT**
The Last Hunt Writer Scott Joseph Cahill	For the birds Writer Sherry Louise Frasier
BEST ROMANCE SCRIPT	**BEST INSPIRATIONAL SCRIPT**
At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson Taipei Night Bus Writer Chen Wei-lun	The Ripple Writer Sandra Jones
BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER	**BEST STUDENT SCREENWRITER**
For the birds Writer Sherry Louise Frasier The report Writer Nathaniel Sejin Kim At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson 7 D.B.S. Writer Eugene Hattingh 3 Twisters Writer R.L. King EVAluation Writers Marian Siwiak, Marlena Siwiak	Mercury Writer Sadie Love Frederick The Allocation Writer Benjamin Clarke
BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT	
At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra Not Yet Submitter Taylor Bartczak	