

# NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS & WINNERS - APRIL 2026

## BEST SHORT FILM

**Gardeners Director Merry May Ma (WINNER)**

*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*

## BEST INDIE FILM

**Wake Up Director Anthony Azarcon (WINNER)**

*Oslo Transfer Director Henrik Dahl*

*Jakarta Warehouse Director Dimas Saputra*

*The Appeal Director Jonathan Reeves*

## BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

**A Simple Soldier Directors Artem Ryzhykov, Juan Camilo Cruz (WINNER)**

*The Engineer Director Sam Alexander Reynard*

*Yugoslavia, elsewhere Director Linlang Zhao*

## BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

**Incense smoke curls within the Five Divisions Director Guo Wu (WINNER)**

*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

**On Air Directors Jagger Cardinale, Jessica Tamari, Sophia Voicu (WINNER)**

*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*

## BEST SILENT FILM

**The blind fall of a treason Directors Nicolas Gallegos Anda, Zorana Foley (WINNER)**

## BEST AI FILM

**Baby Hero Uturi : Re-Bloom Director Nayeong Kim (WINNER)**

*What we deserve Director Attila Lorant*

*Hugo and the stray Director Sylvan Siyuan Zhao*

*Timberland Director Soslan Chekhoev*

## BEST MUSIC VIDEO

**As Strong as the Stars Director Steve A. Hall (WINNER)**

*MerryGo Director John Laww*

*Truth Barz Director Travis Williams*

## BEST TRAILER

**After Ash Director Shaun Seong-young Kim (WINNER)**

## BEST COMEDY FILM

**Desperately Seeking Commitment Submitter Lulu Oparanozie (WINNER)**

*Hanoi Ledger Director Nguyen Duc Huy*

## BEST FANTASY FILM

**Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott (WINNER)**

## BEST HORROR FILM

**Honeybun Director Palash Sharma (WINNER)**

## BEST HISTORICAL FILM

**Yugoslavia, elsewhere Director Linlang Zhao (WINNER)**

*Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott*

## BEST WAR FILM

**Butterfly Submitter Claryn Scott (WINNER)**

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

<b>BEST COMEDY SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST ADVENTURE SCRIPT</b>
Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh (WINNER)	Sarengeti Writer Greg Nichols (WINNER)
<b>BEST ACTION SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST THRILLER SCRIPT</b>
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra	6 Pencils Writer Greyson Lemons (WINNER) Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
<b>BEST FANTASY SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST SCI-FI SCRIPT</b>
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra (WINNER)	WarGames: AI WARS Submitter Dorian Baldari (WINNER) Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
<b>BEST HORROR SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST DRAMA SCRIPT</b>
Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh (WINNER)	7 D.B.S. Writer Eugene Hattingh (WINNER) The Ripple Writer Sandra Jones Not Yet Submitter Taylor Bartczak
<b>BEST DETECTIVE SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST WESTERN SCRIPT</b>
The Last Hunt Writer Scott Joseph Cahill (WINNER)	For the birds Writer Sherry Louise Frasier (WINNER)
<b>BEST ROMANCE SCRIPT</b>	<b>BEST INSPIRATIONAL SCRIPT</b>
At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson (WINNER) Taipei Night Bus Writer Chen Wei-lun	The Ripple Writer Sandra Jones (WINNER)
<b>BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER</b>	<b>BEST STUDENT SCREENWRITER</b>
For the birds Writer Sherry Louise Frasier (WINNER - Feature) The report Writer Nathaniel Sejin Kim (WINNER - Short) 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 (WINNER) The Allocation Writer Benjamin Clarke
<b>BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT</b>	<b>HONORABLE MENTIONS</b>
At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson (WINNER) Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra Not Yet Submitter Taylor Bartczak	7 D.B.S. Writer Eugene Hattingh (1st Time Screenwriter - Feature)  Dream Director Junze Cai (Student Director - Short)  (Alan Vidot) Two Shots Director Alan Vidot (Cinematography)  Not Yet Submitter Taylor Bartczak (Original Script)  Before We Arrive Director Yoonah Lee (Student Film)  Wilt Chamberlin: 100 Point Game Director Neda Toloui Semnani (Doc Short)