

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 Director Finise Avery
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 Director Finise Avery (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)

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

BEST COMEDY SCRIPT	BEST ADVENTURE SCRIPT
Escape to Alcatraz Writer Eugene Hattingh (WINNER)	Sarengeti Writer Greg Nichols (WINNER)
BEST ACTION SCRIPT	BEST THRILLER SCRIPT
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra	6 Pencils Writer Greyson Lemons (WINNER) Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
BEST FANTASY SCRIPT	BEST SCI-FI SCRIPT
Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra (WINNER)	WarGames: AI WARS Submitter Dorian Baldari (WINNER) Attack Of The Sasquatch Writer Rudolph Rajendra
BEST HORROR SCRIPT	BEST DRAMA SCRIPT
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
BEST DETECTIVE SCRIPT	BEST WESTERN SCRIPT
The Last Hunt Writer Scott Joseph Cahill (WINNER)	For the birds Writer Sherry Louise Frasier (WINNER)
BEST ROMANCE SCRIPT	BEST INSPIRATIONAL SCRIPT
At Last Writer Bradley Nathanson (WINNER) Taipei Night Bus Writer Chen Wei-lun	The Ripple Writer Sandra Jones (WINNER)
BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER	BEST STUDENT SCREENWRITER
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
BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT	HONORABLE MENTIONS
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)