

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS & WINNERS - JULY 2026

BEST FEATURE FILM

Pony Director Bobby Hammel (WINNER)
Maybe It's Love Director Akhil Akkina
Tomorrow Was Cancelled Director Sofia Marquez

BEST SHORT FILM

Devour Trauma Director Jae Grind (WINNER)
Still Here Director Talya Dayan
The Last Photo Booth Director Diego Cifuentes
What We Left Behind Director Samuel Reeves
The Orange Bicycle Director Yamada Kento
Three Weeks Missing Director Hannah Mercer
Squeezed Director Rupert Song
Act Three Director Shashwat Brahmbhatt

BEST UNDER 5 MINUTE FILM

Urayuli Director Alissa Powell (WINNER)
Bubble gum Director Maria Maya
Before the Rain Returns Director Gabriel Tavares

BEST INDIE FEATURE

Pony Director Bobby Hammel (WINNER)
Whenever You're Ready Director Gary Pillai
Maybe It's Love Director Akhil Akkina

BEST INDIE SHORT

The Sun She Remembers Director Shounok Ghosh (WINNER)
The Last Photo Booth Director Diego Cifuentes
What We Left Behind Director Samuel Reeves
The Orange Bicycle Director Yamada Kento
Three Weeks Missing Director Hannah Mercer

BEST SERIES PILOT

Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal (WINNER)
Before the Rain Returns Director Gabriel Tavares

BEST WEB-SERIES

Furi - Miniseries Directors Barty Shepherd, Bailey Tom Bailey (WINNER)
Displaced Director Molly Daniels
Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal

BEST ANIMATION

Lovers' Afterlife Director Elizabeth Ingrassia (WINNER)
Urayuli Director Alissa Powell
Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal
A Little Sun in a Metal Shell Director Bingyu Zhang
Flushed to the Grave Director Kunal Ashok

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

An Inconvenient Study Director Kris Armstrong (WINNER)
Martha Graham Dance Company: We Are Our Time Directors Peter Schnall, Cyndee Readdean

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Pao. Driven by Passsion Director Jose Francisco Malave (WINNER)
Visiting Uncle Paul Director Luke J McDonough
The Accountant's Daughter Director Lee Ji-eun

BEST STUDENT FILM	BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM
Between Scylla and Charybdis Director Jixuan Gong (WINNER) <i>Toxic Metals in Clothing Director Zoe An</i> <i>The digital loom Director Yiting Yu</i> <i>He doesn't smoke Director Kang Ryeong Lee</i> <i>Shorts Director Qiaoyin Wang</i> <i>Read The Room Director Destiny Miller</i>	Isomer Director Nikki Silvestre (WINNER)
BEST MUSIC VIDEO	BEST TRAILER
I Want to Ascend Director Daniel Pino (WINNER) <i>Chaton - We Are Invincible Director Marcus CB Soori</i> <i>Wind Chime Director Fann</i>	Leviathan Director Hyeongrae Yoo (WINNER) <i>The Accountant's Daughter Director Lee Ji-eun</i>
BEST COMEDY FILM	BEST ACTION FILM
Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal (WINNER) <i>Birds Don't Land Here Director Valeria Campos</i>	Pony Director Bobby Hammel (WINNER) <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>
BEST FAN FILM	BEST SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM
Slipstream Director Glen L Wolfe (WINNER)	The digital loom Director Yiting Yu (WINNER) <i>The Knock That Never Leaves Director Alvin Seenauth</i> <i>No One Called Back Director Peter Hargrove</i> <i>To Dream Director Lenka Lenucheva</i>
BEST DIRECTOR	BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR
Maybe It's Love Director Akhil Akkina (WINNER - Feature) Pao. Driven by Passsion Director Jose Francisco Malave (WINNER - Short) <i>Tomorrow Was Cancelled Director Sofia Marquez</i> <i>The Last Photo Booth Director Diego Cifuentes</i> <i>What We Left Behind Director Samuel Reeves</i> <i>The Fourth Passenger Director Thomas Keegan</i>	Maybe It's Love Director Akhil Akkina (WINNER - Feature) As if she never left Director Lujun Ji (WINNER - Short) <i>Tomorrow Was Cancelled Director Sofia Marquez</i> <i>The Fourth Passenger Director Thomas Keegan</i> <i>Isomer Director Nikki Silvestre</i> <i>The Orange Bicycle Director Yamada Kento</i> <i>Three Weeks Missing Director Hannah Mercer</i> <i>Baby Sea Turtle Directors Natalie Gonzalez, Jeremiah Alexander</i>
BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR	BEST ACTOR
Shorts Director Qiaoyin Wang (WINNER) <i>Toxic Metals in Clothing Director Zoe An</i> <i>Between Scylla and Charybdis Director Jixuan Gong</i> <i>In Search of Lost Pain Directors Yixuan Han, Yichen Wang</i>	(Ethan Powell) Class of 17 Directors Ethan Powell, Luca Vines (WINNER) <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>
BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE	BEST ACTING DUO
Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal (WINNER) <i>A Small Problem with Tigers Director Chen Yuhao</i> <i>Birds Don't Land Here Director Valeria Campos</i>	(Natalie Gonzalez, Riley D. Samuel) Baby Sea Turtle Directors Natalie Gonzalez, Jeremiah Alexander (WINNER)

BEST ACTING DEBUT	BEST VOICE OVER
(Gavin Alton-James Bailey) Read The Room Director Destiny Miller (WINNER) <i>(Jake Burnett) Whenever You're Ready Director Gary Pillai</i>	(Nick Casal) Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal (WINNER) <i>(Nikki Silvestre) Isomer Director Nikki Silvestre</i>
BEST COSTUMES	BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
(Louise Hoving) Furi - Miniseries Directors Barty Shepherd, Bailey Tom Bailey (WINNER) <i>Seven Days in April Director Lucia Benavides</i>	(Rick Joaquim, Simon Stolland, Tristan Chenais) Furi - Miniseries Directors Barty Shepherd, Bailey Tom Bailey (WINNER) <i>(Peter Schnall, Andrew Baker, Jerry Risius) Martha Graham Dance Company: We Are Our Time Directors Peter Schnall, Cyndee Readdean</i> <i>Seven Days in April Director Lucia Benavides</i> <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>
BEST SOUNDTRACK	BEST SOUND DESIGN
(Liam Canet Leiva, Martin Litvin) Still Here Director Talya Dayan (WINNER) <i>Seven Days in April Director Lucia Benavides</i> <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>	(Peter Zongting Li) We Are One Director Angela Lin (WINNER) <i>Seven Days in April Director Lucia Benavides</i> <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>
BEST FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY	BEST SCREENPLAY
(AJ Nort, Vitas Lebas, Michael Hoad, Dan Johnson) Furi - Miniseries Directors Barty Shepherd, Bailey Tom Bailey (WINNER) <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>	(Nick Casal) Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal (WINNER) <i>Seven Days in April Director Lucia Benavides</i> <i>The Boy Who Sold Winter Director Kim Seung-ho</i>
BEST POSTER	BEST FEATURE SCRIPT
Class of 17 Directors Ethan Powell, Luca Vines (WINNER) <i>(Nick Casal) Hammy the Hamster Chapter 1: Space Crack Director Nick Casal</i>	The Kitchen Writer Earl Crittenden (WINNER) <i>The Walk On Writer Billy Mitaritonna</i> <i>The frequency divide Writer Treena Wynes</i> <i>The Last Customer Writer Aaron Whitaker</i>
BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT	BEST TELEVISION SCRIPT
The Ginger Seeds of Loxahatchee Writer Nik Prietus (WINNER) <i>New Religion Writer Galen Ryan Kane</i>	The Ginger Seeds of Loxahatchee Writer Nik Prietus (WINNER) <i>The Last Customer Writer Aaron Whitaker</i>
BEST SHORT SCRIPT	BEST DARK COMEDY SCRIPT
The Seven Writer Laurel Hatfield (WINNER) <i>The Exam Writer Ethan Sui</i> <i>Goodbye, Mr. Sato Writer Nishida Haru</i> <i>Undying Love Writer Jim Shankman</i>	The Kitchen Writer Earl Crittenden (WINNER)

BEST THRILLER SCRIPT	BEST SCI-FI SCRIPT
The Fall of Ted Writer Monte Albers de Leon (WINNER) <i>The Last Customer</i> Writer Aaron Whitaker	The frequency divide Writer Treena Wynes (WINNER)
BEST LGBTQ SCRIPT	BEST STUDENT SCREENWRITER
The Kitchen Writer Earl Crittenden (WINNER) <i>Goodbye, Mr. Sato</i> Writer Nishida Haru	Compliance Writer Saoirse Kennedy (WINNER) <i>Goodbye, Mr. Sato</i> Writer Nishida Haru
HONORABLE MENTIONS	
(Nikki Silvestre) Isomer Director Nikki Silvestre (Voice Over) Toxic Metals in Clothing Director Zoe (Student Film) Martha Graham Dance Company: We Are Our Time Directors Peter Schnall, Cyndee Readdean (Doc Feature) Whenever You're Ready Director Gary Pillai (Indie Feature)	