

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS & WINNERS - AUGUST 2026

BEST FEATURE FILM

Tangoman Director Sergei Tumas (WINNER)
The Wrong Envelope Director Michael Avery

BEST SHORT FILM

Huarango Director Valeria Vidal (WINNER)
Memoria Director Angel Reyes
I'm Yours Director Anthony Azarcon
Feathered Guilt Director Madison Helmick
Smoker Director Ollie Alexander
Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim
Fall Director Mark Molnar
November Men Director Jake Alda

BEST UNDER 5 MINUTE FILM

The Scribbles Between Us Director Arnav Vaidyanathan (WINNER)
Nothing to Celebrate Director Jose Francisco Malave

BEST INDIE SHORT

Echoes under skin Directors Gabriella Katsouropoulou, John C. Christian (WINNER)
Smoker Director Ollie Alexander
When Anna Stopped Calling Director Lucia Ferrer
Half a Ticket Director Kenji Morita
The Spare Key Director Daniel Cross

BEST SERIES PILOT

Futsal Frenemies Directors Yahssir M, K Rajagopal (WINNER)
Altgeld Director Chris Jamerson

BEST ANIMATION

Night of the Living Fish Director Taiah Hay (WINNER)
Feathered Guilt Director Madison Helmick
The Scribbles Between Us Director Arnav Vaidyanathan
The Crustacean Caper Director Kiersten O'Malley
Her Own Hand Director Zhuofan Li
My Cat is Huge Director Taufiq Permana

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Moon Dust Director Bruno de Champris (WINNER)
All People Free Documentary Film Director Duda Pentead
Northern Venture Director Daryl Scott Granger
Stand Up, Fight Back Director Robert Webb Menefee

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Starlight Path Director Ruining Xin (WINNER)
Out-Casted Director David Zheng
Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim
Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing
Diving Past Boundaries: The Power of Scuba Diving Therapy for Autism Director Sanita Wu
A Letter To Toti Director Valeria Vidal
Who Calls Her A Witch? Director Ziyue Li
Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li

BEST STUDENT FILM	BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM
The Crustacean Caper Director Kiersten O'Malley (WINNER) <i>Before Our Story Ends Director Shahinda Elsayed</i> <i>Feathered Guilt Director Madison Helmick</i> <i>Out-Casted Director David Zheng</i> <i>Starlight Path Director Ruining Xin</i> <i>Paradox Director Yuanwen Lu</i> <i>Dust Director Isaac Lounsbury</i> <i>Cassandra Director Rachel Leibforth</i> <i>What the Wind Chime Heard Director Yuhang Chen</i> <i>Before We Go Home Director Yuxuan Wang</i> <i>Where Memory Stays Director Enze Xiang</i> <i>Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing</i> <i>Diving Past Boundaries: The Power of Scuba Diving Therapy for Autism</i> Director Sanita Wu <i>Sieve Directors Hohyeon Lee, Yumin Kim</i> <i>Prescription Director Emilia Kirkegaard Fletcher</i> <i>Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li</i>	How Women Look Director Ziyue Li (WINNER)
BEST AI FILM	BEST MUSIC VIDEO
Pepperidge Farm Always Remembers! Directors Meeroo Moon, Seolin Lee (WINNER) <i>Hold Your Breath Director Alexandre Tissier</i> <i>Nothing to Celebrate Director Jose Francisco Malave</i> <i>Choose less. Live more. Director Daseul Im</i> <i>Golden Soar Director Hyeonji Han</i> <i>Once There Was Too Much Director Ali Kışlar</i>	Invisible Wars Directors Kaique Alves, Thiago Eva (WINNER) <i>Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim</i> <i>The Time Has Come Director Josh S. Rose</i>
BEST THRILLER FILM	BEST HORROR FILM
The Lord of War Director Marco Bassi (WINNER)	Feathered Guilt Director Madison Helmick (WINNER)
BEST HISTORICAL FILM	BEST ROMANCE FILM
November Men Director Jake Alda (WINNER)	Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim (WINNER) <i>One More Tuesday Director Clara Mendes</i>
BEST MUSICAL FILM	BEST FAN FILM
Mendel's Messiah Director Bradford May (WINNER) <i>Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing</i>	Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER)
BEST LGBTQ FILM	BEST BIOGRAPHICAL FILM
Colors Director Eamonn Larsen (WINNER)	Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim (WINNER)

BEST INSPIRATIONAL FILM	BEST SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM
Moon Dust Director Bruno de Champris (WINNER) <i>One More Tuesday Director Clara Mendes</i>	Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li (WINNER) <i>How Women Look Director Ziyue Li</i>
BEST SPORT FILM	BEST DIRECTOR
Smoker Director Ollie Alexander (WINNER)	Bruleferum Director Martin De La Cruz (WINNER - Feature) Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing (WINNER - Short) <i>Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim</i> <i>A Place for David Director Park Jun-seo</i> <i>The Last Item on the List Director Emily Rhodes</i>
BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR	BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR
November Men Director Jake Alda (WINNER) <i>Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li</i>	Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing (WINNER) <i>A Place for David Director Park Jun-seo</i> <i>Who Calls Her A Witch? Director Ziyue Li</i> <i>Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li</i>
BEST PRODUCER	BEST ACTOR
(Harold Ward, Major Millz, Chris Jamerson, Natalie Jamerson, Tamara Johnson) Altgeld Director Chris Jamerson (WINNER)	(Tom Ball) Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim (WINNER)
BEST ACTRESS	BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE
(Monalisa Labrador) Time Crush Director Nadiia Tsarinova (WINNER) <i>(Roshni Datta) First World Directors Ritendra Datta, Paul Heller</i> <i>(Roshni Datta) Saving Private Patel Director Ritendra Datta</i>	Invisible Wars Directors Kaique Alves, Thiago Eva (WINNER) <i>Three Months Later Director Javier Ordoñez</i>
BEST VOICE OVER	BEST COSTUMES
(Tom Ball) Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim (WINNER)	(Abigail Freeman, Kevin Croxton) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER)
BEST VISUAL EFFECTS	BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
(Chuck Mere, Charlie Ryan) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER) <i>Three Months Later Director Javier Ordoñez</i>	(Clay Pruitt) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER) <i>(Zimo Liu) Mist Me Directors Yihang Ma, Zimo Liu</i>
BEST MAKE-UP	BEST ORIGINAL PROP
(Audrea Martin, Gustavo Simon, Maggie Adair, Ayva West) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER)	(Casey Corley) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER)

BEST SOUNDTRACK	BEST SONG
(Ron Josef Danziger, Manu Martin) Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim (WINNER) <i>(Kevin Croxton) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton</i> <i>(Janal Bechthold) Sasquatch Sizzle Reel Director Rudolph Rajendra</i>	(Marcello Vieira, Debra Gussin, Dale Effren) Believe and Be Brave Submitter Debra Gussin (WINNER) <i>(Christina Teenz Tan, Susan Mey Lee Lim, Ron Josef Danziger, Manu Martin) Boy Scientist: The Prequel to Forever Director Susan Mey Lee Lim</i>
BEST DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY	BEST ORIGINAL STORY
(Sam Behrens) No Light Director Sam Behrens (WINNER)	(Ziyue Li) Who Calls Her A Witch? Director Ziyue Li (WINNER)
BEST POSTER	BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT
(Dolson Lewis) Ghostbusters: Half-Life Director Kevin Croxton (WINNER) <i>Three Months Later Director Javier Ordoñez</i>	Mattie Silks Submitter Elba Sette-Camara (WINNER) <i>The Night My Father Left Early Writer Sato Riku</i>
BEST SHORT SCRIPT	BEST THRILLER SCRIPT
Hard Music Writer Jon Ware (WINNER) <i>Chaos Theory of the Almighty Buck Writer Jim Shankman</i> <i>Afterimage Writer Melvin Lima</i> <i>Someone Else's Window Writer Oliver Bennett</i>	The Lost and The Found Writer Christopher Laudando (WINNER) <i>The Night My Father Left Early Writer Sato Riku</i>
BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER	HONORABLE MENTIONS
Zaccheus Writer Jose Raul Acosta (WINNER) <i>Never Blow Out The Candles Writer Mark Mautone</i>	Feathered Guilt Director Madison Helmick (Animation) Out-Casted Director David Zheng (Doc Short) Smoker Director Ollie Alexander (Indie Short) (Roshni Datta) Saving Private Patel Director Ritendra Datta (Actress) Nothing to Celebrate Director Jose Francisco Malave (Under 5 Minute Film) Hold Your Breath Director Alexandre Tissier (AI Film) Silk Road Echoes Director Yifu Xing (Musical Film) Diving Past Boundaries: The Power of Scuba Diving Therapy for Autism Director Sanita Wu (Student Film) Who Calls Her A Witch? Director Ziyue Li (Student Director – Short) Moo: From a Refugee Camp on the Thai-Myanmar Border Director Ziyue Li (1st Time Director – Short)