NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS - OCTOBER 2026

BEST FEATURE FILM	BEST SHORT FILM
The New Version of Me Director Seo Eun-chae Aakda Director Shivaji Lotan Patil Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko	Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer Macchiato Director Damilola Yewande Osikoya Violent Director Lidya Sezer Her Hair Director Xiangqian Meng A Corner of the world Director Zihang Zhang Lonley Eyes Director PJ Bracco Birthday Cake Director Jiaxin He
BEST UNDER 5 MINUTE FILM	**BEST INDIE FEATURE**
The Cure Director Ruomeng Li To Be A Woman Directors Kathleen Laituri, Luca de Leos The Things We Keep Director Laura Whitmore	Unlicensed Director Mark Hampton Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa Last Orders Director Jason Housecroft
BEST INDIE SHORT	**BEST ANIMATION**
Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer Violent Director Lidya Sezer A Lot's Gonna Change Director Oscar Kunz Luster Director Vijay Bosco A Question of Money Director Hiroshi Kondo The Trouble with Being Nice Director Alejandro Ponce	Seat Covers Directors John Norris Ray, Maria Victoria Sanchez Oasis Director Aspen
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE	**BEST STUDENT FILM**
When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates Imagine No Possessions Director Amir Har-Gil Forever Chapter Director Omid Romal Who is SIG? Director Matt Swinsky	Stay With Me Director Richard Luan With the Wind Director Rong Fan Foxtail Director Xiyuan Ma As It Was Director Haonan Shu The Stakes Director Ruojin Ding Staged Crash Director Kejun Zhang
BEST AI FILM	**BEST MUSIC VIDEO**
Hello, there Director Suhyeon Jin Everything Soft Director Jamin Tasker Stay with me Director Anton V Sitnikov	Stranger in the Night Director PJ Bracco Freedom Dave and the Divas Director Brian Brodeur
BEST COMMERCIAL	**BEST COMEDY FILM**
Region Mainfranken Director Alexander Draheim Tech Day 2026 Director Diego Sulivan Doors Director Diego Sulivan Commerce League Director Diego Sulivan CNC – Big Numbers Director Diego Sulivan	Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko

BEST DARK COMEDY FILM	BEST ACTION FILM
Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer	Predation Black Serum Directors Timur Örge, Sebastian Fisher
BEST THRILLER FILM	**BEST MYSTERY FILM**
Violent Director Lidya Sezer	1:47 AM Director Natalie Gonzalez
BEST HISTORICAL FILM	**BEST WAR FILM**
When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates	When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates
BEST ROMANCE FILM	**BEST NATURE FILM**
Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko	A Lot's Gonna Change Director Oscar Kunz
BEST DIRECTOR	**BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR**
Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko	A Glimpse Misread Director Xiaoyu Xie The unfinished lane Director Lin Xuanyu Violent Director Lidya Sezer Stay With Me Director Richard Luan
BEST STUDENT DIRECTOR	**BEST ACTRESS**
As It Was Director Haonan Shu A Brief Account of Three Lost Scouts Director Nicholas Wong Tanner Stay With Me Director Richard Luan A Glimpse Misread Director Xiaoyu Xie	(Angelina Bella) Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa
BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE	**BEST ACTING DUO**
1:47 AM Director Natalie Gonzalez My Father's Other Family Director Nguyen Minh Anh	(Isan Gharajeh, Jason Korn) Violent Director Lidya Sezer
BEST MONOLOGUE	**BEST VOICE OVER**
(Angelina Bella) Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa	(Dexter Howard, Hannah Ehman) Seat Covers Directors John Norris Ray, Maria Victoria Sanchez
BEST SOUNDTRACK	**BEST SOUND DESIGN**
(Iros Young) Pride and Prejudice Submitter Iros Young (Lucas Rodriguez) Violent Director Lidya Sezer The Weekend Arrangement Director Sophie Mitchell The Last Person I Expected	(Rafael Pirela) Seat Covers Directors John Norris Ray, Maria Victoria Sanchez The Last Person I Expected

BEST DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY	BEST EDITING
(Kathleen Laituri) To Be A Woman Directors Kathleen Laituri, Luca de Leos	(Yunyao Gao) What laughter leaves behind Director Yunyao Gao The Weekend Arrangement Director Sophie Mitchell
BEST ORIGINAL STORY	**BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT**
(Gary Joseph Mazeffa) Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa A House Full of Strangers Director Rachel Bennett	Growing Nowhere Writer James Kelly Naval Aviators Writer T.W. Elliott The Unfinished Business Writer Gabriel Ferreira
BEST SHORT SCRIPT	**BEST ACTION SCRIPT**
The Cut Writer R. J. Pineiro Someone at the Door Writer Kim Tae-hyun	Shaw Vengeance Writer Isaac David Jeffrey
BEST MYSTERY SCRIPT	**BEST NOIR SCRIPT**
Whispers of Italia Writer Michelle Taubman	Vane Writer Lawrence Whitener Dog Shot Writer Jerome Pride
BEST WESTERN SCRIPT	**BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER**
Ballads of a Western Tragedy Writer LX Scott	Dog Shot Writer Jerome Pride The Years Between Writer Alesia Daniele Before Us - The Origins Writer Cory Martin
BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT	
Cat 5 Writer Pamela Rabadi	