NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS

FINALISTS & WINNERS - OCTOBER 2026

BEST FEATURE FILM

The New Version of Me Director Seo Eun-chae (WINNER)
Aakda Director Shivaji Lotan Patil
Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko

BEST SHORT FILM

Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer (WINNER)
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

The Cure Director Ruomeng Li (WINNER)
To Be A Woman Directors Kathleen Laituri, Luca de Leos
The Things We Keep Director Laura Whitmore

BEST INDIE FEATURE

Unlicensed Director Mark Hampton (WINNER)
Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa
Last Orders Director Jason Housecroft

BEST INDIE SHORT

Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer (WINNER)
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

BEST ANIMATION

Seat Covers Directors John Norris Ray, Maria Victoria Sanchez (WINNER)
Oasis Director Aspen

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates (WINNER)
Imagine No Possessions Director Amir Har-Gil
Forever Chapter Director Omid Romal
Who is SIG? Director Matt Swinsky

BEST STUDENT FILM

Stay With Me Director Richard Luan (WINNER)
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

Hello, there Director Suhyeon Jin (WINNER)
Everything Soft Director Jamin Tasker
Stay with me Director Anton V Sitnikov

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Stranger in the Night Director PJ Bracco (WINNER)
Freedom Dave and the Divas Director Brian Brodeur

BEST COMMERCIAL

Region Mainfranken Director Alexander Draheim (WINNER)
Tech Day 2026 Director Diego Sulivan
Doors Director Diego Sulivan
Commerce League Director Diego Sulivan
CNC – Big Numbers Director Diego Sulivan

BEST COMEDY FILM

Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko (WINNER)

BEST DARK COMEDY FILM	BEST ACTION FILM
Int. The House Director Lidya Sezer (WINNER)	**Predation Black Serum Directors Timur Örge, Sebastian Fisher (WINNER)**
BEST THRILLER FILM	**BEST MYSTERY FILM**
Violent Director Lidya Sezer (WINNER)	**1:47 AM Director Natalie Gonzalez (WINNER)**
BEST HISTORICAL FILM	**BEST WAR FILM**
When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates (WINNER)	**When Youth Was A Soldier Director Jacob Bates (WINNER)**
BEST ROMANCE FILM	**BEST NATURE FILM**
Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko (WINNER)	**A Lot's Gonna Change Director Oscar Kunz (WINNER)**
BEST DIRECTOR	**BEST 1ST TIME DIRECTOR**
Mission D.D.L.J. Director Chowdhury Asif Jahangir Arko (WINNER)	**A Glimpse Misread Director Xiaoyu Xie (WINNER)** *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 (WINNER) *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 (WINNER)**
BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE	**BEST ACTING DUO**
1:47 AM Director Natalie Gonzalez (WINNER) *My Father's Other Family Director Nguyen Minh Anh*	**(Isan Gharajeh, Jason Korn) Violent Director Lidya Sezer (WINNER)**
BEST MONOLOGUE	**BEST VOICE OVER**
(Angelina Bella) Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa (WINNER)	**(Dexter Howard, Hannah Ehman) Seat Covers Directors John Norris Ray, Maria Victoria Sanchez (WINNER)**
BEST SOUNDTRACK	**BEST SOUND DESIGN**
(Iros Young) Pride and Prejudice Submitter Iros Young (WINNER) *(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 (WINNER)** *The Last Person I Expected*

BEST DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY	BEST EDITING
(Kathleen Laituri) To Be A Woman Directors Kathleen Laituri, Luca de Leos (WINNER)	**(Yunyao Gao) What laughter leaves behind Director Yunyao Gao (WINNER)** *The Weekend Arrangement Director Sophie Mitchell*
BEST ORIGINAL STORY	**BEST SERIES PILOT SCRIPT**
(Gary Joseph Mazeffa) Asherah: A Love Odyssey Director Gary Joseph Mazeffa (WINNER) *A House Full of Strangers Director Rachel Bennett*	**Growing Nowhere Writer James Kelly (WINNER)** *Naval Aviators Writer T.W. Elliott* *The Unfinished Business Writer Gabriel Ferreira*
BEST SHORT SCRIPT	**BEST ACTION SCRIPT**
The Cut Writer R. J. Pineiro (WINNER) *Someone at the Door Writer Kim Tae-hyun*	**Shaw Vengeance Writer Isaac David Jeffrey (WINNER)**
BEST MYSTERY SCRIPT	**BEST NOIR SCRIPT**
Whispers of Italia Writer Michelle Taubman (WINNER)	**Vane Writer Lawrence Whitener (WINNER)** *Dog Shot Writer Jerome Pride*
BEST WESTERN SCRIPT	**BEST 1ST TIME SCREENWRITER**
Ballads of a Western Tragedy Writer LX Scott (WINNER)	**Dog Shot Writer Jerome Pride (WINNER)** *The Years Between Writer Alesia Daniele* *Before Us - The Origins Writer Cory Martin*
BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT	**HONORABLE MENTIONS**
Cat 5 Writer Pamela Rabadi (WINNER)	**Foxtail Director Xiyuan Ma (Student Film)** **Her Hair Director Xiangqian Meng (Short Film)** **Violent Director Lidya Sezer (Indie Short)** **Stay With Me Director Richard Luan (Student Director – Short)** **Before Us - The Origins Writer Cory Martin (1st Time Screenwriter - Feature)** **Tech Day 2026 Director Diego Sulivan (Commercial)**