



DIFF Announces 2026 Grand Jury Prizes and Audience Awards for 20th Dallas International Film Festival

DALLAS (May 2026) – **DIFF** has announced the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award winners for the 20th edition of the annual **Dallas International Film Festival**, which wrapped April 30 and included screenings of more than 120 films curated from submissions received from more than 150 countries.

The Dallas International Film Festival is one of only 59 film festivals in the United States and only 181 film festivals worldwide to earn the designation of **Oscar® Qualifying Festival by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**. Oscar® Qualifying short film awards at the Dallas International Film Festival are: Grand Jury Prize - Best Animated Short Film; Grand Jury Prize - Best Documentary Short Film; and Grand Jury Prize - Best Narrative Short Film.

Jurors included:

Narrative Feature Competition

Sonny Bunch – Culture Editor at The Bulwark and host of The Bulwark Goes to Hollywood

King Hollis – Award-winning director and producer

Amy Talkington – Award-winning writer, director, producer and author

Documentary Feature Competition

Sarah Harris – Director of Awards, Non-Fiction Programming for HBO Max

David Gil – Sponsorship Director Austin Film Festival

Bart Weiss – Award-winning independent film and video producer, director, editor, and educator, producer the TV show “Frame of Mind” on KERA-TV

Texas Feature Competition

Pierce Cravens – Actor and producer and founder of Newsweek Studios

Chyna Robinson – Award-winning director and screenwriter

Jonathan Alvarez – Theatrical Sales Manager at Well Go USA Entertainment

Short Film Competition

Ashton Campbell – Emmy Award-winning documentary director and filmmaker

Farah White – Award-winning actor, director, and producer

Christian Vazquez – Award-winning director and Senior Video Producer at KERA

Limbert Fabian – Emmy Award-winning director and illustrator

Kara Leonard – COO FilmFrog Marketing

Max Geschwind – Media Finance Creative Artists Agency (CAA)

Winners included:

Grand Jury Prizes

Narrative Feature – IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME

Documentary Feature – ONE IN A MILLION

Texas Feature – AMERICAN BABY

Student Short – IN THE STILL OF NIGHT

International Short – LIFE GOES ON

Texas Short – JUST MY LUCK

Documentary Short – THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

Animated Short – THAT NIGHT

Narrative Short Presented by ShotDeck – MEETING YOUR MAKER

Special Jury Mention for Student Short – SHIFT

Special Jury Mention for International Short – FELLOW

Special Jury Mention for Documentary Feature – POWWOW PEOPLE

Special Jury Mention for Narrative Feature – PINCH

Special Jury Mention for Texas Feature – VALENTINA

Audience Awards

Short Film – FLESH & BLOOD

Music Video – 99 PROBLEMS

Documentary Feature – OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD: THE FIRST CORAL REEFERS

Narrative Feature – ONE IN A MILLION

International Feature – PINCH

North Texas High School Showcase – VALUE

Dallas County Historical Commission Awards

Best Historical Film (Feature): REVOLUTION'S DAUGHTER

Best Historical Film (Short): THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

Screenwriting Competition

Texas Winner – STRANGE, BUT PERFECT

Pilot Winner – SEX IS WORK

Shorts Winner – MISSED CONNECTIONS

Feature Winner – WHY NOT HER?

"It's an honor to wrap our 20th Festival by celebrating these winning films and filmmakers," said **James Faust, DIFF Artistic Director**. "Seeing the power of connection both through the art as well as the artis is what makes the Festival experience so rewarding, and we're proud to now get to say we at DIFF got to be a part of these powerful film journeys."

The Dallas International Film Festival is a global adventure featuring more than 120 film screenings, panels, Q&As with filmmakers and actors, nightly Red Carpets, live screenplay table reads, awards, and other events and activations where filmmakers, screenwriters, film industry leaders, celebrities, sponsors, and audiences come together to experience and discuss film. Films are curated from submissions received by filmmakers from 150+ countries worldwide, across Texas, and the United States, and include narrative features, documentaries, and short films of all genres from studios and independent filmmakers. Festival information is available at <https://diffdallas.org/diff>.

Virgin Hotels Dallas is the Premier Sponsor of the 2026 Dallas International Film Festival.

Additional Sponsors included: AB Squared, AdChat DFW, Akin, AllGood Cafe, Angle Herr, Asana Partners, BestofGuide.com, Brooke Brooks, Burned to Light Media, Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Victory Park, City of Dallas Office of Arts & Culture, CMG Visuals, Commerce House, Lisa Cooley, Dallas County Historical Commission, Dallas Film Commission, Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District, DFW MSP, DGN Entertainment News, Eataly Dallas, Edgemere, Event Horizon Films, Filmfrog, Fort Worth Film Commission, Tanya and Pete Foster, Linda and Jon Halbert, Harwood District, Mary Hatcher, H-E-B, Tim Headington, History Undressed, Hôtel Swexan, Susan Kandell, KERA, Keurig Dr Pepper, Lakewood Brewing Co., Lynn Lewis, LOBO AR Studios, Sarah Losinger, MID49, Lynn McBee, Moody Fund for the Arts, Ruth Mutch, NBC5 DFW, Nowadays Orange Productions, Jim Nugent, Oak Cliff Cultural Center, OneBar USA, Panavision, SAG-AFTRA, Reeder Capital Partners, Screen Dallas, Sherrill Actors Studio, State Fair of Texas, ShotDeck, Kathryn Stecke, Anne and Steve Stodghill, TACA,

Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Film Commission, Texas Film Gear, Tiff's Treats, Victory Park, Virgin Hotels Dallas, Virgin Red Rewards Mastercard, Visit Dallas, W Dallas, Julia and Jambi Ysbrand.

About DIFF Dallas | Dallas International Film Festival

DIFF Dallas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts and culture organization established as Dallas Film Society, Inc. in 2006. Through year-round screenings and events, film series, educational programs, community partnerships, and film festivals, DIFF Dallas builds community and raises awareness of the world's most approachable and inclusive art form.

Named by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an Oscar® Qualifying Festival, The Dallas International Film Festival is the signature presentation of the organization. Through curation of the broadest range of expression through film, the Dallas International Film Festival serves as the region's most powerfully inclusive and equitable platform for diverse, emerging and underrepresented voices. Since its founding, the Festival has screened more than 2,500 widely diverse new films from 60 countries, provided more than \$1.1 million in awards and hosted more than 100,000 filmgoers and filmmakers.

DIFF Dallas is committed to celebrating films and their impact on society, honoring filmmakers and recognizing their contribution enhancing both the creative community and the city of Dallas, providing leadership in film education, and celebrating excellence in the art of film. More information is available at <https://diffdallas.org/>.

INSTAGRAM - @WeAreDIFFDallas, FACEBOOK - @WeAreDIFFDallas

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