



Underground film forum #uff presents

Best of...

PIFF #16

We are honored to announce the winners of the 16th annual Philadelphia Independent Film Festival below. Congratulations to all filmmakers who submitted and were selected as Official Selections. It was a true experience to watch and discuss the many films and witness the exceptional talent and creativity displayed by independent filmmakers from around the world. Many of you were able to represent your screening and add to the mystique that is independent filmmaking. It was incredible to watch so many meet over the common bond of film and storytelling, many being in this situation for the first time.

The selection process happens over time and was not an easy task, as you can imagine. Many of the films were able to establish their own unique voice, offering an unrestrained outlook on filmmaking. The Underground Film Forum (#UFF) evaluated the entries, taking into account artistic merit and storytelling prowess. We then combined the audience narrative to establish our PIFF Best of...

The below films have been awarded as Best of... during the 16th Annual Philadelphia Independent Film Festival.

1. Best of... First Time Filmmaker

- a. **James Greer. MIRROR MOVES (THRILLER) (Director/Writer ~ James Greer. Producer ~ Beth Lisik, Laura MacDonald, James Greer. Cast: Beth Lisik, Hannah Cohen. Los Angeles, CA) 85 min.** A woman discovers she's been married to a serial killer for fifteen years, albeit unwittingly. Her mind fractures as she examines her complicity -- should she have known? Could she have prevented him from killing?

2. Best of... DRAMA

- a. **Shoulder Dance (Drama, LGBTQ) (Director - Jay Arnold. Cast: Matt Dallas, Rick Cosnett, Samuel Larsen, Maggie Geha, Taylor Frey) Philadelphia, PA USA) 103 min. (Philadelphia Premier)** Best friends Ira and Roger haven't seen each other in 24 years. When Roger arrives unexpectedly for the weekend, long suppressed desires dangerously resurface. As the boundaries of friendship, love, and sex collide, the strength of Ira's long term relationship with Josh is tested as never before in the romantic drama "Shoulder Dance."

3. Best of... Short Film

- a. **Gambler (Drama) (Director - David R. Anderson. CAST: Cast: James Quattrochi, Mark Rolston, Amy Motta, Patrick Luwis, Anthony**



Cipriani. California, USA) 17:45 min. Sometimes you need to put all your chips in... For someone else. thegamblersshortfilm.com/

4. Best of... Comedy

- a. **Office Ghost (Comedy) (Director - Kat Ahn. Cast: Kat Ahn, Angela Fornero, Nikki Ghisel, Neil Wang, Dave Wetzel. Philadelphia, PA) 9:55 min.** Forced to return to the office, three cubicle jockeys discover a ghost...in the office

5. Best of... HORROR

- a. **Greed & Gore (Horror) (Director ~ Adam Kirkey. Writer ~ Adam Kirkey Kirkey, Mathieu Lamarche. Producer ~ Travis Laidlaw, Adam Kirkey, James Carmichael. Cast: Julie Mainville, Monica Zelak, Krishan Dutt, Nick DeWolfe, Matthew Bell, Curt Derosiers. Canada) 15 min.** After a bank robbery doesn't go exactly as planned, a crew of five pick a last minute safehouse to lay low with their take and a hostage. But the safehouse isn't so safe... Greed & Gore, a film by Adam Kirkey, is a mash of horror and thriller, with practical effects that will please all genre fans. It stars Julie Mainville (Butchers, The Good Doctor), Krishan Dutt (The Boys), Matthew Bell (Curse of the Anti-Quenched), Monica Zelak (Curse of the Anti-Quenched, Chronicles of Blood, The Enigma), and breakout stars Curt Derosier and Nick Dewolfe.

6. Best of... Science Fiction

- a. **June (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Dwayne Cameron. Cast: Sarah James, John Callen, Brooke Williams. Visual Effects ~ Charlie Tait. New Zealand) 14:54 min.** June is a story about the fragility of life; the primal forces that drive and control us and the mystery of hope and new beginnings. Willow and David receive a serious diagnosis from their doctor and attempt to deal with the mundane as their world disintegrates in the following 24 hours. This one day in June for the couple holds raw despair, unleashing carnal natures but a transcendent occurrence offers them the hope of new life.

7. Best of... Fantasy

- a. **Hey Alexa. (Science Fiction, Fantasy) (Director ~ Xochi Blymyer. Cast: Stevie Lynn Jones) 10:20 min.** Alexa is helpful, she's funny, she's kind, she's a friend, who is she? A day in her life...with us.

8. Best of... Thriller Feature

- a. **MIRROR MOVES (THRILLER) (Director/Writer ~ James Greer. Producer ~ Beth Lisik, Laura MacDonald, James Greer. Cast: Beth**



Lisik, Hannah Cohen. Los Angeles, CA) 85 min. A woman discovers she's been married to a serial killer for fifteen years, albeit unwittingly. Her mind fractures as she examines her complicity -- should she have known? Could she have prevented him from killing?

9. Best of... Thriller Short

- a. **Drift (Thriller) (Director ~ Nicole Cinaglia. Cast: Nicole Cinaglia, Joe Raffa, Juniper Ghazi, Jenn Nangle. Philadelphia) 24 min.** In a post-apocalyptic world, a woman on the brink of suicide, finds a new reason to live when two strangers knock on her door.

10. Best of... Documentary Feature

- a. **Acting Like Nothing is Wrong (Documentary) (Director - Jane Rosemont. Cast: Jim Hoffmaster, Wes Studi. Santa Fe, New Mexico) 88 min.** Despite what would seem to be a flourishing career, most recently playing Kermit on Showtime's "Shameless", Hollywood character actor Jim Hoffmaster struggles both professionally and personally. "Acting Like Nothing is Wrong" explores how he navigates life without a stable upbringing. Foster care and abuse lead Jim to acting, where he could finally be seen and appreciated. The film poses universal questions and illuminates mental health issues we experience on a daily basis. Do we ever completely overcome our traumas? What are our coping mechanisms? Glimmers of hope and healthy doses of comedy are vital elements in the film. <http://actinglikenothingiswrong.com/>

11. Best of... Documentary Short

- a. **I am Danny Torres. (Documentary, Narrative) (Director/Writer ~ Abigail Torres Melendez/Eric Melendez. Cast: Danny Torres. Philadelphia, PA) 13:52 min.** Created by Abby Torres, #SOMOSSOCIETY: I Am Danny Torres is part of a series of short documentaries, highlighting the everyday people of Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community. I Am Danny Torres shows what it takes to keep our community beautiful while teaching Puerto Rico's rich culture in Philadelphia.

12. Best of... Experimental

- a. **3 Muses. (Experimental) (Director ~ Marcia Haufrecht. USA) 18:47 min.** 3 females, 3 different ages, 3 different nationalities, all artists go through their day and come together giving inspiration and comfort to each other through art.



- b. **Artificial Flowers. (Experimental) (Director ~ Jamin Scotti. Cast: Emily Charouhas, Andrew Villarreal. California, USA) 85 min.** Two accomplished LA-based writers meet in a high-rise apartment; over the course of a single evening, they use each other to explore the darkest parts of their personalities.
- 13. Best of... Music Documentary**
- a. **Even Hell Has Its Heroes (Music Documentary, North West History) (Director - Clyde Peterson. Seattle, Washington USA) (East Coast Premier) 110 min.** Since 1989, the slowest metal band on the planet has conjured some of music's most striking tectonic changes. Not only did the band Earth create a glacially paced subgenre of metal and play a pivotal role in the popularization of grunge, but visionary leader Dylan Carlson also did it while battling small-town boredom, heroin addiction, and the tragic death of his roommate and best friend, Kurt Cobain.
- 14. Best of... Music Video**
- a. **SIDIUS TAURUS - ZEITGEIST (Director - Viktoria Yudina, Alexander Perkov. Arkhangelsk, Russia.) 5:00 min.** This video is dedicated to benevolence, compassion and love. We want to say that constructive energy is more powerful and sustainable than destructive and militant reality. And against the odds man still returns to everlasting values.
- 15. Best of... WEB SERIES**
- a. **THE KINGFISH (Web Series) (Director - Saint Martin/Joshua Black. Writer ~ Tab Edwards. Producer ~ Tab Edwards. Cast: Britt Starghill, Xavier Edwards, Taylor Myrick, Mckayla Mckelvie, Ariel Sole, Jordan Webber, Ronald Shaer. Philadelphia, PA) 20:00 min.** Three high-school friends, Bobby, Flip, and X, venture to North Philadelphia in search of something mysterious. Along the way, they face memorable challenges as they attempt to secure the mysterious item-which is also highly coveted by someone else. The trio must use every bit of their smarts and a bit of luck to get out of a series of predicaments concluding with an unexpected ending.
- 16. Best of... ANIMATION**
- a. **Grapeful Balloons (Animation) (Director Joshua Perrin. Philadelphia, PA) 8:35 min.** "Grapeful Balloons" has been my greatest effort as an artist. This project began in February 2022 when writer, Michael Aliotti, contacted me looking to hire an animator to bring his script to life.



17. Best of... VR/Augmented Reality

a. Visiting James Simon (VR) (Director ~ Gerda Leopold. Germany)

12:30 min. Berlin, 1915. The renowned art collector James Simon gives us a private tour of his fabulous collection and shares stories and personal insights. At first James Simon leads us into his study and talks about his love for art and how he started to collect. At a certain moment we have to decide what part of his collection we are most interested in - so it is our choice what we see and how the tour continues.

18. Best of... AI

a. Yo Yo Dominance. (Experimental AI) (Director ~ Lucky

Meisenheimer, M.D. California, USA) 2:44 min. An experimental film done by artificial intelligence. Only the editing and prompts were done by a human. Artwork, voiceovers, animations, music and story were all created by AI.

19. Best Local Film... Feature/Short

a. Something New (Drama) (Director - Michelle Bossey. Cast: Sami Rappoport, (Pen15), Jacey Powers, (David Cromer's Our Town), Laila Ayad, (Grey's Anatomy), Derek Carley, (Married. No Kids.), Leah Sprecher, (Broadway Barbara), Sherry Mandajuano (Young and the Restless), Kate Sullivan (Mani) Philadelphia/New York, USA) 14:29

min. On a tumultuous wedding day, five women prepare to walk down the aisle while a teenage bridesmaid probes about what really happens on the wedding night. A subversive and political take on the rom-com genre that reveals the disturbing truth behind one bride's pre-nuptial cold feet.



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Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. Your extraordinary talent and dedication to the craft inspires and pushes the boundaries of independent filmmaking. We salute you!

We hope that your experience at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival (PIFF) can serve as a catalyst for even greater success and recognition for your film and you as filmmakers. Thank you for sharing your stories and visions with us.

Finally, we extend our sincere gratitude to our partners and all the dedicated individuals who have supported the festival. Your unwavering belief in the power of independent cinema has made this celebration of filmmaking excellence possible.

Thank you and congratulations once again to all the winners and participants of the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival (PIFF) #16.

Benjamin F. Barnett
Festival Director

Maarten Olaya
Festival Screening Chair

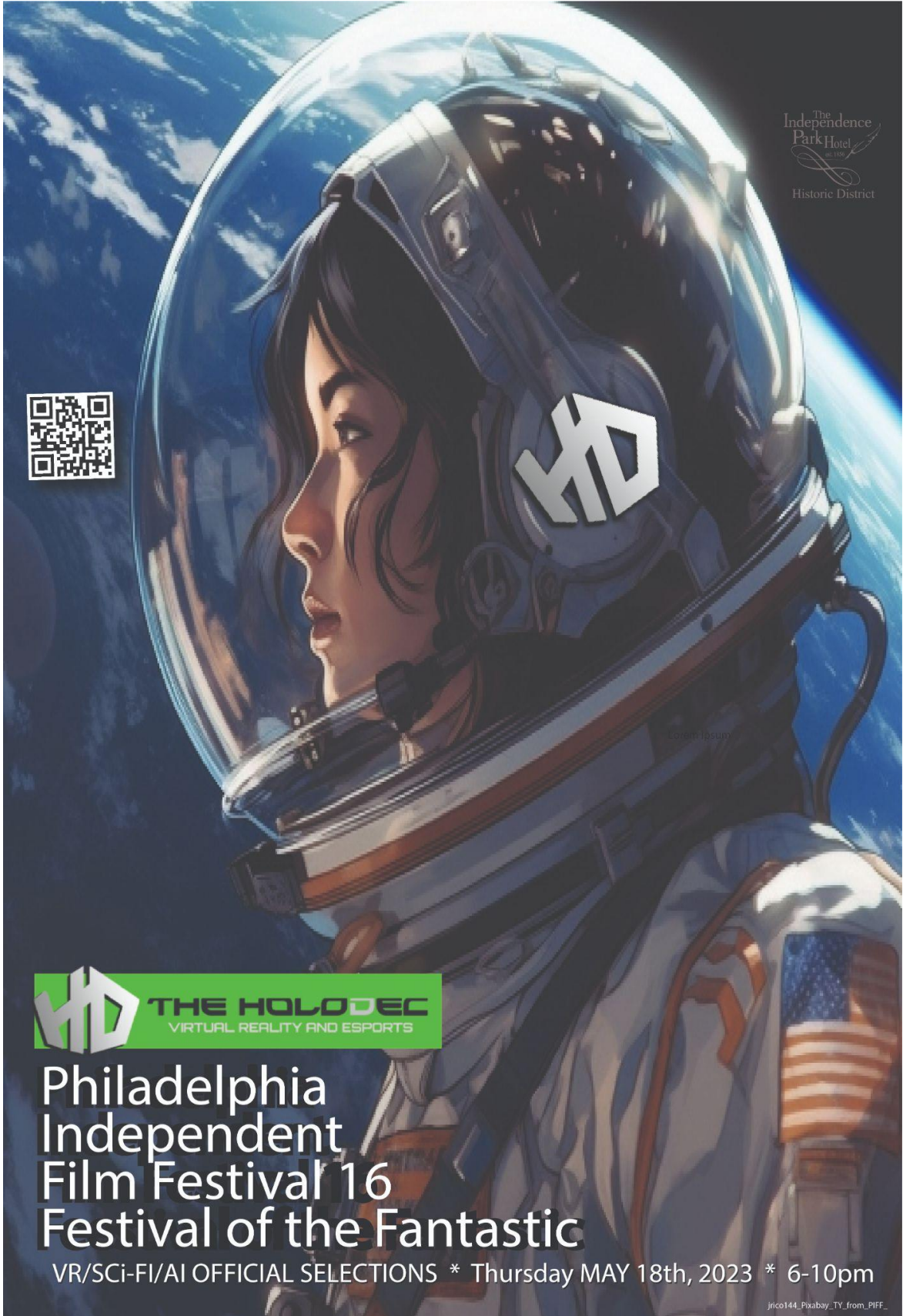
and the PIFF #16 Team
@philaindie
<http://PIFFfilms.tv>



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The Independence
Park Hotel
1891
Historic District



Philadelphia Independent Film Festival 16 Festival of the Fantastic

VR/SCI-FI/AI OFFICIAL SELECTIONS * Thursday MAY 18th, 2023 * 6-10pm



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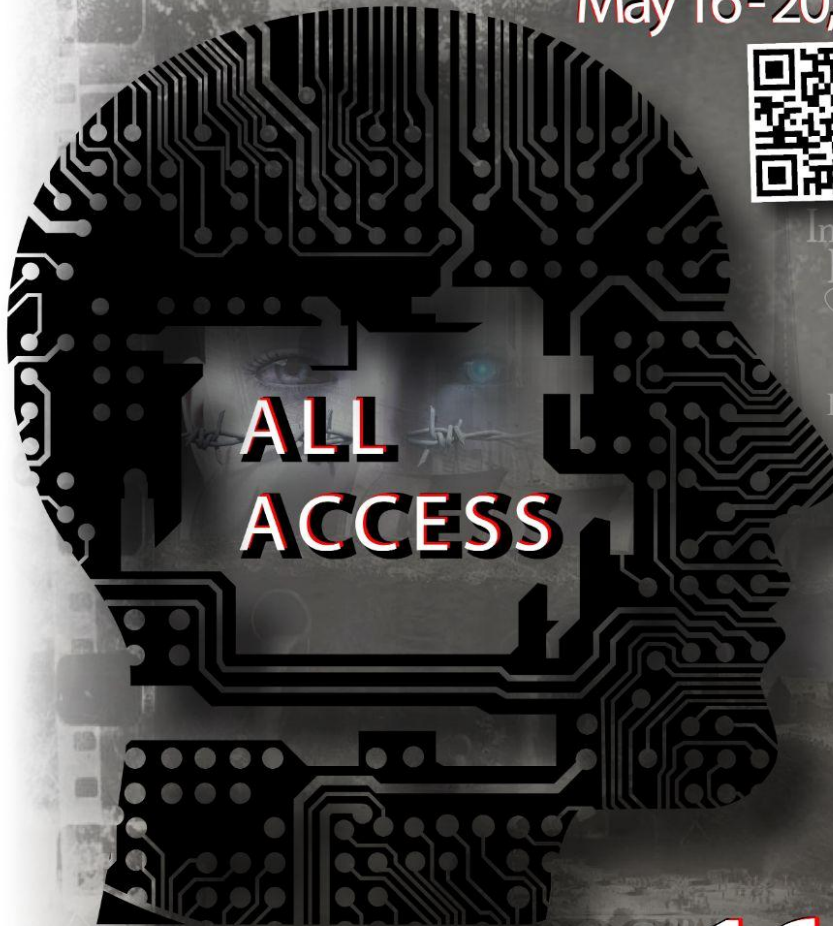
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MEDIABUREAU

Underground Film Forum PRESENTS May 16 - 20, 2023



ALL ACCESS

PHILADELPHIA 16 INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

