



## **SXSW FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2019 JURY AND SPECIAL AWARDS**

**Austin, Texas, March 12, 2019** – The South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference and Festivals announced the 2019 Jury and Special Award winners of the 26th SXSW Film Festival Awards at the historic Paramount Theatre. Feature films receiving Jury Awards were selected from the Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature Competition categories. Short films and other juried sections, including Film Design Awards were also presented. Films in competition, as well as all feature, short, and episodic categories (except Special Events) are also eligible for the 2019 SXSW Film Festival Audience Awards. All Audience and Virtual Cinema Awards will be announced separately on Saturday, March 16, except for Headliners and 24 Beats which will be announced by Monday, March 18.

SXSW also announced Special Awards including the Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship, the Vimeo Staff Picks Award, the ZEISS Cinematography Award, the Louis Black “Lone Star” Award, the Adam Yauch Hörnblowér Award, and the CherryPicks Female First Feature Award.

SXSW continues showing films through Saturday, March 16. Details can be found at [sxsw.com/festivals/film](http://sxsw.com/festivals/film).

**The 2019 SXSW Film Festival Juries** consisted of:

**Narrative Feature Competition:** Barbara Chai, Trey Mangum, Jada Yuan

**Documentary Feature Competition:** Karen Han, Katie Walsh, Adam B. Vary

**Narrative Shorts Program:** Matthew A. Cherry, Laurence Reymond, Candice Wilson

**Documentary Shorts:** Sarah Lash, Anu Rangachar, Chris White

**Animated Shorts:** Jordan Askins, Michael Feder, Stephanie Gillis

**Midnight Shorts:** Emily Gotto, Thomas Nam, Meagan Navarro

**Music Videos:** Stephanie Bergara, John T. Kunz, Chris Toumazou

**Texas Shorts:** Alka Bhanot, Eugenio del Bosque, Sarah Harris

**Texas High School Shorts:** Alexandra “Alex” Mitchell, Susan Moffat, Bart Weiss

**Episodic Pilots:** Nicole Emanuele, Laura Kincaid, Kim Sherman

**Louis Black “Lone Star”:** John DeFore, Victor Diaz, Ann Hornaday

**Excellence in Title Design:** Lisa Bolan, Ana Criado, Lola Landekic

**Excellence in Poster Design:** Barak Epstein, DeAnna Gravillis, Kevin Tong

**Virtual Cinema:** Eiza McNitt, Laura Mingail, Lori Schwartz

Over the course of nine days, the 2019 SXSW Film Festival will screen 133 features, consisting of 102 World Premieres, 9 North American Premieres, and 3 US Premieres, with 62 first-time filmmakers. 101 shorts and music videos will screen as part of 12 curated shorts programs, plus two episodic pilot programs. The 256 films were selected from 8,496 overall submissions, including approximately 2,361 features and 4,734 shorts.

## **The 2019 SXSW Film Festival Awards:**

### **Feature Film Grand Jury Awards**

#### **NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION**

**Winner:** *Alice*

Director: Josephine Mackerras

“What starts off as a simple domestic story became a riveting tale of survival and female friendship that had us compelled from start to finish. For its nuanced character study and singular storytelling, the Grand Jury winner is *Alice*.”

**Special Jury Recognition for Best Ensemble:** *Yes, God, Yes*

Director: Karen Maine

“For this festival, we could have given out a dozen acting awards, but we could have also given a dozen acting awards for this movie. In this particular film, this entire cast made us laugh with their horny hijinks. The Special Jury Recognition for Best Ensemble goes to *Yes, God, Yes*.”

**Special Jury Recognition for Breakthrough Voice:** *Saint Frances*

Director: Alex Thompson

“This film tackles complex issues about family, politics, religion and women’s lives with a light touch that never felt preachy. For its realness and diverse vision, the Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Voice goes to *Saint Frances*.”

#### **DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION**

**Winner:** *For Sama*

Directors: Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts

“This extraordinary and harrowing documentary captures an epic personal story of a mother’s love for her daughter and a wife’s love for her husband through the lens of the bloody and brutal siege of Aleppo.”

**Special Jury Recognition for Empathy in Craft :** *Ernie & Joe*

Director: Jenifer McShane

“Everyone needs to pay the f\*ck attention to this deeply felt and expertly rendered documentary about two members of the San Antonio Police Department’s Mental Health Unit, who are changing how police see their own jobs with their embrace of making empathy and the individual the priority over force and violence.”

**Special Jury Recognition for Excellence in Storytelling:** *Nothing Fancy: Diana Kennedy*

Director: Elizabeth Carroll

“The question of who writes history is delightfully explored as we travel to Diana Kennedy’s vibrant home and experience this white British woman’s fierce passion for and lifelong dedication to authentic, regional Mexican cuisine.”

### **Short Film Grand Jury Awards**

Presented by Vimeo, an all-in-one video platform that provides creative professionals and businesses with tools technology they need to succeed with video– from hosting, to collaborating, to distributing and monetizing.

### **NARRATIVE SHORTS**

**Winner:** *Liberty*

Director: Faren Humes

“It is a complex and brilliant slice of life story about a community that is rarely seen. We feel that Faren Humes is an emerging director with a strong personal vision who was able to humanize a world that is persevering amongst the imminent threat of gentrification. “

**Special Jury Recognition:** *The Orphan*

Director: Carolina Markowicz

“We wanted to give recognition to another stand out film in the Narrative Shorts competition”

### **DOCUMENTARY SHORTS**

**Winner:** *Exit 12*

Director: Mohammad Gorjestani

“We are giving the award to *Exit 12* for its strong directorial vision and creative risk-taking. We celebrate Mo as an incredibly talented, energizing, and emerging voice in cinema and hope this award will help propel his already promising career to greater heights. Congratulations!”

**Special Jury Recognition: *All Inclusive***

Director: Corina Schwingruber Ilić

“Special Jury Recognition goes to *All Inclusive*, a wry look at our modern-day pursuit of happiness. Every shot is perfectly composed, the editing is spot-on, and it’s funny - delightfully depressing. Bravo!”

**MIDNIGHT SHORTS**

**Winner:** *Other Side of the Box*

Director: Caleb J. Phillips

“It’s the perfect blend of dread, humor, originality, chilling scares, excellent production values, and well crafted storytelling. More than just getting under our skin, it left us hopeful for a feature length adaptation.”

**ANIMATED SHORTS**

**Winner:** *Guaxuma*

Director: Nara Normande

“In a remarkable field of films, this was a choice that was exceptionally difficult to make. We chose Nara Normande's *Guaxuma* for it’s brilliant and beautiful animation and moving story. We look forward to seeing what comes next from Normande and from the remarkable group of filmmakers honored alongside her film. This film was well crafted in every aspect, from story to animation technique to design and direction, every choice was brilliantly conceived and executed in perfect harmony. It flowed beautifully like a good poem or dream.”

**Special Jury Recognition: *Slug Life***

Director: Sophie Koko Gate

“A visually stunning and deliciously bizarre look into Sophie Koko Gate’s mind drew out genuine, unbridled laughter from the audience that we simply could not ignore. As a filmmaker with a firm grasp of her own artistic and comedic style, we are happy honor a film that lives up to the motto, ‘Keep Austin Weird.’”

**MUSIC VIDEOS**

**Winner:** *"Pa'Lante" - Hurray for The Riff Raff*

Director: Kristian Mercado

“*Hurray for the Riff Raff*’s honest representation of today’s Puerto Rico was both beautiful and heartbreaking.”

**Special Jury Recognition: *"Quarrel" - Moses Sumney***

Directors: Allie Avital, Moses Sumney

“Moses Sumney’s self-directed depiction of human and animal perception — with a surprise twist in the ending — was breathtaking.”

## **TEXAS SHORTS**

**Winner:** *I Am Mackenzie*

Director: Artemis Anastasiadou

“We’d like to give the Grand Jury Prize to a film made by a promising new talent in Texas for its poignant portrayal of a coming of age story. The Grand Jury Prize for Texas Short goes to *I Am Mackenzie*.”

**Special Jury Recognition:** *A Line Birds Cannot See*

Director: Amy Bench

“First, we’d like to give a Special Jury Recognition to a film for its important, timely and humanizing story of immigrants. Special Jury Recognition goes to *A Line Birds Cannot See*.”

## **TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHORTS**

**Winner:** *Fifteen*

Director: Louisa Baldwin

“A lovely narrative of a teenage girl falling in love and experiencing the unique highs and lows of a lesbian relationship. The voiceover wonderfully expresses the complexities of publicly expressing her sexuality. The visuals provide snapshots of the journey, allowing the audience to feel with the characters.”

**Special Jury Recognition:** *Double Cross*

Director: Amiri Scrutchin

“A short that skillfully exhibits multiple drawn styles of animation while telling an enjoyable story about a basketball game.”

## **EPISODIC PILOT COMPETITION**

**Winner:** *Maggie*

Director: Sasha Gordon

“Kudos to the SXSW programmers. The episodic pilot programs were full of bold and authentic voices and with filmmakers courageously sharing their lives with rooms full of strangers. The lineup was varied, moving, and a joy to experience. We can’t wait to see how these stories continue. Though it was a tough decision, one show stood out for its natural humor, excellent grounded performances, and brutal honesty. We only wish the episodes were longer. We selected *Maggie*, directed by Sasha Gordon, as this year’s standout Episodic Pilot.”

**Special Jury Recognition: *Revenge Tour***

Directors: Andrew Carter, Kahlil Maskati

“We also wanted to acknowledge another fantastic show that gave us a lot to talk about. We were drawn to the confident choices and authentic perspectives of this pilot and wanted to acknowledge their captivating and heartfelt approach to bad breakup vengeance. Our Special Jury Recognition goes to the team from *Revenge Tour*, directed by Andrew Carter and Kahlil Maskati.”

**SXSW Film Design Awards**

**EXCELLENCE IN POSTER DESIGN**

**Winner:** *Daniel Isn't Real*

Designer: Jock

Design Company: 4twenty limited

“It was the clear winner for all of us. It grabs your attention and holds it. The colors, design, font, and imagery all work very effectively to convey the themes of the movie.”

**EXCELLENCE IN TITLE DESIGN**

**Winner:** *Spider Man: Into the Spider-Verse*

Directors: Brian Mah, James Ramirez

“Come on, are you kidding? We had to pick this. It’s fantastic.”

**Special Jury Recognition: *The Darkest Minds***

Director: Michelle Dougherty

“We love the subtle, but rich animation in the typography. The pinpricks of light and colour are beautiful. It’s an understated but stunning piece.”

**SXSW Special Awards**

*SXSW Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship Presentation*

The Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship is a year-long experience that encourages and champions the talent of an emerging documentary editor. Awarded annually, the fellowship was created to honor the memory of gifted editor Karen Schmeer.

**Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship**

**Presented to:** Victoria Chalk

“This playfully macabre and awkwardly silly take on masculinity had us laughing out loud. For many of us, there's never a ‘right time’ to meet your partner's parents, but the main actor in this short plays every wrong moment just right.”

*Vimeo Staff Picks Award*

Vimeo is excited to announce the second annual Vimeo Staff Pick Award here at SXSW. Short films featured in the Narrative, Documentary, Animation, Midnight, 360/VR, and Texas Shorts competitions are eligible for this award, which includes a \$5,000 cash prize and, of course, a Vimeo Staff Pick. The winning film will be released on Vimeo on Wednesday, March 13.

**Vimeo Staff Picks Award**

**Presented to:** *Milton* directed by Tim Wilkime

“This playfully macabre and awkwardly silly take on masculinity had us laughing out loud. For many of us, there's never a "right time" to meet your partner's parents, but the main actor in this short plays every wrong moment just right.”

*ZEISS Cinematography Award*

*For over a 100 years, ZEISS has been making lenses for cinematography, to support filmmaking at all levels. The cinematographers of these films have worked extremely hard to bring you the very best imagery in storytelling and it is their vision which gives life to the director's story, and for that, we say thank you.*

**Winner:** *Amazonia Groove*

Director: Bruno Murtinho

“For its rich use of color and composition, it's nuanced attention to the people, places, rhythms and of course the sounds of Northern Brazil and its extraordinary art, culture and spirit.”

*SXSW Louis Black “Lone Star” Award*

To honor SXSW co-founder/director Louis Black, a jury prize was created in 2011 called the Louis Black “Lone Star” Award, presented to a feature film world premiering at SXSW that was shot primarily in Texas or directed by a current resident of Texas. (Opt-in Award)

**Louis Black “Lone Star” Award**

**Winner:** *The River and the Wall*

Director: Ben Masters

“In a field of 11 features and 10 documentaries one film separated from the pack with unbridled

ambition, astounding photography and an essential, wide-eye perspective of the precious land between Texas and Mexico. We present the Louis Black Lone Star award to *The River and the Wall*.”

#### *SXSW Adam Yauch Hörnblowér Award*

In honor of a filmmaker whose work strives to be wholly its own, without regard for norms or desire to conform. The Adam Yauch Hörnblowér Award is presented to a filmmaker from our Visions screening category.

#### **SXSW Adam Yauch Hörnblowér Award**

**Presented to:** *Tito* directed by Grace Glowicki

“We are giving this award for fearless filmmaking from filmmakers who don't give a f\*ck about audience expectations and are hell bent on doing whatever it takes to deliver their vision.”

#### *CherryPicks Female First Feature Award*

"CherryPicks created the first feature by a female team award to support its mission to shine a spotlight on female voices. We hope to encourage women and audiences alike to create and support the stories women tell.”

#### **CherryPicks Female First Feature Award**

**Winner:** *Alice*

Director: Josephine Mackerras

“This years award goes to the film *Alice*, a story about a woman who finds the strength within herself despite all odds to save herself and her child. Aside from being a strong story, filmmaker Josephine Mackerras proves she has the vision and talent to become a leading voice in the film industry.”

#### **CherryPicks Special Recognition:**

**Winner:** *Days of the Whale*

Director: Catalina Arroyave Restrepo

“CherryPicks is proud to give this Special Recognition Award to *Days of the Whale*, to recognize the incredible work of director Catalina Arroyave Restrepo and producer Natalia Agudelo. Like *Alice*, this film stood out on its own with a unique, interesting story and a strong voice, showing filmmaking skill at a high level.”

**Film Stills and Headshots can be found at:** <http://fif.sxsw.com/media>

**Publicists for projects in program: [2019 Film Publicist List](#)**

**About SXSW Film Festival**

Now in its 26th year, SXSW Film Festival brings together creatives of all stripes over nine days to experience a diverse lineup and access to thousands of SXSW Conference sessions with visionaries from all corners of the entertainment, media, and technology industries.

**About SXSW**

SXSW dedicates itself to helping creative people achieve their goals. Founded in 1987 in Austin, Texas, SXSW is best known for its conference and festivals that celebrate the convergence of the interactive, film, and music industries. An essential destination for global professionals, the event features sessions, showcases, screenings, exhibitions, and a variety of networking opportunities. SXSW proves that the most unexpected discoveries happen when diverse topics and people come together. SXSW 2019 will take place March 8-17, 2019. For more information, please visit [sxsw.com](http://sxsw.com). To register for the event, please visit [sxsw.com/attend](http://sxsw.com/attend).

SXSW 2019 is sponsored by Capital One, Mercedes-Benz, Bud Light, Uber Eats, and The Austin Chronicle.

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