

Winter 2025

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- Jury Prize

Winner: Lost in Time - "Consistent, memorable and stylish - Lost in Time is an impressive indie film. The kind you'd be proud to recommend."

Nominees: The Reign of Queen Ginnarra - "This lush project carries a very impressive set pieces and a large-scale cast. It is a project that really reaches beyond its indie limitations!", The Day You Left - "A stunning well executed film that relishes its authenticity and creative presentation of the past.", Of Creature and Man - "Consistent, dark, emotive. Really great.", Hymn for a Rose - "A unique entry - Rose is a really special short film."

- Short Films

Best Short Film made for less than \$5,000

Winner: The Key to Everything - "A tight budget does not restrict the impact of this short film. This passion project presents itself as a really well-made and fully formed project."

Nominees: A Film by Roland Wehap - "It feels as if no expense was spared Roland Wehap. This is a really entertaining short film.", The Lights - "Cool and expressive - this micro short makes the most of what it has.", Blue Cordelia - "This two-hander project is a fun genre romp. Its use of locale and lensing greatly enhances its quality. This is a well-polished project!", Luna - "Luna presents a world that is really well lensed and tactile. The production value really shines in this project. There's definitely an eye for detail and quality here."

Best Short Film made for between \$5,000–\$10,000

Winner: Sensus Mori - "A film that relishes the retro world... whilst breathing new ideas and fantastical elements into it. This is a charming short - one we recommend to fans of the 60's flower power and Alice in Wonderland!"

Nominee: The Decline and Fall of Holly Dew and Walter Melon - "A fascinating self-reflective project centred on the ephemeral world of Hollywood."

Best Short Film made for more than \$10,000

Winner: The Day You Left - "This stunning period piece is just wonderful."

Nominee: Looking for You - "A well made animation that carries a lot of heart."

- Feature Films

Best Feature Film made for less than \$5,000

Winner: Mudworm Falls - "Beyond quirky, beyond wild. This is an indie film extravaganza!",

Nominee: Urtobēn – Vienna's illegal Artforms - "An insightful documentary that places its spectators on the edge of the horizon (and buildings). A really interesting world to witness."

Best Feature Film made for between \$5,000–\$10,000

Not enough entries for this category to run.

Best Feature Film made for more than \$10,000

Winner: The Reign of Queen Ginnarra - "Though heavy on the handheld footage, Queen Ginnarra is a fantastic period piece. It displays its story with a great sense of class, and some bold high contrast images."

Nominees: NEXT - "A fantastic comedic romp.", Lost in Time - "Colin's work here is quite outstanding - his project clearly faces its budget limitations with creative solutions."

- Web Series

Best Web series

Winner: Kit - "This moving web series provides a very dynamic story with meaning and consistent production quality.", Nominee: And That's the Truth! with Great-Grandma Ruth - "These interviews carry a great personal narrative. A real pleasure to watch."

- Other Film & Media Categories

Best Genre Film

Winner: Of Creature and Man - "Memorable, imaginative and stylish. Of Creature and Man is a really great genre film!"

Nominees: The Lights - "Stylish, expressive and dark... The Lights is a very very interesting presentation of genre!", Letters Home - "This war film presents romance in a great way. It is moving, memorable and impactful.", Banshee Boulevard - "Banshee is entertaining and has a great set of characters to keep it on its genre toes."

Best Actor

Winner: Richard L. Barnes II (Reverb) - "Barnes' portrayal of a man on a rough night is quite fantastic. He looks terrible in the best way possible."

Nominee: Jacob Lohmann (The Day You Left) - "Lohmann brings a great sense of solidity and stillness to his role, appearing very accurate for gestures of the era being depicted on screen.", Callum Anderson (Blue Cordelia) - "Anderson's tone of voice and steady performance is both memorable and believable."

Best Actress

Winner: Marguerite Bousquet (Sensus Mori) - "Bousquet gives her all in this role - grounding its fantastical elements brilliantly. The conviction in this performance is great."

Nominee: Alexa Morden (Lost in Time) - "Morden provides a strong presence in her presentation as Leda. She helps ground the film."

Best Ensemble Cast

Winner: Operation: Cold Pizza - "The cast of Cold Pizza are great at bringing their caricatures to life. Everyone seems to be greatly invested in this project."

Nominees: NEXT - "This cast provides so much energy for this project - it is inspiring.", Charlie - "This two hander is greatly enhanced by the commitment and energy of its two actresses.", Letters Home - "The cast of Letters Home gives this project their all with great respect to the content and roles they are portraying.", Luna - "The cast of Luna do a great job here - this feels like a really well put together project by a team of dedicated performers."

Best Director

Winner: The Key to Everything - "Stylish, memorable, inventive. This is a very pure presentation of cinema."

Nominees: Lost in Time - "With a strong sense of visual language, Lost in Time delivers a strong and consistent style and quality.", Sensus Mori - "A bright, memorable and creative project. The direction here is spot on." The Horned Woman of Saughall - "This dark black and white Gothic film is just delicious.", Hymn for a Rose - "An animation from a bygone era of Disney. This is fantastical and rather lovely."

Best Cinematography

Winner: The Day You Left - "Shot with amazing detail for texture, light and composition."

Nominees: Doing Nothing, Going Nowhere - "A visual feast.", Operation: Cold Pizza - "The lenses used in Cold Pizza help elevate it - this looks rather fantastic.", Charlie - "This blue-lit fort looks amazing." The Horned Woman of Saughall - "Horned Woman looks fantastic with its grainy black and white. It is very evocative."

Best Editing

Winner: Doing Nothing, Going Nowhere - "Beyond creative - a fantastical set of short films that work both on an entertaining level, and a philosophical/emotional one thanks to the juxtaposition of various elements."

Nominees: Walker's Game - Proof of Concept - "Cut together really well, this short presents a tense sequence of scenes that build very nicely thanks to its edit."

Best Screenplay

Winner: A Film by Roland Wehap - "A comedic and entertaining script. Very well put together."

Nominees: The Missing Part - "A moving short film which encapsulates strong interpersonal relationships very well.", Last Night - "The concept and structure of this short film is fantastic.", One Magpie - "The script of One Magpie is a subtle and well-crafted idea - there's drama and strong conflicts in here."

Best Music / Best Score

Winner: Looking for You - "The music in Looking for You does a great job in enhancing the story and tone of the film."

Nominee: Last Night - "The score of Last Night keeps the film feeling consistent and well-put-together."

Best Experimental Film

Nominated: Mudworm Falls - "With retro editing styles, this digital beast is a lot of fun!"

Best Animation

Special Mentions (e.g., for standout work outside standard categories)

Winner: Best Costume: The Ballad of Lucy Sands - "A great sense of realism is employed in this project through the use of period costumes."

Winner: Best Documentary: Pawns of Progress - "This project reveals a lot of detail about its subject, with a strong understanding for communication and editing."

Winner: Best Experimental Film: The Encarne Trilogy - "This surreal short film excitingly presents several different film styles. This borders on being an art installation at times."

- Script Competition Categories

Best Genre Script

Winner: Eat The Rich - "A page turner - a really exciting read. With the right Art Director, this project will really shine."

Nominees: Bernice Rathe: The Awakening, Crown of Fire, Sanguis Septem, The Digital Nomad, Spoon-fed Addiction, Evening News, New Town (TV Pilot), The Road to Aaru - The Ka of Sami Tarek, Stake Out, FREAK MAGNET

Best Technique

Winner: Air Jane - "One of the most original interpretations of the Jane Eyre book. This is a very fresh interpretation that would do really well in today's post-modern streaming world."

Nominees: COVAMPIRE-19, Neneh, Crown of Fire, The Digital Nomad, Walker's Game, Head (less), Stake Out

Best Micro Budget Script

Winner: Eyes Like Prey - "A micro budget film that packs a lot of genre and awareness for filming limitations."

Nominees: The AEF White Army vs Lenin's Red Army, Dead Air, Stake Out

Best Character Arc

Winner: Prince of Nothing - "A joy from start to end - this comes loaded with a great character payoff as it unfolds the quirky tale. Recalls the 1998 smash Waking Ned."

Nominees: MATILDA, Crown of Fire, Check Out Diner-Z, Sanguis Septem, The End of My Kingdom, ON THE ROCKS, MESTIZA

Best Concept

Winner: The Crusade of the Godkiller - "This project delivers a great setting, both in terms of locale and time period. This is a really entertaining script, and could be a great project to see brought to the screen."

Nominees: Hellraiser II : Leviathan, PRECURSOR, Spoon-fed Addiction, Black Hole Sun, The Green Machine - Part 1, Lift the Veil

- Music Video Competition

Best Music Video

Winner: Love & Kindness - "A narrative runs through this video that provides a great sense of perspective and purpose to the video."

Nominee: Maji - "There's a great message in Maji."

Best Cinematography (Music Video)

Why Me: "Dreamy, with some great filters - this soft focus music video recalls the visuals of the ballads of the 90's."

Best Editing (Music Video)

Buried by Limberlost: "The blend of heavy editing matches the murky, muddy and Gothic visuals: this is an impressively cut video that really plays tricks on the mind."

Nominees: Mein Fuhrer BLUES: "A political video full of archival and AI images. The editing is the only thing that appeals here - how the iconography talks to each other."

Best Animation (Music Video)

Special Mention: Fire & I.C.E. - "While the animation is AI, it presents some interesting visuals - clearly a product of some good prompts."