

# 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 Führer 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."