

# **Couch Film Festival**

## **Summer 2023 Edition**

**Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK**

### **BEST of the FESTIVAL**

**Best Film of the Festival: Laundry - Dir. by Victoria Zubick (Canada)  
1st Runner Up for Best Film: Lapavooni - Dir. by Mikko Kontio (Finland)  
2nd Runner Up for Best Film: A Lot Going on at 34 Maple Drive - Dir. by  
Jameson Kovar (Canada)**

### **Honourable Mentions**

**Hold Your Hand - Dir. by Will Noble (Canada)  
Walkman - Dir. by Isabella Guedes (Canada)  
Move In, Move Out, Move On - Dir. by Elson Chan Tsz Yan (Hong Kong)  
Resolute - Dir. by Daniel Youssefi (Canada)**

**Audience Choice: Resolute - Dir. by Daniel Youssefi (Canada)**

### **CATEGORY AWARD NOMINEES**

#### **1:00-5:00 Minutes**

##### **Nominees for Best Animation Canada**

Night Drives: While My Bidet Gently Weeps - Dir. by Jono Hunter (Canada)  
Artist's Alley - Dir. by Jenna DeFacendis (Canada)  
Further - Dir. by Naê Camargo (Canada)  
On Track - Dir. by Rachel Shen (Canada)  
Ancora - Dir. by William Marty Charest Léveillé (Canada)  
A Garden Within - Dir. by Tristan Wei, Luka Hinic (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Animation USA**

Warm and Moist - Dir. by Citlali Shani Vazquez Negra (USA)

BAC: Blood Alcohol Content - Dir. by Lucy Crow (USA)

**The Battle for Swan Lake - Dir. by Joan Carol Gratz (USA)**

Escapism - Dir. by Elena Goldman-Rapaport (USA)

Stitched - Dir. by Jay Thaiyod (USA)

**Dandelion - Dir. by Ling Zhao, Zhengwu Gu (USA)**

Bear Hugs - Dir. by Maggie May Brummer (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Comedy**

The Dark of Night - Dir. by Larry Rosen (USA)

The Sunshine Summit O'er the Mountain of Dishes - Dir. by James Kirby (USA)

Primetime for Mime Crime: A Christmas Movie - Dir. by Christopher Francis  
(USA)

**High Altitude - Dir. by Ryan Adolph (USA)**

Mindslip - Dir. by Swaroop Elamon (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

Bulgaria: The Cradle of Civilization - Dir. by Lyubomir Pechev (Bulgaria)

**The Amazing Journey of Jacob A. Riis - Dir. by Marcus Mandal (Denmark)**

Tara Chadwick on Papalotl Project - Dir. by Tara Chadwick (USA)

Crop Circle Prophecy - Ukraine - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)

Crop Circle Prophecy - Ukraine Dam Collapse - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)

From Play to Act - James Chen, A Basketball Player Turned Filmmaker - Dir. by  
James Chen (Taiwan)

### **Nominees for Best Drama**

Coming Together - Dir. by Bella Rinsky (Cyprus)

I Think It's Broken - Dir. by Kimberlee Peterson (USA)

**Allegro - Dir. by Vincent Bonet (France)**

Matilde - Dir. by Jorge Santos (Spain)

The Overthinker - Dir. by James Boutcher (Canada)

Elegy to Carla - Dir. by Jan Ivan Irapta Lagong (Philippines)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental**

Mind Control Attempt No. 1 - Dir. by Erin Audley (Canada)

Da Tibi Voluptas - Dir. by David Valverde (Spain)

The Battle for Swan Lake - Dir. by Joan Carol Gratz (USA)  
Paraboliks - Dir. by Ariana Boaventura, Joeser Alvarez (Brazil)  
Spoon Me - Dir. by Anna Holmen, Cherie Naito, Sylvia Mok, Giavanni Picarelli  
(Canada)  
Beste100Bilder - Dir. by Mikko Beste, Daniel O'Brien (Germany)  
Sheema Rekha - Dir. by Soumil Guha (India)  
Shumisen Town - Dir. by 直隆 遠藤 (Japan)

### **Nominees for Best Horror**

Split Self - Dir. by Rosger Toledo (USA)  
The 13th Hour - Dir. by Xavier Tesson (France)  
Ancora - Dir. by William Marty Charest Léveillé (Canada)  
Lucy - Dir. by Jayleen S. Perez (USA)  
In a Blue Moon - Dir. by Nathaniel R. Clay (USA)  
Apartment 24 - Dir. by Izzy Church (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Music Video**

I Dream My Dream - Dir. by Monique van Kerkhof, Bo Oudendijk (Netherlands)  
Having |Habe - Dir. by Martina Pfaff (Germany)  
Click-Click, Tick-Tick - Dir. by Martina Pfaff (Germany)  
Jesse & Jane - Dir. by Raffaello Nicolò Parodi (Italy)  
The Battle for Swan Lake - Dir. by Joan Carol Gratz (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

Slingshot - Dir. by Eric Miller (USA)  
Smoking Gun - Dir. by Oktober Layne, Jerry Collins (USA)  
The Harrowing - Dir. by Brendan O'Neill (UK)  
Bath Time - Dir. by Dave Inglis (UK)  
It Stares from the Dark - Dir. by Dimitris Galatas, Fragkiskos Arapai (Greece)  
Concourse - Dir. by Jane Fleiss (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural**

Dance For Two - Dir. by Matthew Gaines (Canada)  
The Algorithm - Dir. by James Boutcher (Canada)  
Embrace - Dir. by Axel Zeltser (France)  
Serenade of the Soul - Dir. by Eissa Annam (Canada)  
Ancora - Dir. by William Marty Charest Léveillé (Canada)

Dandelion - Dir. by Ling Zhao, Zhengwu Gu (USA)

**Nominees for Best Student Film**

House Of The Rising Fedora - Dir. by Stokes Harvey (USA)

Fault Lines - Dir. by Claudio Morelli (Canada)

Hilltop Hike - Dir. by Robert Cunniff (USA)

**Rabbit - Dir. by Zichen Lan (China)**

Letters from the Trash - Dir. by Matthew Agustin (USA)

**Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker**

Erin Audley - The Adventures of Vomit Cat and Cat Vomit (Canada)

**Apollo Avery - Jello Shot (Canada)**

Lydia Ramsey - Mothership (Canada)

Michelle Chen - Mon Ami (Canada)

Rin Cogill - Shadow of a Doubt (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Actor**

**James Kirby - The Sunshine Summit O'er the Mountain of Dishes (USA)**

Vipin Jose - Mindslip (Canada)

Moises Lopez - Primetime for Mime Crime: A Christmas Movie (USA)

Jason Pfister - Bully (USA)

**Nominees for Best Actress**

Gem Durham - The Harrowing (UK)

Julia Klinestiver - The Dark of Night (USA)

**Vivian Feinberg - Bully (USA)**

Emily Potter - Our Moment (USA)

**Nominees for Best Cast**

Just Like Me - Dir. by David Collier (Australia)

**1958 - Dir. by John Angell Grant (USA)**

Escape - Dir. by Jane Fleiss (USA)

Watch Me on TV - Dir. by Emeric Gallego (France)

**Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Aron Melvin Santos Maallo, Maria Leslie Purpora Rey - Elegy to Carla  
(Philippines)

Sreevishnu Reghunath - Mindslip (Canada)  
Cyrill D'Agata - Amok e Mio (France)  
Yana Yancheva - Checkmate (Bulgaria)

**Nominees for Best Writer**

Kyle Kolding - Writer's Block (USA)  
Isabel Bernal - I Like Your Father (Spain)  
Rafael Star - The Swell Seekers (Australia)  
Kelton White - Ode From Malum (USA)

**Nominees for Best Director**

Joseph Louis Booth - Our Moment (USA)  
Sue-Ann Paquet - Checkmate (Bulgaria)  
Santino Acheronti - Black in Color (USA)  
GhJulia Pierrini - Amok e Mio (France)

**5:01-20:00 Minutes**

**Nominations for Best Action**

Sheltered from Time - Dir. by Sadie Duarte (Spain)  
Knife-Bricker: The Brickening - Dir. by Jack Culbertson (USA)  
Resolute - Dir. by Daniel Youssefi (Canada)  
Into The Mainframe : Safehouse - Dir. by Ryan Rajcoomar (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Animation**

Behind The Loom - Dir. by Heejoo Kim (USA)  
The Popes - Dir. by Michela Menichelli, Diederik Pierani (Italy)  
Everybody's Got Their Demons - Dir. by Ryan Yost, Corey Sharp (USA)  
On / Off - Dir. by Nicolas P. Villarreal (Argentina)  
Afterimage - by All Ears Productions (Canada)  
What a Match - Dir. by Björn Granberg Ahlmark (Sweden)

**Nominees for Best Comedy**

Bike Cops - Dir. by Jesse Womack (USA)

Settle the Score - Dir. by Jesse Womack (USA)  
Parabens - Dir. by Michael Bukovanský (Czech Republic)  
Toby - Dir. by Hannah Carolyn Elizabeth Bennett (Canada)  
Crease - Dir. by Grant Engler (USA)  
**Saved By The Bomb - Dir. by Ben Van de Mark (Canada)**

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

Star Track - Anna Storm - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)  
Tai Chi (1) - The Energy Within - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)  
**Long Ago and Far Away - Dir. by Erik Jacobsen (USA)**  
2023's First 2 Crop Circles with Alarming Messages - Dir. by Shihyun Wang  
(USA)

### **Nominees for Best Drama International**

Prayer - Dir. by Anna Veselova, Peter Fadeev (Georgia)  
**One Thing You Can't Take from Me - Dir. by Annika Kirnbauer (Austria)**  
Double Exposure - Dir. by Ral Dobрева (Bulgaria)  
What Did You Say?! - Dir. by Kiel Robinson (UK)  
Who Did It? - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)  
Guilty - Dir. Alexia Sanchis, Franck Llopis (France)

### **Nominees for Best Drama North America**

Are You Okay? Dir. by Waqar Ahmed (Canada)  
Crumple Part 3 - Dir. by James Harris (USA)  
**3 Nights - Dir. by Guillermo Pastor (Canada)**  
Advanced Placement - Dir. by Sam Hyatt (USA)  
To The Moon - Dir. by Jaiden Reese (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental**

Dolphins in the Shower - Dir. by Chandel White (USA)  
Maboroshi - Dir. by Mingyu Li (Canada)  
Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys - Dir. by Marty Long (Canada)  
**PolyGone - Dir. by Maxwell A. Dowie (Canada)**  
Anemoia - Dir. by Eduardo Guerra (Canada)  
Just A Day - Dir. by Jacob Ronald Barrieau (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Horror**

A Lack of Decency - Dir. by Luciano Ivanov (Bulgaria)  
**Amelia - Dir. by Neil Oseman (UK)**  
The Performance - Dir. by William Kowanec (UK)  
Mystery Man - Dir. by Joseph Booth, Brea Wright (USA)  
Road Side - Dir. by Joe Booth (USA)

**Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

Boxed - Dir. by Abril Andrea Arnauda Appel (Canada)  
Mr. Crazy - Dir. by Filippo Cristiano (Italy)  
In the Backseat - Dir. by Harry Waldman (USA)  
Mr. Covid - Dir. by Abhishek Chatterjee (India)  
**The Erratic - Dir. by James J. Canty (USA)**

**Nominees for Best Romance**

January - Dir. by Zoe Milenkovic (USA)  
**Love Tap - Dir. by Josh Cromarty-Bradford (Canada)**  
Pâro - Dir. by Pearce Chadwick (USA)

**Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural International**

**Snaggletooth - Dir. by Scott David Lister (Australia)**  
The World Has En Dead - Dir. by Mudasir Zafar Batt (India)  
Invisible - Dir. by Andrew Ferguson (UK)  
Futureman - Dir. by Adam Wade Brown (Australia)

**Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural North America**

Insect - Dir. by Cherelle Ann Sarah Higgins (Canada)  
Grimoire Vol. 1 - Dir. by Donovan Smith (USA)  
The Post - Dir. by Antonio Souto Fraguas (USA)  
Processing... - Dir. by Tanner Richard Craft (USA)  
**PicMe - Dir. by Molly Tomecek (USA)**

**Nominees for Best First-time Filmmaker**

**Justin Calandriello - Still Together (Canada)**  
Nithya Gopalakrishnan - Two Worlds (India)  
Francesca Brice-Martin - La Rupture (USA)  
Christophe Desjardins - Flower Loving Man (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Student Film**

**Just Come Home - Dir. by Mark Tuscano (Canada)**

Can of a Man of Worms - Dir. by Paul Tirado (Canada)

Darkvision - Dir. by Rico Espinoza (Canada)

Two Step Program - Dir. by Jack Lawrence Kabel (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Pepe Trevino - Two Step Program (USA)

Sam Fraser - Invisible (UK)

Doug MacDougall - Are You Okay? (Canada)

**Stephen Irom Gatphoh - The Last Chance Casino (Canada)**

Dean Attari - Walter's Internal Battle

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

Sabrina Knappett - Why Am I Like This? - Dir. by David Nguyen (Canada)

**Arielle Beth Klein - PicMe (USA)**

Evalena Marie - The Erratic (USA)

Elzbieta Chernyak - 3 Nights (Canada)

Alexandra Chabkova - Mystery Man (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

**Bitter Sun - Dir. by Joseph Rossi (Canada)**

Crease - Dir. by Grant Engler (USA)

Werner Herzog Saves TAXI DRIVER - Dir. by John Stevenson (USA)

The Showbiz - Dir. by Neil Quadras (India)

Off-Kilter - Dir. by Steph France (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Fernando Medel - Sheltered from Time (Spain)

Scott David Lister - Snaggletooth (Australia)

Luca Selberherr - One Thing You Can't Take from Me (Austria)

**Nigel Akam - Insect (Canada)**

Austin Buell - The Last Chance Casino (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

William Macchia - Dust and Data (USA)

Adam Wade - Futureman (Australia)



Jesse Rosenberg - Man Fraud (USA)  
Dave Inglis - P.P.S. The Support Group (UK)  
Delia Voicu - A Cursed Story (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Director**

David Nguyen - Why Am I Like This? (Canada)  
Ben Van de Mark - Saved By The Bomb (Canada)  
Antonio Gonzalez Wagner - Death's Duty (Canada)  
Michael McCallum - Off-Key (USA)  
Steph France - Off-Kilter (USA)

**20:01-45:00 Minutes**

**Nominees for Best Long Short Film**

Repeat - Dir. by Andros Georgiou (Canada)  
Sorry - Dir. by Yuki Ishida (Japan)  
Renaissance - Dir. by Cindy Tang (Canada)  
The Source - Dir. by Ben Frondorf (USA)  
Shade - Dir. by Thomas Nangle (UK)  
The Moon That Was Purple And Dangerous - Dir. by Aiden Khachouf

**Nominees for Best Actor**

Zac Bensley - Jealous (Canada)  
Odin Romanus - Analogt! (Analogue!) (Sweden)  
Isaac Slate - The Moon That Was Purple And Dangerous

**Nominees for Best Actress**

Kyla Stone - Jealous (Canada)  
Tomoko Kato - Sorry (Japan)  
Johanna Vandenberg - The Closing Chapter (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Cast**

Renaissance - Dir. by Cindy Tang (Canada)  
Shade - Dir. by Thomas Nangle (UK)

The Source - Dir. by Ben Frondorf (USA)

**Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Gustav Sjölund, Nathan Österlund - Analogt! (Analogue!) (Sweden)

Conor Forrest - Jealous (Canada)

Sonny Baez - Shade (UK)

**Nominees for Best Writer**

Shihyun Wang - Dysability (Austria)

Cindy Tang - Renascence (Canada)

Conor DeVries - Logging Algonquin (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Director**

Conor DeVries - Logging Algonquin (Canada)

John F. Lindquist - Analogt! (Analogue!) (Sweden)

Ben Frondorf - The Source (USA)

**45:01-120:00 Minutes**

**Nominees for Best Documentary**

She-Wolf in Hollywood: The Story of Maria Ouspenskaya - Dir. by Jordan Mohr (USA)

Drinking the Red Soda - Dir. by Nolan Schmidt (USA)

Tai Chi - Heal with Inner Energy Flow - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)

Miss Sparkle Nation Queens 2022 Cyberbullying Basics - Dir. by Hunyah Irfan (Canada)

Standing on the Firing Line the Story of Mystique - Dir. by Marco D'Auria (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Drama**

Dolwa - Dir. by Alex Suszko (USA)

Syzygy - Dir. by Jim Mendrinos (USA)

Flathead - Dir. by Andrew Modeen (USA)  
Eleanor Slaughter - Dir. by Chris Chan Roberson (USA)

**Nominees for Best Thriller**

**The Panama Tape - Dir. by John Lawson, Jamie Lawson (USA)**  
Flathead - Dir. by Andrew Modeen (USA)  
New and Forever - Dir. by Joseph Michael Vrola (USA)

**Nominees for Best Actor**

Marc A. Contento - Band Boy (USA)  
**Jubal Fresh - Flathead (USA)**  
Joe Esbenshade - Syzygy (USA)

**Nominees for Best Actress**

**Rebecca Quinn Robertson - Eleanor Slaughter (USA)**  
Nadya Anderson - Dolwa (USA)  
Ronee Collins - Flathead (USA)

**Nominees for Best Cast**

**New and Forever - Dir. by Joseph Michael Vrola (USA)**  
Syzygy - Dir. by Jim Mendrinis (USA)  
Night Freaks - Dir. David John Blyth (New Zealand)

**Nominees for Best Cinematography**

**Timothy Duval - Flathead (USA)**  
Alex Suszko - Dolwa (USA)  
Aaron Lebel - Standing on the Firing Line the Story of Mystique (Canada)

**Nominees for Best Writer**

Joseph Michael Vrola - New and Forever (USA)  
**Chris Chan Roberson - Eleanor Slaughter (USA)**  
Sandy McKnight - Band Boy (USA)

**Nominees for Best Director**

David John Blyth - Night Freaks (New Zealand)  
John Lawson, Jamie Lawson - The Panama Tape (USA)  
**Marco D'Auria - Standing on the Firing Line the Story of Mystique (Canada)**

## **15-Second Story**

### **Nominees for Best 15-Second Story**

The Children - Dir. by Jimmy Alejandro Castro (Argentina)

Nightmare - Dir. by Jimmy Alejandro Castro (Argentina)

Words - Dir. by Jimmy Alejandro Castro (Argentina)

Martyrdom - Dir. by David Valverde (Spain)

De-Scend - Dir. by Kevin Lucero Less (USA)

**I Am Yours - Dir. by Dmytro Koturanov (Ukraine)**