

Couch Film Festival

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

BEST of the FESTIVAL

These titles are the Judges' Favourites and were screened at our June 24 event in Toronto.

BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL: *Nasaan* dir Niko Chu, Canada

1st RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: *Holy Cow* dir Karthik Swaminathan, USA

2nd RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: *The Dinner Party* dir Jaye Lodhia, Steven Chau, Canada

HONOURABLE MENTION for BEST FILM: *Eden* dir Lester Lubuguin, Canada

HONOURABLE MENTION for BEST FILM: *Clockwork Tension* dir Jon Osei, Canada

HONOURABLE MENTION for BEST FILM: *In Between The Lines* dir Kira L. Wilson, USA

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD:

CATEGORY AWARD NOMINEES

Winners in **RED**, Nominees in **BLACK**

1:00-5:00 MINUTES

Nominees for Best Animation Canada

Before You Go dir Nancy Hatoum, Canada

The Feast (For My Beloved Son) dir Sara Gonzalez Lopez, Canada

The Stargift dir Sydney de Jong, Canada

Spark dir Rylie Prentice, Canada

Last Summer dir Sophie Eileen Corbett, Canada

Nominees for Best Animation International

Jailbreak dir Josephine Aimee Sarayar, Jade Storm Jonathan, Australia

Windows from the South dir Eugen Bilankov, Croatia

Home Sweet Home dir Eliane Posadas, Helena Gomes, Sophia Lopes, Vanessa Kimura, Brazil

Strokes of Wildflowers dir Livvy Seabrook-Wilkins, UK

Nominees for Best Animation USA

Internal Embers dir Alec Tufenkjian, USA

Roxie dir Kylie Fitzgerald, USA

Catchin' Z dir Natalie Constance Baumann, USA

The People Will Not Revolt dir John Maslowski, USA

Pinhole at the Edge of the Earth dir Julia Curry, USA

Nominees for Best Student Animation

Radical Claws dir Sarah Chen, Emily Purdum, Erin Brophy, USA

Hide and Seek dir Sophie Ring, USA

Phös dir Gus Dana, USA

Where Are You, Weird Baby? dir Jaden Lane Black Earl, USA

Nominees for Best Art Film

Chaos dir Susanne Layla Petersen, Denmark

Humarithms dir Pierre Ajavon, France

A DURAS (Dedicated to Marguerite Duras) dir Elisabet Mabres, Spain

The Christmas Operation dir Hyun Cheol Park, Korea

Nominees for Best Comedy

Way to Fly dir Robert Hicks, USA

Final Boarding dir Liam K Schmid, Canada

The Dancer? dir Jane Fleiss, USA

Low Stakes dir Bryan Patrick Moore, USA

Nominees for Best Crime/Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Duct Tape Doesn't Fix Everything dir Larry Rosen, USA

Heirs of The Family dir José Vidal Hernández, Canada

Sad Psycho dir Chase Goforth, USA

Low Stakes dir Bryan Patrick Moore, USA

Kalp Fiction dir Siddharth Kumar, India

Nominees for Best Documentary

The Art of Mike Messier dir Mike Messier, USA

Strokes of Wildflowers dir Livvy Seabrook-Wilkins, UK

Haunted Arkansas: Teaser Trailer dir Gavin Webb, USA

Nominees for Best Drama

Euphoric dir Lajos Babai, Canada

Reaping The Whirlwind dir Nico Cariati, Canada

Apple Pie dir Sean Thrawn O'Neil, Canada

Sword & Shield dir Minh Nguye, USA

Troops in Contact dir Arash Shabany, USA

Nominees for Best Experimental International

Zone dir Susanne Layla Petersen, Denmark

Fissure dir Pedro Sena Nunes, Portugal

Zapping Mortal dir Nano Bot, Argentina

Vision dir Susanne Layla Petersen, Denmark

Nominees for Best Experimental North America

Mermaid Dreams dir Luke Meneok, Canada

Brine dir Laura Herman, USA

Vita dir Doyoung Kim, Canada

It Seems dir Amin Nakhi, USA

Nominees for Best Horror

Dinner Date Night, Tastes Just Right dir Larry Rosen, USA

I Feel Pretty dir Christopher Pierantoni, USA

Haunted Arkansas: Teaser Trailer dir Gavin Webb, USA

Nominees for Best One-Minute Film

The Confession dir Chase Goforth, USA

Break the Silence dir Dax Phelan, USA

Unoriginal AF dir Laura Herman, USA

COMING SOON! Movie Trailer Parody The Man With No Face Satoshi Nakamoto Mystery dir Geo Thelen, USA

It Rained That Morning dir Kyle Scott Wilkinson, Canada

Nominees for Best Original Story

Taxi dir Donal O'Dea, Ireland

Dance of the Flies dir Anders Jay Ravenstad, Josh Thompson, USA

It Rained That Morning dir Kyle Scott Wilkinson, Canada

#FestLife dir Bryan Patrick Moore, Kira L. Wilson, USA

Subliminal dir Ronlad Black, USA

Nominees for Best Romance

Duct Tape Doesn't Fix Everything dir Larry Rosen, USA

Down Bad dir Catie Thorne, Canada

Apple Pie dir Sean Thrawn O'Neil, Canada

Tackled Trials dir Jane Fleiss, USA

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

Little Green Folk dir Jonathan Hawes, James Pyle, UK

Vita dir Doyoung Kim, Canada

The Only Morning Show dir Joe Miles, USA

Nominees for Best Student Film

Body Motion dir Lima Lipa, USA

Checkmate dir Olivia Bronwyn, Canada

Good Night dir Holly Buchanan Haines, Canada

The Casting Call dir Rachel Pevsner, Canada

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Hailey Brittain - The Conversation, Canada

Kaleb Fitzpatrick - Disaster, Canada

Olivia Bronwyn - Checkmate, Canada

Liam K Schmid - Final Boarding, Canada

Nominees for Best Actor

Matthew Graham Wagner - Point, USA

Daniel David Stewart - Dance of the Flies, USA

Joe Miles - The Only Morning Show, USA

Nominees for Best Actress

Bärbel Horat - WiRSiNN, Switzerland

Khrystyne Haje - I Feel Pretty, USA

Sara Hamidia - Disaster, Canada

Nominees for Best Cast

Lunchtime dir Jaymes Camery, USA

Heirs of The Family dir José Vidal Hernández, Canada

The Casting Call dir Rachel Pevsner, Canada

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Shelby Parks - Dance of the Flies, USA

Arash Shabany - Troops in Contact, USA

Jeffrey Martes - I Feel Pretty, USA

Nominees for Best Writer

Riu Lohri, Christof Bünter - WiRSiNN, Switzerland

Desiree Magotiaux - Umbilical Stain by Paint Drying, Canada

Christopher Prinsloo - The Dancer?, USA

Nominees for Best Director

Jaymes Camery - Lunchtime, USA

Jane Fleiss - Tackled Trials, USA

Bryan Patrick Moore - Low Stakes, USA

5:01-20:00 MINUTES

Nominees for Best Animation

Saudade, Perhaps... dir José-Manuel Xavier, Portugal

The Ringing dir Ishwin Razdan, India

Demi-Demons dir Martin Gerigk, Germany

Solar Neighbor dir Austin Cole, USA

The Boy Who Dreamed Ball and Crafted Dreams dir Myrna de Fátima Gontijo Neiva, Ricardo Edilberto Pereira, Brazil

Nominees for Best Comedy Canada

Porch Pirates dir Tarek Jad, Dylan Best, Canada

Family Values dir Pooja Sethi, Canada

Detectives & Dragons dir Lucas Candelino, Benjamin Kostecki, Evan McDowell, Canada

A Robbery in Spanish dir Luis Armando Pacheco Larrea, Canada

Nominees for Best Comedy USA

Double Impact dir Minh Nguyen, USA

Lily Lumiere dir Rasmus Toyra, USA

Invaders of the Valley Saloon dir Dustin Tidwell, USA

Murder, But Epic! dir Alex Greaney, USA

Second Language dir Shuojia Sandy Chen, USA

Nominees for Best Coming-of-Age Film

Almost Perfect dir Daniel Krastek, USA

Unwritten End dir Rishi Babu, India

Shayla dir Matthew Shawn Miller, USA

Nominees for Best Crime/Mystery/Suspense/Thriller Canada

Avarice dir José Vidal Hernández, Canada

Shadows dir Joe Lyko, Canada

Beneath The Stripes dir Dylan Gregory, Canada

RUNNER: Episode 1 - "Good Luck, Jason" dir Justin Gothreau, Canada

B&E dir Jamie Robertson, Canada

Nominees for Best Crime/Mystery/Suspense/Thriller International

Bloodlines and Betrayal dir Rob Winward, UK
The Shedded Skin of a Bounty dir Luke Hawkins, USA
Dive dir Victoria Horn, USA
Riding Hood dir Dwight Dwayne Mathis, USA
The Burden of the Oath dir Calderon-Villarreal Alan, Mexico

Nominees for Best Dark Comedy

Rotten dir Telly Bitsakakis, Canada
The Devil and His Son dir Lily Andrews, USA
Bust and Hustle dir Nick Malakhov, UK
The Uninvited Guest dir Benedikt Sebastian, USA

Nominees for Best Documentary

The Invisible School dir Isaac Peter Stacey, Canada
How to Write a Travel Guide dir Robert Isenberg, USA
To the Finish Line dir George Daios, UK
Ujvala Jupalli: Asterisk Athlete dir Josephine Harrison, USA
Beekind dir Olivia Bronwyn, Canada

Nominees for Best Drama Canada

When Love Stood Still dir Noah Trentadue, Canada
The Honest Guest dir Jon Osei, Canada
Suicide Prevention dir Hunter Scott Amos, Canada
Blueberry-Lemon dir Christian Sweeney, Canada

Nominees for Best Drama International

What's Right as a Human dir Masahiro Ota, Japan
You Never Know dir Vicky Wanless, Australia
Astral Journey dir Riccardo Galli, UK
Kasit Shay dir Omar Ahmad Al Sarayreh, Jordan

Nominees for Best Drama USA

Never Too Late dir Marilyn Chen, USA
Girly Boy dir Cole J. Crawford, USA
Hitchhiking to Heaven dir Reilly McKay, USA
Frangible dir Marie France Louis, USA

Nominees for Best Experimental

Demi-Demons dir Martin Gerigk, Germany
The Wire dir Jill Kolodka, Canada
Solar Neighbor dir Austin Cole, USA
Able Time dir Christopher Prinsloo, USA
Barthes from Mabres dir Elisabet Mabres, Spain

Nominees for Best Horror Canada

Desire dir Mandy Magnan, Canada
Harvester dir Eric Porta, Canada
Chain Link dir Stephen J. Birtles, Canada
[The Carousel dir Breanna Mistal, Canada](#)

Nominees for Best Horror International

Bad Blood dir Hyeongtae Kim, Korea
[Old Well dir Andrés Hernández Covarrubias, Mexico](#)
To The Water dir Savvy Hanna, Ireland

Nominees for Best Horror USA

Are You There dir Jaclyn Fleming, USA
Project Moonshot dir Jake Zaleski, Katherine Wang, USA
Midnight Tales dir Adam Gorman, USA
[Collectors dir Brian Pollock, USA](#)
Ghosts_alive.mov dir Austin Boggs, USA

Nominees for Best Original Story Canada

It Takes Two dir Éric Arsenault, Canada
Felt dir Joseph Rossi, Canada
Tubers dir Matt Hallworth, Canada
[Chain Link dir Stephen J. Birtles, Canada](#)

Nominees for Best Original Story International

The Dreammaker - You Don't "Play" With Dolls dir Fabio d'Avino, Italy
Old Well dir Andrés Hernández Covarrubias, Mexico
Victim dir Jiang Chengxuan, Korea
[Bad Blood dir Hyeongtae Kim, Korea](#)

Nominees for Best Original Story USA

Your Last Wishes dir by Mason Beck, USA
[The Booth dir Ryan Christopher, USA](#)
The Purr-ge dir Kim Best, USA
Spooniverse dir Xander Brzezinski, USA

Nominees for Best Romance

What If Something Goes Wrong? dir Kayla Neves, Canada
Power Chord dir Jedric Villar, USA
Heartdrop dir Daniel Yaqo, Canada
[The Wingmen dir Lucas Swangard, Canada](#)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural Canada

Waking David dir Kyle Graham, Canada

Zero O'Clock dir Noah Landry, Canada
Paid In Pieces dir Justin Egan-Costello, Canada
Love from the Machine? dir Maxence Harbour, Canada

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural USA

The Last President dir Bin He, USA
SLEEP|WALKING dir B. A. Carroll, USA
Solar Neighbor dir Austin Cole, USA
Psycho-Pass: Mass Division dir Minh Nguyen, USA
Invaders of the Valley Saloon dir Dustin Tidwell, USA

Nominees for Best Student Film

Creatively Challenged dir The Fox, USA
Letters Home dir Adrian Campbell, Wayne Elliot, Clara Ballena, Brazil, Canada
The Voice dir Ana Iacovleva, Canada
Blockbuster dir Nathan Wright-Edwards, Canada
Brains! dir Kai Fernandez, Mason Edwards, USA

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Milad Ahmadi - Shadow Department, Iran
Arwen Saleah Mercado - Shadow Boxing, Canada
Winston Schroeder - Terror in the Toilet, Canada
Lucas Swangard - The Wingmen, Canada

Nominees for Best Actor

Anthony E. Brown - The World of James Gagmy, USA
Mackenzie Donohue - State of Mind, Canada
Jake Merrick - To Kill a Character, Canada
Sam Tarasco - Chain Link, Canada
Wesley Clark - In The Passenger's Seat, USA

Nominees for Best Actress

Panayiota - You Never Know, Australia
Reyna Jeanelle - Frangible, USA
Jaclyn Fleming - Are You There, USA
Saoirse Carey - To The Water, Ireland
Sydney Kaiser - It Takes Two, Canada

Nominees for Best Cast

Canopy dir Massimo Russo, Canada
Anonymous dir Ryker Sixkiller, Colby Luper, USA
I Know What You Did dir Hanan Berei, Nathaniel Pantola, Canada
Family Values dir Pooja Sethi, Canada
Unwritten End dir Rishi Babu, India

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Danny Lau - Canopy dir Massimo Russo, Canada
Michael Hou - I Know What You Did, Canada
Moath Ahmed - To Kill a Character, Canada
[Samarika Dhiman - Family Values, Canada](#)
Ryan Torrens - What If Something Goes Wrong?, Canada

Nominees for Best Writer

Diya Chabria - Anaphylaxis, USA
Lar Collicott - Tucked In, Canada
[Joshua Liang, Jake Zaleski - Project Moonshot, USA](#)
Lucas Candelino, Benjamin Kosteki, Evan McDowell - Detectives & Dragons, Canada
Savvy Hanna - To The Water, Ireland

Nominees for Best Director

Lon Takiguchi - The World of James Gagmy, USA
Mark Herbrand - Prism, Canada
Ana Iacovleva - Through His Eyes, Canada
[Julie Langlois - The Pink House, Canada](#)
Calderon-Villarreal Alan - The Burden of the Oath, Mexico

20:01-45:00 MINUTES

Nominees for Best Long Short Film

The Pluto Theory dir Greyson Wayne Duncan, USA
Nobody Sleeps at Night dir Max Presement, Canada
Spooky Wednesday on Kiruna Radio 97.3 dir Magnus Fredriksson, Daniel Ojanlatva, Sweden
Birchwood dir Peter Ropek Hewson, UK
[Redefining Impossible dir Matthew John Biggar, UK](#)

Nominees for Best Actor

[Ruggiero Abbruzzese - Nobody Sleeps at Night, Canada](#)
Sebastian Greene - The Pluto Theory, USA
Marsel Avdic - Ardent Suitor, Canada

Nominees for Best Actress

Lina Brännström - Spooky Wednesday on Kiruna Radio 97.3, Sweden
Marina Seccatto - There She Goes, Brazil
[Tara Kennedy - Ardent Suitor, Canada](#)

Nominees for Best Cast

Emergency Broadcast dir Holden Charles Conner, USA

Strange World dir Nomdian, Korea

RED: Beast Huntress dir Benjamin Maublanc, France

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Matthew John Biggar, Ganesh Thapa - Redefining Impossible, UK

Jackson Adams - Nobody Sleeps at Night, Canada

John P Martinez - The Days of Knight: Chapter 1, USA

Nominees for Best Writer

Алексей Митягин - Garbage, Russia

Seamus Smyth - Silvergirl & the Planet Chokers, Ireland

Daniel Ojanlatva - Spooky Wednesday on Kiruna Radio 97.3, Sweden

Nominees for Best Director

Ronald Black - Swine and Dine, USA

Benjamin Maublanc - RED: Beast Huntress, France

Peter Ropek Hewson - Birchwood, UK

45:01-120:00 MINUTES

Nominees for Best Narrative Feature Film

First Friday dir Joshua Ojeda, USA

49 Miles More dir Oliver Cox, UK

The Solution dir Andrew J. Bullard IV, USA

What Really Happened dir Simon Stockdale, USA

Red Bird dir Alexandre Laugier, Thomas Habibes, Houssam Adili, France

Nominees for Best Documentary Feature Film

Wounds – Veterans' Stories dir Ping Hai Wu, Taiwan

Forgiveness dir Roisin Clarke, Canada, Ireland

The Resilience Tour dir Geoff Guich, Canada

Matarife, The Real Movie dir Daniel Mendoza Leal, Colombia

Nominees for Best Actor

Thomas Habibes - Red Bird, France

Matthew Svoboda - StartUp Movie, USA

Palmer Ashe III - What Really Happened, USA

Nominees for Best Actress

Sh'Neil Gaskin-Kerr - **The Solution, USA**

Candace Joy - First Friday, USA

Victoria Harrington - What Really Happened, USA

Nominees for Best Cast

StartUp Movie dir Shane Michael Konicki, USA

The Resilience Tour dir Geoff Guich, Canada

The Solution dir Andrew J. Bullard IV, USA

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Romain Reboul - Red Bird, France

Eron Rawson - StartUp Movie, USA

Ben Walters, Nathan Walters - The Solution, USA

Nominees for Best Writer

Oliver Cox, Michael Guthrie - 49 Miles More, UK

Logan Stover - The History of Las Vegas, USA

Joshua Ojeda, Elijah Fuchs, Jemell Lewis, John Wherry - First Friday, USA

Nominees for Best Director

Daniel Mendoza Leal - Matarife, The Real Movie, Colombia

Geoff Guich - The Resilience Tour, Canada

Yair Qedar - Outsider. Freud, Austria, Germany

15-SECOND STORY

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Best 15-Second Story: **Cyclops** dir Mari Watson Walker, USA

Nominees for Best 15-Second Story

Dear Friend dir Surapong Wetsuwanmanee, Nigeria

Underneath dir Kevin Lucero Less, USA

Kavi AI Lab: 1st Advertisement Showcasing the Power of AI dir Kavi Chua, Malaysia

The AI You'll Actually Want To Be Friends With dir Kavi Chua, Malaysia

Kavi AI Lab's 水族馆 Showcase: Aquarium Animation Ads dir Kavi Chua, Malaysia

Unveiling the Future Through Design: The Kavi AI Model Festival 2024 Poster dir Kavi Chua, Malaysia

Knock Knock dir Chen Zhan, Canada

Flooding in Memphis dir Levi Frazier III, USA

Baker's Dozen dir Lucy Craig Cameron

..Fleeting Love.. dir Txus Angulo, Spain