

Couch Film Festival

Fall 2023

BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL FINALISTS

BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL: #backtonature - Dir. by Sonja Aufreiter (Austria)
1st RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: Flag Act - Dir. by Susana Darwin (USA)
2nd RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: Free Lunch - Dir. by Seth Kannof (Australia)
3rd RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: If My Candle Burns Blue - Dir. by Laura Hailey McLellan (USA)

CATEGORY AWARD NOMINEES

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

1:00-5:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Animation Canada

SowPhia Rises - Dir. by Rosmary C. Moya (Canada)

Childe Roland in The Court of the Yellow King - Dir. by Stephen Kildare Favell (Canada)

Moey and Pouffy Meet the Covid Bug - Dir. by Allison Stevens (Canada)

Underqualified - Dir. by Marwan Zeid (Canada)

Old Man's World - Dir. by Robert David Duncan (Canada)

Nominees for Best Animation International

How to Save a Baby from a Snake Attack - Dir. by Christopher Bennett (USA)

Pest - Dir. by Zoe Ferrier (UK)

The 7th Night: MaoMao Revisits - Dir. by ahLoong (Malaysia)

2009 January 19th - Dir. by Liucija Vaisiunaite (UK)

Under The Bed - Dir. by Jeremy Sladdin (UK)

Dalton's Choice - Dir. by Weiheng Kong (China)

HOME. - Dir. by Mark Bernard (Australia)

Nominees for Best Comedy

That is the Mission! - Dir. by Matthieu Kassimo (France)

Searching for Soul Mate - Dir. by Shihyun Wang, Mohan Das (Taiwan)

Who's On Top - Dir. by Kristy Hasen, Greg Ainsworth (USA)

Underqualified - Dir. by Marwan Zeid (Canada)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Prom - Dir. by Timothy Richardson (USA)

Rock of Ages - Dir. by Ian Johnston (Canada)

Kuinerraq - Dir. by Magnus Shipe (USA)

Amsterdam, Vermeer and Keukenhof - Dir. by Milena Stoykova (Bulgaria)

Nominees for Best Drama

Accident - Dir. by Giuseppe Abba (UK)

Inside - Dir. by Angelina Phoenix, Paul Pence (USA)

Fante di Coppe - Dir. by Fabio Ravioli (Italy)

Last Night Stand - Dir. by Larry Rosen (USA)

Nominees for Best Experimental

Robin's House - Dir. by Emily-Anne Fraser (Canada)

Game Over - Dir. by Kate Ryan (USA)

Old Man's World - Dir. by Robert David Duncan (Canada)

Spirit Of The Tree - Dir. by Ysabelle Taylor (UK)

Transformation of Hats - Dir. by Kal Rai (Canada)

Electric Shhock - Dir. by Naveen Gundamraj Venkat (UK)

Passion - Dir. by Vladyslav Kovtun (Ukraine)

Nominees for Best Music Video

Dejavu - Noa Kirel - Dir. by Roman Buchatsky (Israel)

The Balloon & The Tack - Dir. by Laura Malatos (USA)

Drainpipe Diamond - Dir. by Joe Byrne (Ireland)

Wishing You Were Here - Dir. by James Chen (Taiwan)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Umbilical Tether - Dir. by Paul Tirado (Canada)

Come Back - Dir. by Nikki Carmela Peters (USA)

Do Not Close Anything - Dir. by Antonin Domage (France)

Tagged - Dir. by Varun Mohan (Australia)

Deathflow - Dir. by Christian Schoug, Brendan Schoug, Natalie Schoug (Canada)

Nominees for Best Student Film Canada

Rejected Again - Dir. by Radleigh Naidoo (Canada)

Choose Your Death - Dir. by Peta Huang (Canada)

Little Girls Past - Dir. by Meighan West (Canada)

Signs of Absence - Dir. by Daniel Laurin (Canada)

Nominees for Best Student Film USA

Echos of Yesterday - Dir. by Carter Aaron Wakefield (USA)

Breathe - Dir. by Elger Ogoc (USA)

Winter Romance - Dir. by Junyi Huang (USA)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Deen Ayodeji - Ayah (Bulgaria)

Maria Leshchenko - One Day of Life (Ukraine)
Veronica Bergr - I Love You Not (Canada)
Catherine Côté-Moïseanu, Jeremy Glavac, Le Zoo Cinema - Serial Encounters (Canada)
Anthony William Irawan - The Bottle (Indonesia)

Nominees for Best Actor

Sebastian Seidl - Macgaffin (Austria)
Addy Prakash - Rejected Again (Canada)
Matthias Falvai - Umbilical Tether (Canada)
Conrad Fara - Phantom (USA)

Nominees for Best Actress

Isabelle Pauze - Signs of Absence (Canada)
Mélanie Lemaire - Do Not Close Anything (France)
Prebhjot Janda - Choose Your Death (Canada)
Elisha Stanley - Drainpipe Diamond (Ireland)

Nominees for Best Cast

That's Game! - Dir. by Joseph Louis Booth (USA)
TP Tango - Dir. by Anoop Pillai (Canada)
Inside - Dir. by Angelina Phoenix, Paul Pence (USA)
Who's On Top - Dir. by Kristy Hasen, Greg Ainsworth (USA)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Ramiro Cantu - Who's On Top (USA)
Milena Stoykova - Amsterdam, Vermeer and Keukenhof (Bulgaria)
Dan Brink - The Balloon & The Tack (USA)
Brendan Schoug - Deathflow (Canada)

Nominees for Best Writer

Catherine Côté-Moïseanu, Jeremy Glavac - Serial Encounters (Canada)
Radleigh Naidoo - Rejected Again (Canada)
Emily-anne Fraser - Robin's House (Canada)
Hannah Siden - Water Wings (Canada)

Nominees for Best Director

Donal O'Dea - Skinny Dip (Ireland)
Rupert Huber - Macgaffin (Austria)
Anoop Pillai - TP Tango (Canada)
Conrad Faraj - Phantom (USA)

5:01-20:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Comedy Canada

Irene - Dir. by Alicia Krawchuk (Canada)

Strings Attached - Dir. by Paul Urrutia (Canada)

Begin Again - Dir. by Gabriel Venneri (Canada)

I Can Explain - Dir. by Emorphia Margaritis (Canada)

Nominees for Best Comedy USA

Bixwad at the Wing - Dir. by Al Julian, Rob Underhill (USA)

SirCooly's Dank Trip - Dir. by Nolan Schmidt (USA)

Puppetitis - Dir. by Philip Snyder, Robert M. Snyder (USA)

Bad Steps to Rock Stardom - Dir. by Sullyman The Third (USA)

Nominees for Best Comedy International

Workout - Dir. by Nicolás Girgenti (Ireland)

Tales of The Forest Hopper - Dir. by Kevin Gabor (Sweden)

Hags - Dir. by Maria Besko (UK)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Tropical Mind - Dir. by Bryce Mackie (USA)

I Was There - Dir. by Chi Jang Yin (USA)

Bad Steps to Rock Stardom - Dir. by Sullyman The Third (USA)

Better Bites with Bugs - Dir. by Kimberly Kartman Best (USA)

Nominees for Best Drama

Clarity - Dir. by Bryce Mackie (USA)

Visiting - Dir. by Piero Cannata (Italy)

The Rothschild Necklace - Dir. by Christopher Tait (USA)

Living in Couple - Dir. by Antonio Orbe (Spain)

Lady at Number 16 - Dir. by James Newhook (Canada)

Nominees for Best Experimental

Dreamer - Dir. by Clinton Robert Siegle, Dylan Cole - (Bolivia)

I Was There - Dir. by Chi Jang Yin (USA)

Dancing With My Mother - Dir. by Richard de Carvalho (Australia)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Kill the Headlights - Dir. by Eddie Pinelli (Canada)

A Clown Comes Knocking - Dir. by David Nguyen (Canada)

Pandora - Dir. by Renee Cox (Canada)

Lucid - Dir. by Dessy Velikova (Bulgaria)

Tin Gods - Dir. by Q Edwards (USA)

Nominees for Best Romance

What a Coincidence - Dir. by Olivia Rugg (USA)
Don't Mind Me - Dir. by Jacob St. John (USA)
Always & Forever - Dir. by Luciano Ivanov (Bulgaria)
Disconnect - Dir. by Riley Wadden (Canada)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

The Parable Of The Tenants - Dir. by Andrew Pengilley (UK)
A Multitude of Uses - Dir. by Alvin Sloan (USA)
Tales of The Forest Hopper - Dir. by Kevin Gabor (Sweden)

Nominees for Best Student Film Canada

The Last Leg - Dir. by Nathan Makse (Canada)
Light & Heavy - Dir. by Mayan William Correia (Canada)
Jade & Konni - Dir. by Oaklee Dumont (Canada)
Sisters Don't Fight - Dir. by Clementine Lesley (Canada)

Nominees for Best Student Film International

Psychiatric - Dir. by Brianna Black (USA)
Happy Meal - Dir. by Avia Makovsky, Yuval Shatz (Israel)
Closed Case - Dir. by Adi Bar-Hai (Israel)
End of My Rope - Dir. by Andrew Spencer (USA)
Baby Blue - Dir. by Lex Garcia (USA)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Lana Schreier - Spotless (USA)
Asaf Rahamim - Who Lost a Dream? (Canada)
Farshad Modir - His Idiotic Actions (Canada)
Sureya Melkonian - Somewhere in Glendale (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

Laith Benhammou - End of My Rope (USA)
Raphael Stompe - #backtonature (Austria)
Alexandros Yiasemi - Always & Forever (Bulgaria)
Joshua Bishop - I Can Explain (Canada)

Nominees for Best Actress

María Zabala - Living in Couple (Spain)
Maria Luce Bondi - Visiting (Italy)
Abigail Hamilton - Irene (Canada)
Yael Folman - Closed Case (Israel)

Nominees for Best Cast

Rats - Dir. by Alexis Caro (France)

What Found Me In The Woods On A Night Like Tonight - Dir. by Kelton Walsh White (USA)
Tales of The Forest Hopper - Dir. by Kevin Gabor (Sweden)
Stranger From The South - Dir. by David Botros (Canada)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Grayson Owens - The Brawler (USA)
Bakhos Najm - Stranger From The South (Canada)
Richard de Carvalho - Dancing With My Mother (Australia)
Miguel Barrera - The Missing Canvas (Canada)

Nominees for Best Writer

Aliki Bitsakakis - These Hands Are Not Mine (Canada)
Minh Nguyen - The Brawler (USA)
Keira Uriarte - Jade & Konni (Canada)
Alex Coelho - Disconnect (Canada)

Nominees for Best Director

Ramon Mayol - The Legend (Spain)
Kelton Walsh White - What Found Me In The Woods On A Night Like Tonight (USA)
Al Julian, Rob Underhill - Bixwad at the Wing (USA)
Miguel Barrera - The Missing Canvas (Canada)

20:01-45:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Long Short Film

Death's a Toast - Dir. by Sam Blais (USA)
A Note About Greed - Dir. by Sullyman The Third (USA)
Static in the Ether - Dir. by Matt Jenkins (USA)
You Smell Like Pilaf - Dir. by Margherita Kharkovskaya (Russia)
Jackpot - Dir. by Rebecca Lamure (Canada)
Rubber Bullets - Dir. by Michael Jeffrey Joiner (USA)

Nominees for Best Actor

Sullyman The Third - A Note About Greed (USA)
Michael Joiner - Rubber Bullets (USA)
Sandeep Novel - Into the Light (Canada)

Nominees for Best Actress

Courtney Gaines - I Can Do All Things (USA)
Emma Christmann - Death's a Toast (USA)
Heather Gilbert - Static in the Ether (USA)

Nominees for Best Cast

Death's a Toast - Dir. by Sam Blais (USA)
It's John - Dir. by Victor Hampson (UK)
Les Nouveaux Sauvages - Dir. by Maximus Aggenberg Barsati (France)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Ivan Frolov - You Smell Like Pilaf (Russia)
Taylor Brown, Brittany Whittern - Return to Sender (USA)
Hwanjoe Yu - How TO: Handle With Care (Canada)

Nominees for Best Writer

Srinivas Kasturi - Run (Canada)
Victor Hampson - It's John (UK)
Andrew Kouropoulos - The Battle of Lake George (USA)

Nominees for Best Director

Hwanjoe Yu - How TO: Handle With Care (Canada)
Brian Kennington, Ajay Kumar - Into the Light (Canada)
Michael Buckley - Planet Ocean Blues (Canada)

45:01-120:00 Minutes

Nominees for Best Feature Film

Trans Runaways - Dir. by Zha Babaieva (Ukraine)
Auteur - Dir. by Jisan Haque (USA)
In the Gaze of a Second - Dir. by Lap Zhing Yeung (Hong Kong)

Nominees for Best Actor

Wing Hong Tang - In the Gaze of a Second (Hong Kong)
Alex Wood - Pitchfork Man (USA)
Jisan Haque - Auteur (USA)

Nominees for Best Actress

Hei Tung Wong - In the Gaze of a Second (Hong Kong)
Yunchi He - In the Gaze of a Second (Hong Kong)
Nicole Diramier - Auteur (USA)

Nominees for Best Cast

The Red Hour - Dir. by Juan Carlos Díaz Amaya (Peru)
Of the Comics - The Pilot: Being a Comedian - Dir. by Pat Treuer (USA)
Pitchfork Man - Dir. by William Stancik (USA)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Juan Carlos Díaz Amaya - The Red Hour (Peru)
Tsz Man Tse - In the Gaze of a Second (Hong Kong)

Jisan Haque - Auteur (USA)

Nominees for Best Writer

William Stancik - Pitchfork Man (USA)

Ryan Poulin, Jisan Haque - Auteur (USA)

Juan Carlos Díaz Amaya - The Red Hour (Peru)

Nominees for Best Director

Pat Treuer - Of the Comics - The Pilot: Being a Comedian (USA)

Zha Babaieva - Trans Runaways (Ukraine)

William Stancik - Pitchfork Man (USA)

15-Second Story

Nominees for Best 15-Second Story

Where is Daisy - Dir. by Dmitry Koturanov (Ukraine)

Busted! - Dir. by Gino Terrell (USA)

Three Inverted Triangles - Dir. by Kevin Lucero Less (USA)

The Agency - Dir. by Daniel Stephenson

Mirror Mask - Dir. by Vincenzo De Sio (USA)