

## *Couch Film Festival - Summer 2024 Edition*

### **Best of the Festival**

*(These were the titles screened at our June 26 event in Toronto)*

#### BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL

**Delivery - Dir. by Jaiden Reese, Dragan Andic (Canada)**

1st RUNNER-UP for BEST FILM: **Our Time - Dir. by Sandesh Bharthur (Canada)**

2nd RUNNER-UP for BEST FILM: **Absolution - Dir. by Conrad Ciupak (Canada)**

#### **HONOURABLE MENTIONS:**

**201 - Dir. by Sal Allarakhia (Canada)**

**The Spaghetti Files - Dir. by Gabriella Palozzi (Canada)**

**Rahma - Dir. by Mateen Manek (Canada)**

**Stressy Squishy - Dir. by Katherine Fan (USA)**

#### AUDIENCE CHOICE

*(results pending, audience vote count in progress)*

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### **Category Award Nominees**

*(These titles have undergone a private jury screening and is now in the running for awards)*

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

##### **Nominees for Best Action**

**Skudaar 2024 (Part 1) - Dir. by Patrick Chan (Denmark)**

**Panic Trail 2 - Dir. by Larry Dean Humphrey (USA)**

**Breakfast! - Dir. by Katy Teeuwen (Canada)**

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

**The Little Clayman - Dir. by Karthic Janarth (Canada)**

Candy Shop - Dir. by Ka Cheng Lau (Canada)

Effigy House - Dir. by Deb Ethier (Canada)

Ripple - Dir. by Megan Lim (Canada)

**High Side - Dir. by Elina Nie (Canada)**

Dot Rom - Dir. by Christine Fitzgerald (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Animation International**

Soap Syren - Dir. by Beatrice Rose Robinson, Angelica Phaneckham (Australia)

Enjoy Your Meal - Dir. by Sofie Kienzle, Christian Manzke (Germany)

Eye of the Beholder - Dir. by Jared Patterson (New Zealand)

Ice Cream Social - Dir. by Dermott Fairfield (Australia)

Downtime (Lågtid) - Dir. by Yuvia Maini (Sweden)

**Oniris - Dir. by Nano Bor (Argentina)**

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

Bengleton: Out of this World - Dir. by Brian Thomas Shirley (USA)

Porkchop Panic - Dir. by Patrick Yaney (USA)

**Buffy and the Balloon - Dir. by John Maslowski (USA)**

A Snail Tale - Dir. by Ashley Wong (USA)

There's Nothing Wrong With Me - Dir. by Artie Edward Romero (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Student Animation**

**The Lonely Gargoyle - Dir. by Anne E. Hessel, Alex Freeman (USA)**

Birdy Man - Dir. by Anni Zhang, Yutong Qiu (USA)

The One - Dir. by Molly Parsons, Ellery Stocker (USA)

Perspectives - Dir. by Pieter Stijn, Mario Maertens (Belgium)

### **Nominees for Best Comedy North America**

Little Issues - Dir. by Jerah Milligan (USA)

Shed - Dir. by David Esposito, Ryan Crepack (USA)

Bad Habit - Dir. by Benjamin Douma (USA)

Break(Fast) - Dir. by Nicholas Laudicina (USA)

**Crème Fraîche - Dir. by Gabriel Auclair-Doucet, Tobie Garceau (Canada)**

### **Nominees for Best Comedy International**

**Delivered - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)**

Keepsake - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)

Outback Dave - Dir. by Patrick Kevin Gamble, Ricky Gamble (Australia)

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

**My Fields? - Dir. by Jaskanwar Singh Phagura (UK)**

Moving Fields - Dir. Cora Stanley (USA)

Polystyrene Junkie - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)

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

Robot Friend - Dir. by Meagan King (Canada)

Prashnam (The Problem) - Dir. by Athul Domichen (Canada)

A Message to my Father - Dir. by layla Stork (Canada)

**Olya - Dir. by Andrii Berezin (Canada)**

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

1 in 30 Thousand - Dir. by Ali Nickshoar (Iran)  
Great! - Dir. by Renata Monteiro (Brazil)  
**Astéria - Dir. by Elliot Huescar (Switzerland)**  
Let It Go - Dir. by Siddharth Kumar (India)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental International**

Moving Forward - Dir. by Josie Parrelli (Australia)  
**Downtime (Lågtid) - Dir. by Yuvia Maini (Sweden)**  
Hypnagogia - Dir. by Ysabelle Taylor (UK)  
Katalista Katalista - Dir. by Lee Nini (Netherlands)  
Nikolai Nikolayev 1973 - Dir. by Constantine Balabanidis (Greece)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental North America**

MinimalAnimal - Dir. by Gwynn Davies (Canada)  
**Cascade - Dir. by Jonathon Stearns (USA)**  
Altruist / Masochist - Dir. by Heather Maurer (USA)  
Saucer Central - Dir. by Wheeler Winston Dixon (USA)  
In My Dream, I Felt Like I Was Flying - Dir. by Daelan Wood (Canada)

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

**Assignment: Haunting - Dir. by Anna Vlasiuk (UK)**  
Delivered - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)  
Unease - Dir. by Nicholas Laudicina (USA)  
Jolly Cold Soul - Trailer - Dir. by Robert Cunniff (USA)  
The Getaway - Dir. by Larry Rosen (USA)

### **Nominees for Best One-Minute Film**

Hello - Dir. by Rasmus Lindkvist (Sweden)  
**The Coat - Dir. by Donal O'Dea (Ireland)**  
Cavity - Dir. by Yalın Biricik (Turkey)  
I Am - Dir. by Michael Joseph Cloke (Ireland)

### **Nominees for Best Romance**

The Hot Face - Dir. by Quentin Overtoom (France)  
A Lovely Sight - Dir. by Norah Laoui (USA)  
Keepsake - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)  
**Glad You Came - Dir. by Matilda Skönborg (Sweden)**

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

Brain Freeze - Dir. by Vishaal Desai (USA)  
Starlight Cantina - Dir. by Monica Lagrange (USA)  
**Diminished Reality - Dir. by Charles Castonguay, Le Zoo Cinema (Canada)**

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

The Mime and The Muse - Dir. by Samuel Jay Patrick (Ireland)

When It's Over - Dir. by Alyza Veronica Reyes (Canada)

**Marwa and the Moon - Dir. by Eemaan Qadri (USA)**

Missed Adventure - Dir. by Kristina James (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker**

Pravdeep Singh Sidhu - Smoking Kills (Australia)

Jared DeVries - Sketchbook Deity (Canada)

Olivia Keoughan - In Case You Don't See Me Again (Canada)

**Carmine Acierno - Rochambeau (USA)**

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Kyle Scott Wilkinson - Shave Me From This! (Canada)

**Joseph Ryan Warner - The Mime and The Muse (Ireland)**

Hrag Sazian - ProtoEvangelium (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

**Émilie Sigouin - Diminished Reality (Canada)**

Aline Humbert - Another Chance (USA)

Shayley Shimkus - Unease (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

Touched - Dir. by Trent Ivett (Australia)

**The Astronomer's Apprentice - by Patch Studio (UK)**

The Getaway - Dir. by Larry Rosen (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Elliot Huescar - Astéria (Switzerland)

**Dinseh Manivannan - Assignment: Haunting (UK)**

Hayden Besly - Poison (Australia)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

Alexander Julian - Lost on the Beach (USA)

Elliot Huescar - Astéria (Switzerland)

**Wayne Tunks - Poison (Australia)**

### **Nominees for Best Director**

**Florian Bosc - Yukon Diaries (Canada)**

Angeliki Pardalidou - Sock's Manifesto (Greece)

Luis Figueredo - Wateke (Venezuela)

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

### **Nominees for Best Animation**

Unit 17: Week 3 - Dir. by David Kaye, Theresa Stefaniak (USA)  
The Pet Shop - Dir. by Esther Forest (Australia)  
One Last Wish - Dir. by James Domingos (Canada)  
Sunkissed - Dir. by Ruyee Lu (Canada)  
Black Sanga: The Prototype - Dir. by Carlos Berenguer Carrión (Spain)  
**COMPASS ROSE & All that Glows - Dir. by Celeste Gersten (USA)**

### **Nominees for Best Comedy International**

Social Medea - Dir. by Justine Arvanitis, Sophia Totou (Bulgaria)  
**Kwiller - Dir. by Bruno Péruch (Guadeloupe)**  
The Pet Shop - Dir. by Esther Forest (Australia)

### **Nominees for Best Comedy North America**

Latte For Jim - Dir. by JJ Zink (USA)  
**Fish Cops - Dir. by Spencer Mead (USA)**  
How Dare You? - Dir. by Joey Mosca (USA)  
The Main Character - Dir. by Daniel Krastek (USA)  
Discovery - Dir. by Andrew Brannen, Kevin Laporte (Canada)  
Un(Sub)titled - Dir. by Andrew Brannen (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

A-Okay - Dir. by J. Fitzpatrick (Canada)  
Chasing The Paranormal - Dir. by Natalie Kalnicky (Canada)  
Nostradamus on 2024 Iran Crash - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (USA)  
Olivia - Dir. by Juliana Corral Bustamante (Ecuador)  
Hvngrly Ghost - Dir. by Henry West (USA)  
**Alpha House - Andrew McLeod - Dir. by Tim Lopers (Canada)**

### **Nominees for Best Drama Canada**

Cricket Cricket - Dir. by Ross Mendigorin (Canada)  
**The Red Boutique - Dir. by Shayla Rowsell (Canada)**  
The Golden Bounty - Dir. by Nicolas Robert Elensky (Canada)  
Absolution - Dir. by Conrad Ciupak (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Drama USA**

Lorica - Dir. by Benjamin Carlucci (USA)  
**Unforgivable - Dir. by Robert Short (USA)**  
Tío - Dir. by David J. Porrás (USA)  
Ardor - Dir. by V. Leigh (USA)  
Twice a Day - Dir. by Shelby O'Boyle (USA)  
Unique Beauty - Dir. by Adriana Kostetska (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental**

Ho Bo Jo - Dir. by Kipp Howard

**Between the Seams - Dir. by Taryn Edgeworth (Canada)**

Possession - Dir. by Kelsey Ann Sinclair Heath (UK)

### **Nominees for Best Horror**

Red - Dir. by Hayden Eick (USA)

Project 405: Lost at Sea - Dir. by Josie Hull (USA)

Alone in the Apocalypse - Dir. by Alan Stuart Katcef (USA)

**Possession - Dir. by Kelsey Ann Sinclair Heath (UK)**

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

**Strawberries - Dir. by Manos Karystinos (Bulgaria)**

Captured by the Moment - Dir. by Kevin Cahak (USA)

Drums - Dir. by Miroslav Petkov (Bulgaria)

Forsaken - Dir. by Kirk Holyk (Canada)

The Mechanic - Dir. by Albert Aronov (USA)

Retribution - Dir. by FrancJose Lopez (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Romance**

**Reflection - Dir. by Zav Jenabian (Canada)**

**Heartless - Dir. by Owen Sparks (Canada)**

In the Eyes of the Witch - Dir. by Freja Else Johansen (Denmark)

The Main Character - Dir. by Daniel Krastek (USA)

The Ties That Bind - Dir. by Christopher Dalton Sherrill, Kael McCall (USA)

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

**Discovery - Dir. by Andrew Brannen, Kevin Laporte (Canada)**

Red - Dir. by Hayden Eick (USA)

Event Virus - Dir. by Andrea Fantauzzi (USA)

Project 405: Lost at Sea - Dir. by Josie Hull (USA)

Cassandra - Dir. by Paula Granato (Brazil)

Turing - Dir. by John Cihangir (USA)

**Embers of Brotherhood - Dir. by Ilia Alexander Kalinin (Canada)**

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

Dissonance - Dir. by Christian Sweeney (Canada)

**Last Days of Derby - Dir. by Caleb Kaufman, Maya Rosenthal (USA)**

Night Of Cookies - Dir. by Julen González (Spain)

The Main Character - Dir. by Daniel Krastek (USA)

What Goes Around - Karma is a Bitch - Dir. by Ronald Kerkman (Netherlands)

### **Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker**

**Andrea Fantauzzi - Event Virus (USA)**

Andy Songo - Thirst (Guadeloupe)

Chase Vardy - All Is Well In Citium (Canada)

Vivaann Pahwa, Kushagra Pandey - No New Messages (USA)

Kristina James - The Psychic (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Christiaan Ackermann - My Utopia (South Africa)

Dave Inglis - Welcome Home

**Dan Gregory - How Dare You?**

Jasvir Tamber - Yogi Jazzz (Canada)

Kris Frostad - Drive 2 (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

Lily Amaturro - Goddess (USA)

**Kira L. Wilson - The Parallels Of Loneliness (USA)**

Jamie Lynne Ford - Red (USA)

Naomi Jijina - Arya (Canada)

Sophie George - Between the Seams (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

Wanna Bet? - Dir. by Omar Aufer (Norway)

Two Of A Kind - Dir. by Jedric Villar (USA)

Meet Me At The End Of It All - Dir. by Brandon Gale (USA)

**Fantasy Screenplay Writers - Dir. by Spencer Langlois (Canada)**

Liminal - Dir. by Mia Aubuchon (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Laurent Cirany - Thirst (Guadeloupe)

Vincent Tang - Between the Seams (Canada)

**Shaquille Hosein - Arya (Canada)**

Death Penalty - Dir. by Adrian B. Morina (Sweden)

Milidzhan Gevorkyan - Unique Beauty (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

Tate Wrubleski - Art of the Call (Canada)

Steve Wollett - Illegal Alien (USA)

Rebecca Lamure - Erotic Power (Canada)

**John Cihangir, Gissette Valentin - Turing (USA)**

Time to Go, Granny - Dir. by Dave Inglis



### **Nominees for Best Director**

Doug Strong - The Parallels Of Loneliness (USA)  
Adrian B. Morina - Death Penalty (Sweden)  
Tim Lopers - Alpha House - Andrew McLeod (Canada)  
Yarron Jesuratnam - Konami (Canada)  
Max Steele - Residuum (USA)

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

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

The Projectionist: A Collector's Journey - Dir. by John Cornelissen (USA)  
OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-MIND What is in Your Drinking Water - Dir. by Ryan Bijan (USA)  
Inside Forbidden Walls - Empress Xia QuanCheng - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Taiwan)

### **Nominees for Best Drama**

The Hills Stop - Dir. by Ming Chuan Fu (Taiwan)  
Wilting at the Roots - Dir. by Caleb Gales (Canada)  
The Feeling Part - Dir. by Jesse Lowell Anholt (USA)  
Last Night - Dir. by Monaym Rashad (Canada)

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

Fool with a Gun - Dir. by Joseph Thomas (USA)  
Whispers on Red Lake - Dir. by Adrian Campbell (Canada)  
Mort Ou Biff - Dir. by Gustave Linette (France)

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Joseph Thomas - Fool with a Gun (USA)  
Andrew Gombas - The Feeling Part (USA)  
Adam Zimmerman - Wilting at the Roots (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

Micah Kalisch - Last Night (Canada)  
Arveen Aujla - Whispers on Red Lake (Canada)  
Yue Sin Shih - The Hills Stop (Taiwan)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

#toxic\_positivity - Dir. by James Leming (USA)  
Mort Ou Biff - Dir. by Gustave Linette (France)  
Whispers on Red Lake - Dir. by Adrian Campbell (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Jake Hutchison - #toxic\_positivity (USA)  
Tre Bullen - Whispers on Red Lake (Canada)  
Ming Chuan Fu - The Hills Stop (Taiwan)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

Edward Barocela - Clotilda and the Wyvern (USA)  
Shihyun Wang - Inside Forbidden Walls - Empress Xia QuanCheng (Taiwan)  
Ron L. Perrin - OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-MIND What is in Your Drinking Water (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Director**

James Leming - #toxic\_positivity (USA)  
Ryan Bijan - OUT-OF-SIGHT and OUT-OF-MIND What is in Your Drinking Water (USA)  
Gustave Linette - Mort Ou Biff (France)

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## **45:01-120 Minutes**

### **Nominees for Best Documentary**

From One World to Another - Dir. by Jean Marimoutou (French Guiana)  
Reclaiming Our Humanity - Dir. by Robert Mossi Alexander (USA)  
Why Do You Fight? Masked Fighter2. The Last Disciple of the 1st Tiger Mask. - Dir. by Kenji Ogusu (Japan)

### **Nominees for Best Drama**

Shredded - Dir. by Adam Michael (USA)  
Oregonda - Dir. by Eric Edward Shook, Leanne Johnson (USA)  
Pay Back - Dir. by Shihyun Wang (Malaysia)  
Welcome to Reality or Death in the Aquarium - Dir. by Siegfried Buschau (Germany)

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

SAFE The Beginning - Dir. by Sanelle Sibanda (Zimbabwe)  
ISABELLA: Diary of a Foster Girl - Dir. by Ikem Frank Chude (USA)  
Island of the Centaurs - Dir. by Alastair Romãno (Greece)

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Alastair Romãno - Island of the Centaurs (Greece)  
Eric Shook - Oregonda (USA)  
Daniel Brockhaus - Welcome to Reality or Death in the Aquarium (Germany)

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

Ceia Zhou - Pay Back (Malaysia)

Leanne Johnson - Oregonada (USA)

Sabrina Culver - SAFE The Beginning (Zimbabwe)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

Shredded - Dir. by Adam Michael (USA)

From One World to Another - Dir. by Jean Marimoutou (French Guiana)

ISABELLA: Diary of a Foster Girl - Dir. by Ikem Frank Chude (USA)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Adam Michael - Shredded (USA)

Rowland "Magic" Williams - ISABELLA: Diary of a Foster Girl (USA)

SAFE The Beginning - Dir. by Sanelle Sibanda (Zimbabwe)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

Ikem Frank Chude - ISABELLA: Diary of a Foster Girl (USA)

Eric Edward Shook, Leanne Johnson - Oregonada (USA)

Shihyun Wang - Pay Back (Malaysia)

### **Nominees for Best Director**

Kenji Ogusu - Why Do You Fight? Masked Fighter 2. The Last Disciple of the 1st Tiger Mask (Japan)

Sanelle Sibanda - SAFE The Beginning (Zimbabwe)

Robert Mossi Alexander - Reclaiming Our Humanity (USA)

## **15-Second Story**

**Winner in RED, Nominees in BLACK**

**Best 15-Second Story:** No Way Out - Dir. by Alyssa Johnson (Canada)

### **Nominees**

Ammachi - Dir. by Josu Geo

\*Excerpt\* The Snowraven Chronicles: Cave of Despair - Dir. by AJ Spence (USA)

Hare - Dir. by Kevin Lucero Less (USA)

State Off - Dir. by Raša Stanišić (Serbia)

Murder - Dir. by David Valverde Martínez, Melina Priscila, Milva Maggio, Agustín Liva (Spain)

The Prey - Dir. by Julen Gonzalez (Spain)

Awake - Dir. by Julen Gonzalez (Spain)