

Couch Film Festival

Winter 2025 Edition

BEST of the FESTIVAL (Judges' Favourites)

BEST FILM of the FESTIVAL: **The Set(up) dir Tunsayo Daniel Joda (Nigeria)**
1st RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: **Guilty Pleasures dir Aidan Grossman, Abhinay
Jakhar (Canada)**
2nd RUNNER UP for BEST FILM: **Stay Awhile dir Jon Osei (Canada)**

HONOURABLE MENTIONS for BEST FILM:

Two's a Party dir Coen Leung (Canada)
The Last Hand dir Laura Cusi, Luis Armando Pacheco Larrea (Canada)
Mirror dir Faith Montoya (Canada)
The Lone Angler dir Giselle Calderon (USA)
Pieces dir Maria Clara Sarem (Canada)

AUDIENCE CHOICE: **The Set(up) dir Tunsayo Daniel Joda (Nigeria)**

1:00-5:00 MINUTES

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Nominees for Best Animation International

Ouroboros dir Aaron Joaquin (UK)
Mission: WASH DISHES DON'T DIE dir Miki Sheoaka Flett (Australia)
Puppy Brand Breakfast dir Aimili Alifu, Ziyue Zhang (UK)
I Need Several Chairs in My Private Area dir Tianyu Ren (UK)

Nominees for Best Animation North America

The Story of Sugar dir Yoni Goodman (USA)
In Your Shadow dir Jakob Flores Figueroa (USA)
Bird's Nest (The Mourning Dove and the Cardinal) dir Leo Pickard (USA)
The Decline and Fall of Holly Dew and Walter Melon dir Lorin Morgan-Richards (USA)
Turkey Jerkies dir Sethward, Isaiah Ferguson (USA)

Nominees for Best Art Film

Grey Slips Through dir Rhea Girish Gadiyar (India)
[Art Tunnels](#) dir Robert David Duncan (Canada)
Degradation (Experiment 1) dir Carlos Trindade (Portugal)
Dark Circus dir Dee Hood (USA)
Interferences dir Robert Sirvent Tolsa (Spain)

Nominees for Best Comedy

[An Unconventional Gingerbread House Guide](#) dir Isaias Zai Gallardo (USA)
Baking a Friendship dir Isaias Zai Gallardo (USA)
Babies dir Mitchell Pohlmann (Canada)
Sugarcrash dir Eva Rose Young (USA)
Rugged Action Movie Hero dir Greg Tindale (USA)

Nominees for Best Documentary

[Shadows in The Dusk : Venetian Meditation](#) dir Andrew Wakeman Proctor (USA)
Basketball dir Danielle Park (South Korea)
CL[y]MATICS dir Coletivo Madeirista (Brazil)

Nominees for Best Drama

Phil dir Ash Arnold (UK)
Soulmates dir Anaira (Slovenia)
[Happy Alone Together](#) dir Nataliya Trusova (Netherlands)
Herd of Cows dir Paige Larianova (New Zealand)
Barely Hanging On dir Mateen Manek, Shaan Ali Jessa (Canada)

Nominees for Best Experimental International

Water dir Friedhelm Kapteina (Italy)
When the Bell Rings dir Benjamin Lindén, Sabina Renck (Sweden)
[What Wine Owes to the Night](#) dir Mathieu Blanchart (Belgium)
The Passing dir Sean Boyle, Donal O'Dea (Ireland)
Tenderness dir Elisabet Mabres (Spain)
Modena Balsamic Genius dir Carlo Guttadauro (Italy)

Nominees for Best Experimental North America

Is Every Republic Constructed on Flat Earth? dir Clint Sleeper (USA)
[Reflections in Spring](#) dir Zackary Focker (Canada)
LongGone dir Ivica Podnar (Canada)

Nominees for Best Music Video

[Conversations](#) dir Corey Gaal (Canada)
Are We Alone? dir Shihyun Wang (USA)
CL[y]MATICS dir Coletivo Madeirista (Brazil)
Unmuted dir Shelley Pack (USA)

Hold My Hand Tight dir Lazarus Gerofotis (Greece)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller International

Mantis Te Vidit dir Nicolò Tonani (Italy)

Mirror dir Marco Antonacci (Italy)

Red Ink dir Aaron Demski (UK)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller North America

The Lamp dir Alecks Ambayec, Arun Aadhitya Ramamurthy (Canada)

The Afterparty dir Andrew Beall (USA)

Tumor dir John Maslowski (USA)

Anything for my Princess dir Chandra Chan (Canada)

Nominees for Best Original Story

The Ancient Time Piece dir Justin Walker, Islien Walker (UK)

Lachrymose dir Aras Petrasiunas (Australia)

Chad's Notes dir Leonidas Stanescu (Singapore)

Ex·tir·pate dir Krystle Ann Griffin (USA)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

Oob: The Last Cyclops dir Emily-Anne Fraser (Canada)

Strange Orbits dir Clayton Flagg (Canada)

Dancing With The Red Death dir Joshua De Rango (Canada)

Don't Answer the Door: A Goldfinch Man Short dir Joshua Ortiz (USA)

The Adventures of Ohee: Curse of the Warlock's Eye dir Matthew Mason

Nominees for Best Student Film

Once Loved dir Colin David McCorquodale (USA)

The Closet Crawler dir Kayla Cache, Skylah Campbell (New Zealand)

Make Love, Not Football dir Karter Xu (USA)

Bunny & Cat dir Niamh Flynn (Canada)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Rebecca Rose - Off With Her Head (USA)

Nicole Ribatski Baldan - A Record (Canada)

Christian Meyer, Anne Schiekkel - Agatha (Germany)

Victor Guo - Tears of Despair (Canada)

Nominees for Best Actor

Joshua Ortiz - Don't Answer the Door: A Goldfinch Man Short (USA)

Mehdi Ali Kermally - Barely Hanging On (Canada)

Jim Phu - Anything for My Princess (Canada)

Andrew Beall - The Afterparty (USA)

Nominees for Best Actress

Samantha Wyatt Smith - Strange Orbits (Canada)

Marina Engel - A Record (Canada)

Joanna Bishop - Herd of Cows (New Zealand)

Arianna Kob - Modena Balsamic Genius (Italy)

Nominees for Best Cast

Problems dir Lar Collicott (Canada)

Brother Husbands dir Kelly Peterson

My Precious dir Izzy Eggers (New Zealand)

Am I Pretty? dir Matheus Almeida (Brazil)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Josh Andersen - Family Trust (USA)

Daniel Miller - Familiar Yet Unknown (Israel)

Giorgia Fantozzi - Skill (Italy)

Hakan Besim - Red Ink (UK)

Nominees for Best Writer

Pat Benincasa - Friction Not Fiction (USA)

Josh Gulban - The Morning Groove

Ewa Sobiczewska, Eyal Alfandary - Family Trust (USA)

Sean Boyle - The Passing (Ireland)

Nominees for Best Director

Donal O'Dea - Them (Ireland)

Mitchell Pohlmann - Babies (Canada)

Ella Mosseri - Familiar Yet Unknown (Israel)

Nicolò Tonani - Mantis Te Vidit (Italy)

5:01-20:01 MINUTES

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Nominees for Best Action

The Shadow Within dir Dannish Bhatti (Canada)

Ruins Ignite dir Tomas Pollen Stavik (Norway)

Zero Tolerance dir Ahmed Kedie (Canada)

Nominees for Best Animation

Mouchenitouche dir Alexandra Kurt (Luxembourg)

Dynamics dir Teo Baehler (Netherlands)

Big Red dir James Pyle (UK)

To Have and To Hold dir Julianne Martin (USA)

Ana Fein W Geit Menein dir Malak Khaled, Rana Saleh (Egypt, UAE)

Nominees for Best Comedy Canada

Esports Legend dir Jacob Lacate (Canada)

Remember When dir Adam Edward Milne (Canada)

Trails dir Henry Hagens (Canada)

Nominees for Best Comedy USA

Surface Obsidian dir Jason Alan Rodriguez (USA)

The Unemployables dir Mikaela Martin, Annabel Stuart (USA)

Square C dir Gracie Wrigley-Walsh, Ryan Keeler, Paisley Silveira (USA)

Spook Gallery: Redux dir Christina Barton, Parker Barton, Chase Bell, Nolan Schmidt (USA)

Limson dir Isaias Zai Gallardo (USA)

Nominees for Best Dark Comedy

Magnet Brain dir Kurt St. Thomas (USA)

Scapegoats dir Josh Evoy (Canada)

Control Freak dir Andrew Silver (USA)

Nominees for Best Documentary

The Picture Of Mikey Kratzer dir Dan King (UK)

Masked dir Lucas Swangard (Canada)

Roads Between Us dir Matthew Donkers (Canada)

Brampton Batman dir Akshay Jagroop (Canada)

Nominees for Best Drama International

Mental Hellth dir Anaira, Ana Roza Cimperman (Slovenia)

Holding Echoes dir Carlos Antonio Rios Morales (UK)

The Mark dir Gabriel Corneanu, Tudor Voican (UK)

Euthanasia dir Taras Kusherskyi (Ukraine)

Nothing to Lose dir Erifili Davis (Australia)

Nominees for Best Drama North America

My Dear Departed Johnny dir Paul Ciancone (Canada)

Phases dir Kainat Javed (Canada)

Portal dir Alan Calderon-Villarreal (Mexico)

Little Red dir Matthew Timotin (Canada)

The French Course dir Asadollah Gholamali (Canada)

Nominees for Best Experimental

Looking for Inspiration dir Michał Kucharski (Poland)

Don't Look dir Elisabet Mabres (Spain)

Path dir Danielle Park (South Korea)

Eamonn's Lap dir Simon Laird McConachy (Australia)

Nominees for Best Horror

Shifter dir Brandon Richard Hobson (UK)

Stalker dir Nathan Shilaimon (USA)

Nutmeg the Evil Elf dir Max Steele (USA)

Susuritai dir Johnny Yong Bosch (USA)

The Purity of Wrath dir Hakan Besim (UK)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller International

In-Between dir David Roca (France)

Invaded dir Vladimir Batista (Panama)

The Devil's Kiss dir Susanna Prummer (Austria)

When We Die Again dir Mudassar Mazhar Khan (India)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller North America

Fractured Acts dir Yeimy Daza (Canada)

Venatio dir Marcio Moreno (Canada)

Dread dir Alexander Kyriacou (Canada)

Nasara dir Mitchell Verigin (Canada)

Nominees for Best Original Story

A Sunrise Run dir Alijah-Paul Leiper (Canada)

Dimsdale Homeowners Association dir Izzy Eggers (New Zealand)

Sara dir Ariana Andrade Castro (Peru)

C.U.P.I.D. dir Ravi Rekhi (Canada)

Luteal dir Robert Morrison (Canada)

Nominees for Best Romance

The Proposal dir César Camán (Canada)

It's You & It's Me dir Mathew Bittroff (Canada)

Remords dir Craig E. (USA)

Two Minds dir Hunter Haubert (USA)

Your Choice dir Christos Blichas (Greece)

Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural

2042 dir Alessio di Lallo (Italy)

Mary Reborn dir Gus Eid (USA)

Echoes and Ashes dir Camilo Caballero Bastidas (Spain)

Palinode dir Massimo Russo (Canada)
Unsync dir Oren Cohen (Israel)

Nominees for Best Student Film

An Anatomy of Grief dir Anthony Joseph Spatafora (Canada)
Josephine dir Wayne Tunks (Australia)
Original Sin dir Sina Ahmadi (Turkey)
The Psychic Arts Academy dir Kayla Cache, Cohen Murphy, Dawn Glover (New Zealand)
The Chief dir Ksenia Chetvergova (Russia)

Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker

Angelo Vapellari, Nicolas Pastergue - The Silence of the World (France)
German A. Escalona - Rooster Road (USA)
Mohammad Reza Shateri - Metaverse (Iran)
Carter Lind - Places in 5! (Canada)
Adam Whitaker, Jared James - Blight (Canada)

Nominees for Best Actor

Lucas Kersey - Scapegoats (Canada)
Steve Kasan - Eshana's Trial (Canada)
Kitu Turcas - The Hollow Rabbit (Canada)
Benn Bryant - Nothing to Lose (Australia)

Nominees for Best Actress

Sonya Richards - Drowned (USA)
Saanvi Narang - Places in 5! (Canada)
Ilyana Marttila - The Six Stages (Canada)
Selena Goosney - Scapegoats Canada)

Nominees for Best Cast

What? You Guys Look Sorta Similar dir Devon Martinez, Manny Obi (Canada)
Bikelash dir Adam Stevenson (Canada)
Shifter dir Brandon Richard Hobson (UK)
Me We dir Hooman Atiyabi (Iran)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Piotr Skowronski - Eshana's Trial (Canada)
Morteza Ghafouri - Me We (Iran)
Giovanni Andreotta, Davide Callegari, Gioele Silvestre - Instruction: Required (Italy)
Josue Alvarez, Joseph Yakob, Jacob Yakob - Stalker (USA)

Nominees for Best Writer

Ryan Nunes, Julien Pedro - Drowned (USA)
Erifili Davis - Nothing to Lose (Australia)

Aleks Spurmanis, Dannielle James, Durga Raju Myakala - Eshana's Trial (Canada)
Oren Cohen - Unsync (Israel)

Nominees for Best Director

Dopé Penielle AD - Trapped (Canada)

Gabriel Corneanu, Tudor Voican - The Mark (UK)

Dan King - The Picture Of Mikey Kratzer (UK)

Malak Khaled, Rana Saleh - Ana Fein W Geit Menein (Egypt, UAE)

20:01-45:00 MINUTES

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Nominees for Best Long Short Film

Fucked! dir Rune Asak (Denmark)

Sail to the Moon dir Josh Grundy (Canada)

Bombs Away! dir Daniel Kenneth Houston, Arron Gourley (UK)

Nominees for Best Comedy

CCC: Conflicted Cuties of Color dir Roman Sanchez, Mikayla Stanley (USA)

Lil Detectives: A Dish Best Served Cold dir Chad Repko (USA)

An Unwelcome Guest dir Joy Villa (USA)

The Quest For The Golden Dragon dir Tom Whiteley (UK)

Nominees for Best Documentary

Three Women, One Path dir Antonio Alonso (Spain)

Letter to an Artist dir Isaac Saga (USA)

Budapest Cops dir Árpád Vikárius (Hungary)

Nominees for Best Drama

Keloid One dir Patrick Anthony Hollis (UK)

Tears of Silence dir Mr. Bouhaïk (France)

Evening Class dir Michael Clark Haney (USA)

Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

Tamasah Tejah dir Kaushik Trilok Dhopeswarkar (India)

Caged dir Ivan Timofeev (Canada)

Lil Detectives: A Dish Best Served Cold dir Chad Repko (USA)

Tears of Silence dir Mr. Bouhaïk (France)

Nominees for Best Actor

Aditya Sanjay Paunikar - Adrishya (India)

Yann Andrieu - Tears of Silence (France)

Claes Cem Constantine - Fucked! (Denmark)

Nominees for Best Actress

Naomi Barbagallo - Golio Corvo (Italy)

Joy Villa - An Unwelcome Guest(USA)

Mariangela Pino - Evening Class (USA)

Nominees for Best Cast

The Escape G.O.A.T.s dir Scott Rollins (USA)

Three Women, One Path dir Antonio Alonso (Spain)

Sail to the Moon dir Josh Grundy (Canada)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Francesco Altomare - Golio Corvo (Italy)

Matthew Burchfield - The Escape G.O.A.T.s (USA)

Jorge Torrego, Fernando Ávila - Three Women, One Path (Spain)

Nominees for Best Writer

Vishal Madhukar Paunikar - Adrishya (India)

Mr. Bouhaik - Tears of Silence (France)

Rune Asak - Fucked! (Denmark)

Nominees for Best Director

Tom Whiteley - The Quest For The Golden Dragon (UK)

Scott Rollins - The Escape G.O.A.T.s (USA)

Árpád Vikárius - Budapest Cops (Hungary)

45:01-120:00 MINUTES

Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Nominees for Best Documentary Feature Film

A Knight's Tale dir Barney Edwards (Ireland)

From the Steppes to the Heavenly Peaks. The First Kazakh Woman Goes to Everest! dir Gibrat Bakayev (Kazakhstan)

Sophie Lavaud - The Final Summit dir François Damilano (France)

If An Owl Calls Your Name dir Zaya Benazzo, Maurizio Benazzo (USA)

The Taste Of Nature II dir Tateyuki Adachi (Japan)

Nominees for Best Narrative Feature Film

D*CKS dir Stu Gamble (Hungary)

Break Up dir Johan Salberg (Sweden)

Eyes Wide Open dir William A. Rugama (Canada)

Chindi Pakad dir Prasenjit Chakraborty (India)

Dreamin' Chitose dir Onodera (Japan)

Nominees for Best Actor

Max Rüdlinger - Plüss – One Awakens to Live, Another to Die For (Switzerland)

Yuto Nakayama - The Gambler & The Vengeful dir Toshihiko Matsuo (Japan)

William A. Rugama - Eyes Wide Open dir William A. Rugama (Canada)

Nominees for Best Actress

Leah Emma - The Ballad of Lucy Sands - Episode 1 (UK)

Rebi Paganini - Don't Look In The Dark (USA)

Amanda Jalmlberger - Break Up (Sweden)

Nominees for Best Cast

The Gambler & The Vengeful dir Toshihiko Matsuo (Japan)

Eyes Wide Open dir William A. Rugama (Canada)

Chindi Pakad dir Prasenjit Chakraborty (India)

Nominees for Best Cinematography

Martin Albisetti - Plüss – One Awakens to Live, Another to Die For (Switzerland)

Andrew Brooke - A Knight's Tale (Ireland)

François Damilano, Ulysse Lefebvre - Sophie Lavaud - The Final Summit (France)

Nominees for Best Writer

Stephen Baldwin - The Ballad of Lucy Sands - Episode 1 (UK)

Toshihiko Matsuo - The Gambler & The Vengeful (Japan)

Prasenjit Chakraborty - Chindi Pakad (India)

Nominees for Best Director

Zaya Benazzo, Maurizio Benazzo - If An Owl Calls Your Name (USA)

Gibrat Bakayev - From the Steppes to the Heavenly Peaks. The First Kazakh Woman Goes to Everest! (Kazakhstan)

Stu Gamble - D*CKS (Hungary)

Winner in RED, Nominees in BLACK

Nominees for Best 15-Second Story

The Watcher dir Scott Terry (USA)

If Babies Could Talk dir Scott Terry (USA)

To Santa dir Kevin Lucero Less (USA)

Open Your Mind dir Surapong Wetsuwanmanee (Thailand)

Princess Deokon dir Danielle Park (South Korea)

Sara Heist dir Vincenzo De Sio (USA)

Fly dir Trevor 'ACE' Hardy (UK)