



2023 RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Top Grand Jury Award Winners & Audience Choice Awards

12th Annual Richmond International Film Festival: At RIFF, our mission is to champion artists and provide platforms for the creative voice, and we are thrilled to now be one of the largest most exciting festivals in the Mid-Atlantic.

This year, the festival included 195 Official Selection films; from more than 20 countries plus 35 live music acts throughout the week. Congratulations to the top award honorees of the year:

2023 OVERALL GRAND JURY AWARDS FOR FILM:

**2023
GRAND JURY PRIZE
DRAMATIC FEATURE
Presented to
RUPTURE
By Paul Ertl**

**2023
GRAND JURY PRIZE
BEST OVERALL SHORT FILM OF THE YEAR
Presented to
THE OLD YOUNG CROW
By Liam LoPinto**

2023 OVERALL GRAND JURY AWARDS FOR WRITING:

**2023
GRAND JURY PRIZE
BEST FEATURE SCREENPLAY
Presented to
LIBERTY, NE
By Rudy Jansen & Matt Miller**

**2023
GRAND JURY PRIZE
BEST SHORT SCREENPLAY
Presented to
UNTAMED
By Olga Holtz**

**2023
GRAND JURY PRIZE
BEST TELEPLAY
Presented to
WOLF'S HEAD
by Samuel Anderson**

BEST OF FESTIVAL FILM AWARDS:

2023
Best of Festival
Narrative Feature
NO RIGHT WAY (US)
5 SEASONS A JOURNEY (INTERNATIONAL)

2023
Best of Festival
Documentary Feature
CALLED TO THE MOUNTAINS (U.S.)

WOMEN OF VALOR (INTERNATIONAL)

2023

Best of Festival

Narrative Short

RADIO SILENCE (U.S.)

ELISABETH (INTERNATIONAL)

2023

Best of Festival

Animated Short

THE BRIDGE

2023

Best of Festival

Documentary Short

POWERING PUERTO RICO

2023

Best of Festival

Experimental Short

FOLLICULAR IMAGES

2023

Best of Festival

Music Video

LUCY DACUS: HOT AND HEAVY

2023

Best of Festival

Episodic

REFUGIA

FILM OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL MERIT AWARDS:**Best Director: No Right Way, Chelsea Bo****Best Actress in Lead Role: Rupture, Berta Kammer**

Best Actor in Lead Role: Indelible Memories, Katsumi Hyodo

Best Supporting: Double Down South (Male, Igby Rigney); No Right Way, Ava Acres (female)

**Best Ensemble Cast: (U.S.) Double Down South: Kim Coates, Lili Simmons, Igby Rigney, Justin Marcel McManus & Tom Bower
And a TIE FOR INTERNATIONAL –**

Ibiza Blue: Jesus Lloveras, Gonzalo Bouza & Alicia Lorente

And: 5 Seasons A Journey: Konstantin Marsch, Sithembile Menck, Katja Hutko, Jana Lissovskaja, Katja Sallay, Pegah Ferydoni, Bernhard Schütz & Mišel Matičević

Best Original Screenplay: Indelible Memories, Shin Sonoda

Best Cinematography: Ibiza Blue, Ivan Rubio

Best Score/Music: Rupture, Bernd Jungmair

Rising Star in Female Role: Everybody Wants to Be Loved, Lea Drinda (female)

Rising Star in Male Role: E Buonanotte, Niccolò Ferrero (male)

Rising Star Director Category (U.S.): Unpacking, Alexandra Clayton & Michal Sinnott

Rising Star Director Category (International): Agrodolce (Italy), Alessandro Prato

Best Production Design: Bibi (U.S.), Tim Kowalski

Best Production Design: Poèmes, Héctor Fáver (Spain)

Best Casting: No Right Way (U.S.), Michael Donovan & Richie Ferris

Best Casting (International): Everybody Wants to Be Loved (Germany), Katharina Woll

Best Editing: Publish or Perish, Justin Lewis

Honorable Mention Award: Mahan by Hamid Shah Hatami

FOR SHORT FILMS: INDIVIDUAL MERIT AWARDS

Best Director: Old Young Crow, Liam LoPinto

Best Editing: Radio Silence, Ric Serena

Best Ensemble or Duo: Illegally Brown, Jessica Maria Garcia & Annie Gonzales

Rising Star: New Shoes, Jacob Moran

Best Actor: TIE

Candice, Tyler Martin

Infraction, Percy Daggs, III

Best Actress: Elisabeth, Caroline Tillette

Best Production Design: Fathead, Miranda Friel

Best Screenplay: Comedy: The Word, Robert Neilson and Drama: Mayfly, Keith Andreen & Katrina Law

Best Cinematography: Sound to Sea, Marcus Patterson

Outstanding Merit for Film & Women's Health: The Business of Birth Control, Abby Epstein & Ricki Lake

Outstanding Merit for Film & Functional Health: Doctor/Patient, Dr. Jill Carnahan, Aaron Carnahan, Daniel Grace

Outstanding Merit for Music, Film & Community Impact: Born in Chicago, Bob Sarles, John Anderson

**Outstanding Merit for Film & Environmental Impact: Not on this Land,
Christopher Landry**

2023 LEGACY AWARD.

**Mr. Tom Schulman
Excellence in Film & Industry Leadership**

2023 FOUNDERS AWARD

**Presented to
K.L. Stewart
Excellence in Leadership, Vision & Public Service**

2023 PIONEER AWARD

**Presented to
Oded Rahav
DEAD SEA GUARDIANS**

2023 Audience Choice Award for Best Music Artist: Maestro the Cellist

2023 Audience Choice Award for Best Short: Radio Silence

**2023 Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary Feature: The
Business of Birth Control**

**2023 Audience Choice Award for Best Narrative Feature:
Glue Trap**

**2023 Reel South of North Carolina PBS:
Finding Us**

SCREENWRITING GENRE WINNERS:

**Best Original Fantasy Screenplay: RAVEN WINTERS AND THE SPIRIT
VORTEX by Heather Ostrove**

**Best Original Drama Screenplay: SEOUL '88 by Jennifer D'Angelo Kircher
& Nancy Stearns Bercaw**

**Best Original Action Adventure Screenplay: SHELBY KANE by Bridget
Bell McMahon**

2023 MUSIC AWARDS:

2023 ARTIST OF THE YEAR
Presented to
MAESTRO THE CELLIST

2023
BEST ROCK BAND
JASON FARLOW & THE LAST REAL CIRCUS

2023
RISING STAR ROCK BAND
HADEE

2023
BEST IN SINGER SONGWRITER CATEGORY
ANN GRAY

2023
BEST RAP OR BATTLE ACT
RVA ELITE & SOUTHPAW BATTLE

2023
BEST POP
PRISHA

2023
SOUL VISION AWARD
AL B Anywhere, T SOUL & KP

2023
CRITICS CHOICE AWARD
Excellence in Music & Performance
Presented to
RODNEY THE SOUL SINGER