SUNDANCE INSTITUTE PRESENTS
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2020

# Shorts Awards Announced at 2020 Sundance Film Festival

## Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

### *So What If The Goats Die* Wins Grand Jury Prize

**For Immediate Release (Park City, Utah) â??** Winners of the 2020 Sundance Film Festival jury prizes in short filmmaking were announced tonight by Sundance Institute at a ceremony in Park City, Utah. The Short Film Grand Jury Prize, awarded to one film in the program of 74 shorts selected from a record high 10,397 submissions, went to *So What If The Goats Die*, directed and written by Sofia Alaoui. The Short Film program is presented by Southwest AirlinesÂ®.

This yearâ??s Short Film jurors are **Sian Clifford**, **Marcus Hu** and **Cindy Sherman**.

Short Film awards winners in previous years include *Aziza* by Soudade Kaadan, *Matria* by Ã•lvaro Gago, *And so we put goldfish in the pool.* by Makato Nagahisa, *Thunder Road* by Jim Cummings, *World of Tomorrow* by Don Hertzfeldt, *SMILF* by Frankie Shaw, *Of God and Dogs* by Abounaddara Collective, *Gregory Go Boom* by Janicza Bravo, *The Whistle* by Grzegorz Zariczny, *Whiplash* by Damien Chazelle, *FISHING WITHOUT NETS* by Cutter Hodierne, *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom* by Lucy Walker and *The Arm* by Brie Larson, Sarah Ramos and Jessie Ennis.

The short film program at the Festival is the centerpiece of Sundance Instituteâ??s year-round efforts to support short filmmaking. Select Festival short films are presented as a traveling program in over 75 cities in the U.S., Canada and Europe each year, and short films and filmmakers taking part in regional Master Classes geared towards supporting emerging shorts-makers in several cities.

Of the seven short films selected for awards this year, three projects (43% percent) were directed by women, two (29%) were directed by people who identify as LGBTQ, and three (43%) were directed by people of color.

**2020 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Jury Awards:**

The **Short Film Grand Jury Prize** was awarded to: Sofia Alaoui, for ***So What If The Goats Die*** / France, Morocco (Director and screenwriter: Sofia Alaoui) â?? Abdellah, a young shepherd living in the mountains, is forced to brave the snow blocking him in order to get food and save this cattle. Once he gets to the village, he faces a supernatural phenomenon.

The **Short Film Jury Award: U.S. Fiction** was presented to: Terrance Daye, for ***-Ship: A Visual Poem*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Terrance Daye) â?? A black boy learns contradicting lessons of manhood and masculinity on the day of his cousinâ??s funeral.

The **Short Film Jury Award: International Fiction** was presented to: Dylan Holmes Williams, for ***The Devilâ??s Harmony*** / United Kingdom (Director: Dylan Holmes Williams, Screenwriters: Dylan Holmes Williams, Jess Oâ??Kane) â?? A bullied teenage girl leads an a cappella club on a trail of destruction against her high school enemies.

The **Short Film Jury Award: Non-fiction** was presented to: Matthew Killip, for ***John Was Trying to Contact Aliens*** / U.S.A. (Director: Matthew Killip) â?? John Shepherd spent 30 years trying to contact extraterrestrials by broadcasting music millions of miles into space. After giving up the search he makes a different connection here on earth.

The **Short Film Jury Award: Animation** was presented to: Daria Kashcheeva, for ***Daughter*** / Czech Republic (Director and screenwriter: Daria Kashcheeva) â?? Should you hide your pain, close yourself inside your inner world, and long for your fatherâ??s love? Or should you understand and forgive before itâ??s too late?

A **Short Film Special Jury Award for Acting** was presented to: Sadaf Asgari, for ***Exam*** / Iran (Director: Sonia K. Hadad, Screenwriters: Sonia K. Hadad, Farnoosh Samadi) â?? A teenage girl gets involved in the process of delivering a pack of cocaine to its client, and gets stuck in a weird cycle of occurrences.

A **Short Film Special Jury Award for Directing** was presented to: Michael Arcos, for ***Valerioâ??s Day Out*** / Colombia, U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michael Arcos) â?? A young jaguar goes on a killing spree when he escapes from his enclosure at a zoo. After heâ??s captured, sedated and relocated, he makes a video diary for his significant other, Lula.

**The Sundance Film FestivalÂ®**
The Sundance Film Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past three decades, including *Sorry to Bother You*, *Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?*, *Eighth Grade*, *Get Out*, *The Big Sick*, *Mudbound*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Whiplash*, *Brooklyn*, *Precious*, *The Cove*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Napoleon Dynamite*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Reservoir Dogs* and *sex, lies, and videotape*. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance InstituteÂ®. 2020 Festival sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire, AT&T; Leadership Sponsors â?? Adobe, Amazon Studios, DIRECTV, Dropbox, Netflix, Omnicom Group, Southwest AirlinesÂ®, Stella Artois**Â®**, WarnerMedia; Sustaining Sponsors â?? Audible, Canada Goose, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Dell Technologies, Fire TV, GEICO, High West Distillery, Hulu, IMDbPro, Lyft, Unity Technologies, University of Utah Health; Media Sponsors â?? The Atlantic, IndieWire, Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Variety, The Wall Street Journal. Sundance Institute recognizes critical support from the State of Utah as Festival Host State. The support of these organizations helps offset the Festivalâ??s costs and sustain the Instituteâ??s

year-round programs for independent artists. Look for the Official Partner seal at their venues at the Festival. sundance.org/festival

**Sundance Institute**
Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, and media to create and thrive. The Instituteâ??s signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. Sundance Co//ab, a digital community platform, brings artists together to learn from each other and Sundance Advisors and connect in a creative space, developing and sharing works in progress. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences and artists to ignite new ideas, discover original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *The Farewell, Late Night, The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Eighth Grade, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, RBG, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Top of the Lake, Winterâ??s Bone, Dear White People, Little Miss Sunshine, Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station, State of the Union, Indecent, Spring Awakening*, *A Gentlemanâ??s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

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