

2021 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Top Prizes Go To *CODA, Summer of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Flee,* and *Hive*

CODA, Summer of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Hive, Writing With Fire, and *Ma Belle, My Beauty* Win Audience Awards Presented by Acura



Top row: CODA, Courtesy of Sundance Institute; Summer of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised), photo by Mass Distraction Media; Flee, courtesy of Sundance Institute. Bottom row: Hive, photo by Alexander Bloom; Writing With Fire,

courtesy of Sundance Institute; Ma Belle, My Beauty, courtesy of Sundance Institute.

Park City, UT â?? After six days and 73 feature films, the 2021 Sundance Film Festivalâ??s Awards Ceremony took place tonight, hosted by actor and comedian **Patton Oswalt**, with jurors presenting 24 prizes for feature filmmaking and seven for Short Films. Honorees, named in total below, represent new achievements in global independent storytelling. Bold, intimate, and humanizing stories prevailed across categories, with Grand Jury Prizes awarded to *CODA* (U.S. Dramatic), *Summer of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)* (U.S. Documentary), *Flee* (World Cinema Documentary) and *Hive* (World Cinema Dramatic).



Keri Putnam addresses members of the press at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival Press Conference at the Egyptian Theatre in Park City, Utah, on January 23rd, 2019. (Photo by Larry Gleeson)

â??This has been a singular Festival for a singular moment,â?• said Sundance Institute CEO **Keri Putnam**. â??Weâ??ve been able to elevate independent art and celebrate a wonderful slate of films by

gathering in new ways, ways that worked thanks to adventurous audiences everywhere, eager to connect and engage with the work and with one another. Watching people come together to connect and discuss exciting new work has been incredibly rewarding â?? and a resounding confirmation that great independent storytelling inspires rich conversation.â?•



Tabitha Jackson, Sundance Film Festival Director

â??This was not a â??virtualâ?? festival, it was a real festival and the power of these artists and their work was what made it so,â?• added Sundance Film Festival Director **Tabitha Jackson**, â??It has been a privilege to help this work meet new audiences and enter the culture with such fanfare, especially now, when breaking through the noise is harder than ever.â?•

The awards ceremony marks a key point of the 2021 Festival, where 73 feature-length and 50 short films â?? selected from more than 14,000 submissions â?? were showcased online via the Festivalâ??s custom-built online platform, as well as in 28 Satellite Screen locations across the United States. Award-winning films will screen for pass holders tomorrow, February 3.

This yearâ??s jurors, invited in recognition of their accomplishments in the arts, technical craft, and visionary storytelling, deliberated extensively before presenting awards from the stage; this yearâ??s feature film jurors were **Julie Dash**, **Cynthia Erivo**, **Hanya Yanagihara**, **Ashley Clark**, **Joshua Oppenheimer**, **Lana Wilson**, **Zeynep Atakan**, **Isaac Julien**, **Daniela Vega**, **Kim Longinotto**, **Mohamed SaÃ¯d Ouma**, and **Jean Tsien**. **Kate and Laura Mulleavy** served as co-jurors for NEXT. Shorts jurors were **RaÃºl Castillo**, **Tacita Dean,** and **Inge de Leeuw**. A newly-created award, the **Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award** for **U.S. Documentary,** has been created to memorialize the late editor and joins the **Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award** for **U.S. Dramatic** as a prize named for a beloved member of the Sundance artistic community. This yearâ??s **Audience Awards** were presented by Sundance alumni **Alison Brie, Shira Haas,** and **Diego Luna**.

Feature film award winners in previous years include: *Minari, Boys State, Epicentro, Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness, Clemency*, *One Child Nation, Honeyland, The Souvenir*, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, *I donâ??t feel at home in this world anymore., Weiner*, *Whiplash, Fruitvale Station, Beasts of the Southern Wild, Twenty Feet from Stardom, Searching for Sugarman, The Square, Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Cartel Land, The Wolf Pack, The Diary of a Teenage Girl, Dope, Dear White People, The*

Cove and *Man on Wire.*

GRAND JURY PRIZES

The **U.S. Grand Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to: Ahmir â??Questloveâ?• Thompson, for ***Summer Of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*** / U.S.A. (Director: Ahmir â??Questloveâ?• Thompson, Producers: David Dinerstein, Robert Fyvolent, Joseph Patel) â?? During the same summer as Woodstock, over 300,000 people attended the Harlem Cultural Festival, celebrating African American music and culture, and promoting Black pride and unity. The footage from the festival sat in a basement, unseen for over 50 years, keeping this incredible event in Americaâ??s history lost â?? until now.

The **U.S. Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to: SiÃ¢n Heder, for ***CODA*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: SiÃ¢n Heder, Producers: Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi, Patrick Wachsberger) â?? As a CODA â?? Child of Deaf Adults â?? Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the familyâ??s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents. *Cast: Emilia Jones, Eugenio Derbez, Troy Kotsur, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Daniel Durant, and Marlee Matlin.*

The **World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary** was presented to: Jonas Poher Rasmussen, for ***Flee*** / Denmark, France, Sweden, Norway (Director: Jonas Poher Rasmussen, Producers: Monica HellstrÃ¶m, Signe Byrge SÃ¸rensen) â?? Amin arrived as an unaccompanied minor in Denmark from Afghanistan. Today, he is a successful academic and is getting married to his long-time boyfriend. A secret he has been hiding for 20 years threatens to ruin the life he has built.

The **World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic** was presented to: Blerta Basholli, for ***Hive*** / Kosovo, Switzerland, Macedonia, Albania (Director and Screenwriter: Blerta Basholli, Producers: Yll Uka, Valon Bajgora, Agon Uka) â?? Fahrijeâ??s husband has been missing since the war in Kosovo. She sets up her own small business to provide for her kids, but as she fights against a patriarchal society that does not support her, she faces a crucial decision: to wait for his return, or to continue to persevere. *Cast: Yllka Gashi, Ã?un LajÃ§i, Aurita Agushi, Kumrije Hoxha, Adriana Matoshi, Kaona Sylejmani.*

AUDIENCE AWARDS

The **Audience Award: U.S. Documentary**, Presented by Acura was presented to: Ahmir â??Questloveâ?• Thompson for ***Summer Of Soul (â?¦Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*** / U.S.A. (Director: Ahmir â??Questloveâ?• Thompson, Producers: David Dinerstein, Robert Fyvolent, Joseph Patel) â?? During the same summer as Woodstock, over 300,000 people attended the Harlem Cultural Festival, celebrating African American music and culture, and promoting Black pride and unity. The footage from the festival sat in a basement, unseen for over 50 years, keeping this incredible event in Americaâ??s history lost â?? until now.

The **Audience Award: U.S. Dramatic**, Presented by Acura was presented to: SiÃ¢n Heder, for ***CODA*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: SiÃ¢n Heder, Producers: Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi, Patrick Wachsberger) â?? As a CODA â?? Child of Deaf Adults â?? Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the familyâ??s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents. Cast: Emilia Jones, Eugenio Derbez, Troy Kotsur, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Daniel Durant, and Marlee Matlin.

The **Audience Award: World Cinema Dramatic** was presented to: Blerta Basholli, for ***Hive*** / Kosovo, Switzerland, Macedonia, Albania (Director and Screenwriter: Blerta Basholli, Producers: Yll Uka, Valon Bajgora, Agon Uka) â?? Fahrijeâ??s husband has been missing since the war in Kosovo. She sets up her own small business to provide for her kids, but as she fights against a patriarchal society that does not support her, she faces a crucial decision: to wait for his return, or to continue to persevere. *Cast: Yllka Gashi, Ã?un LajÃ§i, Aurita Agushi, Kumrije Hoxha, Adriana Matoshi, Kaona Sylejmani.*

The **Audience Award: World Cinema Documentary** was presented to: Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, for ***Writing With Fire*** / India (Directors and Producers: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh) â?? In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men, emerges Indiaâ??s only newspaper run by Dalit women. Armed with smartphones, Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions on the frontlines of Indiaâ??s biggest issues and within the confines of their own homes, redefining what it means to be powerful.

The **Audience Award: NEXT**, Presented by Adobe was presented to: Marion Hill, for ***Ma Belle, My Beauty*** / U.S.A., France (Director and Screenwriter: Marion Hill, Producers: Ben Matheny, Kelsey Scult, Marion Hill) *â??* A surprise reunion in southern France reignites passions and jealousies between two women who were formerly polyamorous lovers. *Cast: Idella Johnson, Hannah Pepper, Lucien Guignard, Sivan Noam Shimon.*

DIRECTING, SCREENWRITING & EDITING AWARDS

The **Directing Award: U.S. Documentary** was presented to: Natalia Almada, for ***Users*** / U.S.A., Mexico (Director: Natalia Almada, Producers: Elizabeth Lodge Stepp, Josh Penn) â?? A mother wonders, will my children love their perfect machines more than they love me, their imperfect mother? She switches on a smart-crib lulling her crying baby to sleep. This perfect mother is everywhere. She watches over us, takes care of us. We listen to her. We trust her.

The **Directing Award: U.S. Dramatic** was presented to: SiÃ¢n Heder, for ***CODA*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: SiÃ¢n Heder, Producers: Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi, Patrick Wachsberger) â?? As a CODA â?? Child of Deaf Adults â?? Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the familyâ??s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents. *Cast: Emilia Jones, Eugenio Derbez, Troy Kotsur, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Daniel Durant, and Marlee Matlin.*

The **Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary** was presented to: Hogir Hirori, for ***Sabaya*** / Sweden (Director and Screenwriter: Hogir Hirori, Producers: Antonio Russo Merenda, Hogir Hirori) â?? With just a mobile phone and a gun, Mahmud, Ziyad and their group risk their lives trying to save Yazidi women and girls being held by ISIS as Sabaya (abducted sex slaves) in the most dangerous camp in the Middle East, Al-Hol in Syria.

The **Directing Award: World Cinema Dramatic** was presented to: Blerta Basholli, for ***Hive*** / Kosovo, Switzerland, Macedonia, Albania (Director and Screenwriter: Blerta Basholli, Producers: Yll Uka, Valon Bajgora, Agon Uka) â?? Fahrijeâ??s husband has been missing since the war in Kosovo. She sets up her own small business to provide for her kids, but as she fights against a patriarchal society that does not support her, she faces a crucial decision: to wait for his return, or to continue to persevere. *Cast: Yllka Gashi, Ã?un LajÃ§i, Aurita Agushi, Kumrije Hoxha, Adriana Matoshi, Kaona Sylejmani.*

The **Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award: U.S. Dramatic** was presented to: Ari Katcher and Ryan Welch, for ***On the Count of Three*** / U.S.A. (Director: Jerrod Carmichael, Screenwriters: Ari Katcher, Ryan Welch, Producers: David Carrico, Adam Paulsen, Tom Werner, Jake Densen, Ari Katcher, Jimmy Price) â?? Two guns. Two best friends. And a pact to end their lives when the day is done. *Cast: Jerrod Carmichael, Christopher Abbott, Tiffany Haddish, J.B. Smoove, Lavell Crawford, Henry Winkler.*

The **Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award: U.S. Documentary** was presented to: editors Kristina Motwani and Rebecca Adorno, for ***Homeroom*** / U.S.A. (Director: Peter Nicks, Producers: Peter Nicks, Sean Havey) â?? Following the class of 2020 at Oakland High School in a year marked by seismic change, exploring the emotional world of teenagers coming of age against the backdrop of a rapidly changing world.

SPECIAL JURY AWARDS

A **U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble Cast** was presented to: the cast of *CODA*, for ***CODA*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: SiÃ¢n Heder, Producers: Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi, Patrick Wachsberger) â?? As a CODA â?? Child of Deaf Adults â?? Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the familyâ??s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents. *Cast: Emilia Jones, Eugenio Derbez, Troy Kotsur, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Daniel Durant, and Marlee Matlin.*

A **U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Best Actor** was presented to: Clifton Collins Jr., for ***Jockey*** / U.S.A. (Director: Clint Bentley, Screenwriters: Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar, Producers: Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar, Nancy Schafer) â?? An aging jockey is determined to win one last championship, but his dream is complicated when a young rookie shows up claiming to be his son. *Cast: Clifton Collins Jr., Molly Parker, Moises Arias.*

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award: Emerging Filmmaker** was presented to: Parker Hill and Isabel Bethencourt, for ***Cusp*** / U.S.A. (Directors: Parker Hill, Isabel Bethencourt, Producers: Zachary Luke Kislevitz, Parker Hill, Isabel Bethencourt) â?? In a Texas military town, three teenage girls confront the dark corners of adolescence at the end of a fever dream summer.

A **U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award: Nonfiction Experimentation** was presented to: Theo Anthony, for ***All Light, Everywhere*** / U.S.A. (Director: Theo Anthony, Producers: Riel Roch-Decter, Sebastian Pardo, Jonna McKone) â?? An exploration of the shared histories of cameras, weapons, policing and justice. As surveillance technologies become a fixture in everyday life, the film interrogates the complexity of an objective point of view, probing the biases inherent in both human perception and the lens.

A **World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award: VÃ©ritÃ© Filmmaking** was presented to: Camilla Nielsson, for ***President*** / Denmark, U.S.A., Norway (Director: Camilla Nielsson, Producers: Signe Byrge SÃ¸rensen, Joslyn Barnes) â?? Zimbabwe is at a crossroads. The leader of the opposition MDC party, Nelson Chamisa, challenges the old guard ZANU-PF led by Emmerson Mnangagwa, known as â??The Crocodile.â?• The election tests both the ruling party and the opposition â?? how do they interpret principles of democracy in discourse and in practice?

A **World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award: Impact for Change** was presented to: Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, for ***Writing With Fire*** / India (Directors and Producers: Rintu Thomas,

Sushmit Ghosh) â?? In a cluttered news landscape dominated by men, emerges Indiaâ??s only newspaper run by Dalit women. Armed with smartphones, Chief Reporter Meera and her journalists break traditions on the frontlines of Indiaâ??s biggest issues and within the confines of their own homes, redefining what it means to be powerful.

A **World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award: Acting** was presented to: Jesmark Scicluna, for ***Luzzu*** / Malta (Director and Screenwriter: Alex Camilleri, Producers: Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani, Alex Camilleri, Oliver Mallia) â?? Jesmark, a struggling fisherman on the island of Malta, is forced to turn his back on generations of tradition and risk everything by entering the world of black market fishing to provide for his girlfriend and newborn baby. *Cast: Jesmark Scicluna, Michela Farrugia, David Scicluna.*

A **World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award: Creative Vision** was presented to: Baz Poonpiriya, for ***One for the Road*** / China, Hong Kong, Thailand (Director: Baz Poonpiriya, Screenwriters: Baz Poonpiriya, Nottapon Boonprakob, Puangsoi Aksornsawang, Producer: Wong Kar Wai) â?? Boss is a consummate ladiesâ?? man, a free spirit and a bar owner in NYC. One day, he gets a surprise call from Aood, an estranged friend who has returned home to Thailand. Dying of cancer, Aood enlists Bossâ?? help to complete a bucket list â?? but both are hiding something. *Cast: Tor Thanapob, Ice Natara, Violette Wautier, Aokbab Chutimon, Ploi Horwang, Noon Siraphun. World Premiere*

NEXT INNOVATOR PRIZE PRESENTED BY ADOBE

The **NEXT Innovator Prize presented by Adobe** was presented to: Dash Shaw, for ***Cryptozoo*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Dash Shaw, Producers: Kyle Martin, Jane Samborski, Bill Way, Tyler Davidson) *â??* As cryptozookeepers struggle to capture a Baku (a legendary dream-eating hybrid creature) they begin to wonder if they should display these rare beasts in the confines of a cryptozoo, or if these mythical creatures should remain hidden and unknown. *Cast: Lake Bell, Michael Cera, Angeliki Papoulia, Zoe Kazan, Peter Stormare, Grace Zabriskie.*

SHORT FILM AWARDS PRESENTED BY SOUTHWEST AIRLINESÂ®

Jury prizes for short filmmaking were awarded at the same ceremony. The Short Film Grand Jury Prize was awarded to ***Lizard*** / United Kingdom (Director: Akinola Davies, Jr., Screenwriter: The Davies Brothers). The Short Film Jury Award: U.S. Fiction was awarded to ***The Touch of the Masterâ??s Hand*** / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Gregory Barnes. The Short Film Jury Award: International Fiction was awarded to ***Bambirak*** / U.S.A., Germany (Director and Screenwriter: Zamarin Wahdat). The Short Film Jury Award: Nonfiction was awarded to ***Donâ??t Go Tellinâ?? Your Momma*** / U.S.A., Germany, France, Italy (Directors and Screenwriters: Topaz Jones, rubberband.). The Short Film Jury Award: Animation was awarded to ***Souvenir Souvenir*** / France (Director and Screenwriter: Bastien Dubois). A Short Film Special Jury Award for Acting was presented to ***Wiggle Room*** / U.S.A. (Directors and Screenwriters: Sam Guest, Julia Baylis). A Short Film Special Jury Award for Screenwriting was awarded to ***The Criminals*** / France, Romania, Turkey (Director and Screenwriter: Serhat Karaaslan).

EARLIER SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

The **2021 Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize**, presented to an outstanding feature film about science or technology, was presented to ***Sons of Monarchs***. The filmmakers received a $20,000 cash award from Sundance Institute with support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The **Sundance Institute | Amazon Studios Producers Award for Nonfiction** went to Nicole Salazar, for *Philly D.A*.

The **Sundance Institute | Amazon Studios Producers Award for Fiction** went to Natalie Qasabian, for *Run.*

The **Sundance Institute | Adobe Mentorship Award for Editing Nonfiction** went to Juli Vizza, and the **Sundance Institute | Adobe Mentorship Award for Editing Fiction** went to Terilyn Shropshire.

The **Sundance Institute | NHK Award** went to Meryman Joobeur, for her film *Motherhood*.

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 *Clemency, Never Rarely Sometimes Always, Zola, On The Record, Boys State, The Farewell, Honeyland, One Child Nation, The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, 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 Institute. 2021 Festival sponsors to date include: Presenting Sponsors â?? Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire, Adobe; Leadership Sponsors â?? Amazon Studios, AT&T, DoorDash, Dropbox, Netflix, Omnicom Group, Southwest AirlinesÂ® , WarnerMedia; Sustaining Sponsors â?? AMC, Audible, Canada Goose, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Dell Technologies, Documentary Plus, GEICO, IMDbPro, Stella ArtoisÂ®, Unity Technologies, University of Utah Health, White Claw Hard Seltzer, Zoom; Media Sponsors â?? The Atlantic, IndieWire, Los Angeles Times, NPR, The New York Times, Variety, Vulture, 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. sundance.org/festival

Sundance Institute
As a champion and curator of independent stories for the stage and screen, the nonprofit Sundance Institute provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, film composing, and digital media to create and thrive. Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, the Instituteâ??s signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs which are dedicated to developing new work and take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally, are supported largely through contributed revenue. 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, discovering original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Clemency, Never Rarely Sometimes Always*, *Zola*, *On The Record, Boys State, The Farewell, Honeyland*, *One Child Nation*, *The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Wonâ??t You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, Fruitvale Station*, *City So Real, Top of the Lake, Between the World & Me, Wild Goose Dreams* and *Fun Home*. Join Sundance Institute on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

(Press release from Sundance Press Office)

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