

# AWARDS

22<sup>nd</sup> edition TIFF 2024



## FEATURE JURY

composed by:

**Goce Cvetanovski** (*North Macedonia*),  
**Anja Dührberg-Siebler** (*Germany*), **Tonia Mishiali** (*Cyprus*)

awards:

## BEST FEATURE FILM

**Paradise is Burning** by **Mika Gustafson**

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Italy | 2023 | 108' | Drama, Comedy

*For over 90 minutes, we were captivated as we followed the characters of this Movie. The direction masterfully led us through every emotional twist and turn, revealing the delicate nuances of their wounded souls as they searched for their identity, survival, joy, and will to live. This Movie left a lasting impression, and we carry it in our hearts.*

## BEST PerspecTIFF

(debut feature film)

**Goodbye Julia** by **Mohamed Kordofani**

Sudan | 2023 | 120' | Drama

*This film moved us deeply. We were on the edge of our seats while following the characters in every moment, the story surprised us till the very end. This movie explores deep human emotions. It showed us how to overcome hate and intolerance and finding peace with ourselves and surroundings.*

## BEST DIRECTOR

**Dorka Vermes**

Árni | Hungary | 2023 | 100' | Drama

*This director has subtly but masterfully managed to immerse us in the main characters inner world. This film felt like a punch in the stomach and the pain still lingers on.*

## BEST SCREENPLAY

**Isa Qosja**

The Stork | Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, Albania | 2023 | 97' | Drama, Comedy

*This film allowed us to immerse ourselves in a world unfamiliar to us. We followed the extraordinary characters into their weird reality that captivated and surprised us. There was a great sense of humor and humanity in the whole script .*

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## LIVE ACTION & ANIMATION JURY

composed by:

**Hu Wei** (*China-France*), **Mónica Santos** (*Portugal*), **Thanasis Neofotistos** (*Greece*)

awards:

### BEST SHORT FILM

*Nominee for 97th Academy Awards® 2025*

**Dreams Like Paper Boats** by **Samuel Suffren**

Haiti | 2024 | 19' | Live Action

*For the way it challenges gender roles, giving us a new and sensitive perspective of Haiti. And for the creative transformation of absence into presence.*

### BEST EUROPEAN SHORT FILM

*Nominee for European Film Awards 2024*

**On the Way** by **Samir Karahoda**

Kosovo | 2024 | 15' | Live Action

*For its poetic cinematic language and captivating rhythm control.*

### BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

**Mother is a Natural Sinner** by **Hoda Taheri, Boris Hadžija**

Germany, Iran | 2024 | 15'

*For the boldness of female exposition to sexuality and for the most daring opening scene...*

### BEST ANIMATION SHORT FILM

**Flower Show** by **Elli Vuorinen**

Finland | 2024 | 9'

*For the most exuberant floral experience with a backdrop subtext of the blossoming of female innocence.*

### SPECIAL MENTION

ANIMATION SHORT FILM

**Matta and Matto** by **Bianca Caderas, Kerstin Zemp**

Switzerland | 2023 | 11'

*For the best representative story of distancing in a post-covid metaphor with a captivating technique.*

## **BEST STUDENT FICTION FILM**

**Our Own Shadow** by **Agustina Sánchez Gavier**

Argentina | 2024 | 20'

*Amidst the breath of the jungle and the song of the river, some depart while others return, all dissolving into nothingness at the moment of the eclipse. A poem of time and a collage of space.*

## **BEST STUDENT ANIMATION FILM**

**Long Distance** by **Nadja Tanno**

Switzerland | 2023 | 6'

*For the metaphor of togetherness and loneliness in long distance relationships.*

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## **DOCUMENTARY JURY**

composed by:

**Ardit Sadiku (Albania), Goran Gocić (Serbia), Otilia Babara (Moldova)**

awards:

## **BEST DOCUMENTARY**

**Balomania** by **Sissel Morell Dargis**

Denmark | 2024 | 90'

*A British rock poet Keith Reid once said: "If nobody wants to print my poems, I'll rent an airplane and write it across the sky." That is exactly what a secret, illegal subculture of São Paulo balloon makers do. They organize exhibitions on the sky above Brazil. The director shared their passion for seven years, creating an exciting statement about our endeavour to leave an imprint in the world.*

## **BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM**

**Ever Since, I Have Been Flying** by **Aylin Gökmen**

Switzerland | 2023 | 19'

*The film offers a deep human portrayal of resilience in a Kurdish nomadic tribe. Through the quiet strength of its women and the protagonist's haunting experience of loss and captivity, the film reflects a profound longing for freedom. The final image of a mother's hands holding a pomegranate symbolizes life's enduring cycle amid suffering. This award honours the film's powerful depiction of the human spirit in adversity.*

## BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY

**Reading You by Angeline Teh**

Malaysia, Belgium | 2023 | 14'

*A delicate and profound exploration of grief and trauma. The film is a journey of reconciliation with the filmmakers own past through the painful memories of her own mother. Beautifully crafted, this film deeply moved us.*

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## VIDEO ART & EXPERIMENTAL, BALKAN & IN ALBANIAN JURY

composed by:

**Hazir Sh. Haziri (Kosovo), Sofia Georgovassili (Greece), Rouzbeh Rashidi (Iran-Ireland)**

awards:

## BEST VIDEO ART & EXPERIMENTAL

**Shokouk: A Cosmicomedy in Four Acts by Rouzbeh Akhbari, Felix Kalmenson**

Uzbekistan | 2023 | 17'

*A cosmic-comedy film with a strong four-act structure, masterfully crafted as an experimental film. It explores a universal theme, branching out yet maintaining a coherent core, with exceptional execution by the directors, creators, and crew.*

## BEST STUDENT EXPERIMENTAL

**Looking Into the Sun by Maximilian Karakatsanis**

Germany | 2023 | 7'

*To an intimate and visually captivating piece, sharing a quiet, profound moment of connection and loss, conveyed with simplicity and beauty.*

## BEST BALKAN SHORT FILM

**The Visit by Veselin Boydev**

Bulgaria | 2024 | 17' | Fiction

*For a remarkable achievement in bringing the topic of corruption during Covid era to the big screen, where the script, acting, cinematography, and masterful direction come together to create an exceptional cinematic experience.*

## BEST SHORT FILM IN ALBANIAN

**Like a Sick Yellow** by **Norika Sefa**  
Kosovo | 2024 | 23' | Documentary

*A film that explores hauntology through analogue video and the often-invisible internal domestic spaces, the dark, mysterious aspects of Albanian life are reflected, revealing how the past influences the present.*

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**BEST DEBUT SHORT FILM “Ron Holloway”**

**Delivery** by **Ben Lankester**  
UK | 2024 | 25' | LIVE ACTION

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**3<sup>rd</sup> SCREENPLAY CONTESTIFF 2024**

**Distribution Award** by **MAILUKI Films** goes to:

**Tangled Tails** by **Oleg Condrea** | Moldova

*The story captivates with its simplicity and emotion, touching on the relationship between a family and their dog. With sensitivity, Oleg makes us reflect on family bonds and the challenges of life. Congratulations on this excellent work!*

**SAYONARA Film Award** goes to:

**Charlotte** by **Ylljet Aliçka** | Albania

*For its powerful depiction of the contrast between repression and freedom, in a historical context rarely explored with such delicacy, for the complexity of its characters and the intriguing cultural dynamics.*

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**NEW CRITICS CHOICE**  
**BEST FEATURE FILM**

**Árni** by **Dorka Vermes**  
Hungary | 2023 | 100' | Drama

*For its immersive cinematic world and the boldness to tell the story in an original and authentic style.*

**NEW CRITICS CHOICE**  
**BEST SHORT FILM**

**Resort by Chanelle Eidenbenz**  
UK | 2024 | 20'

*The honest depiction of the three family members effectively highlights their individual personalities, conflicts, and connections through thoughtfully crafted stylistic choices.*

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**PANORAMA JURY**

composed by:

**Elma Doresi (director), Jonid Jorgji (filmmaker)**  
**Jonida Koçi (filmmaker), Genci Kojdheli (human rights lawyer)**

awards:

**BEST GENERATIONS**

**kitty\_kitty\_katxxx by Diêu An**  
Vietnam | 2024 | 29' | Fiction

*A daring exploration that provokes analysis of the clash between generations, morality, sexuality and the high price of "entertainment" in modern societies, showcasing tensions between the old and the new. Additionally, a very important and prominent undertone is the change in the perception of morality and sexuality as a form of empowerment and at the same time exploitation.*

**BEST NEW WORLD**

**P by Stelios Koupetoris**  
Greece | 2024 | 10' | Animation

*Is it possible to convey great messages through puppets? I believe P demonstrates the best. P shows that media power may deflect any reality via animation without saying a word.*

**BEST DIVERGENT MINDS**

**Dori by Redi Mazi**  
Albania | 2024 | 18' | Fiction

*Desire and passion conquer all obstacles and surpass all limitations. You discover that only constraint is yourself, and that anything you want and seek, you will find. As he found out...*

**BEST PARADE**

**The Exchange by Amaia Yoldi**

Spain | 2024 | 14' | Fiction

*A movie unfolding spontaneously and realistically a theme of human intimacy concerning the gender identity, where not everything is as it appears to be, as even the well-dressed man in a pedestrian street might desire to wear long red 20 cm boots.*

**BEST REFLECTING ALBANIA**

**Italianesi by Saverio La Ruina**

Italy | 2023 | 84' | Documentary

*The film showcases the powerful story where the feelings of compassion and resilience of a people intertwine towards their former occupier. With emotion, it highlights hospitality as a fundamental virtue of Albanians towards Italian soldiers during World War II. This poignant documentary serves as an essential reminder of the compassion and humanity displayed even in the darkest times of the Albanian people.*

**BEST AI FILM**

**Code of illusion by Ard Kelmendi**

Czech Republic | 2024 | 9' | AI Documentary

*Thanks to a fantastic interaction of filming and graphics, we watch and are informed about the two sides of the coin offered by the technology development, its convenience.*

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**AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**Parthenope by Paolo Sorrentino**

Italy, France | 2024 | 136' | Drama, Fantasy

**TEENS AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**Absence Excuse by Alex Marano**

Italy | 2023 | 17' | Fiction

**KIDS AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**Sapiens? by Bruno Bozzetto**

Italy | 2023 | 23' | Animation