

# AWARDS

24<sup>th</sup> edition TIFF 2026



## PerspecTIFF JURY

composed by:

**Fatlume Bunjaku** (Kosovo), **Giacomo Abbruzzese** (Italy), and **Ivan Bakrač** (Montenegro)

awards:

### BEST PerspecTIFF

**Lust by Ralitza Petrova**

Bulgaria, Denmark, Sweden | 2026 | 77'

*For its lucid and disenchanted portrait of contemporary Bulgaria, moving beyond the conventions of social drama into a deeply personal exploration of alienation, desire and inheritance. At its centre is a complex character whose inner contradictions give the film its distinctive structure and style.*

*With remarkable restraint, the director creates a world in which the personal and the social are inseparable, leaving a haunting and uncompromising impression. The PerspecTIFF Awards goes to Lust.*

### BEST DIRECTOR

**Eimi Imanishi**

Nomad Shadow | USA, Spain, France | 2025 | 82'

*For a remarkably assured directorial debut that transforms displacement and belonging into an intimate human drama. With restraint and sensitivity, she observes her characters without judgement, allowing political and social tensions to emerge naturally through their relationships. Unique casting and a precise visual language create a powerful tension between what is seen and unseen, conveying emotion through gesture, silence and absence. The funeral scene is particularly striking in its precision and restraint, revealing a distinctive cinematic voice with remarkable sensitivity to character and space.*

### BEST SCREENPLAY

**Ralitza Petrova**

Lust | Bulgaria, Denmark, Sweden | 2026 | 77'

*For the precision and subtlety of its writing. The screenplay gradually reveals its protagonist through small encounters, fragments and unexpected shifts, while giving the secondary characters enough depth to feel fully formed and independent. Its carefully controlled structure allows the character and the world around her to emerge together, creating a narrative that is complex, restrained and emotionally resonant.*

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## LIVE ACTION & ANIMATION JURY

composed by:

**Hoda Taheri** (Iran, Germany), **John Canciani** (Scotland, Italy, Switzerland), **Nikola Majdak** (Serbia)

awards:

## BEST SHORT FILM

*Eligible for 99th Academy Awards 2027®*

### **Flesh Impact by Maggie Gyllenhaal**

USA | 2026 | 18' | Live Action

*For its high production value and its direct, physically charged approach to the body. Through controlled use of image, sound, and performance, the film creates an unsettling atmosphere and is a big homage to Hollywood.*

## BEST EUROPEAN SHORT FILM

*Eligible for European Film Awards 2026*

### **Nobody Said Anything by Tamara Todorović**

Serbia, France, Slovenia, CroatiaFrance, Serbia, Slovenia | 2026 | 15' | Live Action

*For its masterful creation of suspense and its subtle portrayal of mistrust and the gradual loss of solidarity. Like a pressure cooker, the film builds tension through glances, silences, and small gestures, revealing how fear and self-preservation can fracture a community. Precise, unsettling, and deeply affecting, Nobody Said Anything shows how quickly collective responsibility can give way to silence.*

## BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM

### **And If Thuy Didn't Exist by Carlo Francisco Manatad**

France, Indonesia, Philippines | 2026 | 16'

*For its tender and unconventional portrayal, infused with moments of subtle humour. The film creates an emotional world where what remains unspoken carries as much weight as what is said. With great sensitivity and confidence, it stays with us beyond its final image.*

## BEST ANIMATION SHORT FILM

### **Once in a Body by María Cristina Pérez González**

Colombia, USA | 2025 | 11'

*For transforming the body into a vivid space of memory, change, and imagination. Through a distinctive visual language, the film finds something intimate and universal within the physical. Its animation feels alive, tactile, and deeply connected to the experience it explores.*

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## DOCUMENTARY JURY

composed by:

**Alina Gorlova (Ukraine), More Raça (Kosovo), Nayra Sanz Fuentes (Spain)**

awards:

## BEST DOCUMENTARY

**With Sand in Our Eyes by Kiki Ho**

Netherlands | 2025 | 74'

*The Best Feature Documentary Award goes to a film that has the courage to give space to invisible struggles, its tenderness in confronting grief and loneliness, and its ability to turn pain into shared experience of loss. A work that reminds us of the importance of connection, compassion, and truly seeing the people around us. The Best Feature Documentary Award goes to With Sand in Our Eyes directed by Kikio Ho.*

## BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY

**Anatomy of a Portrait by Juan Felipe León**

Colombia | 2026 | 24'

*The Best Short Documentary award goes to a film that is not afraid to portray, with respect, dignity, and beauty, one of the most significant parts of life — death. We give this prize to “Anatomy of a Portrait” by Juan Felipe León*

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## Video Art & Experimental, Balkan & IN ALBANIAN JURY

composed by:

**Fani Zguro (Italy), Jane Kortoshev (North Macedonia), Thelyia Petraki (Greece)**

Awards:

## BEST VIDEO ART & EXPERIMENTAL

**I Think You Should be Here by Anna-Marija Adomaitytė, Élie Grappe**

France, Switzerland | 2026 | 12'

*The film tackles the phenomenon of online banality brilliantly, with the clarity of an anthropologist.*

## BEST BALKAN SHORT FILM

**Desert, She by Ioanna Digenaki**

Greece | 2025 | 15' | Fiction

*For its distinctive cinematic voice, its vivid sense of heat of everyday life, and its tender yet powerful portrayal of a generation navigating uncertainty in a city running out of water. The Best Balkan Short Film Award goes to Desert, She by Ioanna Digenaki.*

## BEST IN ALBANIAN SHORT FILM

**angel777 by Brilant Pireva**

Kosovo | 2025 | 27' | Fiction

*For its fresh and original narrative structure used to raise a range of issues relevant to our time, and especially the younger generations, the Best In Albanian Short Film award goes to angel777.*

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## **STUDENT JURY**

composed by:

**Dionis Prifti (Albania), Klaudia Pashnjari (Albania), Kristina Rushiti (Albania) and Renis Hyka (Albania)**

awards:

### **BEST STUDENT FICTION**

**Silent Voices by Nadine Misong Jin**

USA, South Korea | 2026 | 18'

*Distinguished by its sensitive and authentic portrayal of family relationships and unspoken emotions. The film is marked by assured and minimalist direction, placing its trust in the evocative power of image and silence to create an intimate atmosphere, where what remains unspoken carries as much weight as what is seen. A student film with a distinctive and confident cinematic voice.*

### **BEST STUDENT ANIMATION**

**Tunnel Vision by Yiru Deng**

USA | 2025 | 5'

*In just a few minutes, the director manages to convey the emotions of an entire lifetime, caught between society's expectations and the struggle for individual freedom. An impressive film that uses the full expressive potential of animation with intelligence and sensitivity.*

### **BEST STUDENT DOCUMENTARY**

**A Small Alley Dreams of Us by Yi Lu**

Mexico | 2025 | 15'

*For a film that reminds us that the places we leave behind, become part of our collective memory. This documentary unfolds the charming story of a small Chinese alley, which dreams of Mexican children, who once played there, on the night prior to its demolition. It is a warm and heartfelt story about memory — and a gentle reminder of what it means to never forget.*

### **BEST STUDENT EXPERIMENTAL**

**MAO by Li Zechen**

China | 2025 | 13'

*Përmes një rrëfimi eksperimental dhe kalimit me elegancë mes zhanreve, filmi sjell me ironi dhe sarkazëm një reflektim mbi shoqërinë moderne, nën hijen e miteve të së shkuarës. Filmi MAO, me regji të Li Zechen, është fituesi i çmimit BEST experimental student film.*

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## **PANORAMA JURY**

composed by:

**Dionis Papadimitri (Albania), Evi Gjoni (Albania) and  
Nik Xhelilaj (Germany, Turkey, Albania)**

awards:

## **BEST GENERATIONS**

**My Brother Lyosha and I by Lena Tronina**

Kazakhstan | 2025 | 16' | Fiction

*For her was just another day with her brother, for us a quiet reminder how powerful the bond between siblings is. Honest, pure love and authentic way of storytelling. Generations award goes to...*

## **BEST NEW WORLD**

**Curiosity on Planet Mars by Tommy Baron**

France | 2026 | 22' | Fiction

*For the sensitivity and courage with which the film explores the boundary between truth and illusion, the Jury awards the New World Award to Curiosity on Planet Mars.*

## **BEST DIVERGENT MINDS**

**Good Morning by Diogo Brito**

Portugal | 2025 | 20' | Fiction

*For its distinctive style and its hopeful vision of the future. The film beautifully reflects this year's HUMANOGRAPHY theme by celebrating different ways of experiencing and understanding the world.*

## **BEST PARADE**

**Sin by Mahdokht Molaei**

Iran | 2026 | 17' | Fiction

*For the playful and inventive way it turns an unusual premise into an engaging cinematic experience, finding humour and beauty in the unexpected.*

## **BEST AI 3.0 FILM**

**Part of the System by Durim Klaiqi**

Kosovo, Slovenia | 2025 | 8' | Experimental

*For its distinctive visual language and bold, original approach to exploring creativity, authorship and the evolving relationship between humans and technology.*

## **CAPTURE FRAME JURY**

composed by:

**Ardian Isufi (Albania), Merisa Hasrama (Albania), Noel Myrtezai (Albania)**

awards:

## **BEST CAPTURE FRAME**

**Nothing Happens After Your Absence by Ibrahim Omar**

Sudan | 2026 | 15'

*The image FRAME places culture in a marginal space, where a corrugated-metal shelter, a police officer, and a horse become the protagonists of an almost surreal scene. The sign reading "Sudan Film Institute" emerges as a fragile marker of artistic presence in the face of poverty, insecurity, and a lack of infrastructure. Within this contrast, cinema becomes both a political and cultural act, while the cinematic image does more than document a place: it asks what becomes of culture when institutions are fragile, yet the need to bear witness to stories remains strong. The shelter is not merely a space marked by deprivation; it becomes a monument to cultural improvisation and to resistance through imagination.*

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## **MAILUKI DISTRIBUTION Award:**

**Old Dogs Die Alone by Vangelis Chatzopoulos | Greece**

*For the depth of a story that leads us through human loneliness and for the audacity with which the director proposes to translate this vision onto the screen, the Mailuki Films Distribution Award goes to "Old Dogs Die Alone" by Vangelis Chatzopoulos, from Greece.*

## **SAYONARA DISTRIBUTION Award:**

**Seven of Borombo by Rani Nasr | Lebanon**

*For creating a surprising story from a very real and everyday world, moving naturally between humour, tension and an almost surreal dimension. For its vivid and memorable characters, the curiosity created by their encounter, and the clear vision behind them. The Sayonara Film Distribution Award goes to... Seven*

*of Borombo, by Rani Nasr.*

## **AM Production Award:**

**Seven of Borombo by Rani Nasr | Lebanon**

*For its distinctive cinematic voice, dark humor, and compelling exploration of luck, class, and belonging. Through a memorable central character, the film turns sudden fortune into a poignant reflection on identity and the desire to change one's place in the world.*

**DOP Blerim Gjino vci Award goes to:**

**The Soft Touch of Your Gaze by Valentina Ostacoli | Italy**

*Amid the clashing voices in the room, she remains silent, yet her eyes speak, a cinematic language in which the unspoken carries more weight than words.*

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## **BEST DEBUT SHORT FILM "Ron Holloway"**

**Nobody Knows the World by Roddy Dextre**

Peru, Colombia, Spain, Mexico | 2026 | 18'

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## **AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**MOTHER by Teona Strugar Mitev ska**

Belgium, North Macedonia | 2025 | 104'

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## **TEENS AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**Some Things Can't Wait by Vincent Jost**

Germany | 2025 | 13' | Fiction

## **KIDS AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**

**Sunspark by Danny Bourque**

USA | 2026 | 11' | Animation

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## **CRITIC CHOICE AWARD**

By **CINECLOSET - ERION BASHI**

**Two Lives in Tight Socks** by **Besim Ugzmajli**  
Spain, Kosovo | 2026 | 15' | Documentary

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## **HONORARY TIFF AWARD**

**Teona Strugar Mitevska**