



## THE URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY AT&T's THE HUMANITY OF CONNECTION

WITH FOUNDING SPONSOR HBO

### ANNOUNCES 2018 WINNERS

NEW YORK, NY (September 23, 2018) – The 22nd Annual Urbanworld Film Festival ([www.urbanworld.org](http://www.urbanworld.org)), presented by **AT&T's The Humanity of Connection** along with founding partner **HBO**, announced the award winners for the best narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema), narrative short, documentary feature, music video, screenplay, young creators, web originals as well as the audience award categories during its awards brunch, hosted by journalist **Lola Ogunnaike**, at Tribeca Grill Loft in New York City today.

The nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival screened 76 selections, featured 4 original screenplay finalists and hosted digital, music and spotlight events. **Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish, Ava DuVernay, Amandla Stenberg, Algee Smith, Tasha Smith, Lil Rel Howery, Naturi Naughton, Tristan Wilds, John David Washington, Simone Missick, Boris Kodjoe, Mustafa Shakir, Adepero Oduye, April Reign, Joe Morton, Bilal, Ayo, Ray Angry of The Roots**, directors **Malcolm D. Lee** and **George Tillman, Jr.**, producers **Donna Gigliotti, Nina Yang Bongiovi** and **Will Packer** as well as journalist **Elaine Welteroth** were among the many that appeared throughout the five day festival this year.

**The 2018 Urbanworld Film Festival winners are:**

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (U.S. CINEMA) – Pimp – Directed by Christine Crokos**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/pimp>

(Presented by ARRAY - \$2,500 Prize)

Honorable Mention – 1 Angry Black Man – Directed by Menelek Lumumba

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/1-angry-black-man>

#### THE JURY:

Sharla Sumpter Bridgett, President of Production, The Story Company

Terra Potts, Senior Vice President, Multicultural Marketing, Warner Bros. Pictures

Tilane Jones, Vice President, ARRAY

**BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (WORLD CINEMA) – The Burial of Kojo – Directed by Blitz Bazawule**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/the-burial-of-kojo>

(Presented by Urbanworld - \$2,500 Prize)

Honorable Mention – El Chata (The Sparring Partner) – Directed by Gustavo Ramos

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/el-chata-the-sparring-partner>

#### THE JURY:

Frida Torresblanco, Producer

Lisa Cortés, Producer

Nnamdi Asomugha, Actor / Producer

**BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – Wale – Directed by Barnaby Blackburn**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/wale>

(Presented by REIGN—\$25,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

2nd Prize – Let Them Die Like Lovers – Directed by Jesse Atlas

[www.urbanworld.org/2018/let-them-die-like-lovers](http://www.urbanworld.org/2018/let-them-die-like-lovers)

(Presented by REIGN—\$15,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

3rd Prize – Are We Good Parents? – Directed by Bola Ogun

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/are-we-good-parents>

(Presented by REIGN—\$10,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

**THE JURY:**

Korin D. Williams, Co-Founder & CEO, Kronicle Media

Lauren Ludwig, Writer / Director

Maria Zuckerman, Senior Vice President, HBO Films

Monique Nash, Co-Founder & Head of Creative Affairs, Kronicle Media

Quincy Newell, Chief Content Officer, REIGN

**BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – Mr. Soul – Directed by Melissa Haizlip**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/mr-soul>

(Presented by HBO -- \$5,000 Prize)

Honorable Mention – The Pushouts—Directed by Katie Galloway & Dawn Valadez

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/the-pushouts>

**THE JURY:**

Jacqueline Glover, Senior Vice President, HBO Documentary Films

Jason Delane Lee, Actor & Producer / Co-Founder, Lagralane Group

Rachel Watanabe-Batton, Executive Producer & Founder, Contradiction and Struggle

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO – Scandal – Directed by Pablo Mengin-Lecreulx**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/scandal>

**THE JURY:**

Coodie & Chike, Directors, CreativeControl.TV

Stephen G. Hill, CEO, Tricpelvis Productions, LLC

Wendy Washington, Founder, TID Agency

**BEST SCREENPLAY – Northern Cross – Written by Melody Cooper**

(Presented by BET Networks – \$10,000 Prize)

<https://www.urbanworld.org/screenplays>

Honorable Mention –Johnny Ace – Written by Moon Molson

**THE JURY:**

Jennifer Mayer, Screenwriter & Playwright

Jeremy Pikser, Vice President, Writers Guild of America East / Award-Winning Writer

Tamara Gregory, Creative Executive, BET Networks

### **BEST YOUNG CREATOR – Three In Stride – Directed by Sasha Whittle**

(Presented by REIGN – \$25,000 funding commitment for next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/three-in-stride>

Honorable Mention: Silvia In The Waves – Directed by Giovana Olmos

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/silvia-in-the-waves>

### **THE JURY:**

April Reign, Creator, #OscarsSoWhite

Boris Kodjoe, Actor / Producer, Bluvoma, Inc.

Lisa Holly, Vice President, Strategy & Business Development, REIGN

### **BEST WEB ORIGINAL – Frank & Lamar – Directed by Fred Soligan**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/frank-and-lamar>

Honorable Mention: Otis – Directed by Alexander Etseyatse

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/otis>

### **THE JURY:**

Angela Northington, Industry Executive

Tamir Muhammad, Producer

Zennen Clifton, Vice President, Digital Strategy & Distribution, MACRO

### **AUDIENCE AWARDS**

#### **Best Feature – Pimp – Directed by Christine Crokos**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/pimp>

#### **Best Short – Jitters – Directed by Otoja Abit**

<https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/jitters>

Key supporters of the festival also include **BET Networks** as prestige partner and **NBCUniversal, Warner Bros.** and **21CF Global Inclusion** as premiere partners. Industry partners include **AMC Independent, ARRAY, MPAA, Directors Guild of America, Producers Guild of America, Writers Guild of America East** and **Urban Movie Channel: UMC**. Media partner is **Power 105**.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Urbanworld Film Festival will be in New York in September 2019. Follow **@UWFilmFest** on **Twitter** and **@urbanworldfilmfest** on **Instagram** and use **#Urbanworld** to join the conversation on social media.

###

### **ABOUT URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL**

Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in August 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, co-founder of MoviePass and a former executive at Miramax and October Films. With estimated attendance reaching over 15,000, the five-day festival anchored in film showcases narrative features, documentaries, short films, spotlight screenings and live staged screenplay readings; the Urbanworld Digital track focuses on digital panels and workshops; and the Urbanworld Music franchise highlights emerging talent in live performances during festival events. For over two decades, Hollywood studios and indie film distributors, as well as established and emerging filmmakers, have consistently chosen Urbanworld to premiere box office and award-winning hits. The Urbanworld Film Festival is

an initiative of the Urbanworld Foundation Inc. Gabrielle Glore serves as Festival Director & Head of Programming. The organization's website is [www.urbanworld.org](http://www.urbanworld.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

Staci R. Collins Jackson, The Collins Jackson Agency

312.600.7774 | [SRCJ@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com](mailto:SRCJ@TheCollinsJacksonAgency.com)