



**THE URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL  
PRESENTED BY BET NETWORKS WITH FOUNDING SPONSOR HBO  
ANNOUNCES 2014 FESTIVAL WINNERS**

NEW YORK, NY (September 21, 2014) – **The 18th Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival** ([urbanworld.org](http://urbanworld.org)), presented by **BET Networks** with founding sponsor **HBO**, announced the awards for the screenplay, feature, narrative short, narrative feature (U.S. and world) and audience categories today. The nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival screened over 70 films – including 12 world premieres; and concluded its five day festival with an awards reception hosted by Tony® nominated actress Condola Rashad (*The Trip To Bountiful*) and actor Stephen Hill (*Draft Day*) at Tribeca Grill Loft in New York's Tribeca area.

"This year's slate of winning festival selections truly represents a diversity of story and cultural relevance," said Gabrielle Glore, executive producer and head of programming, Urbanworld® Film Festival. With award winners and honorable mention selections ranging from New York to Spain, Uganda, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago – Urbanworld's international and multicultural imprint is further punctuated by these amazing storytellers we celebrate."

**The 18th Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival winners are:**

**Best Screenplay** - *NOOR* written by Nijla Baseema Mu'min

<http://urbanworld.org/screenplays>

(Presented by BET Networks - \$5,000 Prize)

**The Jury:**

Charlie Jordan Brookins, Senior Vice President, Original Programming, BET Networks

Franklin Leonard, Founder & CEO, The Black List

Melissa Breaux, Talent Manager, Washington Square Films

Reuben Cannon, Film & Television Producer

**Best Feature Documentary** - *Lucky* directed by Laura Checkoway

<http://urbanworld.org/films/lucky>

Honorable Mention - *Sewing Hope* directed by Derek Watson

<http://urbanworld.org/films/sewing-hope>

**The Jury:**

Angela Northington, Vice President, Content Licensing & Acquisitions, Revolt TV

Geraldine Moriba, Executive Producer, CNN / Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion, CNN Worldwide

Jackie Glover, Vice President, Documentaries, HBO

**Best Narrative Short** - *Pitahaya* directed by Albert Espinosa

<http://urbanworld.org/films/pitahaya>

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

Honorable Mention - *Sketch* directed by Stephen T. Barton

<http://urbanworld.org/films/sketch>

**The Jury:**

Artel Great, Founder, Project Catalyst / Professor of Cinema & Media, NYU Tisch School of the Arts

Marvin Scott, Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, HBO

Tamir Muhammad, Director, Content & Artist Development, Time Warner Inc.

**Best Narrative Feature (U.S. Cinema)** - *Lake Los Angeles* directed by Mike Ott

<http://urbanworld.org/films/lake-los-angeles>

(Presented by Fox Audience Strategy - \$5,000 Prize)

Honorable Mention - *In The Morning* directed by Nefertite Nguvu

<http://urbanworld.org/films/in-the-morning>

**The Jury:**

Dori Begley, Senior Vice President, Acquisitions, Magnolia Pictures

Stacy Spikes, Founder, Urbanworld® Film Festival / Co-Founder & CEO, MoviePass

Tilane Jones, Managing Director, AFFRM / Array Releasing

**Best Narrative Feature (World Cinema)** - *Los Angeles* directed by Damian John Harper

<http://urbanworld.org/films/los-angeles>

Honorable Mention - *God Loves The Fighter* directed by Damian Marcano

<http://urbanworld.org/films/god-loves-the-fighter>

**The Jury:**

Frida Torresblanco, Producer, Braven Films

Nijja Kuykendall, Vice President, Production, Warner Bros. Pictures

Nikkole Denson-Randolph, Vice President, Special & Alternative Content, AMC Theatres/Entertainment

Ted Hope, CEO, Fandor / Film Producer

**Audience Award Winner Best Feature** - *In The Morning* directed by Nefertite Nguvu

<http://urbanworld.org/films/in-the-morning>

(Presented by Panavision - \$15,000 camera package donation of Panavision equipment)

**Audience Award Winner Best Short** - *Sketch* directed by Stephen T. Barton

<http://urbanworld.org/films/sketch>

(Presented by Panavision - \$5,000 camera package donation of Panavision equipment)

Additional information and video from the festival can be found on [urbanworld.org](http://urbanworld.org).

Along with presenting sponsor BET Networks and founding sponsor HBO, Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo was a premiere sponsor and industry circle supporters included Fox Global Directors Initiative, Cinemax, Interactive One, Panavision, MoviePass, Moguldom, RLJ Entertainment, the Directors Guild of America and AMC Theatres.

Next year's festival will be in New York in September 2015.

**ABOUT URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL**

The Urbanworld® Film Festival, founded in 1997 by Stacy Spikes, is the largest internationally competitive festival of its kind. The five-day festival includes narrative features, documentaries, short films, spotlight screenings, events, live staged screenplay readings, the Urbanworld® Digital track focused on digital and social media panels and workshops and Urbanworld® Music, which highlights emerging talent in live performances during after party events. Over the last 18 years, Hollywood studios, indie film distributors, and established and emerging filmmakers have consistently chosen Urbanworld® to premiere box office and award-winning hits. Urbanworld® has also provided a platform for some of today's leading brands seeking to reach key influencers across the industry and within the consumer marketplace. The Urbanworld® Film Festival is an initiative of the Urbanworld® Foundation Inc., a nonprofit organization that endeavors to consistently manifest its mission of redefining and advancing the presence and impact of the multicultural community in cinema and cross-platform media. By implementing initiatives that actively support and develop content creators of color, Urbanworld® significantly contributes to the evolution of the media and entertainment landscape and the diversity that it reflects. Gabrielle Glore serves as Executive Producer & Head of Programming for the Urbanworld® Film Festival. The festival website is [urbanworld.org](http://urbanworld.org).

## **ABOUT BET NETWORKS**

BET Networks, a subsidiary of Viacom Inc. (NYSE: VIA, VIA.B), is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African-American audience. The primary BET channel reaches more than 90 million households and can be seen in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa. BET is the dominant African-American consumer brand with a diverse group of business extensions: BET.com, a leading Internet destination for Black entertainment, music, culture, and news; CENTRIC, a 24-hour entertainment network targeting the 25- to 54-year-old African-American audience; BET Digital Networks - BET Gospel and BET Hip Hop, attractive alternatives for cutting-edge entertainment tastes; BET Home Entertainment, a collection of BET-branded offerings for the home environment including DVDs and video-on-demand; BET Event Productions, a full-scale event management and production company with festivals and live events spanning the globe; BET Mobile, which provides ringtones, games and video content for wireless devices; and BET International, which operates BET in the United Kingdom and oversees the extension of BET network programming for global distribution.

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