



**THE URBANWORLD® FILM FESTIVAL,
WITH PRESENTING PARTNER REVOLT AND FOUNDING SPONSOR HBO,
ANNOUNCES 2017 WINNERS**

NEW YORK, NY (September 25, 2017) – The 21st Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival (urbanworld.org), presented by REVOLT with founding partner HBO, announced the award winners for the best screenplay, documentary feature, narrative short, narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema) and music video, as well as the audience award categories and the three Young Filmmaker finalists. The nation’s largest competitive multicultural film festival screened 80 selections and hosted numerous digital, music and spotlight events before concluding its five day festival with an awards brunch hosted by writer, actress and sketch comedian Robin Thede, creator and host of BET’s “The Rundown,” at Tribeca Grill Loft in New York City this past Sunday.

Kate Hudson, Ava DuVernay, Chadwick Boseman, Sterling K. Brown, Josh Gad, Gabourey Sidibe, Rutina Wesley, Kofi Siriboe, Dawn-Lyen Gardner, Irv “Gotti” Lorenzo, Tamron Hall, directors Melvin Van Peebles, Julie Dash and Reginald Hudlin and singer Andra Day were among the many that appeared at the festival this year.

The 21st Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival winners are:

Best Narrative Feature (U.S. Cinema) – *Varsity Punks* - Directed by Anthony Solorzano

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/varsity-punks>

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

Honorable Mention – *Alaska Is A Drag* – Directed by Shaz Bennet

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/alaska-is-a-drag>

The Jury:

Angela Northington, SVP, Content Acquisitions, RLJ Entertainment

Jesse Collins, CEO, Jesse Collins Entertainment & JCE Films

Mike Jackson, Partner & Producer, Get Lifted Film Co.

Tilane Jones, Executive Director, ARRAY

Tim Story, CEO, The Story Company

Best Narrative Feature (World Cinema) – *Tourments D'Amour / Torments of Love* - Directed by Caroline Jules

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/torments-of-love>

(Presented by ARRAY)

Honorable Mention – *Catching Feelings* – Directed by Kagiso Lediga

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/catching-feelings>

The Jury:

Gheeta Ghandbir, Award-Winning Director/Producer/Editor, G2P2 Films

Moikgantsi Kgama, Founder & Executive Director, ImageNation Foundation

Rob Hardy, Writer/Director/Producer, Rainforest Entertainment

Best Narrative Short – *Flip The Record* - Directed by Marie Jamora

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/flip-the-record>

(Presented by AT&T - \$5,000 Prize)

Honorable Mention – *Big City* – Directed by Jordan Bond and Ryan Lachlan

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/big-city>

The Jury:

Chris Grunden, VP, Film Programming, HBO

Christine Davila, Creative Executive, Scripted Content, Stage 13

Keith Clinkscales, Founder & CEO, First World Media

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

Best Feature Documentary – *Milwaukee 53206*– Directed by Keith McQuirter

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/milwaukee-53206>

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

Honorable Mention for Short Documentary—*Waiting for Hassana* – Directed by Ifunanya Maduka

The Jury:

Jackie Glover, SVP, Documentary Films, HBO

Leslie Fields Cruz, Executive Director, National Black Programming Consortium

Yoruba Richen, Award-Winning Director/Writer/Producer

Best Music Video – *Can I Exist (featuring Missio)* – Directed by Jeff Ray

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/missio-can-i-exist>

The Jury:

Camille Hackney, EVP, Brand Partnerships & Commercial Licensing, Atlantic Records

Ron Worthy, Founder & Editor in Chief, Soulhead.com

Shawn Peters, Award-Winning Cinematographer

Best Screenplay – *Pale Horse* – Written by Chris Courtney Martin

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

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

Honorable Mention: *Muted* – Written by Brandi Nicole Payne

The Jury:

Jennifer Mayer, Screenwriter & Playwright

Jeremy Pikser, VP, Writer's Guild of America East

Kate Hagen, Director of Community, The Black List

Tamara Gregory, Senior Director, Original Programming, BET

Young Filmmaker Finalists

(Presented by REVOLT – All expense paid trip to REVOLT Music Conference, October 12-15 in Miami where the winner will be announced.)

Curiosities of the Quiet Boy – Directed by Quran Squire

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/curiosities-of-the-quiet-boy>

Laced – Directed by David F. Fortune

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/laced>

Sad Mobius – Directed by Kiho Song

<http://urbanworld.org/2017/sad-mobius>

The Jury:

Andre Harrell, Vice Chairman, REVOLT
Eva Marcille, Actress
Stacy Spikes, Founder, Urbanworld Film Festival

Audience Awards

Best Feature – *Shine* – Directed by Anthony Nardolillo

<http://www.urbanworld.org/2017/shine>

Best Short – *The Tale of Four* - Directed by Gabourey Sidibe

<http://urbanworld.org/2017/the-tale-of-four>

The festival's presenting partners are AT&T and REVOLT. Along with founding partner HBO, key supporters include prestige partner BET Networks, as well as premiere partners Comcast NBCUniversal and OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network. Industry partner supporters include Time Warner, Warner Bros., Stage 13, Urban Movie Channel, AMC Independent, Directors Guild of America and Writers Guild of America East. Village Voice, Uptown and New York Amsterdam News served as media partners.

The 22nd Annual Urbanworld® Film Festival will be in New York in September 2018.

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ABOUT URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL

Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in August 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, 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. Over the last 20 years, 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.

ABOUT REVOLT MEDIA & TV

REVOLT is focused on expertly curating the best of the best in music and engaging youth in social conversation – on-air, on-line, on-demand. The multi-genre, multi-platform network offers breaking music news, videos, artist interviews, exclusive performances, and original programming. Attracting over 50 million young adults through television, digital properties, social and mobile, REVOLT is accessible 24/7 – anytime, anywhere, any screen. Launched in broadcast in October 2013, REVOLT is available on DIRECTV, AT&T U-verse TV, Charter Spectrum, Comcast Xfinity, Verizon FiOS, CenturyLink Prism TV, Suddenlink, Frontier Communications, Comporium and Cincinnati Bell, as well as OTT platforms DIRECTV Now, FuboTV and FilmOn. REVOLT is also available internationally in Africa on Kwese TV, in the Bahamas on Cable Bahamas, the Cayman Islands on Westel, in Jamaica, Barbados, Nevis, Anguilla and Trinidad on Digicel, and in Trinidad on Massy Communications. Check local listings at <https://revolt.tv/listings>.

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