

# *Alternative Film Festival*

## **Spring 2025 Edition**

### **SHORT CATEGORY**

#### **Winners in RED, Nominees in BLACK**

##### **Nominees for Best Animation**

**Regents - Dir by: Jill Smith (United States)**

Guardians of the Secret of the Luminara Challenge - Dir by: Arek Zasowski (United Kingdom)

Paradise Again - Dir by: Georgina LaCroix (United States)

##### **Nominees for Best Comedy**

**Pants Labyrinth - Dir by: Simon Jones, Kaylee Nicholas (United Kingdom)**

Start - Dir by: Saint Sulyvan (Brazil)

Misunderstood - Dir by: Ariel Alexander Fiore (United States)

Always Forever - Dir by: Tibet Karayazgan (Canada)

Dreams of Desire - Dir by: Shihyun Wang (India)

##### **Nominees for Best Dark Comedy**

The Dreamboats - Dir by: Kaden Rogers (United States)

**Rotten - Dir by: Telly Bitsakakis (Canada)**

Boot - Dir by: Sam Picariello (United Kingdom)

##### **Nominees for Best Documentary Canada**

Vito-Man - Dir by: Jack Fabrizio (Canada)

Darkroom Diaries - Dir by: Olivia Melnick (Canada)

Moomtaz Khatoon: A Gender Fluid Queer Muslim - Dir by: Imtiaz Popat (Canada)

**Life After - Dir by: Olivia Keoughan (Canada)**

##### **Nominees for Best Documentary International**

**Stop The Razor - Dir by: Ayoola Jolayemi (United Kingdom)**

Direct to Manor - Dir by: Lucius McArthur (Philippines)

Sinkhole, 2024 - Dir by: Kate Liston (United Kingdom)

##### **Nominees for Best Documentary United States**

Sex Toy Talk: Buzz About Rabbit - Dir by: Thorisaz (United States)

**Arletta - Dir by: Montana James Miller, Tash Terry, Elena Higgins, Arletta Toland, James Woodenlegs (United States)**

Fire and Family: The Story of Robert D. Jacoby - Dir by: Michael Jacoby (United States)

##### **Nominees for Best Drama Canada**

**Angel Dust - Dir by: Alex Djordjevic, Jaxon Moore (Canada)**

Daddy's Boy - Dir by: Tom Peters (Canada)

Boiling Point - Dir by: Ali Watson (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Drama USA**

Flat Spot - Dir by: Wayne Blouzdis (United States)

Phantasma - Dir by: Maria Servellon (United States)

I Hope You're Happy - Dir by: Gretchen Mahkorn (United States)

I Thought Tomorrow We'd Go For A Walk - Dir by: Eddy Wang (United States)

**The Pianist - Dir by: Jan Wang (United States)**

### **Nominees for Best Drama International**

**Soul Tide - Dir by: Carmina Cordelia (United Kingdom)**

Scream - Dir by: Selma Meço (Turkey)

The Loved One Dies - Dir by: Qian Wan (United Kingdom)

Sorry Maa - Dir by: Parag Chhapekar (India)

Caffè e Cannella - Dir by: Gabriele Massidda (Italy)

### **Nominees for Best Experimental International**

This Dissonance - Dir by: Christophe Katrib (Lebanon)

Girls, Angels, Melodies - Dir by: László Bús (Hungary)

Sinkhole, 2024 - Dir by: Kate Liston (United Kingdom)

Khadija Bint Khuwaylid - Dir by: Fleur Howle (United Kingdom)

**Papota - Dir by: Martín Piroyansky (Argentina)**

### **Nominees for Best Experimental North America**

**Always + Forever or (The First Five Minutes and Fifty Five Seconds of Falling in Love) - Dir by: Joy Tirade (United States)**

I Used to Pray - Dir by: Andrew Thomson Taylor (Canada)

Seventh Heaven - Dir by: Syrus Gupta, Davis Knocke (United States)

I Won't Go Home Empty-Handed - Dir by: Ryan Akler-Bishop (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Horror**

The Trees Can Hear You - Dir by: Marc-Andre Blouin (Canada)

Phantom Frequency - Dir by: Bruno Sereno, Mariana Martínez Sierra (Canada)

The Other Me - Dir by: Naima Chebahi (France)

**Stay - Dir by: Esteban Carcelén Campos (Spain)**

Talk Show Host - Dir by: Gabriel Harb (Canada)

### **Nominees for Best Mystery/Suspense/Thriller**

Murray's Affair - Dir by: Caillou Wang (United States)

Dakota Stone - Dir by: Sherice Griffiths (United Kingdom)

**The Accident - Dir by: Thierry Obadia (France)**

IUD - Dir by: Laura Van Der Zee (Spain)

Fragment 24 - Dir by: Inês de Lucena (Portugal)

### **Nominees for Best Original Story**

**Arthur Ave** - Dir by: **Joey Medina (United States)**  
Deja You - Dir by: Justin Gorun (United States)  
The Commuter - Dir by: Joseph Sauchelli (United States)  
It's A Secret - Dir by: Ruchi Loomba (United States)  
The Boys in Drag - Dir by: Arturo Bravo (Canada)  
My ЪУJOPK [New York] - Dir by: Alrick A Brown (United States)

### **Nominees for Best Romance**

Promises - Dir by: Kayla Neves (Canada)  
Dear Past - Dir by: Jason Yao (Canada)  
The Parting Gift - Dir by: Stephen Lemieux (United States)  
**Better Boyfriend** - Dir by: **Eliana D'Assisi (Canada)**  
Remorse - Dir by: Xiangwu Xie (United States)

### **Nominees for Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Supernatural**

Always Forever - Dir by: Tibet Karayazgan (Canada)  
Dawn the Messier Objects - Dir by: Pedro Silveira (United States)  
Distant Blueshift - Dir by: Aloysius Ong (Singapore)  
**The Mermaid Museum** - Dir by: **Jacob Miller (United States)**  
Deep Time - Dir by: William Barrios (United States)

### **Nominees for Best Student Film International**

My Love - Dir by: Mengfei Yu (China)  
Umbral - Dir by: Miguel Andrade (Portugal)  
**Dance, Dance Man and Woman** - Dir by: **Bailin Yan (China)**  
Whisper of Wheat - Dir by: Mengyue Qi (China)  
Friend - Dir by: Oxana Frolova (Russian Federation)

### **Nominees for Best Student Film North America**

**Physique** - Dir by: **Joey Milberg (United States)**  
Where The Water Meets The Sand - Dir by: Josiah Erwin (Canada)  
The Sisters of Briar Glen - Dir by: Lauren Clark (United States)  
Popcorn - Dir by: Fangjian Li (United States)

### **Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker International**

Angela Ying Ki Chan - 961081 (Singapore)  
Ehsan Mousavian - Ghapan (Iran)  
Oxana Frolova - Friend (Russian Federation)  
**Leo Carden - The Animals** (United Kingdom)  
Yura Svoev - Voila (Russian Federation)

### **Nominees for Best First-Time Filmmaker North America**

Josiah Erwin - When The Water Meets The Sand (Canada)  
Ramin Forouzandeh - The Missing Piece (Canada)  
**Marc-Andre Blouin - The Trees Can Hear You** (Canada)

Mariana Nicoli - Julieta Gerlein (United States)  
Leonardo Benavides - Time to Order (Mexico)

### **Nominees for Best Actor**

Jimmy G. Pettigrew - Nothing But Wind (Canada)  
Mehri Ale Agha - End Of The Corridor (Iran)  
Arash Falahat Pishe - Ghapan (Iran)  
Zeki Cihan Peker - Blind Spot TR (Turkey)  
**Sinaí Segovia - Manolo (Mexico)**

### **Nominees for Best Actress**

Hannah Holman - Darlin' (United States)  
Sonya Rae - Talk Show Host (Canada)  
Laurie Sannii - Remorse (United States)  
**Eliselle Pingol - Where The Water Meets The Sand (Canada)**  
Julieta Gerlein - Birthday (United States)

### **Nominees for Best Cast**

Fosse Vedette (Fame and Graves) - Dir by: Giacomo Fontemaggi (France)  
Arthur Ave - Dir by: Joey Medina (United States)  
**The Sisters of Briar Glen - Dir by: Lauren Clark (United States)**  
The Crow's Shadow - Dir by: Evan T. Mac (United States)  
Too Much Silence - Dir by: Danil Ishimov (Russian Federation)

### **Nominees for Best Cinematography**

Eliana D'Assisi - Life After (Canada)  
Leo Carden - The Animals (United Kingdom)  
**Minh Tran - Popcorn (United States)**  
Yo Sheng Wang, Qi Luo - 開另一扇窗 Fighting For Life (Taiwan)  
César Briceño - Sinaí Segovia (Mexico)

### **Nominees for Best Writer**

Danielle Anderson - City Shadows (United States)  
Hedieh Abdian - LiLi (Iran)  
Martín Piroyansky, Fernando Echegaray - Papota (Argentina)  
**Aloysius Ong, Dennis Sim - Distant Blueshift (Singapore)**  
Jacob Miller, Jessica Sanders - The Mermaid Museum (United States)

### **Nominees for Best Director**

Gary McArthur - Charmagne Ballet Company (United States)  
Sina Ahmadi - Original Sin  
Esteban Carcelén Campos - Stay (Spain)  
Jan Wang - The Pianist (United States)  
**Saint Sulyvan - Start (Brazil)**