



**MIWAFF**

MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL WREATH AWARDS FILM FESTIVAL

DEMOCRACY IN FILM

# *Film Festival Catalogue*

SEPTEMBER 18TH-25TH, 2020





**Watch Anytime**  
**Starting from 12AM**  
**September 18th-25th:**

Julian Biba Opens the Fest

Host Eddy Kara: Virtual Festival Curriculum Rundown

Stream all 30 nominated films

# **Program**

**100% VIRTUAL**

SEPTEMBER 18TH TILL 25TH

## **Events from Sept. 18th till the 20th!**

### **September 18th: 1-2:15PM EST**

#### **Zoom Networking: Introduce yourselves!**

Get to know other attendees during this live Zoom session!

### **September 18th: 3-4PM EST**

#### **Zoom Session: What is MIWAFF and how does it work?**

Festival Director Eddy Kara & Board Director Matthew Benzrihem discuss our behind-the-scenes works. From submissions, voting for nominees, voting for our Wreath Award Winners to the Festival itself! Join and ask your questions!

### **From September 18th, 5PM EST (Streamable)**

#### **3-Time Wreath Award Winner David Chai Interview**

- Making SIJI: Driver (Winner of 3 Wreath Awards at MIWAFF 2018)
- Is writing a script before selling it a good idea?
- Getting a sales agent & distributor
- Distribution in China and Japan
- Why not Netflix or Amazon Prime Video?
- Should we consider self-distribution?

# Program

**100% VIRTUAL**

SEPTEMBER 18TH TILL 25TH



## September 19th: 12-1:30PM EST

### Documentaries Panel

Our documentarians nominated for Best Documentary are assembled in a panel just for you! Join us via the Zoom link posted on our website! Guests include Alexander Craven (*In the Same Direction: Jeff Pihfer & Socrates' Trial*), Nancy Ghertner (*Voices from the Barrens*), Phil Comeau (*Belle-Ile In Acadie*), Mark D. Rose (*Alaska Long Hunters*), & Matt Whitney (*The Last Apostle*).

## September 19th: 2-3:30PM EST

### Zoom Networking: 2 Truths & 1 Lie!

Get to know other attendees a lot more during this live Zoom session, once again! This time, have 3 things about you prepared in advance. 2 must be True and 1 has to be a Lie. Attendees will "interrogate" you to find out which one is the lie. Then they will give their final answer to see if they're correct! (Just like the British TV Game Show "Would I Lie To You?").

## September 19th: 4-5:30PM EST

### Filmmakers Panel

Our directors nominated for Best Director or Rising Filmmaker will be united together in a panel just for you! Join us via the Zoom link posted on our website! Guests include Paul Lacovara (*38 Minutes*), Luca Fiore (*Beholder*), Josh Ebrahimi (*The Gambit*), Tobiasz Wałkiewicz (*Logged Out*) & more!

## From September 19th, 5PM EST (Streamable) **PIFF Festival Director Jessica Hardin Interview**

- What is the Pasadena International Film Festival?
- How does PIFF work?
- Your film is completed. Now what?
- How can filmmaker increase their chances at being selected at film festivals?
- *What to do vs. What not to do!*
- Misconceptions about submitting to festivals



## **From September 20th: 12PM EST (Streamable)**

**Director and Actor with 77 credits TOM KONKLE joins us as a Guest Speaker for our Exclusive Interview!**

- Directing of "Trouble Is My Business"
- Pre-production planning for production and distribution
- Physical production
- Distribution
- Marketing plan for independent film

## **September 20th: 2PM EST (Streamable)**

Watch our MIWAFF LOTTERY ROUND 1

## **September 20th: 3PM EST (Streamable)**

Watch our MIWAFF LOTTERY ROUND 2

## **September 20th (Live Zoom Link)**

# **Wreath Awards Ceremony: 7-10PM EST**

Hosted by Festival Director Eddy Kara

Join us live via ZOOM for a memorable night of celebration!

## **September 25th: 5PM EST**

Deadline to vote for your favorite film for the Audience Choice Award!

## **September 25th: 6PM EST (Streamable)**

Announcing the 2020 Audience Choice Award Winner

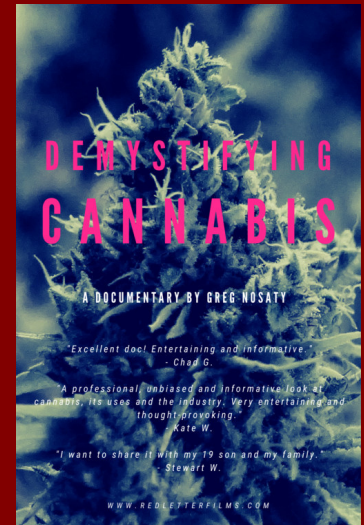


# Our 2020 Nominees

## Documentaries

### Demystifying Cannabis

This documentary tackles the myths and taboos that characterize this complex plant, and the stigma faced by its consumers. Therapeutic virtues and medical cannabis, black market and illegal dispensaries, prevention among young people, dependence and harm reduction: meetings with experts, users and stakeholders, from Canada but also from the Netherlands, Israel, Portugal and Colorado, allow us to better understand the highs and lows of legalization.



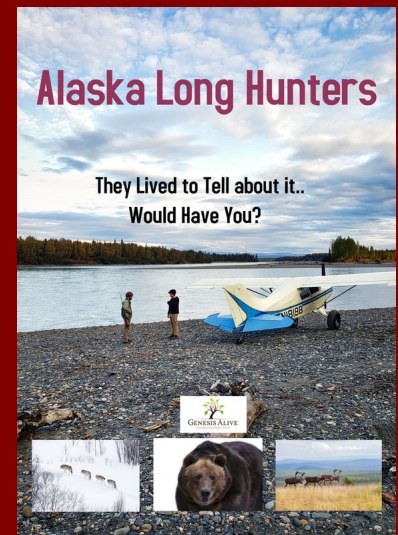
### So We're At War!



“So we’re at War! Stories about Wartime and Peace” depicts the last years of the Second Polish Republic. The film consists of never before published prewar recordings from the archives of the Polish Telegraph Agency, and previously unknown scenes of the German invasion of Poland recorded by the German film crews. This turning point in history is narrated by the witnesses who recall the events from 80 years ago and the images which have been imprinted on their memory forever.

### Alaska Long Hunters

Experience the front-seat thrills of bush planes and helicopters operating in the most dangerous conditions on earth, airborne among the magnificent mountains, glaciers and rivers that only Alaska has to offer. Includes true-life experiences of accidents, comradeship, humor and heartbreak of life in early Alaska, gone forever when dismantled into parks in the 1980’s. Based on the book Last of the Long Hunters by Mark Rose, the scene opens with an early history of the Great Land and those that lived in it through interviews with several life-long Alaskans, including Hilda Lidner, Ray Atkins and Gale Ranny to name a few.



### Voices from the Barrens



“Voices from the Barrens, Native People, Blueberries and Sovereignty,” documents the wild blueberry harvest of the Wabanaki native peoples from the USA and Canada. The story engages with the Passamaquoddy tribe’s challenge of balancing the tradition of hand raking blueberries with the economics of the world market which favors mechanical harvesting.



## Belle-Île In Acadie

Acadians from Belle-Ile-en-Mer, France, visit eastern Canada to meet their cousins with whom they share a common history. Descendants of the deported Acadians by the British from their Nova Scotia homeland, they attend the international World Acadian Congress. This film is about exile, the power of memory and finding your roots.

**Toronto Carribean Carnibal: Fun and Free**  
Nominated for 2 Wreath Awards, this documentary celebrates Toronto Caribbean Carnival which is the largest street festival in North America that attracts up to two million people from around the world.

A both revealing and inspiring journey from the history of Caribbean colonization to the biggest celebration of freedom tied with creativity, innovation and economics.



## Down River

My films always touch on the working man. In this particular instance I chose a fishing crew in the Peruvian Amazon. What unfolds is a richly textured human drama.





## The Great Disconnect

We are living in a time that has been described as the age of loneliness. Despite Western advances in technology, living conditions, education and healthcare, we, as a society, are isolating ourselves from one another, and because of this, facing a health crisis that affects all ages, genders, races, and cultures.

This timely documentary invites us to reflect on the relationships we have with those around us and raises the question: is it possible to overcome our modern culture of disconnectedness and rediscover how truly essential we are to one other?



## The Last Apostle

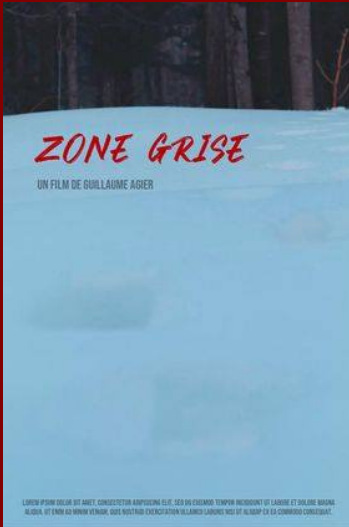
Follow Mark Fairchild, the real life Indiana Jones, as he uncovers the lost mysteries of Turkey and traces the ancient journey of Saint Paul.

## In the Same Direction: Jeff Pipher & Socrates' Trial

Nominated for 2 Wreath Awards, this is a documentary that moves you in their direction! From the inception of a musical idea, through the recording process and live performance, this short documentary tells the story of Jeff Pipher and his band Socrates' Trial and their idea of what jazz can be today.



# Short Films



## Grey Area/ Zone Grise

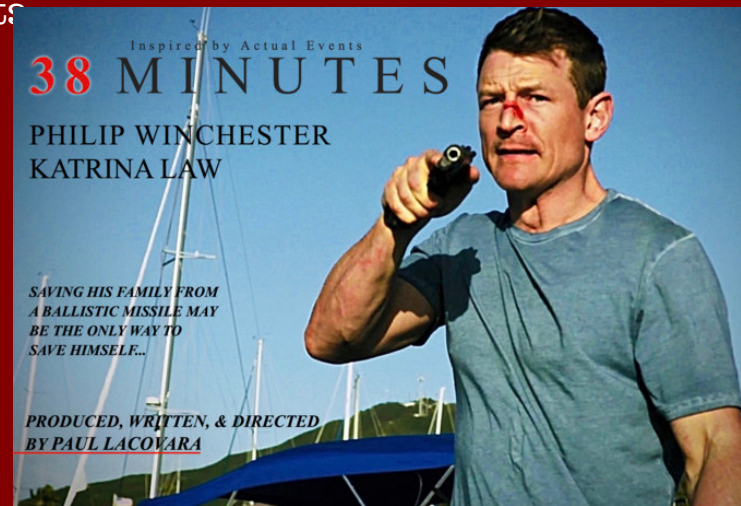
Leading the pack with 7 Wreath Award nominations, "Grey Area" is here to shock you.

It's about a hitchhiker sees her trip compromise by the meeting of a couple with a disturbing behavior. This suspenseful short is a must-see at MIWAFF 2020!

## 38 Minutes

This short film was inspired by actual events and is nominated for 5 Wreath Awards.

Saving his family from a ballistic missile may be the only way to save himself... Ex-Navy Seal John Taverner (Philip Winchester) is battling his demons. After a night of partying, he comes home and goes through his usual routine of over-drinking and passing out on the couch only to be awoken by a brain-rattling alarm on his phone, sending him crashing off the couch and onto the floor.



## The Role of a Lifetime

"The Role of a Lifetime" is a short film nominated for 4 Wreath Awards. It is about a woman who was assaulted by her producer and how she plans on avenging him. Will she succeed?





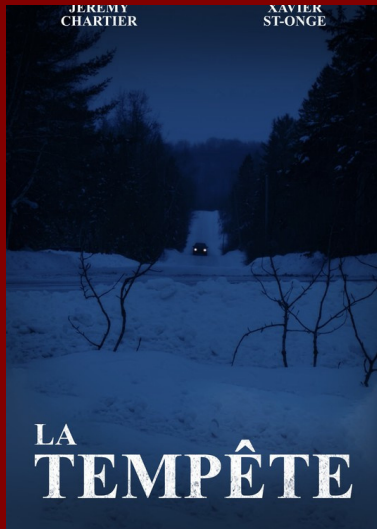
## ARCHIMÉTRICA

ARCHIMÉTRICA tells the story of a character who lives on the outskirts of a village in La Mancha, whose house is a wagon-runner, surrounded by chickens and some of his artistic references, such as Malevich, Hugo Ball, Tristán Zara..., which reflect his hobbies, his "mental defects", in an existence full of aesthetic rituals. And that protagonist, that woman, that character, every day is transforming those limitations into a strange but, at the same time, true work of art. It is **nominated for 3 Wreath Awards**.



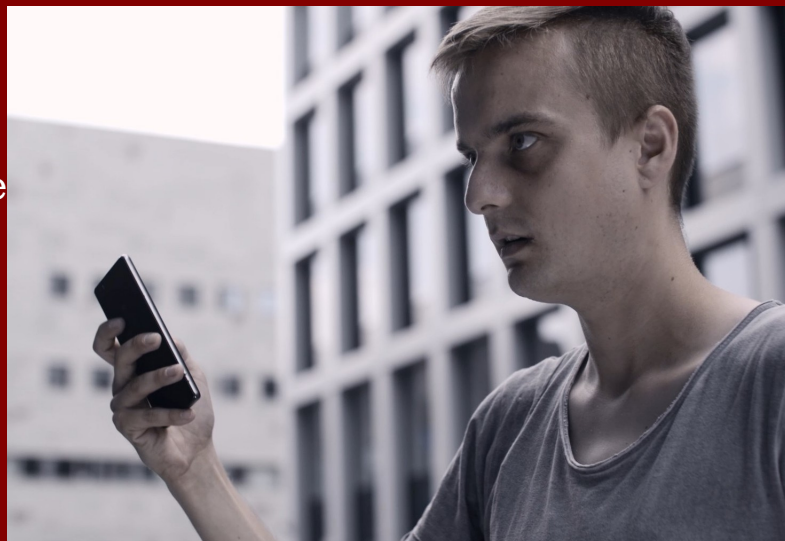
## The Storm

**Nominated for 3 Wreath Awards**, this is another Canadian film. As a driver and a hitchhiker make their way up Lanaudière, the government emits a warning about an upcoming snowstorm and the foreclosing of certain roads. They're stuck together for the night; both don't trust the other and there's no way out.



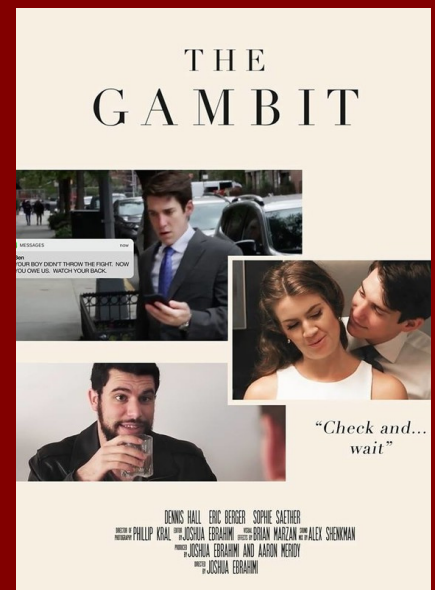
## Logged Out

In this grotesque universe, yearning students of different gender & race participate in what appears to be a ritualistic exam. The system that we live in nowadays, it teaches us to be who we are or does it merely box us into a mindless state. Some people choose to accept whatever the rule is, and some chooses to resist it. With **3 Wreath Award Nominations**, this short is a modern thriller.



# The Gambit

A rich NYC businessman comes back home from work to see an unwelcoming guest in his house wanting to talk about Jerry, someone who is close to the businessmen. With **3 Wreath Award Nominations**, find out why you need to stream this film!



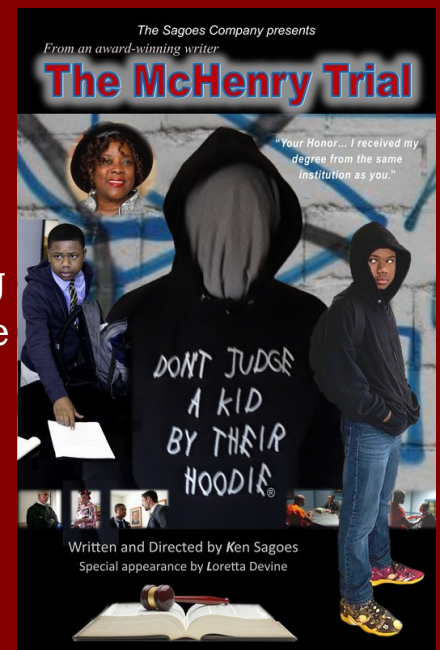
# Beholder



Four friends get together to play Dungeons and Dragons, but during the game the DM has visions of his past and future with these people he's gotten to know and love.

## The McHenry Trial – Don't Judge a Kid by Their Hoodie

A young and brilliant academic phenom who not only passes the bar exam at age 14 but finds himself defending his homeless father on a murder charge when few believe he is innocent. He faces a shrewd law firm, an old school segregationist judge, and an arrogant prosecutor who is preparing to celebrate his 50th consecutive case win.



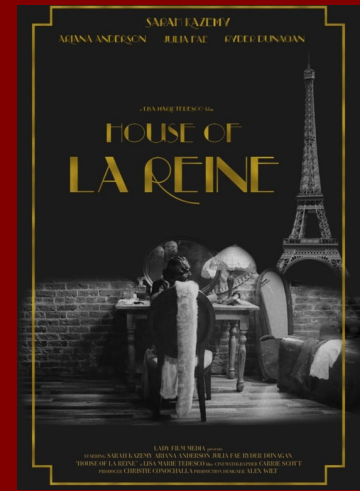
# Follow Leader

A vivid exploration of the relationship between toxic male masculinity and the social as well as psychological influences it has had on me growing up through the generations.



# House of La Reine

On the eve of the grand opening of her inclusive bohemian bar and performance space, Celia struggles with insecurities about living up to the legacy of her relative who once reigned the stages of Paris.



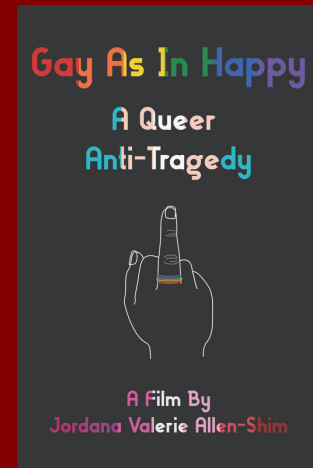
# Velare

Velare is a special girl: she is invisible to the people who love her. As she starts a new relationship, she is afraid that the boy will fall in love and thus lose sight of her. She decides to do everything she can to delay his love, but the inevitable happens. Velare wants to continue the relationship with hope, but what awaits her ahead?



# Gay as in Happy: A Queer Anti-Tragedy

An experimental autoethnographical documentary about queer joy, resistance, and resilience in the face of abuse, trauma, and transphobia.



# Anicca

Bianca comes home from a night out with friends and gets a phone call from a guy she met during the occasion. We learn more about her character and how they got together.



# O Badado Da Toinha

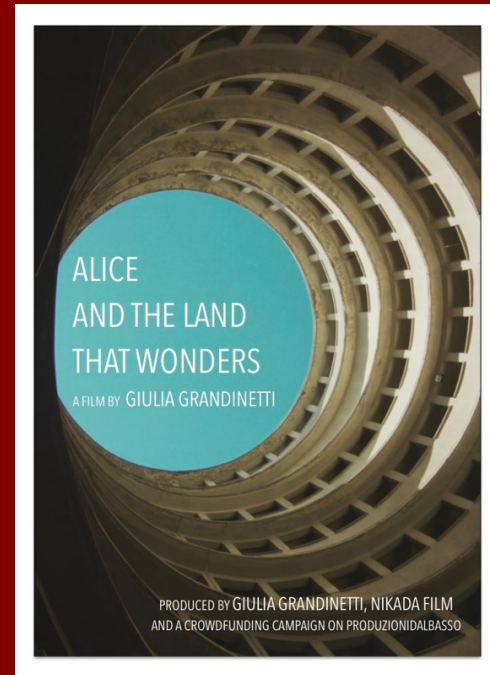
That Toinha is not just any Bahian, this is evident to those who see her, for the first time, behind her board. What many do not even suspect is that she is the one who makes the palm oil that she uses to prepare her delicacy. She climbs the coconut tree, drops the bunch, cooks the coconuts, macerates in the pestle, and when everything turns into a paste, she separates the liquid from the bagasse in a long manual process.



# Feature Films

## Alice and the Land that Wonders

Alice is about to turn eighteen, but she doesn't seem to be ready to grow at all. So she decides to throw up her discomfort on social networks and immerse herself in an intimate journey in search of herself. A dip in the unconscious. A journey on the nature of social suicide. A reasoning on the concept of normality, through the form of magical realism. This is **nominated for 6 Wreath Awards**.



## I Don't Wanna Be Without You/ No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

In a pandemic season, a young woman visits her friend for a weekend, who lives with her boyfriend without counting that they will not be able to leave the house indefinitely, a worldwide quarantine will be extended, forcing these three to live under confinement. Isabel will have to share with this couple of lovers for a long time and will have to manage to level the attraction, relive traumas due to secrets from her past and face love conflicts that question what love really means. **(Contains sexual content)**.





# Vidhān (Writ)

Vidhān (Writ), a romantic drama, is a take on relationships. A casual conversation on the use of appropriate language sets off a whirlwind romance between Pranay and Akshar (Abhishek). They start meeting regularly and the romance blossoms. However, there is one issue - Akshar is a sex worker. With **3 Wreath Award Nominations**, this film takes us through the vicissitudes of their romantic journey.



# Pretty Men (My Bittersweet Family)

The protagonist Ki-seong is a 40-year-old head of the family who has an accidental father, a rejuvenated daughter and an ex-wife who remarries a classmate. The desperate family is obsessed with the four-room apartment that can be gathered again.



# An Ordinary Adventure

A writer's ordinary day in the middle of a pandemic. The search for an original idea in the midst of isolation. The pressure to deliver. This film takes us down the rabbit hole of a writer's phantasmagoric adventure into the extraordinary unordinary.



# *Wreath Award Categories*

## **Best Music**

Bruno St-Laurent - Grey Area  
Tobiasz Wałkiewicz - Logged Out  
Jeff Pipher - In the Same Direction: Jeff Pipher & Socrates' Trial  
Keith Power - 38 Minutes  
Cristóbal R. Moure - ARCHIMÉTRICA  
Carlo Purpura, Bernard Bursill Hall, Daniele Locatelli, Riccardo Gruppuso, Boris Riccardo D'Agostino, Mario Russo, Dino Lopardo, Giovanni Piccardi -  
Alice and the Land that Wonders

## **Best Editing**

Marcel Marszałek - Logged Out  
Louis Chevalier-Dagenais - Grey Area  
Jordana Valerie Allen-Shim - Gay as in Happy  
Jayson Maruschak - Follow Leader  
Luis Bedoya Rubí - ARCHIMÉTRICA  
Isaac Rush - Alaska Long Hunters  
Niccolò Notario - Alice and the Land that Wonders  
Rob Tyler - The Great Disconnect  
Mauro Mauad - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

## **Rising Filmmaker**

Tobiasz Wałkiewicz - Logged Out  
Qinyuan Sun - Velare  
Jérémy Chartier - The Storm  
Guillaume Agier - Grey Area  
Joshua Ebrahimi - The Gambit  
Mark D Rose - Alaska Long Hunters



## Best Actress

Véronique Picciotto - The Role of a Lifetime

Anneke Brière - Grey Area

Camille Lantange - Grey Area

Katrina Law - 38 Minutes

Viviana Santos - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

Laura Angel - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

Veronica Baleani - Alice and the Land that Wonders

Sarah Kazemy - House of la Reine

Adina Darie - Anicca

Loretta DeVine - The McHenry Trial

Simran Jehani - Velare

## Best Screenplay

Luca Fiore, Mihajlo Kos, Ivana Borojevic, Thajell Fletcher -

Beholder

Lee Byeongheon - Pretty Men (My Bittersweet Family)

Mauro Mauad - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

Giulia Grandinetti - Alice and the Land that Wonders

Ken Sagoes - The McHenry Trial - Don't Judge a Kid by Their

Hoodie

Mannu S - Vidhān (Writ)

Marc Saez - The Role of a Lifetime

## Best Actor

Dennis Hall - The Gambit  
William Moise - Grey Area  
Eric Berger - The Gambit  
Shin Min Jae - Pretty Men (My Bittersweet Family)  
Philip Winchester - 38 Minutes  
Mauro Mauad - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti  
Olivier Hemon - The Role of a Lifetime  
Ranojoy Bishnu - Vidhān (Writ)  
Rohan Verma - Vidhān (Writ)  
Jérémy Chartier - The Storm

## Best Documentary

Alexander Craven - In the Same Direction: Jeff Pipher & Socrates' Trial  
Sylvie Peltier - Demystifying Cannabis  
Flynn Donovan - Down River  
Grzegorz Czerniak - So We're at War!  
Mark Rose - Alaska Long Hunters  
Matt Whitney - The Last Apostle  
Irina Volkova - Toronto Caribbean Carnival: Fun and Free  
Nancy Ghertner - Voices From the Barrens  
Phil Comeau - Belle-Île In Acadie



## Best Cinematography

Roberto Zorfini - An Ordinary Adventure

Scott Lee Mason - 38 Minutes

Nicolás Paniagua - ARCHIMÉTRICA

Tom Delich - Alaska Long Hunters

Valerio Martorelli - Alice and the Land that Wonders

Valerii Degtyarev - Toronto Carribean Festival: Fun and Free

Drew Ganyer, Vanessa Ward, Rocklyn Warren - Voices From the Barren

Loic Piché & Samuel Buron - The Storm

Reynaldo Zangrandi - O Badado Da Toinha

Juan Andres Rueda - Grey Area

## Best Director

Kim Jung Wook - Pretty Men (My Bittersweet Family)

Paul Lacovara - 38 Minutes

Luca Fiore - Beholder

Mauro Mauad - No Quiero Estar Sin Ti

Marc Saez - The Role of a Lifetime

Giulia Grandinetti - Alice in the Land that Wonders