



## NEW YORK INT'L CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2018 AWARD WINNERS

### 2018 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:

**Grand Prize Feature** – *LIYANA*, Aaron Kopp & Amanda Kopp (Qatar, Swaziland, USA)  
**Grand Prize Short** – *GAME*, Jeannie Donohoe (USA)

### 2018 JURY AWARD WINNERS:

**Best Animated Short** – *THE THEORY OF SUNSET*, Roman Sokolov (Russia)  
**Best Live Action Short** – *THE GENEVA CONVENTION*, Benoît Martin (France)

### 2018 GOLDFISH® COLORS STOP-MOTION AWARD WINNER:

**Best Stop-Motion Short** – *POLES APART*, Paloma Baeza (UK)

### 2018 SHORT FILM AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS:

**Ages 3-6** – *THE HIGHWAY RAT*, Jeroen Jaspaert (UK)  
**Ages 5-10** – *GOKURŌSAMA*, Clémentine Frère, Aurore Gal, Yukiko Meignien, Anna Mertz,  
Robin Migliorelli & Romain Salvini (France)  
**Ages 8-14** – *FLY LADY FLY*, Lucien Flores & Michela M. Smith (USA)  
**Ages 12-17** – *GAME*, Jeannie Donohoe (USA)  
**Grown-ups Award (ages 18+)** – *GAME*, Jeannie Donohoe (USA)

**March 19, 2018 – New York, NY** – After four weekends presenting the best new, adventurous films from around the globe, the New York Int'l Children's Film Festival (NYICFF) closed its 2018 event with an Awards presentation and a screening of selections from this year's lineup that received the highest votes.

Determined by voting from all audience members under the age of 18, Grand Prize Awards were presented to one short film and one feature film. The Grand Prize Feature Film Award was presented to *Liyana* (Qatar, Swaziland, USA), directed by Aaron Kopp & Amanda Kopp. A stunning combination of documentary footage and animation, the film is “a spirited testament to the power of creativity” and “a lyrical work that’s as bright and captivating as it is poignant” (*The Hollywood Reporter*) about a group of orphaned children in Swaziland who use storytelling to cope with the life challenges they’ve faced.

*Game* (USA), directed by Jeannie Donohoe, was awarded the Grand Prize for short film. Screening in the Festival's Girls' POV program, this hard-hitting short tells the story of AJ, a basketball star with a secret—and all the determination needed to make the team.

Winners of the Festival's two juried prizes, which allow the films to qualify for Oscar® eligibility, were chosen by the Festival's board of jurors: John Canemaker, Sofia Coppola, Geena Davis, Hope Davis, Madeline Di Nonno, Julianna Margulies, Lynne McVeigh, Matthew Modine, Mark Osborne, Richard Peña, Rosie Perez, Ira Sachs, Zoe Saldana, Uma Thurman, Christine Vachon, Gus Van Sant, Taika Waititi, and Jeffrey Wright. The Jury Award for Best Animated Short was presented to *The Theory of Sunset* (Russia)

by Roman Sokolov, which had its North American premiere in the Festival's Short Films Two program, while the Jury Award for Best Live Action Short was presented to *The Geneva Convention* (France) by Benoît Martin, from Short Films Three.

The *Goldfish® Colors* Stop-Motion Award was presented to Paloma Baeza, whose *Poles Apart* was voted the best Festival short film showcasing stop-motion animation. *Poles Apart* features voice acting by Helena Bonham Carter and Joseph May and also won the BAFTA for Best Animated Short this year. The Goldfish Award includes a cash prize of \$2,500, and supports Goldfish's commitment to creativity.

Audience awards, presented to short films, were determined by the votes of audience members in five different age ranges. A complete list of recipients follows:

- Audience Award, ages 3-6: ***The Highway Rat*** (UK), Animation, Jeroen Jaspaert; Shorts for Tots
- Audience Award, ages 5-10: ***Gokurōsama*** (France), Animation, Clémentine Frère, Aurore Gal, Yukiko Meignien, Anna Mertz, Robin Migliorelli & Romain Salvini; Short Films One
- Audience Award, ages 8-14: ***Fly Lady Fly*** (USA), Live Action, Lucien Flores & Michela M. Smith; Short Films Two
- Audience Award, ages 12-17: ***Game*** (USA), Live Action, Jeannie Donohoe; Girls' POV
- Grown-Ups Award, ages 18+: ***Game*** (USA), Live Action, Jeannie Donohoe; Girls' POV

New York International Children's Film Festival ran from February 23 through March 18, 2018, and included a total of 100 features and short films. In addition, the Festival presented the inaugural edition of VR JR., a virtual reality mini-fest geared specifically for children and families. Among the projects featured were Pete Billington's acclaimed Neil Gaiman adaptation *Wolves in the Walls* and Jorge Gutiérrez's Google Spotlight Story *Son of Jaguar*. 2018 also saw the return of Animators All Around, a panel on the art of animation with guests Benjamin Renner (*The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales*, *Ernest & Celestine*), Jorge Gutiérrez (*Son of Jaguar*, *The Book of Life*), and Elyse Kelly (*Fired Up!*). The Festival hosted several visiting international filmmakers and over 25,000 attendees.

#### **ABOUT NEW YORK INT'L CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL**

Distinguished by its unique mission and high-caliber programming, New York International Children's Film Festival was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent film for young people ages 3-18. Celebrating its 21st year, the 2018 Festival took place February 23 - March 18. The Festival's dynamic film program, drawn from roughly 2,500 international submissions, boasts over 100 short and feature films, filmmaker Q&As, retrospective programs, parties, premieres, audience voting, and a Closing Night celebration. NYICFF is an Academy Award® qualifying festival, one of only two children's qualifying film festivals in the country, with the Festival's esteemed jury selecting the qualifying films. The largest film festival for children and teens in North America, NYICFF cultivates an appreciation for the arts, encourages active, discerning viewing, and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community.

Goldfish® Colors is a Presenting Sponsor of the 2018 Festival. New York International Children's Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and a Humanities New York Action Grant. Girls' POV programming is supported by EILEEN FISHER and Sony USA Foundation. Film-Ed is supported by AMC Cares.

In addition to presenting the annual event, New York International Children's Film Festival is a multifaceted arts organization that offers year-round engagement, including a nationwide touring program, filmmaking camps, and

## **NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL**

Film-Ed educational field trips for public and private schools, with free or reduced cost school programs offering equal access to the art of film for all.

**NYICFF 2018 information:**  
**[www.nyicff.org](http://www.nyicff.org) / 212-349-0330**

**NYICFF 2018 press contacts:**  
**Hannah Thomas / [hannah@nyicff.org](mailto:hannah@nyicff.org)**  
**Kabeer Malholtra / [kabeer.malholtra@42west.net](mailto:kabeer.malholtra@42west.net)**  
**Todd Nickels / [todd.nickels@42west.net](mailto:todd.nickels@42west.net)**