



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

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD WINNERS



NEW YORK, NY (Saturday, March 14, 2020, 5:30pm)

At the completion of the New York International Children's Film Festival's annual event, NYICFF is proud to announce this year's award-winning films and filmmakers. Every year the Festival receives thousands of short film and feature submissions from around the world, selected and curated for a month-long celebration of international film for all ages. The best of these shorts are awarded by NYICFF's celebrated Jury, while the highest-ranking films are voted by Festival audiences.

In lieu of the traditional live ceremony and screening, awards were announced on NYICFF social channels from 5:30pm on Saturday, March 14, along with a special Vimeo streaming of the 60-minute BEST OF THE FEST 2020 shorts program for ticket holders.

NYICFF 2020 JURY AWARD WINNERS

NYICFF's Academy Award® qualifying Short Film awards were conferred by its 2020 Jury of filmmakers, actors, and academic and industry leaders: **John Canemaker, Melissa Cobb, Sofia Coppola, Geena Davis, Hope Davis, Madeleine Di Nonno, Jorge Gutierrez, Elizabeth Ito, Kyle MacLachlan, Lynne McVeigh, Matthew Modine, Mark Osborne, Peter Ramsey, Ira Sachs, Uma Thurman, Nora Twomey, and Taika Waititi.**

The 2020 Jury Award for Best Live Action Short was presented to **3FEET** by Giselle Geney (Colombia) from the Festival's *¡Hola NYICFF!* and *Boys Beyond Boundaries* programs, while the Best Animated Short was presented to **GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD** by Camrus Johnson and Pedro Piccinini (USA) from the *Boys Beyond Boundaries* program. As NYICFF is an Oscar-qualifying Festival, these Jury-awarded films are now eligible to move on for consideration for the 93rd Academy Awards in 2021.

“All the films were of such a high standard and all of them grabbed my heart! [These films] do what makes short film such an interesting artform; they make me feel for the characters without the luxury of time. They make their presence felt in the first 30 seconds and keep me captive until the credits roll.” said NYICFF 2020 Juror Nora Twomey

“I was impressed by all the entries, and my favorites moved me emotionally, with their craft and aesthetics, or both.” added Peter Ramsey, who joined the jury in 2020.

“I’m so grateful to our esteemed jury. Not only do they commit their time and impressive expertise, many of them returning year after year, but they also really pour their hearts into recognizing the most promising talent, and supporting our goal of fostering a more intelligent and inclusive landscape for all ages film.” says Programming Director Maria-Christina Villaseñor.

NYICFF 2020 AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS, FEATURE FILMS

Grand Prize Awards were announced for the feature films that received the top votes from NYICFF audience members in separate kids and grown-ups categories, and in combined votes for the Grand Prize.

The Kids Feature Film Award was presented to **ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD** (Germany), directed by Katja Benrath, while the Grown-Ups Feature Film Award was presented to **FAHIM, THE LITTLE CHESS PRINCE** (France), directed by Pierre-François Martin-Laval.

NYICFF’s 2020 Grand Prize Feature Film Award was presented to **THE CLUB OF UGLY CHILDREN** (Netherlands), directed by Jonathan Elbers.

Many of the 18 Features showcased at NYICFF this year shone a light on kids boldly stepping into activism roles and leading with creativity and determination, a theme that runs strongly through all three of these Grand Prize Feature award winners.

Executive Director Nina Guralnick said “I’m continually impressed by our audiences and their capacity to recognize outstanding films from around the globe. These are films that both allow young audiences to see themselves reflected on screen and to explore cultures beyond their own—supporting them to develop empathy, gain an appreciation of storytelling, expand their curiosity, and consider possibilities that may shape their own bold futures.”

NYICFF 2020 AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS, SHORT FILMS

NYICFF Audience Awards for short films are determined by the votes of audience members in five age ranges, and through an all-ages Grand Prize.

- Audience Award, ages 3-5 – **THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE**, Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon (UK), Animation; *Shorts for Tots*
- Audience Award, ages 6-8 – **ATHLETICUS**, Nicolas Deveaux (France), Animation; *Short Films 1*
- Audience Award, ages 8-12 – **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H’limi (France), Animation; *Short Films 2*
- Audience Award, ages 13-17 – **3FEET**, Giselle Geney (Colombia), Live Action; *Boys Beyond Boundaries* and *¡Hola NYICFF!*
- Grown-Ups Award, ages 18+ – **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H’limi (France), Animation; *Short Films 2*
- Grand Prize Short, all ages – **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H’limi (France), Animation; *Short Films 2*

NYICFF is enormously proud of the role it plays, identifying and advocating for a diverse roster of talented emerging and established filmmakers, while encouraging a young audience to explore more meaningful, sophisticated on-screen storytelling. Every year NYICFF brings the best independent films to new audiences, supports distribution relationships to help these films find larger audiences, and champions international titles to both the United States and worldwide cinema and streaming audiences.

Now with its inaugural NYICFF Industry Forum in 2020, NYICFF is pleased to also bring leaders and creators together annually for dialogues around the creation and dissemination of media content for young audiences.

NYICFF 2020 AWARD WINNERS LIST

- Jury Award Best Live Action Short – **3FEET**, Giselle Geney (Colombia)
- Jury Award Best Animation Short – **GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD**, Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini (USA)
- Audience Award, ages 3-5 – **THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE**, Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon (UK)
- Audience Award, ages 6-8 – **ATHLETICUS**, Nicolas Deveaux (France)
- Audience Award, ages 8-12– **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'limi (France)
- Audience Award, ages 13-17 – **3FEET**, Giselle Geney (Colombia)
- Grown-Ups Short Film, ages 18+ – **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'limi (France)
- Grand Prize Short, all ages – **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat and Nathaniel H'limi (France)
- Kids Feature Film Award – **ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD**, Katja Benrath (Germany)
- Grown-Ups Feature Film Award – **FAHIM, THE LITTLE CHESS PRINCE**, Pierre-François Martin-Laval (France)
- Grand Prize Feature Award – **THE CLUB OF UGLY CHILDREN**, Jonathan Elbers, (Netherlands)

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ABOUT NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL 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 children and teens aged 3-18. NYICFF is an Academy Award® qualifying festival, one of only four film festivals in New York State – and only two children's film festivals in the country – to hold that honor, with the Festival's esteemed jury of filmmakers, actors, and academic and industry leaders selecting qualifying films. The Festival, the largest film event for children and teens in North America, cultivates an appreciation for the arts, encourages active, discerning viewing, and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community.

2020's flagship annual event launched February 21st. Presenting consistently sold-out screenings for the general public and weekday screenings for school groups at venues throughout New York City, the Festival's rich and dynamic film program – drawn from over 1,500 international submissions – boasted over 100 short and feature films, exclusive filmmaker Q&As, retrospective programs, parties, premieres, audience voting, and awards.

NYICFF hosted its inaugural *NYICFF Industry Forum* on February 28 & 29, 2020, the second weekend of the Festival, bringing leaders and creators together for dialogue around inclusion and representation. In addition to presenting the annual month-long Festival, NYICFF is a multifaceted arts organization that offers year-round engagement including its city-wide media arts and literacy program, *NYICFF Film-Ed*; and its national screening program serving major and regional cultural institutions, cinemas, and museums, *NYICFF Kid Flicks*.

NYICFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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NYICFF 2020 information:

www.nyicff.org

Photo Credits:

- **ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD** (2019), dir. Katja Benrath. Courtesy Warner Bros. Entertainment
- **FAHIM, THE LITTLE CHESS PRINCE** (2019), dir. Pierre-François Martin-Laval. Courtesy Elle Driver
- **THE CLUB OF UGLY CHILDREN** (2019), dir. Jonathan Elbers. Courtesy umami.media
- **3FEET** (2018), dir. Giselle Geney. Courtesy Giselle Geney
- **GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD** (2019), dir. Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini. Courtesy Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini
- **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES** (2019), dir. Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H'liml. Courtesy Films Grand Huit

Press Photos:

<https://nyicff.org/about-us/press-center/press-materials/>

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