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## FLICKERS' VORTEX SCI-FI, FANTASY, AND HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILM AWARDS FOR 21<sup>st</sup> SEASON

*70 films from 15 countries vied for adjudicated genre awards*

**PROVIDENCE, RI** (October 25, 2020) – A phantasmagoric symphony of international genre films were given their due with the wrap of the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Film Festival** through adjudicated awards. The Festival celebrated and showcased imagination and creativity in filmmaking and included eight (8) World and United States Premieres. In all, **70 films** were selected from over 3,000 genre submissions, representing 15 countries. This year's Festival was planned, developed and curated by **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director and creator of the annual genre Festival with **Shawn Quirk**, RIFF Program Director.

The 2020 Vortex Festival was a hybrid event with programming appearing online and select screenings at the Rustic Drive-in in Smithfield, Rhode Island. Webinars, industry workshops, forums, the popular Lovecraft Walking Tour, coffee talks, filmmaker interviews, and post film screening Q&A's composed this year's events. The 2020 Festival continued popular annual programs "Virtually," including a special episode of the Flickers' series "doubleFEATURE" that aired on Rhode Island PBS.

With the popularity of HBO's "Lovecraft Country," the seasonal return of the **H.P. Lovecraft Walking Tour** could not have been timelier. The Tour, presented in collaboration with the **Rhode Island Historical Society** took place over four days during the Festival and followed Rhode Island Department of Health and CDC guidelines. Attendees maintained social distancing from their guide during the tour, as well as wore masks while on the street and in public. Once announced, it quickly sold out.

The full schedule for this year's Festival can be found here: <http://www.rifilmfest.org> and <https://prog.tsharp.xyz/en/riiff/21/date/all>

"It's an amazing achievement that we are celebrating our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year. Our decision in 2015 to expand our programming to sc-fi and fantasy films, along with our horror film entries, has allowed us to create an incredible showcase of truly unique films" said **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director.

"Vortex has always prided itself on showcasing the best genre films from the independent film community and this year was no exception. From Spain to Brazil and Switzerland to the UK, these films represent the vanguard of genre filmmaking from across the globe, and showcase a rising generation of filmmakers, who are redefining genre films for the next generation of cinephiles."

"Our pivot to a hybrid program that allowed for virtual and in-person events allowed this year's Vortex Film Festival to expand its offerings and engage audiences across the globe," noted **Shawn Quirk**, RIFF's Program Director.

## WINNERS OF TOP PRIZES FOR THE 2020 FESTIVAL:

### **BEST HORROR FEATURE**

Grand Prize:

**"The Unfamiliar"** | Directed by: Directed by: Henk Pretorius | United Kingdom, 2019

First Prize:

**"Death Drop Gorgeous"** | Directed by: Michael J Ahern, Christopher Dalpe & Brandon Perras-Sanchez | United States, 2020

### **BEST HORROR SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**"Hungry Joe"** | Directed by: Paul Nicholas Holbrook & Sam Dawe | United Kingdom, 2019

First Prize:

**"Limbo"** | Directed by: Daniel Viqueira Carballal | Spain, 2019

Tied with:

**"Ten Shots"** | Directed by: Gordon Shoemaker | USA, 2020

### **BEST SCI-FI SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**"Instant Doctor"** | Directed by: Youth & Diogo Gameiro | Brazil, 2020

First Prize:

**"APPyness"** | Directed by: Ryan Turner | United States, 2019

Tied with:

**"Zwart"** | Directed by: Tommie Geraedts | Netherlands, 2019

### **BEST FANTASY SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**"The Haunted Swordsman"** | Directed by: Kevin McTurk | United States, 2019

First Prize:

**"Girl and Robot"** | Directed by: Joe Loftus | Ireland, 2020

### **BEST ANIMATED SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**"Abe's Story"** | Directed by: Adam H Stewart | Ireland, 2019

First Prize:

**"One Last Monster"** | Directed by: Gene Kim | United States, 2019

Tied with:

**"Delivery"** | Directed by: Kenna Hornibrook | United States, 2020

### **H.P. LOVECRAFT AWARD**

**"IMAGO"** | Directed by: Remy Blaser | Switzerland, 2019

### **BEST DIRECTOR**

**"Hungry Joe,"** Paul Nicholas Holbrook & Sam Dawe, Directors | United Kingdom, 2019

### **BEST SCREENPLAY**

Grand Prize:

**"Carmentis,"** Directed by: Antony Webb | Australia, 2020

First Prize:

**"Odd Girl,"** Directed by: Rami Kahlon | Canada, 2019

## **DIRECTORAL DISCOVERY AWARD**

Tiago Teixeira, Director, “**Dog Skin**” | United Kingdom, 2019

This year's Vortex programming was sponsored by the *Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival*, *Rhode Island Film & Television Office*, *The Providence Tourism Council*, *ACT/Providence*, *Cox Media*, *WLNE ABC6*, *Eurochannel*, *RISCA*, *WSBE RI PBS*, *Johnson and Wales University*, *Providence College*, *Narragansett Brewing Company*, *the RI Historical Society*, *Seaside Pharmacy*, *the RWU School of Humanities, Arts and Education*, and *RWU Department of Communication, Graphic Design and Web Development*.

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### **ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Animation and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 10 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **August 9-15 2021** at **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at **[www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org)** or call **401.861.4445**.

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