



AWARD WINNERS

TOUCHSTONE

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Independent

Film

Festival



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2023 SHOWCASE



Hosted By

**SURESIDE**  
PLAYERS

Where Cocoa Beach Meets the Stage

# A Selection of Award Winning Films from 2023

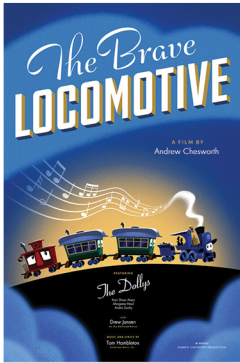
Welcome!

Touchstone Independent Film Festival is an international celebration of independent short films from all over the world.

Our festival is dedicated to showcasing the best and most innovative work of independent filmmakers, and we are proud to offer a platform for these talented artists to share their unique stories with a global audience. In the last half of this year, our festival has awarded 43 films. As much as we wish we could showcase them all, time would not permit. From our pool of the Award Winners, we chose a diverse collection of films to present to you.

We would like to thank you for showing up and supporting these independent films and all those involved in creating them.

Enjoy the show!



**The Brave Locomotive (USA)**

Running Time - 7:18

An Old West musical tale with 1940s flair about a mighty little train facing harrowing disaster.

Awarded (September 2023)

Best Animation Short

Best Director

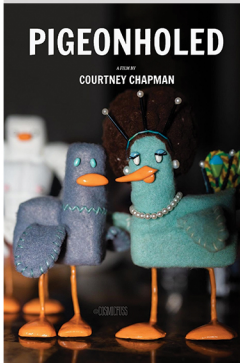
Best Editing

Best Original Score

Director- Andrew Pierce Chesworth

Writer- Andrew Pierce Chesworth

Producer - Andrew Pierce Chesworth



**Pigeonholed (USA)**

Running Time - 3:26

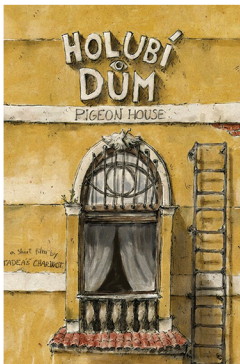
A pigeon gets wrapped up in the world of noir when he enters a secret jazz club hidden within the city's stormdrain.

Awarded (August 2023)

Best Stop Motion Short

Director - Courtney Chapman

Writer - Courtney Chapman



**Pigeon House (Czech Republic)**

Running Time - 1:48

A young boy deals with his parents' arguing by finding a safe space on a rooftop of their house where he befriends a caged pigeon. The boy begins to realize that he and the caged pigeon are not so different.

Awarded (October 2023)

Best Animation Short

Director - Tadeáš Charwot

Writer - Tadeáš Charwot

Music Composer - Dominika Dorincová



**Abril (Uruguay)**

Running Time - 4:00

There came a time in Abril's life when imagination and fantasy stopped protecting her from the reality in which she lived. Until one day she discovered a new form of escape that would change her life forever.

Awarded (September 2023)

Best Stop Motion Short

Directors - Eliana Fernández, Sofia Victoria Caponnetto

Writers - Eliana Fernández, Sofia Victoria Caponnetto

Producer - Eliana Fernández, Sofia Victoria Caponnetto





**Heavenly Flames (Canada)**

Running Time - 7:16

Two lonely souls searching for love ask St. Joseph for help.

Awarded( August 2023)

- Best Director
- Best Cinematography
- Best Original Story
- Best Actor

Director - Quentin Ferrant

Writer - Quentin Ferrant



**Perfect (Canada)**

Running Time - 25:37

Set in an alternate 1950s where humans can be grown from seeds, a lonely woman reluctantly grows herself a brand new husband with hopes that he's the "perfect" one.

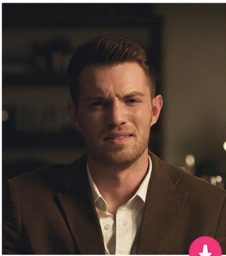
Awarded (October 2023)

- Best Indie Short, Best Original Story
- Best Actor - Austin Trapp
- Best Actress - Samantha Clarke
- Best Supporting Actor - Gavin Marck
- Best Supporting Actress - Alejandra Chavarria

Director - Michael Heaton

Writer - Michael Heaton

Producer - R. Aiden Marsden, Michael Heaton



**The Perfect Date (USA)**

Running Time - 2:14

The story of a serial dater in search of his perfect date.

Awarded(October 2023)

Best Romantic Comedy Short

Director - Sonia Bajaj

Writer - Sonia Bajaj

Writer -Philip Wages

Producer - Sonia Bajaj

Producer - Craig Miller



**Angel Fleet (United Kingdom)**

Running Time - 24:30

Following the loss of their father in a gliding accident, daughters Molly (Darcy Jacobs), Romina (Millie Lewis) and their mum (Jessica Hilliard) struggle in different ways to come to terms with the tragedy.

Awarded (September 2023)

- Best Indie Film
- Best Supporting Actress - Millie Lewis

Director - Tristan Loraine

Writer - Tristan Loraine

Writer - Cashmira Pramanik

Producer - Tristan Loraine



# Intermission



## Shadow Under The Bed (Taiwan)

Running Time - 20:19

Waiting for his father to come home, Xiaopi was attacked by a monster late at night and escaped from the house. A child that dares not sleep in bed, a father at his lowest, and a monster that should only exist on game cards. Is it a dream, an illusion, or reality?

Awarded(October 2023)

Best Director, Best Fantasy Short,

Best Young Actor (Wachin Tanah "GU, Xiao-Pi (son))"

Best Editing, Best Visual FX, Best Production Design

Director - Yu-Le Chang

Writer - Yu-Le Cjang

Producer - Xiang-Yu Xie



## Blindness (France)

Running Time - 2:35

A film largely inspired by today's world and produced with the help of Gen2.(Gen-2: The Next Step Forward for Generative AI A multimodal AI system that can generate novel videos with text, images or video clips.)

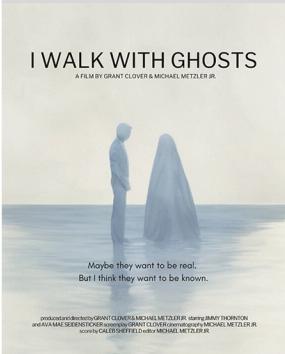
Awarded (October 2023)

Best AI Short (Artificial Intelligence)

Directors - Tutsy Navarathna

Writers - Tutsy Navarathna

Producers - Tutsy Navarathna



## I Walk With Ghosts (USA)

Running Time - 7:44

In this short poetic film, a man follows ghosts, witnessing the subtle beauty of their journeys and their desires. Through his wanderings with them, he comes to realize what they're looking for in their brief, inexplicable lives -- as the physical and supernatural worlds collide.

Awarded (October 2023)

Best Drama Short, Best Experimental Short

Best Original Score

Director - Grant Clover

Director - Michael Metzler Jr.

Writer - Grant Clover





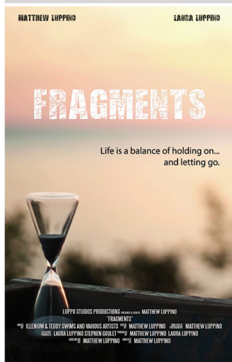
## The Rhythm of the Donkey (Spain)

Running Time - 9:50

Casimiro Rodríguez, a high-profile Madrid banker turned humble donkey farmer. This documentary short invites an examination of our choices around personal happiness, life fulfillment, and whether we are truly the masters of our own time. This is Caitlin Long's debut film.

Awarded (July 2023)  
Best Documentary Short  
Best Cinematography

Director - Caitlin Long  
Writer - Caitlin Long  
Producer - Tom Garner



## Fragments (Canada)

Running Time - 36:35

Life is a balance of holding on and letting go. As Matthew Luppino reflects on his past, he finds closure in the small fragments of his life. Based on real events.

Awarded (July 2023)  
Best Drama Short

Director - Matthew Luppino  
Writers - Matthew Luppino & Laura Luppino  
Producers - Matthew Luppino & Laura Luppino



# Award Winners of 2023

A Barbarian's Journey to Asia.....	Tutsy Navarathna
Abril.....	Eliana Fernández & Sofia Caponnetto
Angel Fleet.....	Tristan Loraine
Apples, Oranges, Lemons & Limes.....	Pat Mitchell
Blindness.....	Tutsy Navarathna
Bright Beacon.....	Andre Rodney Segundo Tila
Bygone Beaches.....	Benjamin Nimac
Colliding Magnets.....	Camille Holm Koefoed
Dancing With My Mother.....	Richard de Carvalho
Fragments.....	Matthew Luppino
Heavenly Flames.....	Quentin Ferrant
Her Coloured Cage.....	Benjamin Nimac
Hi, My Old Friend.....	Shuyi Huang
Hotline.....	Gino Terrell
I Walk With Ghosts.....	Grant Clover & Michael Metzler Jr.
Limitlessness in the Aquasphere.....	Oshim Somers
Little Cause for Extreme Alarm.....	Pryda Parx
Lobby Cam.....	Bryn Oh
Loki and Me.....	Craig Wyhoon
Memento Vivere.....	Selen Inworld
Paradise path.....	Lauren Ransan
Perfect.....	Michael Heaton
Phantoms of the sea.....	Andrey Arutyunov
Pigeon House.....	Tadeáš Charwot
Pigeonholed.....	Courtney Chapman
Race to a Legacy.....	Jo Martin
Rhythm of the Donkey.....	Caitlin Long
Seen.....	Martina Monti
Seven Thousand Souls.....	Sanjin Miric
Shadow under the Bed.....	Yu-Le Chang
Shape of Clay.....	Catherine Andre
SHE.....	Emil Dam Seidel
Solitary Waves.....	Thomas Dubois
The Betrayal.....	Abraham Lopez
The Brave Locomotive.....	Andrew Chesworth
The Man Behind the Machine.....	Dalano Barnes
The New Beginning.....	Tanja Simonovska
The Perfect Date.....	Sonia Bajaj
The Reflection.....	Catherine Andre
The Sapling at The East.....	Sumit Jadhav
Under.....	Abraham Lopez
Virtually Single.....	Amy Gardner & Lorien Haynes
White.....	Iono Allen

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