



SURESIDE
PLAYERS

Where Cocoa Beach Meets the Stage

A Selection of Award Winning Films from 2025

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. This year, our festival has awarded 110 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 today. Please see the last page for information concerning the remaining films.

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

Enjoy the show!



SHE MAKES A MOVING PICTURE (Canada)

Running Time - 3:25

How is a film made? Probably not in this off-kilter, wacky and surreal way! The Architect of the Liminal decides it's time to put her dreams on film, but she interprets the "usual" steps of the filmmaking process with her own inimitable results.

Awarded (October 2025)

Best Experimental Short

Director- Deb Ethier

Writer- Deb Ethier

Music - Diego Samuel

Moreno Flores



THE END WAS JUST THE BEGINNING (Portugal)

Running Time - 17:06

When Catarina finds out that she is pregnant, she questions the responsibility and consequences of bringing a child into this world and age.

Awarded (January 2025)

Best Indie Short

Best Director

Best Sound Design

Best Actress (Mariana Monteiro - "Catarina")

Director - Antonio Aleixo

Writer - Antonio Aleixo

Producer - Patricia Hibon



DOG PEOPLE (United States)

Running Time - 20:00

Two unsuspecting men show up at a sweet old lady's door pretending to offer their services for free, but as strange events occur, and bizarre discoveries are made they quickly learn it might be her who is pulling a fast one on them. In the tone of GET OUT and PARASITE this genre-bending horror-comedy aims to examine just how far people are willing to go to protect those they love most. Their dogs, of course.

Awarded (April 2025)

Best Comedy Short

Director - Bradley Stryker

Writer - Dan Sanders-Joyce

Writer - Robbie Silverman

Producer - Ryan Perry





Before My Silence (Germany)

Running Time - 3:43

In times when it feels easier to turn aside, I wanted to share a story of someone who never stopped resisting. A woman who, after a hundred years, has only one wish left: That we don't look away.

In the film, she sits in her wheelchair at the edge of a cliff, looking out at the sea one last time.

Before My Silence. A film about memory, conviction, and what it means to keep standing until you can't.

Her voice is in German, because that is where it began. Subtitled in English, so no one has to look away.

Awarded (August 2025)

Best AI Short

Director- Axel Schilling

Writer- Axel Schilling



Paris 70 (Spain)

Running Time - 15:00

Jan must take care of his mother, who is ill with Alzheimer's disease. He has no experience as a caregiver, but he will have to overcome challenges and seeks the best way to make his mother feel better. It's a story of family love, realistic and moving. A tribute to caregivers and Alzheimer's patients that has transcended into the social sphere.

Awarded (June 2025)

Best Indie Short

Best Actor (Alain Hernandez)

Best Actress (Luisa Gavasa)

Director- Dani Feixas Roka

Producer- Dani Feixas Roka





Bug (Iran)
Running Time - 6:07

A family of three has recently moved in and the little girl inspects the new home with curiosity, when a small cricket finds its way into their home as a surprise visitor. But with the father's unexpected reaction, the child's perspective begins to shift, turning a simple encounter into something far more unsettling

Awarded (January 2025)
Best Stop Motion Short

Director - Ali Masoumi
Writer - Ali Masoumi
Producer - Ali Masoumi



TALKING RUBBISH (United Kingdom)
Running Time - 11:03

Carl's morning kicks off the way every hapless single mans does every week. Forgetting to put the bins out. He must race against time before the bin lorry arrives. What follows is a slapstick series of unfortunate events: Carl struggles with his clothes, the recycling bin, a small dog, and ultimately his own emotions as he looks for the chance of new love and companionship.

Awarded (June 2025)
Best Romantic Comedy Short

Director - Ian Donnelly
Writer - Richard Hearn
Ian Donnelly
Producer - Ian Donnelly



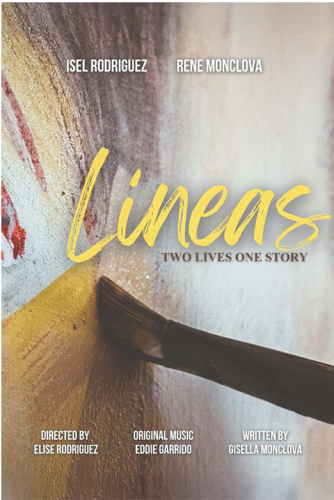
LES LUCIOLES (France)
Running Time - 6:35

In the 1920s, female workers in a factory paint fluorescent watch dials. Mollie, the newcomer, makes a mistake that forces her colleagues to work with her through the night. Deprived of the evening ball they were supposed to attend, they end up improvising their own ball in the factory...

Awarded (July 2025)
Best Animation Short
Best Director
Best Sound Design
Best Original Score

Directors - Loïs Angilella, Léa Faynel,
Ambre Fournier, Clémentine Gabard,
Hannah Gozlan, Claire Represa,
Emilie Richard, Mathieu Staropoli, Maïa Xueref



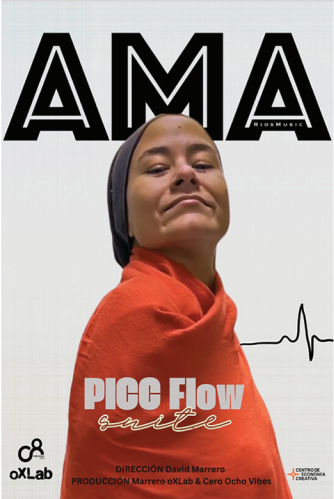


LINEAS (Puerto Rico)
Running Time - 20:00

After the loss of her husband, Luisa, a painter struggling with grief, retreats to Puerto Rico in search of inspiration but finds herself unable to create. Days pass in quiet repetition—waking, trying, failing - until a fleeting moment of instinct draws her into the path of Don Eugenio, an elderly man burdened by his own grief. Despite his failing sight and hearing, they build a quiet bond that grows in the rhythm of their weekly encounters.

Awarded (April 2025)
Best Indie Short

Director - Elise Rodriguez
Writer - Gisella Monclova
Producers - Gisella Monclova
Mayra Verdejo



AMA (Puerto Rico)
Running Time - 19:51

Ama, a Puerto Rican musician, documents her journey and produces music along with her friend David, about the creative processes of chemotherapy while undergoing cancer treatment, AML leukemia. Highlighted is the inevitable connection between caregivers and patients with chronic illnesses and their ability to experience and produce music during treatment.

Awarded (May 2025)
Best Documentary Short

Director - Amarilys Ríos Rosa
Director - David Marrero Falcón
Producer - Amarilys Ríos Rosa
Producer - David Marrero Falcón



As we draw the curtains on another remarkable year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support and trust.

To our brilliant filmmakers, your creativity and hard work have not only entertained but also inspired and provoked thought. Your films have brought diverse stories to life, enriched our festival, and captivated our audiences. We are honored to showcase your work and to be a part of your journey.

To our loyal followers, your enthusiasm and love for independent films drive us to continually strive for excellence. Your presence, both in person and virtually, has created a vibrant and engaging festival atmosphere that we are deeply proud of.

To the staff of Surfside Playhouse, we want to express our gratitude for welcoming us into your theater and providing your time and effort to help make this Showcase a success.

As we celebrate this successful year, we look forward to the future with optimism and excitement. We wish you all a bright and prosperous future in your endeavors. May your creativity continue to flourish, and may your stories continue to touch hearts around the world.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of the Touchstone Independent Film Festival. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and celebration of independent cinema with you.

Warmest regards,

The Touchstone Independent Film Festival Team

We could share only a small portion of the Award Winning films of 2025, today. You are invited to visit our website to learn more about the remaining films and their creators.



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Independent

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