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## FLICKERS' VORTEX SCI-FI, FANTASY, AND HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILM AWARDS FOR 22<sup>nd</sup> SEASON

*80+ films from 17 countries vied for adjudicated genre awards*

**PROVIDENCE, RI** (October 24, 2021) – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual symphony of international genre films were given their due with the wrap of the **Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Film Festival** through adjudicated awards. The Festival celebrated and showcased imagination and creativity in filmmaking and included **14 World and United States Premieres**. In all, **80+ films** were selected from over 3,000 genre submissions, representing 16 countries. This year's Festival was planned, developed and curated by **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director and creator of the annual genre Festival in collaboration with **Shawn Quirk**, Program Director of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF).

The 2021 Vortex Festival was a hybrid event with programming appearing online and select screenings at the Rustic Tri-View Drive-in in North Smithfield, Rhode Island. Webinars, forums, the popular, and sold-out, Lovecraft Walking Tour with the Rhode Island Historical Society, filmmaker interviews, and post film screening Q&A's composed this year's events. The 2021 Festival continued popular annual programs "Virtually," including a special episode of the Flickers' series "doubleFEATURE" that aired on Rhode Island PBS.

With the bracing Fall weather, 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. 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/22/date/all>

"It's an amazing achievement that we are celebrating our 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary this year. The decision in 2015 to expand our programming with sci-fi and fantasy films, along with our traditional horror film entries, has allowed us to create a showcase of truly unique films" said **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director.

"Vortex has always prided itself on presenting the best genre films from the independent film community and this year was no exception. From Spain to Mexico 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 second year of pivoting to a hybrid program due to COVID and the Delta Variant, once again allowed for virtual and in-person events making it possible for this year's Vortex Film Festival to expand its offerings and engage audiences across the globe," noted **Shawn Quirk**, RIIFF's Program Director.

## WINNERS OF TOP PRIZES FOR THE 2021 FESTIVAL:

### **BEST HORROR FEATURE**

Grand Prize:

**“6:45”** | Directed by: Craig Singer | United States, 2020

First Prize:

**“The Andy Baker Tape”** | Directed by: Bret Lada | United States, 2021

### **BEST HORROR SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**“The Thing That Ate The Birds”** | Directed by Sophie Mair & Dan Gitsham | United Kingdom, 2021

First Prize:

**“Cutter”** | Directed by: Dan Repp & Lindsay Young | United States, 2021

Tied With

**“Bloodshed”** | Directed by: Paolo Mancini & Daniel Watchorn | Canada, 2020

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

Grand Prize:

**“Aria”** | Directed by: Christopher Poole | United Kingdom, 2021

First Prize:

**“uTransfer”** | Directed by: Giorgio Miraflor | United States, 2019

Tied with:

**“Venus”** | Directed by: Andrew McGee | United Kingdom, 2021

### **BEST FANTASY SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**“Tone”** | Directed by: Dan Winters | United States, 2021

First Prize:

**“Grummy”** | Directed by: Micheline Pitt & R.H. Norman | United States, 2020

### **BEST HORROR COMEDY**

Grand Prize:

**“Sins of the Werewolf”** | Directed by: David Prendeville | Ireland, 2020

First Prize:

**“Good Head”** | Directed by: Matt Servitto | United States, 2021

### **BEST ANIMATED SHORT**

Grand Prize:

**“Mechamorphosis”** | Directed by: Bowen Tan | China, 2020

First Prize:

**“Ellipsis”** | Directed by: Jorge Corpi | Mexico, 2021

Tied with:

**“Oxygen”** | Directed by: Rocky Grispen & Violette Belzer | Belgium, 2020

### **BEST DOCUMENTARY**

Grand Prize:

**“Frank Miller American Genius”** | Directed by: Silenn Thomas | United States, 2021

First Prize:

**“Snapper: The Man-Eating Turtle Movie That Never Got Made”** | Directed by: John Campopiano | United States, 2021

**BEST DIRECTOR**

**Michael Anthony Kratochvil**, Director, "Sweet Mary, Where Did You Go?" | Australia, 2021

**BEST SCREENPLAY**

Grand Prize:

**"A Good Couple,"** Written & Directed by: Robert G Gregson; | United States, 2021

First Prize:

**"The Exit Plan,"** Directed by: Angus Wilkinson; Written by: Ella Cook | Australia, 2020

**DIRECTORAL DISCOVERY AWARD**

**Dan Lesser**, Director, "Friends Don't Die" | United States, 2020

**H.P. LOVECRAFT AWARD**

**"Poor Glenna"** | Directed by: Jean-Paul DiSciscio | United States, 2020

This year's Vortex programming was sponsored by the *Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival*, *Rhode Island Film & Television Office*, *ACT/Providence*, *Cox Media*, *WLNE ABC6*, *Eurochannel*, *RISCA*, *WSBE Rhode Island PBS*, *Johnson and Wales University*, *Providence College*, *Narragansett Brewing Company*, *the RI Historical Society*, and *Seaside Pharmacy*.

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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 8-14 2022** at **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at **[www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org)** or call **401.861.4445**.