



SIFF 2.0

JULY 30 - AUGUST 2

August 3, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (SIFF)

ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIRST VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL

10,000+ Total Streams | 4 1/2 Months of Total Time Watched

3 of 4 Top Award Winning Films Directed By Women

SONOMA, CA – In what was truly an international viewing experience -- coming from as far away as Västra Götaland, Hanoi, England, Canada, Copenhagen and Uttar Pradesh -- the Sonoma International Film Festival's first SIFF 2.0 Virtual Film Festival concludes today with four Command Performance screenings available now at [SIFF 2.0 Virtual Film Festival](https://watch.eventive.org/sonoma2020). (<https://watch.eventive.org/sonoma2020>).

Celebrating its 23rd year, the online showcase screened more than 100 features, documentaries and short films from 20 countries, including 23 World, North American, US, West Coast and Northern California premieres.

"We were committed to delivering SIFF's unique brand of entertainment and engagement and make it available online during this unprecedented time," said Sonoma International Film Festival Executive Director Kevin W. McNeely. "The viewership and response from our festival goers was tremendous showing that film lovers literally from around the world appreciated our efforts."

SIFF 2.0 Top Film Award Winners:

Jury Award Best Feature: THE QUILT (India/France) Director: Rahat Kazmi, US Premiere

Jury Award Best Documentary: ELEPHANT REFUGEES (US/Botswana) Director: Louise Hogarth, World Premiere

Audience Award Best Feature: THE CONDUCTOR (Netherlands) Director: Maria Peters

Audience Award Best Documentary: STAGE: THE CULINARY INTERNSHIP (Canada) Director: Abby Ainsworth

Additional SIFF 2.0 Jury Award Winners include:

Best US Independent Feature: THE ARTIST'S WIFE (US) Director: Tom Dolby

Best Animated Short: PREHEATED (US) Directors: Sarah Heinz/Luke Snedecor

Best Comedy Short: FLICKER FREE (US) Director: Ricky Lewis Jr.

Best Culinary Short: THAT'S MY JAZZ (US) Director: Ben Proudfoot

Best Documentary Short: REWILDING HONEYBEES (US) Director: Cameron Nielsen

Best Dramatic Short: ALINA (US) Director: Rami Kodeith

Best Dramatic Short Honorable Mention: BABY KATE (US) Director: Jennifer Lafluer

Best Foreign Short: THE PORTRAITISTE (Luxembourg) Director: Cyrus Neshvad

Command Performance Films Screening Monday, August 3:

2 PM PDT: LOVE SARAH (UK) Director: Eliza Schroeder

4 PM PDT: THE BIRDCATCHER'S SON (Sweden) Director: Richard Hobert

6 PM PDT: GOING ATTRACTIONS: THE DEFINITIVE STORY OF THE MOVIE PALACE (US) Director: April Wright

8 PM PDT: COLEWELL (US) Director: Tom Quinn

These films can be viewed today at [SIFF 2.0 Virtual Film Festival](https://watch.eventive.org/sonoma2020). (<https://watch.eventive.org/sonoma2020>). All existing SIFF Passholders have free access to these select Command Performance films, and individual screenings are available to purchase for \$15.

The SIFF-supported Sonoma Valley High School Media Arts Program, highlighting the best in student filmmaking, also screened during the SIFF 2.0 Virtual festival.

About the Sonoma International Film Festival

The Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to promoting independent film, supporting filmmakers around the world, and inspiring film lovers. SIFF offers the best in independent cinema including features, documentaries and short films that include a selection of World, North American, US and Northern California premieres.

SIFF's signature initiative - the Media Arts Program started at Sonoma Valley High School in 2002 - introduces students to the process of storytelling and provides the resources for them to create films. SIFF has granted more than \$600,000 to the program since its inception.

Over the past 23 years, the Sonoma International Film Festival has received the support of many incredible sponsors. This year's virtual showcase sponsors include Premiere Sponsors: Dolby, Manitou Fund, *Sonoma Magazine* and Spritz; Star Sponsors: Bank of Marin, Cinelease, Cross Country Mortgage, DeMartini Electric, Farm Fresh To You, Film Mare Island, Landmark Vineyards, Sheppard Mullin; Supporting Sponsors: Anaba Winery, Buena Vista Winery, Café Mac, Christine Benson Sonoma Valley Homes, Freidman's, Hopmonk Tavern, Jennifer Powers Real Estate Advisor, Mead Clark, Meghan Bo Designs, Muscardini, Film Shasta, and Sonoma Valley Visitor's Bureau; Film Sponsors: Bar None's Canyon Winery, Benjamin Chapman, Bevan & Associates, CarePartners Initiative, Christine Curry Design, Coplan Vineyards, Eyeball Engineering, Franklin University, Julie Schindler, Krieger Brothers LLC, Landers Curry, Inc., the McNeely Family, Music Nomad, Pets Lifeline, The Red Grape, Saul Gropman, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival, Sonoma Valley Educational Foundation, Stone Barn Farm, Susan Atherton, Sweetwater Spectrum and Unali Events. More than 150 additional sponsors also support SIFF through Epicurean, Wine, Beverage, Hospitality, Services, Media and Government support.

The 24th edition of the Sonoma International Film Festival is slated for March 24-28, 2021. Visit sonomafilmfestival.org for more information, or on social at:

Facebook: [@sonomafilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/sonomafilmfestival)

Twitter | Instagram: [@sonomafilmfest](https://www.instagram.com/sonomafilmfest)

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