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**Contact:**

Jill Golden  
Marketing & Communications Director  
[jill@sonomafilmfest.org](mailto:jill@sonomafilmfest.org)  
M: 510-851-2374

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL \(SIFF\)](#)  
**ANNOUNCES FILM WINNERS FOR #SIFF2021**  
**27,000+ Streams | 6,300+ Hours of Media Consumed****

Sonoma, CA--The Sonoma International Film Festival concluded its online film festival yesterday screening a slate of more than 120 films from 40 countries, with 20 films making their premieres, as well as hosting three live Drive-Ins. Global reach included viewers from Japan, Germany, Switzerland, India, Canada, France, Brazil, United Kingdom, Spain, Mexico and Sweden, as well as throughout the United States. The Jury Awards include films from around the world with director Óscar Bernàcera, a winner in two categories, and Caroline Link, prior Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film Nowhere In Africa in 2001.

"In our second year hosting a virtual festival, we continue to expand our audience around the globe," said SIFF Artistic Director Kevin W. McNeely. "Our three live drive-ins allowed us to gather together safely on a beautiful Sonoma night under a full moon and enjoy the communal power of film; and we are particularly proud of our community which collectively provided our local First Responders and Frontline healthcare workers with more than 125 donated passes."

Susan Atherton, longtime SIFF sponsor, also underwrote the film Escape From Extinction with ticket sales and viewer donation proceeds, totaling over \$6,000, to be given to the Conservation Society of California | Oakland Zoo.

SIFF Saturdays, the online screening series on the last Saturday of each month, continues April 24 with the French film Roxane presented by Safe Harbor Wine Storage. The taped SIFF | Safe Harbor Wine Storage Wine Awards, presented by San Francisco Magazine, will precede the film.

A SIFF Best of Fest three-day live and virtual festival highlighting the following Jury Award winners and new films and events is in the planning stages for early August 2021.

**Top Full Length Film Award Winners:**

Jury Award Best Feature | English Language:  
23 Walks | United Kingdom | Director: Paul Morrison | U.S. Premiere

Jury Award Best Feature Honorable Mention | English Language  
The Bright Side | Ireland | Director: Ruth Meehan | North American Premiere

Jury Award Best Feature | Foreign Language:  
Min Pappa Marianne (My Father Marianne) | Sweden | Director: Márten Klingberg | West Coast Premiere

Jury Award Best Documentary:  
La Receta Del Equilibrio (The Recipe Of Balance) | Spain | Director: Óscar Bernàcer | U.S. Premiere

Jury Award Best Documentary Honorable Mention:  
Truth To Power: Barbara Lee Speaks For Me | U.S. | Director: Abby Ginzberg

The Stolman Audience Award Best Feature:  
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit | Germany/Switzerland/Italy | Director: Caroline Link (Oscar winning director)

The A<sup>3</sup> Audience Award Best Documentary:  
In A Different Key | U.S. | Directors: Caren Zucker & John Donvan

**Top Short Film Award Winners:**

Jury Award Short | Best Animation:

Cosmonaut | Estonia | Director: Kaspar Jancis

Jury Award Short | Best Comedy:

Brief Survey | U.S. | Director: Dava Whisenant

Jury Award Short | Best Documentary:

California Rising | U.S. | Director: Rob Villanueva

Jury Award Short | Best Documentary Honorable Mention:

Sixth Of June | U.S./France | Director: Henry Roosevelt

Jury Award Short | Best Drama:

Reappear | United Kingdom | Director: Tommy Clarke

Jury Award Short | Best Foreign:

Stanbrook | Spain | Director: Óscar Bernàcer

Six movie industry professionals comprised the SIFF2021 Jurors: *John Bailey*, former president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and noted cinematographer of the films *Ordinary People*, *The Big Chill*, *As Good As It Gets*, and *The Accidental Tourist*, among others; *Elisabeth Costa deBeauregard*, president of the production, finance and global media sales company Storyboard Media; *John Della Rosa*, a Media Finance agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) specializing in packaging, financing and selling distribution rights; *Gudrun Giddings*, the CEO of G4C Innovation who serves on the Board of Directors for Mentor Foundation USA, founded by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden and the World Health Organization; *Gabrielle Kelly*, screenwriter and producer on the screenwriting faculty at AFI (American Film Institute); and *April Wright*, an award-winning filmmaker and festival programmer for Sundance Film Festival and AFI Fest.

The SIFF Audience Awards were selected by online viewers.

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**About 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. Blending a program of world-class film, food, wine and fun, **SIFF is celebrating its 25th year March 23-27, 2022.**

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 \$650,000 to the program since its inception.

Over the past 24 years, the Sonoma International Film Festival has received the support of many incredible sponsors. This year's showcase sponsors include Premiere Sponsors: Dolby, Manitou Fund, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Sonoma Magazine*, *Sonoma Index-Tribune* and Spritz; Star Sponsors: Bank of Marin, Devour!, Film Shasta, Sheppard Mullin and Twilio; Film Sponsors: Susan Atherton, Bar None's Canyon Winery, Better Homes & Gardens | Wine Country Group, Bevan & Associates, Christine Curry Design, Eyeball Engineering, Franklin University Switzerland, Krieger Brothers, Landers Curry, Inc., the McNeely Family, Modern Art West, Music Nomad, National Association of Social Workers, Pets Lifeline, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Valley Authors Festival, Sweetwater Spectrum and Unali Events, and donors Amar A. Archbold, and Cathy and Chuck Williamson. More than 50 additional sponsors also partner with SIFF through Community, Wine | Beverage, Media and Government support including Sonoma County Tourism.

For more information about SIFF, visit [sonomafilmfest.org](http://sonomafilmfest.org) or our social media channels:

FB: [@sonomafilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/sonomafilmfestival) | Twitter: [@SonomaFilmFest](https://twitter.com/SonomaFilmFest) | Instagram: [@SonomaFilmFest](https://www.instagram.com/SonomaFilmFest)

**[SIFF2021 @ the Drive-In Photos Catalog Here](#)**