



Media Contact:

Valerie Cisneros

marketing@enzian.org

407-629-1088 x302

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**THE 30TH ANNUAL FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
GRAND JURY & AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS**

Orlando, FL – (April 27, 2021) The Florida Film Festival has announced the Grand Jury and Audience Awards of the 2021 Florida Film Festival. The 30th Annual Florida Film Festival took place April 9-22, 2021, in Maitland and Winter Park, Florida, with Primary Sponsor Full Sail University and Primary Public Partners Orange County Government and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

During the festival, staff was pleased to host an in-person, 30th anniversary celebration, recognizing Florida Film Festival Founders Philip and Sigrid Tiedtke for their vision and 30 years of selfless dedication to independent film in Central Florida. Additionally, Matthew Curtis was recognized for his contributions to FFF and Enzian Theater, receiving an award in appreciation of 25 years of excellence as Programming Director. In honor of Matthew's achievements, the founders dedicated the 2021 Florida Film Festival to him and have formally announced the renaming of the festival's short film audience award to the Matthew Curtis Audience Award for Best Short Film.

"Matthew's passion for film, dedication to the festival, and stalwart commitment to the vision that 'Film is Art' has made him instrumental in shaping the Florida Film Festival and what it means to the community," says Managing Director and founding family member Elizabeth Mukherjee. "FFF wouldn't be what it is without him, and this award will remind generations to come of his impactful contribution."

SHORTS

- **Grand Jury Award for Best Animated Short – The Shawl** (Dir. Sara Kiener)
- **Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary Short – When We Were Bullies** (Dir. Jay Rosenblatt)
- **Grand Jury Award for Best Narrative Short – Please Hold** (Dir. Kristen “KD” Dávila)
- **Special Jury Award for Exceptional Narrative Filmmaking – I Love Your Guts** (Dir. David Janove)
- **Audience Award for Best Midnight Short – Stuck** (Dir. David Mikalson)
- **Matthew Curtis Audience Award for Best Short Film – No Man’s Land** (Dirs. Anna Andersen and Gabriella Canal)

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

- **Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature – The Last Out** (Dirs. Michael Gassert and Sami Khan)
- **Special Jury Award for Non-Fiction Storytelling – Two Gods** (Dir. Zeshawn Ali)

- **Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature – Holy Frit** (Dir. Justin Monroe)

NARRATIVE FEATURES

- **Grand Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature – Materna** (Dir. David Gutnik)
- **Special Jury Award for Persistence of Vision – Kelley Kali for I’M FINE (Thanks for Asking)** (Dirs. Kelley Kali and Angelique Molina)
- **Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature – I’M FINE (Thanks for Asking)** (Dirs. Kelley Kali and Angelique Molina)

INTERNATIONAL

- **Audience Award for Best International Feature – Riders of Justice** (Dir. Anders Thomas Jensen)
- **Audience Award for Best International Short – Masel Tov Cocktail** (Dirs. Arkadij Khaet and Mickey Paatzsch)

2021 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 30th year, the Florida Film Festival is an Oscar®-qualifying festival, premiering the best in current, independent, and international cinema. Through 14 days of 160+ films and first-class events, film lovers mingle with filmmakers and celebrities over hand-crafted cocktails and a locally-sourced menu.

“Now having attended several top festivals, I can confidently say Florida has THE best programming of all of them. THANK YOU for what you do and the care and thought you use to make your film fest what it is. Obviously, changed my life!” – Megan Seeley, Filmmaker

“Thank you so much for such an excellent juror experience! It was a great week. The festival was so well programmed and everything was so organized, and people were so friendly. I am so glad that I was able to serve on the jury after all these years. It was worth the wait.” – Cynthia Wade, Oscar-winning Filmmaker and Juror

“I’m not blowing smoke! This was really a wonderful festival experience. I loved it and was impressed with all aspects of it. I especially love the energy or spirit with which everything was handled – I felt a genuine passion for film and filmmakers that, of course, should be at every festival, but unfortunately is not.” – Alix Lambert, Filmmaker

“The Florida Film Festival has become my favorite festival to attend. The staff is so friendly, personable, and truly enthusiastic about what they do. Their taste in film is the best. I can’t get over how organized and knowledgeable the volunteers are. It’s a laid back and well-oiled machine.” – Brian Lonano, Filmmaker

“[We] had a great time at the festival. We’ve been to a few festivals with the film, and Florida is one of our favorites!” – Academy Award® winner Ron Judkins, Filmmaker

“Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for having me down to the festival. What an absolute treat it was! It was a truly wonderful four days and I can say honestly that I don’t think there was single clunker among the 16+ hours of films we screened. That’s pretty impressive!” – Andrew Carlin, Juror (Oscilloscope)

“I may be biased (considering the FFF was the first festival I've ever participated in) but I really think it might be the best festival ever. The energy is so great, the venue is fantastic, and I have such an appreciation for how organized and thoughtful you guys were. I came back to Beirut and said ‘I need to make another film this year to go back next year.’” – Amanda Bailly, Filmmaker

The Festival is a program of the non-profit Enzian Theater. 2021 Festival sponsors to date include:

Primary Sponsor: Full Sail University

Primary Public Partners: State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, Orange County Government

Public Partner: United Arts of Central Florida

Premiere: Lure Design Incorporated, Travel + Leisure Co.

Major: FilmFreeway, Laughing Samurai, Movebooth, Sheraton Orlando North, Winter Park Village

Supporting: Coterie Coffee Co., Dorman Financial Management, éclat Law, Film Florida, HomeLight, Inc., Ivanhoe Park Brewing Co., Killgore, Pearlman, Semanie, Denius & Squires, P.A., The New Standard, Orlando Film Commission, Sierra Nevada, Co., T-Mobile, Terrapin Beer Co.

Media Partners: Bungalower, iHeartMedia, Orlando Arts, Orlando LIVE, Orlando Sentinel, Orlando Weekly, Watermark, WESH, WPRK, Yelp

Our Sponsor community enriches the Festival experience and helps sustain the year-round programs of the not-for-profit Enzian.

Enzian

Since 1992, Enzian has been the proud host of the Florida Film Festival. As part of its mission to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film, Enzian presents innovative and original cinematic programming not just during the Festival, but all year long. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-supported arts organization for which ticket revenue accounts for only 25% of its operating budget, Enzian owes its existence to the generosity of fans of film, food, and fun--like you. [Enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

About Full Sail University:

Full Sail University is an award-winning educational leader for those pursuing careers in entertainment, media, arts and technology. Founded in 1979, Full Sail has received accolades throughout its 40+ year history, including most recently: One of the 2020 “Top Graduate & Undergraduate Schools to Study Game Design” by The Princeton Review, one of the 2020 “Top 50 Film Schools” by The Wrap Magazine, and the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges also named Full Sail the 2019 “School/College of the Year.”

Full Sail University is a graduate and undergraduate degree-granting institution offering on-campus and online degree programs in areas related to Art & Design, Business, Film & Television, Games, Media & Communications, Music & Recording, Sports, and Technology. With over 78,950+ graduates worldwide, Full Sail alumni have worked on countless award-winning projects with individual recognition including OSCAR®, Emmy®, GRAMMY®, ADDY®, MTV Video

Music Award, and Video Game Award honors. For more information, visit FullSail.edu or join the conversation on social at Facebook.com/FullSailUniversity and Twitter.com/FullSail.

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