The Urbanworld Film Festival
Presented by AT&T's The Humanity of Connection
With Founding Sponsor HBO
Announces 2018 Winners

New York, NY (September 23, 2018) – The 22nd Annual Urbanworld Film Festival (www.urbanworld.org), presented by AT&T's The Humanity of Connection along with founding partner HBO, announced the award winners for the best narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema), narrative short, documentary feature, music video, screenplay, young creators, web originals as well as the audience award categories during its awards brunch, hosted by journalist Lola Ogunnaike, at Tribeca Grill Loft in New York City today.

The nation’s largest competitive multicultural film festival screened 76 selections, featured 4 original screenplay finalists and hosted digital, music and spotlight events. Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish, Ava DuVernay, Amandla Stenberg, Algee Smith, Tasha Smith, Lil Rel Howery, Naturi Naughton, Tristan Wilds, John David Washington, Simone Missick, Boris Kodjoe, Mustafa Shakir, Adepero Oduye, April Reign, Joe Morton, Bilal, Ayo, Ray Angry of The Roots, directors Malcolm D. Lee and George Tillman, Jr., producers Donna Gigliotti, Nina Yang Bongiovi and Will Packer as well as journalist Elaine Welteroth were among the many that appeared throughout the five day festival this year.

The 2018 Urbanworld Film Festival winners are:

Best Narrative Feature (U.S. Cinema) – Pimp – Directed by Christine Crokos
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/pimp
(Presented by ARRAY - $2,500 Prize)
Honorable Mention – 1 Angry Black Man – Directed by Menelek Lumumba
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/1-angry-black-man

The Jury:
Sharla Sumpter Bridgett, President of Production, The Story Company
Terra Potts, Senior Vice President, Multicultural Marketing, Warner Bros. Pictures
Tilane Jones, Vice President, ARRAY

Best Narrative Feature (World Cinema) – The Burial of Kojo – Directed by Blitz Bazawule
(Presented by Urbanworld - $2,500 Prize)
Honorable Mention – El Chata (The Sparring Partner) – Directed by Gustavo Ramos
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/el-chata-the-sparring-partner

The Jury:
Frida Torresblanco, Producer
Lisa Cortés, Producer
Nnamdi Asomugha, Actor / Producer

**BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – Wale – Directed by Barnaby Blackburn**
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/wale
(Presented by REIGN—$25,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

2nd Prize – Let Them Die Like Lovers – Directed by Jesse Atlas
www.urbanworld.org/2018/let-them-die-like-lovers
(Presented by REIGN—$15,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

3rd Prize – Are We Good Parents? – Directed by Bola Ogun
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/are-we-good-parents
(Presented by REIGN—$10,000 funding commitment towards next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)

**THE JURY:**
Korin D. Williams, Co-Founder & CEO, Kronicle Media
Lauren Ludwig, Writer / Director
Maria Zuckerman, Senior Vice President, HBO Films
Monique Nash, Co-Founder & Head of Creative Affairs, Kronicle Media
Quincy Newell, Chief Content Officer, REIGN

**BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – Mr. Soul – Directed by Melissa Haizlip**
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/mr-soul
(Presented by HBO -- $5,000 Prize)

Honorable Mention – The Pushouts—Directed by Katie Galloway & Dawn Valadez
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/the-pushouts

**THE JURY:**
Jacqueline Glover, Senior Vice President, HBO Documentary Films
Jason Delane Lee, Actor & Producer / Co-Founder, Lagralane Group
Rachel Watanabe-Batton, Executive Producer & Founder, Contradiction and Struggle

**BEST MUSIC VIDEO – Scandal – Directed by Pablo Mengin-Lecreulx**
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/scandal

**THE JURY:**
Coodie & Chike, Directors, CreativeControl.TV
Stephen G. Hill, CEO, Tricpelvis Productions, LLC
Wendy Washington, Founder, TID Agency

**BEST SCREENPLAY – Northern Cross – Written by Melody Cooper**
(Presented by BET Networks – $10,000 Prize)
https://www.urbanworld.org/screenplays
Honorable Mention –Johnny Ace – Written by Moon Molson

**THE JURY:**
Jennifer Mayer, Screenwriter & Playwright
Jeremy Pikser, Vice President, Writers Guild of America East / Award-Winning Writer
Tamara Gregory, Creative Executive, BET Networks
BEST YOUNG CREATOR – Three In Stride – Directed by Sasha Whittle
(Presented by REIGN – $25,000 funding commitment for next short film project, along with mentorship; funded project will be exhibited on REIGN's on-demand platform)
Honorable Mention: Silvia In The Waves – Directed by Giovana Olmos

THE JURY:
April Reign, Creator, #OscarsSoWhite
Boris Kodjoe, Actor / Producer, Bluvoma, Inc.
Lisa Holly, Vice President, Strategy & Business Development, REIGN

BEST WEB ORIGINAL – Frank & Lamar – Directed by Fred Soligan
Honorable Mention: Otis – Directed by Alexander Etseyatse
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/otis

THE JURY:
Angela Northington, Industry Executive
Tamir Muhammad, Producer
Zennen Clifton, Vice President, Digital Strategy & Distribution, MACRO

AUDIENCE AWARDS
Best Feature – Pimp – Directed by Christine Crokos
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/pimp

Best Short – Jitters – Directed by Otoja Abit
https://www.urbanworld.org/2018/jitters

Key supporters of the festival also include BET Networks as prestige partner and NBCUniversal, Warner Bros. and 21CF Global Inclusion as premiere partners. Industry partners include AMC Independent, ARRAY, MPAA, Directors Guild of America, Producers Guild of America, Writers Guild of America East and Urban Movie Channel: UMC. Media partner is Power 105.

The 23rd Annual Urbanworld Film Festival will be in New York in September 2019. Follow @UWFilmFest on Twitter and @urbanworldfilmfest on Instagram and use #Urbanworld to join the conversation on social media.

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ABOUT URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL
Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in August 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, co-founder of MoviePass and a former executive at Miramax and October Films. With estimated attendance reaching over 15,000, the five-day festival anchored in film showcases narrative features, documentaries, short films, spotlight screenings and live staged screenplay readings; the Urbanworld Digital track focuses on digital panels and workshops; and the Urbanworld Music franchise highlights emerging talent in live performances during festival events. For over two decades, Hollywood studios and indie film distributors, as well as established and emerging filmmakers, have consistently chosen Urbanworld to premiere box office and award-winning hits. The Urbanworld Film Festival is
an initiative of the Urbanworld Foundation Inc. Gabrielle Glore serves as Festival Director & Head of Programming. The organization’s website is www.urbanworld.org.

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