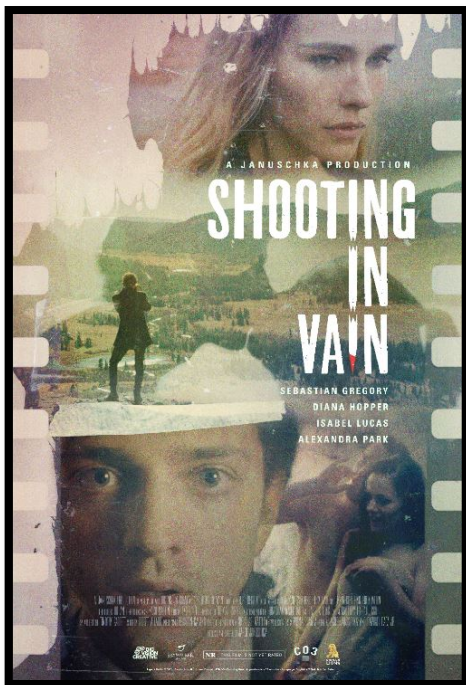




**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **2018 DANCES WITH FILMS ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS AT CLOSING CEREMONY**

**“Shooting in Vain” and “Wale” Take Top Prizes  
As Dances With Films Comes of Age and Turns 21 in the 21<sup>st</sup>**



(Hollywood, CA) -- The 21st edition of the fiercely independent film festival Dances With Films (DWF) concluded on Sunday evening (June 17) with a closing night celebration at the TCL Chinese Theaters in Hollywood where the excitement was electric throughout the arena.

The unstoppable festival, for over two decades a champion of independent filmmakers, is widely recognized as the premiere showcase of innovative independent cinema in the U.S., presenting amazing, undiscovered talent to an industry audience in Hollywood at the always jam-packed TCL Chinese Theaters.

“Coming of age at this year's 21st installment, we have certainly surpassed our optimistic expectations. As we close in on our milestone year, we know that what we provide for the filmmakers is a valuable vehicle to showcase and highlight some of the best indie films from

around the world. We continue to evolve the festival and we consistently strive to enhance our presence and work model for every single festival we host each year.” says **Michael Trent** and **Leslee Scallon**, Festival Founders.

DWF kicked off their 21<sup>st</sup> festival season and presented over 11 days, beginning with the opening night party on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Ohm Night Club at the Hollywood & Highland Complex and ‘wrapped’ with the closing awards ceremony at the TCL Chinese 6 Theaters on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Dances With Films** is sometimes referred to as a “summer camp” for filmmakers because of its awesomely friendly spirit, the fostering of camaraderie and continual efforts in helping filmmakers forge relationships that will last long after the end credits roll and the lights come up in the theatre.

**GRAND JURY AWARD | COMPETITION FEATURE:**

**SHOOTING IN VAIN**

**Written By D. H. Nelson, Directed & Produced By Jared Januschka**

**Honorable Mention:**

**CHASING BULLIT**

**Written & Directed By Joe Eddy  
Produced By Ryan Richter & Joe Eddy**

**GRAND JURY AWARD | COMPETITION SHORT:**

**WALE**

**Written & Directed by Barnaby Blackburn  
Produced by Edward Speleers, Catherine Slater, Sophie Alexande**

**Honorable Mention | Grand Jury Short:**

**LAST MEAL**

**Written By Michael Boyle, Directed by Austin Simmons  
Produced by Nimisha Patil & Alex Bratsos**

**ICA | INDUSTRY CHOICE AWARD OVER 40 MIN:**

**BULLY**

**Written By Joe Campanelli, Directed by Santino Campanelli  
Produced by Joe Campanelli, Santino Campanelli and Scott Hansen**

**ICA | INDUSTRY CHOICE AWARD UNDER 40 MIN:**

**THE NEPHEW**

**Written & Directed by Wilhelm Kuhn  
Produced by Ahmed El Lozy, Wilhelm Kuhn & Cécile Invernizzi**

**DANCES WITH KIDZ By Pros AUDIENCE AWARD**

**SOCI CIRCLE**

**Directed By Cindy Baer**

**Produced By Pamela Lashall & Tiana S Clark**

**OVERALL AUDIENCE AWARD | FEST SHORT:**

**BENEATH THE INK**

**Directed By Cy Dodson**

**Produced By Cy Dodson & Torin Scott**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | COMPETITION FEATURE:**

**DOUBTING THOMAS**

**Written & Directed By Will McFadden**

**Produced By Mark Mathias, Sayre, Laura Jane Salvato & Casey Morris**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | COMPETITION SHORT:**

**HOLLY GOES TO THERAPY**

**Written & Directed by Cat Ventura**

**Executive Produced by Jonney Ahmanson, Produced by Assaf Ben Shetrit**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | DOCUMENTARY FEATURE:**

**PSYCHONAUTICS: A COMIC'S EXPLORATION OF PSYCHEDELICS**

**Directed By Brian Bellinkoff**

**Produced By Matt Schuler, Brian Bellinkoff & Shane Mauss**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | DOCUMENTARY SHORT:**

**BENEATH THE INK**

**Directed By Cy Dodson**

**Produced By Cy Dodson & Torin Scott**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | FUSION FEATURE:**

**A HORSE FROM HEAVEN**

**Written & Produced By David de Vos & Stephanie de Vos**

**Directed By David de Vos**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | FUSION SHORT:**

**SAM DID IT**

**Written & Directed By Dominic Burgess**

**Produced By Natalie Britton, Casey Graf & Art Schneider**

**AUDIENCE AWARD | DOWNBEAT MUSIC VIDEO:**

**TRACK 1**

**Written & Directed By Bilal S. Haider**

**Produced By Bilal S. Haider, James Rozelle, K.C. Patel & Krystel Seier**

**AUDIENCE AWARD – TV PILOTS:**

**YELLOW**  
**Written & Directed By Sarah Deakins**  
**Produced By Sarah Deikins, Julia Benson & Arielle Boisvert**

**AUDIENCE AWARD – WEB SERIES:**  
**STELLAR HOSTS**  
**Written By Katherine LaVictoire**  
**Directed By Keith Schneider**  
**Produced By Myko Olivier, Vince Tanzilli, Katherine LaVictoire & Keith Schneider**

The prestigious 2018 Features Jury was comprised of past DWF alums:  
Constanza Castro, Jonathan Cvack, Desmond Faison, Jamielyn Lippman,  
Michael David Lynch, Eric McCoy and Monika Petrillo.

The Industry Choice Award (ICA), juried by a select group of industry professionals, was established in 2011 to provide recognition of the outstanding work that is presented each year at DWF. This year's jury was comprised of award winning film and tv producer Effie T. Brown, UTA agent Grace Royer, EVP of Aquisitions and Co-Productions, CBS Films - Scott Shooman, Sr. VP of Aquisitions, Magnolia Pictures - John Von Thaden, Packaging Agent, The Gersh Group - Gerren Crochet, Editor Gregg Featherman and CEO Creative Future - Ruth Vitale.

The inaugural DWF Key Art Award was juried by Michele Bell, SVP, Worldwide Creative Services for Paramount.

**Dances With Films** 2018 Film Festival season took place from June 7 – 17, 2018 in Los Angeles, CA at the TCL Chinese Theaters, located at: Hollywood & Highland, 6925 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, CA 90028.

#### **About Dances With Films**

In 1998 DWF began and is designed as a film festival dedicated to finding tomorrow's talent today. With many World and West Coast Premieres, DWF provides a coveted first stop on the festival circuit. With a vast number of submissions, the selection process is based solely on merit and discoverability, DWF continues its dedication and is a devoted champion of fresh and creative voices, mandating that all competitive films have no known actors, writers, directors or producers. For the past 19 years, DWF has proudly provided access and opportunity to thousands of films and filmmakers from across the globe that diligently work year after year to see their dreams realized. Last year, 15 features were picked up for distribution at the festival. Now, with over 20,000+ festival attendees plus 2.5 million impressions per month on [www.danceswithfilms.com](http://www.danceswithfilms.com), DWF is loyal and dedicated to the indie filmmaker and is considered their champion here in Hollywood.

At the core of DWF is the narrative competition section, comprising both features and shorts. DWF is comprised of 16 competition features and more than 3 dozen competition shorts. In addition, DWF presents some of the most groundbreaking documentaries and cutting-edge music videos from the indie scene. All of this on top of the Fusion series, which brings together a multitude of amazing additional features and shorts.

Notable Dances With Films alumni who first gained notice at the festival include: **Gina Rodriguez, Bryan Cranston, Will Scheffer, Mark V. Olsen, Jesse Eisenberg, Mike Flanagan** and **John Hawkes**, among others.