



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Dances With Films* Closing Night & Live Virtual Awards Ceremony**

Los Angeles, CA (06 September, 2020) *Dances with Films*, celebrating its 23rd year, closed their eleven day festival with a musical performance by The Matches (depicted in the Documentary *Bleeding Audio*) and a virtual awards ceremony hosted by festival founders Leslee Scallon and Michael Trent. In keeping with unique interactive elements that *DWF:LA* incorporated including lounges, red carpets and even a lobby, the live online awards ceremony honored Indie Films in each of the various categories.

The closing night film, *BEFORE/DURING/AFTER*, written by and starring Finnerty Steeves (*Orange is the New Black*); an inspiring and relatable story of a middle-aged woman coping with a divorce and featuring many familiar faces including Richard Masur, Kristine Sutherland and Austin Pendleton, won the Industry Choice Award (ICA) for films over 40 minutes. Additionally, the filmmaker landed a meeting with one of the judges Grace Royer, Indie Packaging Agent at UTA, Gerren Crochet, Associate at Endeavor Content and Scott Shooman, Vice President of Content and Partnerships at Endeavor Content.

SYML – Everything All at Once, won the ICA for films under 40 minutes as well as a meeting with one of the judges Ruth Vitale, CEO of Creative Future, John Von Thaden, Sr. Vice President of Magnolia Acquisition and Jon Silk, Executive Vice President at Legendary Entertainment.

Below is the complete list of winners:

Grand Jury WINNER Feature Film: **PAINT**
Grand Jury Honorable Mention Feature Film: **TAKE OUT GIRL**

Grand Jury Competition Short film Winner: **THE FOREIGNER**
Grand Jury Honorable Mention Short Film: **THE WAY THAT I TAKE**

Industry Choice Award over 40 minutes: **before/during/after** (closing night film)
Industry Choice Award under 40 minutes: **SYML – EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE**

Audience Award Competition Feature: **DON'T READ THIS ON A PLANE**
Audience Award Competition Short: **NUMBER 2**

Audience Award for Fusion Feature: **HOLLYWOOD FRINGE**
Audience Award for Fusion Short: **DO YOU HAVE A...?**

Audience Award for Feature Documentary: **BLEEDING AUDIO**
Audience Award for Documentary Short: **AND THE BRAVE SHALL RISE**



Audience Award for TV Pilot: IT'S A TIE: **BABY STEPS & SEVERANCE**

Audience Award for Web pilot: **HEART BABY EGGPLANT**

Audience Award for Dances with Kidz Pro: **THE TERRIBLE ADVENTURE**

Audience Award winner for Downbeat: **SHE**

The full awards ceremony can be streamed at [Facebook.com/danceswithfilms](https://www.facebook.com/danceswithfilms) and Festival updates are available at dwfla.com

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About Dances With Films

In 1998 DWF began as a film festival dedicated to finding tomorrow's talent today and continues to carry on this mission. 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 to and is a devoted champion of fresh and creative voices. For the past 23 years, DWF has proudly provided access and opportunity to thousands of films and filmmakers from all over the world who diligently work year after year to see their dreams realized.

DWF's Advisory Board includes: Jane Fleming, Steve Tisch, Cindy Cowan, Jonathan Dana, Steve Elzer, Kevin Kasha, Eriq La Salle, Michael Lehmann, Valerie McCaffrey, Mark V. Olsen, Joel Ordesky, Mark Ordesky, Melissa Orlen, Will Scheffer, Hilton Smith, David Spiegelman, Steve Wegner and Effie Brown.

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