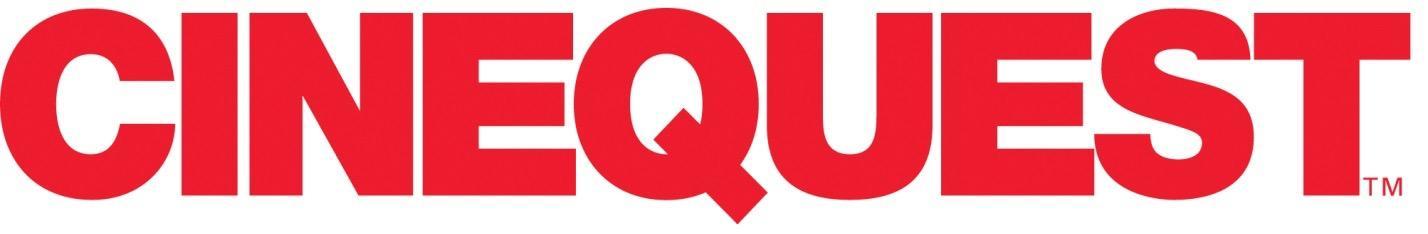
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Angela Ostermeier  
April 23, 2021 E-mail: [publicity@cinequest.org](mailto:publicity@cinequest.org)

**THAT’S A WRAP!**

**Cinejoy featuring the Artists & Films of Cinequest**

**2021 Awards Announcement**

April 23, 2021 (Silicon Valley)— Cinequest, reimagined virtually on a proprietary platform as [*Cinejoy featuring the Artists & Films of Cinequest*](https://www.creatics.org/cinejoy/about), wrapped March 30 and presented a groundbreaking lineup of Live Spotlight Events, Live Parties, Red Carpets, and Lounges, plus 199 Showcase Films and Television (111 of which are World & U.S. Premieres) from 55 countries. Cinequest proudly presents the prestigious Award Winners:

MAVERICK SPIRIT AWARDS

Cinequest’s highest award, the Cinequest Maverick Spirit Award, honors those who stand apart from the crowd, creating and innovating from a place of personal yet global vision. Past recipients include **Harrison Ford, Neil Gaiman, Nicolas Cage, J.J. Abrams, Alec Baldwin, Rosario Dawson, James Franco, Michael Keaton, Sir Ben Kingsley, Spike Lee, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Sir Ian McKellen, and Gus Van Sant.** This year’s recipients are:

* **Eddie Izzard**
* **Sam Neill**
* **Darren Star**

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**JURY FILM AWARDS**

**BEST FEATURE FILM: DRAMA**

[*Death of a Ladies’ Man*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/premierepage/140185)

Director: Matt Bissonnette

Producers: Corey Marr, John Brady, Don Carmody, Aleksandr Kushaev, Matina Niland, Marie-Claude Poulin

**BEST FEATURE FILM: COMEDY**

[*Pretenders*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140498#!)

Director: Tristen Stafford

Producers: James Canellos, Adam Gale

**BEST FEATURE FILM: DOCUMENTARY**

[*Anchor Point*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140422#!)

Director: Holly Tuckett

Producers: Holly Tuckett, Jennifer Dobner, Maddy Purves

**SPECIAL JURY AWARD: DOCUMENTARY**

[*Non Western*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140494#!)

Director: Laura Plancarte

Producers: LP Films, TV UNAM, & The Montana Film Office

**BEST HORROR, THRILLER, SCIENCE FICTION FEATURE FILM**

[*A Beautiful Curse*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140400#!)

Director: Martin Garde Abildgaard

Producer: Rikke Katborg

**VISIONARY AWARD**

[*Beneath the Banyan Tree*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140425#!)

Director: Nani Li Yang

Producers: Nani Li Yang, Troy Chiu, Yue Wang

**GLOBAL VISION AWARD**

[*The First Death of Joana*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140508#!)

Director: Cristiane Oliveira

Producers: Aleteia Selonk, Cristiane Oliveira

**BEST TELEVISION PILOT**

[*Parked in America*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140681#!)

Director: Luke Salin

Producers: Cole Bannick, Jori Johnson, Alexandro Pacheco, Ann Swenson

**BEST SHORT FILM: DRAMA**

[*Americanized*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140580#!)

Director: Erica Eng

Producer: Simran Mahal

**BEST SHORT FILM: COMEDY**

[*Je Suis Ton Pére*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140630#!)

Director: Justine Le Pottier

Producer: Alexandre Dohan

**BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM**

[*Footsteps on the Wind*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/141287#!)

Directors: Maya Sanbar, Faga Melo, Gustavo Leal

Producers: Gillian Gordon, Fernanda Zaffari

**BEST FAMILY SHORT FILM**

[*Stairs*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140694#!)

Director: Zoljargal Purevdash

Producer: Genevieve Clay-Smith

**BEST HORROR, THRILLER, SCI-FI SHORT FILM**

[*While We Stayed Home*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140744#!)

Director: Gil Vesely

Producer: Gil Vesely

**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM**

[*Lion on the Mat*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140635#!)

Director: Asali Echols

**BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM**

[*Greta*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140615#!)

Director: Sofie Verweyen

**AUDIENCE FILM AWARDS**

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE COMEDY**

[*One Moment*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140495#!)

Director: Deirdre O’Connor

Producers: Deirdre O’Connor, Jodi Weiner

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE DRAMA**

[*Last Night in Rozzie*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140483#!)

Director: Sean Gannet

Producers: Ryan McDonough, Sean Gannet, Joseph Stephans, Kris Meyer, Andrew Cahill

[*Lune*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140485#!)

Directors: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Arturo Perez Torres

Producers: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Arturo Perez Torres

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

[*A Sexplanation*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140404#!)

Director: Alex Liu

Producer: Steven Flynn

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE THRILLER, HORROR, OR SCI-FI**

[*Slapface*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140502#!)

Director: Jeremiah Kipp

Producers: Mike Manning, Artisha Mann-Cooper, Joe Benedetto

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, SHORT FILM**

[*Americanized*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140580#!)

Director: Erica Eng

Producer: Simran Mahal

[*Egg Party*](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/moviepage/140611#!)

Director: Kersti Bryan

Producers: Ashton Heyl, Claire Kennedy, Max Rothman, Dan Amboyer, Eric P. Berger

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**VR & AR AWARDS**

**BEST ANIMATION VR**

In the Land of the Flabby Schnook

**BEST IMMERSIVE VR**

My Identity is the Expanse!

**BEST STUDENT VR**

Amends

**BEST VR CINEMATOGRAPHY**

Ecosphere

**BEST DOCUMENTARY/EMPATHY VR**

Replacements

**BEST VR EXPERIENCE**

Baba Yaga

**BEST VR GAME**

Flow Weaver

**BEST VR MOVIE**

People to People

**BEST VR SCI-FI**  
Odyssey 1.4.9

**BEST VR SOUND DESIGN**

Nightsss

**BEST VR STORYTELLING**

Don’t Forget Me

**MOST CREATIVE VR**

The Vanishing American Dream

**MOST INNOVATIVE VR**

Micro Monsters with David Attenborough

**SCREENWRITING WINNERS & FINALISTS**

**FEATURE FINALISTS**  
  
***WINNER: Rise Up Little Girl*** by Matthew J. Avant

***2nd: Swing And A Miss*** by Barbara Thornton

***3rd: Aphrodite & The Apocalypse*** by Stacie Gancayco-Adlao

***Queen of Newburgh*** by Lisa Cole & Veronica Moody

***Icky People*** by Blaire Baron

***The Big D*** by Michael Weinreb

***4 Fine Women*** by Keith Planit

***Bird’s Eye*** by Erin Beute

***Salt West***by Samuel Ripley Peirce

***Brave Woman***by Melissa Duges Spiers

**SHORT-FILM FINALISTS**  
  
***WINNER: Answers***by Scott Tinkham

***2nd: Feliz Navidad***by Edward Tyndall

***3rd: Mothership***by Brianne Berkson

***Bad Reception***by Louise Lonergan

***Libra***by Matt Seroski

***De Pachanga***by Juan Carlos Sanchez & Richard Rennie

***The 45th Annual Model United Nations All-Star All-School Conference*** by Zoe Maltby

***Ravens***by Patrick Gamble

***Far From the Olive Grove***by Andrea Land

***Kingmaker***by Bradley Coburn

**TELEPLAY 60-MINUTE FINALISTS**  
  
***WINNER: Drafting***by Carol Faw

***2nd: The Shadow King***by Chris A. Bolton

***3rd: Ex Humana***by Helena Zhen

***Breakaway***by Tom O’Brien

***Acceptance***by Nick Childress and Jesse Eisenhardt

***Land of Eagles***by Isaac Banuelos

***Under Cover of Darkness***by Paul Raasch

***Everything’s Fine***by Cole Goslee

***The Bliss Killer***by LeLe Park

***Highland Drive***by Rosalyn Rosen

**TELEPLAY 30-MINUTE FINALISTS**  
  
***WINNER: Rise of the Immortals***by Alan Sim

***2nd: Wild Life***by Carmiel Banasky

***3rd: Wheels of Government***by Mary Kay Holmes & Jeanette Scherrer

***Ether 101 – The Handshake***by Sabina Petra

***Standard, Nebraska***by Edward Hamel

***Sous Weed***by Joel Handler

***Trivial***by Rob Salerno

***Love Lives***by Allyson Morgan

***BUDS***by Alexis Aurigemma

***The Killer B’s***by Dave Chan

**About Cinequest:**

[Cinequest](https://cinequest.org/) fuses innovation with the arts to empower great creations and to connect audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other—forging community, joy, and our future. Set in Silicon Valley, Cinequest’s uniqueness, impact, and legacy result from applying this powerful integration of creativity and technology to democratize opportunity and to transform lives. Cinequest does this through the [Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival](https://cinequest.org/), Mavericks Studio, and [Picture The Possibilities](http://www.picturethepossibilities.org/) global youth programs.

Experience the JOY of cinema, artists, and community! Much more than a movie, [CINEJOY](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/) is an online experience that brings you film and live events through a community and platform designed for discovery and engagement. [CINEJOY](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/), featuring the Artists and Movies of CINEQUEST, occurs March 20-30!

[CINEJOY](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/) is hosted on the [CREATICS](https://creatics.org/about) platform that requires a quick, free registration that doubles as your registration and login when you purchase tickets to [CINEJOY](https://creatics.org/cinejoy/) movies, events, and offerings.

**Cinequest CINEJOY March 2021 Partners***(partial list)*

TJ & Valeta Rodgers, Clos De La Tech, Jennifer Krach, James Boyce Trust & Kris Otis, Eddie Lira, The Wolff Family, Applied Materials (NASDAQ: AMAT), ZOOM (NASDAQ: ZM), Tito’s Handmade Vodka, The Knight Foundation, Hint Water, Agile Ticketing Solutions, SV Creates, The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, and the City of San Jose.

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