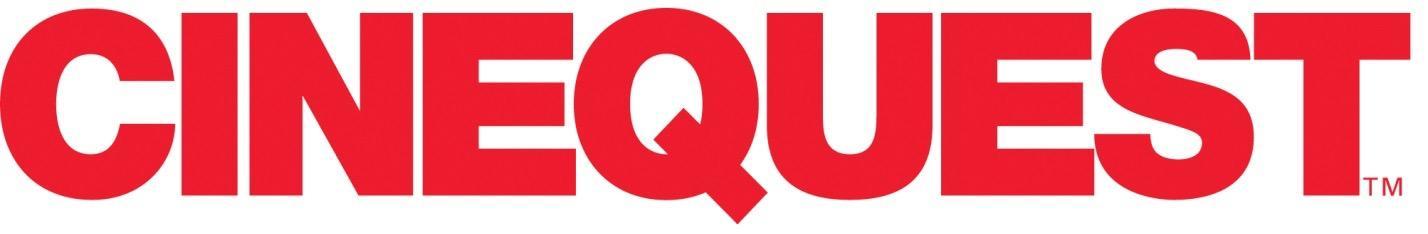
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact:** Angela Ostermeier  
**December 10, 2021** **E-mail:** [publicity@cinequest.org](mailto:publicity@cinequest.org)

**CINEQUEST 2022 DATES    
Cinequest 2021 Wrap**  
**A year of Innovation and Elevating**  
**Virtual Experiences for Artists and Audiences**

December 10, 2021 (Silicon Valley)—Cinequest wraps a year of delivering exciting virtual events and experiences via its Cinejoy online platform. Cinequest delivered over 300 premiere films plus 200 live and interactive events and parties, serving global audiences from 58 countries. Cinequest announces 2021 Award Winners and the 2022 In-person and Virtual dates.

**CINEQUEST IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL EVENTS IN 2022**

* **Cinequest's In-Person Festival returns to the Silicon Valley August 16-28**, sporting an exciting new summer format designed to provide an electrifying celebration of film, media-tech, and community.
* **Cinejoy featuring the Artists & Movies of Cinequest will occur virtually April 1-17** and in the Fall and will feature new experiences to enhance the humanity and excitement of online events.

**CINEQUEST 2021 HIGHLIGHTS & AWARDS:**

* Cinequest’s sister company, Creatics ,with a team of Silicon Valley UX-UI designers and global engineers, built an exciting new platform to support all forms of creativity. In March of 2021, the first experience launched, the alpha of the online edition of the Cinequest Festival, called  CINEJOY Alpha 1, featuring 199 Films (including 111 World & U.S. Premieres), Virtual Red Carpets, Industry Panels, Technology Showcases, and Celebrations. In November 2021, CINEJOY Alpha 2, featured over 187 Showcase films, shorts, and pilots, 13 Spotlight films with short film premieres, red carpets, and screening parties. Overall, we saw audiences and artists join us from all 50 states and 58 countries.
* Cinequest’s Maverick Spirit Award, its highest honor, recognized Artists, Innovators, and people who step outside the bounds of the normal to take risks and create something special. 2021 guest recipients included: **Sam Neill, Eddie Izzard**, and **Darren Star**.
* 2021 included empowering conversations with special guests including **Rosario Dawson, Lee Daniels, Katie Couric, Andra Day, Troian Bellisario, Teagan Croft, Mena Suvari, Alec Baldwin, Thomas Jane**, and many more!

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [PLEASE CHECK OUT THE CINEJOY HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO](https://cl.exct.net/?qs=27690fb75592a14ee2927a4f220df74719393557710d191a5e9dff4e07820b26c8e22276b4ccbada1215388d527ae6fc) | | |

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| **CINEQUEST 2021 AWARDS:**  Cinequest is thrilled to  announce the 2021 Festival Awards for Films, Shorts, Television, VR/AR and  screenplays. |



**JURY FILM AWARDS**

**BEST FEATURE FILM: DRAMA**  
*Death of a Ladies’ Man*  
Director: Matt Bissonnette  
Producers: Corey Marr, John Brady, Don Carmody, Aleksandr Kushaev, Matina Niland, Marie-Claude Poulin  
  
*See You Then*  
Director: Mari Walker  
Producers: Matt Miller, Mia Schulman, Kristen Uno, Mari Walker  
  
**BEST FEATURE FILM: COMEDY**  
*Pretenders*  
Director: Tristen Stafford  
Producers: James Canellos, Adam Gale  
  
*Reboot Camp*  
Director: Ivo Raza  
Producers: David Lipper, Tina Sutakanat  
   
**BEST FEATURE FILM: DOCUMENTARY**  
*Anchor Point*  
Director: Holly Tuckett  
Producers: Holly Tuckett, Jennifer Dobner, Maddy Purves  
  
*Soy Cubana*  
Directors: Jeremy Ungar, Ivaylo Getov  
Producer: Robin Miller Ungar  
  
**SPECIAL JURY AWARD: DOCUMENTARY**  
*Non Western*  
Director: Laura Plancarte  
Producers: LP Films, TV UNAM, & The Montana Film Office  
  
**BEST HORROR, THRILLER, SCIENCE FICTION FEATURE FILM**  
*A Beautiful Curse*  
Director: Martin Garde Abildgaard  
Producer: Rikke Katborg  
  
*Silent River*  
Director: Chris Chan Lee  
Producers: Chris Chan Lee, Robert Cho, West Liang  
   
**VISIONARY AWARD**  
*Beneath the Banyan Tree*  
Director: Nani Li Yang  
Producers: Nani Li Yang, Troy Chiu, Yue Wang  
  
*The Sleeping Negro*  
Director: Skinner Myers  
Producers: John Campbell, Matt Palmieri, Dan Funes, Alex Noel McCarthy, Skinner Myers  
   
**GLOBAL VISION AWARD**  
*Landless*  
Director: Touraj Aslani  
Producer: Touraj Aslani  
  
*The First Death of Joana*  
Director: Cristiane Oliveira  
Producers: Aleteia Selonk, Cristiane Oliveira  
  
**BEST TELEVISION EPISODE**  
*Parked in America*  
Director: Luke Salin  
Producers: Cole Bannick, Jori Johnson, Alexandro Pacheco, Ann Swenson  
  
*Parent's Committee*  
Director: Michail Polyakov  
Producers: Vyacheslav Murugov, Fyodor Bondarchuk, Anton Fedotov  
   
**BEST SHORT FILM: DRAMA**  
*Americanized*  
Director: Erica Eng  
Producer: Simran Mahal  
  
*Shut Up*  
Director: Noa Aharoni Maor  
Producer: Dafna Danenberg  
   
**BEST SHORT FILM: COMEDY**  
*Je Suis Ton Pére*  
Director: Justine Le Pottier  
Producer: Alexandre Dohan  
  
*Navel Gazers*  
Director: Kimmy Gatewood  
Producers: Lauren Bancroft, Kimmy Gatewood, Matthew C. Johnson, Annie Mebane, Devin Doyle  
   
**BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM**  
*Footsteps on the Wind*  
Directors: Maya Sanbar, Faga Melo, Gustavo Leal   
Producers: Gillian Gordon, Fernanda Zaffari  
  
*Thanadoula*  
Director: Robin McKenna  
Producers: Robin McKenna, Jelena Popovic  
   
**BEST FAMILY SHORT FILM**  
*Stairs*  
Director: Zoljargal Purevdash  
Producer: Genevieve Clay-Smith  
  
*The Important Day*  
Director: Olesia Aleinikova  
   
**BEST HORROR, THRILLER, SCI-FI SHORT FILM**  
*While We Stayed Home*  
Director: Gil Vesely  
Producer: Gil Vesely  
  
*You Will Never Be Back*  
Director: Mónica Mateo  
Producer: Mónica Mateo  
  
**BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM**  
*Lion on the Mat*  
Director: Asali Echols  
  
*Voice Above Water*  
Director: Dana Frankoff  
Producers: Dana Frankoff, Eric Ebner  
  
**BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM**  
*Greta*  
Director: Sofie Verweyen  
  
*This River*  
Director: Naomi Fryer  
Producers: Naomi Fryer, Katherine Shearer  
   
**BEST MUSIC VIDEO**  
*Ghost Girl*  
Director: Christopher Kezelos  
Producer: Christine Kezelo

**AUDIENCE FILM AWARDS**

**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE COMEDY**  
*One Moment*  
Director: Deirdre O’Connor  
Producers: Deirdre O’Connor, Jodi Weiner  
  
**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE DRAMA**  
*Last Night in Rozzie*  
Director: Sean Gannet  
Producers: Ryan McDonough, Sean Gannet, Joseph Stephans, Kris Meyer, Andrew Cahill   
  
*Lune*  
Directors: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Arturo Perez Torres  
Producers: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Arturo Perez Torres  
  
**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**  
*A Sexplanation*  
Director: Alex Liu  
Producer: Steven Flynn  
  
**AUDIENCE AWARDS, FEATURE THRILLER, HORROR, OR SCI-FI**  
*Slapface*  
Director: Jeremiah Kipp  
Producers: Mike Manning, Artisha Mann-Cooper, Joe Benedetto  
  
**AUDIENCE AWARDS, SHORT FILM**  
*Americanized*  
Director: Erica Eng  
Producer: Simran Mahal  
  
*Egg Party*  
Director: Kersti Bryan  
Producers: Ashton Heyl, Claire Kennedy, Max Rothman, Dan Amboyer, Eric P. Berger



**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://cl.exct.net/?qs=fee4a92805797e9206f67e2e41a764a966d81650160da3cd680cd246b85de86b8ffa2d26f3b190fff5ef3f9a71480104) 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://cl.exct.net/?qs=fee4a92805797e9206f67e2e41a764a966d81650160da3cd680cd246b85de86b8ffa2d26f3b190fff5ef3f9a71480104) Mavericks Studio, and [Picture The Possibilities](https://cl.exct.net/?qs=fee4a92805797e92e951c2df571b81f9ad6cb014d4ab779c06213faa0ea8f508e9a32daa43342f1a7a9ad9aa41f13a2c) global youth programs.   
  
Experience the JOY of cinema, artists, and community! Much more than a movie, [CINEJOY](https://cl.exct.net/?qs=fee4a92805797e926052626ef6b7bd6c690b56999897acf3554e87d03eda09e4d1e6db1a26554ef0bead0f9ac08925d0) is an online experience that brings you film and live events through a community and platform designed for discovery and engagement.  
  
**Cinequest CINEJOY March 2021 Partners***(partial list)*  
TJ & Valeta Rodgers, Clos De La Tech, Jennifer Krach, Ramona Reichl, James Boyce Trust & Kris Otis, Eddie Lira, The Wolff Family, Applied Materials (NASDAQ: AMAT), Kaiser Permanente, ZOOM (NASDAQ: ZM), Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Hint Water, Agile Ticketing Solutions, SV Creates, The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, NBC Bay Area, Telemundo 48, iHeartMedia, El Observador, Metro, Yelp South Bay, the City of San Jose, and Redwood City Arts Commission.

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