



March 20, 2017

## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2017 SUN VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

- Geena Davis, Brett Ratner and Allison Williams receive SVFF Award Honors
- Jamie Redford and Jill Tidman honored with Snow Angel Award
- *Blood Road* receives Audience Award
- Dan Sickles wins Producer's Vision Award for *Dina*
- *Beyond the Wall* and *Dave Made a Maze* score One in A Million Award
- *Unlovable* wins The Film Lab
- Mylissa Fitzsimmons wins The Short Film Lab
- Ron Torres wins Idaho Gem State Award
- Anai Colyer picks up WILD to Inspire



Pictured (l-r): Candice Pate, Director, SVFF, Academy Award® Winning Actor, Geena Davis , Teddy Grennan, Executive Director, SVFF

*Sun Valley, ID...* An intimate dinner celebrating the diverse achievements of Academy Award® winning actor and activist Geena Davis was followed last night by the Sun Valley Film Festival's Awards Bash, where winners across ten categories were announced. The Festival awarded over \$50,000 in cash prizes and countless mentorship opportunities to independent filmmakers. Special guests The Lemon Twigs brought down the house as filmmakers, attendees and special guests raised a glass to toast another successful Festival.

The SVFF features a diverse list of awards including film awards, screenwriting competition awards and special signature awards.

## Film Awards

**Audience Award:** The Audience Award is voted on by movie goers.

WINNER: *Blood Road*, Director Nicholas Schrunk

**Producer's Vision Award:** The Vision Award recognizes a producer's ability to keep a dramatic, feature length film in focus during the journey of the project.

WINNER: Dan Sickles, *Dina*

**One In A Million Awards:** The One In A Million Awards honor feature length stories made for under one million dollars. One narrative and one documentary film are each awarded.

DOCUMENTARY WINNER: Jenny Phillips and Bestor Cram, *Beyond the Wall*

NARRATIVE WINNER: Bill Watterson, *Dave Made a Maze*

**The Shorty Award:** The best short film across all categories.

WINNER: Luke Haskard, *Kendall Got a Rose*

**Gem State Award:** Presented by Festival sponsor Zions Bank, this \$1,000 jury prize recognizes an Idaho filmmaker whose work best reflects the beauty and diversity of the Gem State.

WINNER: Ron Torres, *Rita*

**Hot Shot Award:** The Future Filmmakers Forum is Sponsored by the Marshall Frankel Foundation and supported by Cox Communications. The FFF presents the Hot Shot Award to the best film by a student filmmaker under 18 years old along with a \$1,000 cash prize. The award was presented by actor Chace Crawford.

WINNER: Jack Nordstrom, *Puget Sound*

**Vertu Award:** A Future Filmmakers Forum Award with a \$500 cash prize, the Vertu is presented to a student with outstanding creative vision, this year presented by actor Jack Falahee.

WINNER: Jack Nordstrom, *Puget Sound*

**Gabriel Spirit Award:** A Future Filmmakers Forum Award with a \$250 cash prize, the Gabriel Spirit honors the second place runner up.

WINNER: Eli Hall, Ryan Beard, and Steven Gentry, *Loop*

Film Jury members included: dean of AFI **Jan Schuette**, head of film programs at Austin Film Society **Holly Herrick**, producer **Lauren Selig**, producer/director **Stephen Crisman**, and producer **Elisabeth Costa de Beauregard**.

## SVFF Film & Screenwriting Competition Winners

**Nat Geo WILD TO INSPIRE:** The 3rd Annual **WILD to INSPIRE** prize receives an opportunity to study filmmaking and wildlife in the Maasai Steppe landscape in Tanzania, Africa with a leading National Geographic cinematographer. This competition is a result of the SVFF partnership with Nat Geo WILD.

WINNER: Anai Colyer, *Ambition*

**High Scribe:** The SVFF Screenwriters Lab High Scribe competition gives finalists an opportunity for one-on-one meetings with some of the industry's finest to discuss their work; the winner receives mentoring from an experienced professional as well as a \$1000 cash prize. The lab host was Academy Award winning screenwriter Charles Randolph and judge was Academy Award nominated producer Chris Moore.

WINNER: SB Edwards, *Nowhere*

**One Potato Winner:** The One Potato short screenplay competition awards the screenwriter a \$5000 stipend to help shoot their film in Idaho.

WINNER: Samantha Silva, *The Big Burn*

**The Film Lab:** Tito's Handmade Vodka presented The Film Lab, hosted by Trevor Groth, the Director of Programming for Sundance Film Festival. Two Work-In-Progress films duked it out for \$10000 in finishing funds, and both received the unique experience of a 'soft launch' as they work to finalize their film.

WINNER: *Unlovable*, directed by Suzi Yoonesi, written by Charlene deGuzman, Sarah Adina Smith and Mark Duplass, produced by Jen Roskind

**The Short Film Lab:** Tito's Handmade Vodka presented The Short Film Lab, a short screenplay competition hosted by Michael Tully and judged by Jim Burke of Focus Features. The winning script receives \$10000 towards making their short film for a premier at the 2017 Film Festival.

WINNER: Mylissa Fitzimmons, *Who Decides*

## SVFF Special Awards

**SVFF VISION AWARD:** The SVFF Vision Award pays tribute to an individual who has provided the keen insight, influence, and initiative to fulfill a creative vision.

HONORED: Geena Davis

**PIONEER AWARD:** The SVFF Pioneer Award honors an individual whose career choices are reflective of a true trailblazer.

HONORED: Brett Ratner

**RISING STAR:** The inaugural Rising Star Award is presented to a breakthrough artist or filmmaker.

HONORED: Allison Williams

**SNOW ANGEL AWARD:** The new SVFF Snow Angel Award is given for outstanding advocacy work with a focus on environmental sustainability. This year, it was presented to their Redford Center for their work in bringing social and environmental issues to life through film. The awards ceremony was accompanied by a special screening of Jamie Redford's clean energy film, *Happening*.

HONORED: Jill Tidman and Jamie Redford, The Redford Center

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Festival info at: [www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org](http://www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org). Festival updates on [Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#).

Official Festival photos can be downloaded here: [www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/media](http://www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/media)

### **About the Sun Valley Film Festival**

The Sun Valley Film Festival has quickly become a filmmaker's festival in a place steeped in cinematic history, with a proven knack for drawing industry heavyweights and independent talents to an intimate locale far from the Hollywood scene. The combination of cutting-edge programming and bona-fide insider access in a fun, relaxed atmosphere is making the Sun Valley Film Festival a rising star in the world of destination festivals.

[www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org](http://www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org)

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