

Sony Future Filmmaker Awards 2024 Announces Winners of Second Annual Global Competition



PRESS RELEASE – MAY 30, 2024 — Creo is pleased to reveal the six winners of the second edition of the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, announced this evening during a special ceremony in Los Angeles hosted by Entertainment Tonight’s correspondent Denny Directo. Established by Creo and sponsored by Sony, the major annual awards program for short films provides a gateway for the development of exceptional cinematic talent and champions filmmakers with an original perspective on storytelling.

Chosen by a panel of expert judges led by chair **Justin Chadwick**, the winners of the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards 2024 are: **Katie Blair** (USA, Fiction), **Olawunmi Hassan & Adaobi Samson** (Nigeria, Non-Fiction), **Solmund MacPherson** (Canada, Environment), **Kyle Novak** (Czech Republic, Animation), **Raheem Razak** (South Africa, Student), and **Cristian Daniel** (Uruguay, Future Format).

As part of their prize, this year’s winners and the wider shortlist took part in a week-long industry immersion program, culminating in tonight’s Awards ceremony. This one-of-a-kind prize provides filmmakers with an invaluable opportunity to connect with their peers and leaders in the field, and to gain exclusive behind-the-scenes access. The program comprises workshops led by Sony Pictures executives, covering a range of topics from keynotes by major cinematographers, screenings and Q&A sessions, to insights into working with talent agencies and using cutting-edge technologies and animation, film scoring and music rights. In addition to this, the six winners announced tonight receive a range of cash prizes and Sony camera equipment.

This year's winners were selected from over 8,400 films by more than 5,000 filmmakers across 148 countries and territories submitted across six categories: **Fiction**, **Non-Fiction**, **Environment**, **Animation**, **Student**, and **Future Format**. The winners were chosen by **Michael Barker** and **Tom Bernard**, Co-Founders and Co-Presidents of Sony Pictures Classics (*Call Me By Your Name*, *The Father*, *Whiplash*); **Rob Hardy ASC, BSC**, BAFTA award-winning cinematographer (*Civil War*, *Mission: Impossible – Fallout*, *Ex-Machina*); and **Kate Reid BSC**, acclaimed British cinematographer (*Game of Thrones*, *Great Expectations*, *Silo*), awarding creative excellence and original approaches to narrative. The winners were drawn from 30 shortlisted filmmakers selected from a longlist by celebrated Australian filmmaker **Unjoo Moon** and Emmy-award winning cinematographer **Robert Primes ASC**. Both stages of the judging process were chaired by award-winning director **Justin Chadwick** (*Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Tulip Fever*, *Shardlake*).

The **Sony Future Filmmaker Awards jury** as a whole spoke on this year's winning and shortlisted filmmakers: *"This year's winners traverse borders and cultures, a global gathering of creative talent set to make their mark in our industry. The winners each approach their stories with originality; from a portent of an eroding society, to a surreal take on family pressures, to an animated love story suspended in time: we were struck by the ingenuity of these filmmakers and their fresh perspective on the world. It is with great pleasure we celebrate the winners, as well as the wider cohort of 30 filmmakers who comprised this year's shortlist, and we look forward to watching as they take their next steps in cinema."*

Following its successful sophomore edition, the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards will return for a third edition in spring 2025 with submissions opening later this year.

2024 WINNERS

FICTION

The **Fiction** competition rewards narrative-led submissions that convey an original fictional story or event. The category winner receives a Sony camera and lens kit and \$5,000 (USD).

In the **Fiction** category, the winner was presented by Dylan Leiner, Executive Vice President of Acquisitions, Production and Business Affairs, Sony Pictures Classics:

- **Katie Blair** (USA), *Imogene* – Imogene is a single, free-spirited New Yorker in her 40s, whose traditional family is plotting to get her pregnant by inviting a donor for dinner.

NON-FICTION

The **Non-Fiction** category awards short films that are predominantly factual in content, with content that can include archive footage, documentary footage, reenactments and animation. The category winner receives a Sony camera and lens kit and \$5,000 (USD).

In the **Non-Fiction** category, the winner was presented by Nekesa Moody, Co-Editor in Chief, The Hollywood Reporter:

- **Olawunmi Hassan & Adaobi Samson** (Nigeria), *Ìrún Dídì* – From traditional Yoruba techniques to modern interpretations, the film traces the evolution of the timeless art of hair plaiting, as it becomes a sacred ritual of self-care and empowerment.

ENVIRONMENT

The **Environment** category champions films that communicate a positive future for the planet and is part of *Creators for the Planet*, a global year-round program set up to spotlight and amplify creators' stories promoting prosperity and peace for people and the planet. A collaboration with Sony Pictures, the United Nations Foundation and Creo, *Creators for the Planet* aims to mobilize and inspire people to act now through photography and film. The category winner receives a Sony camera and lens kit and \$5,000 (USD).

In the **Environment** category, the award was presented by David Ohana, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, United Nations Foundation:

- **Solmund MacPherson** (Canada), [*Wildmen of the Greater Toronto Area*](#) – A group of Toronto citizens fed up with the rising cost of living renounce their personhood en masse to legally become animals.

ANIMATION

New to this year's competition, the **Animation** category embraces filmmakers using stop-motion, motion graphics, computer animation, drawn-on-film, rotoscoping, and experimental animation, as well as additional available techniques. The category winner receives a Sony camera and lens kit and \$5,000 (USD).

In the **Animation** category, the winner was presented by Carolyn Giardina, Senior Entertainment Tech & Crafts Editor, Variety:

- **Kyle Novak** (Czech Republic), [*Ángulos de la Hora \(Hour Angle\)*](#) – After their flight is grounded, two strangers agree to an anonymous tryst as their new travel plans are arranged.

STUDENT

The **Student** category rewards filmmakers studying a film course at a registered institution at a diploma or degree level worldwide. The winner and their institution each receive Sony camera equipment.

In the **Student** category, the winner was presented by Ken Morisawa, Senior General Manager, Imaging Marketing Division, Global Sales & Marketing, Sony Corporation:

- **Raheem Razak** (South Africa), AFDA, South Africa, [*Anguish*](#) – In what seems to be a zombie-infested world, devoted son Sam must tend to his zombie mother while surviving the apocalypse himself.

FUTURE FORMAT

The **Future Format** category champions a new generation of aspiring filmmakers, welcoming 2 to 5-minute-long films shot exclusively on a smartphone. The category winner receives a range of Sony camera equipment and \$2,500 (USD).

In the **Future Format** category, the winner was presented by Kate Reid BSC, Cinematographer and Sony Future Filmmaker Awards 2024 jury member:

- **Cristian Daniel** (Uruguay), [PARASOMNIA](#) – A young man attempts to discover the unsettling presence in a dark corridor, with no knowledge of what may lie ahead.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WINNERS AND SHORTLISTED FILMMAKERS, PLEASE VISIT

[SONYFUTUREFILMMAKERAWARDS.COM](https://www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com)

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2024 WINNERS & SHORTLIST

FICTION

WINNER

Katie Blair, USA
Imogene

SHORTLIST

Tan Ce Ding, Malaysia
Please Hold the Line

Elliott Gonzo & Elliot Warren, UK
Hard Times

Jason Hogan, UK
Twenty

Margareth Villers, Estonia
What's Up With Numbats?

ANIMATION

WINNER

Kyle Novak, Czech Republic
Ángulos de la Hora (Hour Angle)

SHORTLIST

Eva Louise Hall, USA
Mira

Radheya Jegatheva, Australia
Bird Drone

Lisa Kenney, UK
Mum's Spaghetti

NON-FICTION

WINNER

Olawunmi Hassan & Adaobi Samson, Nigeria
Ìrún Dídì

SHORTLIST

Jean Chapiro, Mexico
Hasta Encontrarlos (Till We Find Them)

Jordan Matthew Horowitz, USA
Jack and Sam

Florian Nick, Germany
Beyond Hope

Kayla Robinson, USA
Quilted Education

STUDENT

WINNER

Raheem Razak, South Africa
AFDA, South Africa
Anguish

SHORTLIST

Natalia Bermúdez, Mexico
Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica (CCC), Mexico
Apnea

Katniss Tung Cheng, Hong Kong & Salvador Alejandro Gutiérrez, Mexico
IADT - Dun Laoghaire Institute Of Art Design + Technology, Ireland
Below the Window

Farah Jabir, USA
New York University, USA
Kasbi

ENVIRONMENT

WINNER

Solmund MacPherson, Canada
Wildmen of the Greater Toronto Area

SHORTLIST

Curtis Essel, Ghana
The Permaculturist

Palmer Morse, USA
Usugilix Awakun

Annie Roth, USA
Hellbent

Myles Storey, Malaysia
Finding Solo

FUTURE FORMAT

WINNER

Cristian Daniel, Uruguay
PARASOMNIA

SHORTLIST

Muzamil Bhat, India
Polite Waters

Rana Ramy, Egypt
ABOVE/ZERO

Bruno Sena, Brazil
Collapse

Paul Robinson, USA
Resource:Full

Muangthai Sarupkarn, Thailand
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology
Ladkrabang, Thailand
Stigma

Montgomery Taylor, UK
In The Bag

FILM PRESS KITS AVAILABLE ON PRESS.CREOARTS.COM

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Sony Future Filmmaker Awards

Established by Creo and sponsored by Sony, the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards is a major annual awards program for short films devoted to supporting and elevating independent filmmakers and creators from across the globe. Set apart by its exceptional prize, the Awards provide successful filmmakers with invaluable opportunities in the form of a trip to Los Angeles and to the historic Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California, where they gain exclusive access to experts and unparalleled insight into the inner workings of the industry. Winners additionally receive cash prizes and a range of Sony Digital Imaging equipment. Free to enter, the Awards comprise six categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Environment, Student, Animation and Future Format, and are judged by a panel of leading figures. By supporting talents in film, video and storytelling, the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards provides a gateway for the development of creative excellence.
www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com

Creo initiates and organizes events and programming across three key strands: photography, film and contemporary art. Established in 2007 as World Photography Organisation, Creo has since grown in scope, furthering its mission of developing meaningful opportunities for creatives and expanding the reach of its cultural activities. Today, its flagship projects include the Sony World Photography Awards, Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, PHOTOFAIRS and Photo London. Working in partnership with Angus Montgomery Arts, Creo helps deliver the group's ventures, comprising some of the world's leading art fairs. Taking its name from the Latin for 'I create', it is in this spirit that Creo sets out to empower and give agency to creative voices. www.creoarts.com

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create the entertainment of the future together with creators. For more information, visit: www.sony.net

*Both Japanese words, Kando means emotion and Anshin has various meanings such as peace of mind, reassurance, reliability and trust.

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