

AWARD WINNERS

TOUCHSTONE

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Independent

Film

Festival

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□



2024 SHOWCASE



Hosted By

SURESIDE  
PLAYERS

Where Cocoa Beach Meets the Stage

# A Selection of Award Winning Films from 2024

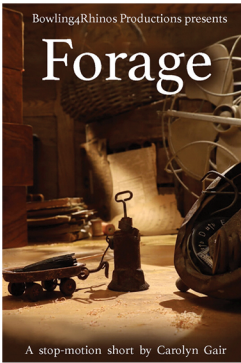
Welcome!

Touchstone Independent Film Festival is an international celebration of independent short films from all over the world.

Our festival is dedicated to showcasing the best and most innovative work of independent filmmakers, and we are proud to offer a platform for these talented artists to share their unique stories with a global audience. In our first full year, our festival has awarded 152 films. As much as we wish we could showcase them all, time would not permit. From our pool of the Award Winners, we chose a diverse collection of films to present to you today. Please see the last page for information concerning the remaining films.

We would like to thank you for showing up and supporting these independent films and all those involved in creating them.

Enjoy the show!

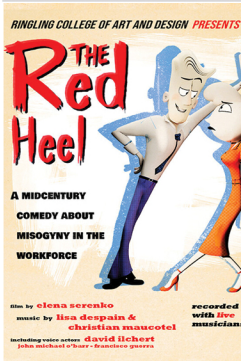


**Forge (United States)**  
Running Time - 7:32

Zip is a small intrepid explorer in a world of found-objects come-to-life. Zip pulls his tiny wagon through the expanses of a long-abandoned attic, foraging among the delightful clutter and searching for curious nick-nacks to decorate his humble home. When a pair of troublesome mice steal his latest treasure, Zip takes chase to recover it, facing unexpected dangers along the way.

Awarded (March 2024)  
Best Stop Motion Short

Director- Carolyn Gair  
Writer- Carolyn Gair  
Producer - Ron Hayes

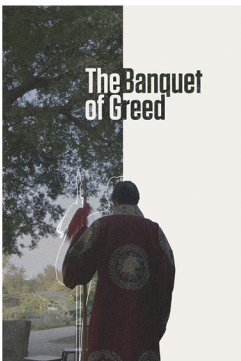


**The Red Heel (United States)**  
Running Time - 2:16

A midcentury comedy about misogyny in the workforce. An out of touch HR worker gets what's coming to him when he's forced to spend a day in heels.

Awarded (June 2024)  
Best Animation Short

Director - Elena Katherine Serenko  
Composer - Lisa DeSpain  
Composer - Christian Maucotel



**The Banquet of Greed (China)**  
Running Time - 14:58

"The Banquet of Greed" tells the story of Chen Shuming, a recently widowed woman who is hosting a funeral banquet for her late husband in a rural farmhouse courtyard. As the ceremony unfolds, news of an impending demolition and the large compensation it will bring spreads among the guests, sparking greed and tension.

Awarded (August 2024)  
Best Indie Short

Director - Hongbo Sun  
Writer - Hongbo Sun  
Producer - Zhixin Sun



**MOD3RN T1M3Z (United States)**  
Running Time - 0:34

A machine comes to life in a 3D animation short inspired by Charlie Chaplin.

Awarded (March 2024)  
Best 1 Minute Short

Director - Richard Thompson



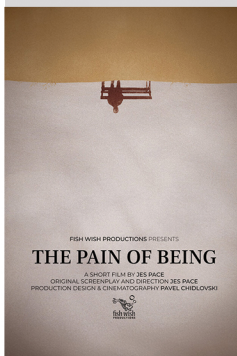


**The Last Gunfight... yet! (France)**  
Running Time - 3:00

The Far West, its merciless universe, its heroes from another time...  
Main Street under a blazing sun. Two creatures face off in a duel under the wide-eyed gaze of bystanders and of the sheriff. It's the last gunfight... yet!

Awarded (October 2024)  
Best Indie Short

Director - Pablo Tréhin-Marçot  
Writer - Pablo Tréhin-Marçot  
Producer - Pablo Tréhin-Marçot



**The Pain of Being (Malta)**  
Running Time - 14:41

An old man, a fervent catholic and a devoted husband, tries hard to make his dementia ridden wife remember him, at least by calling his name one more time.

Awarded (January and February 2024)  
Best Director, Best Actor (Narcy Calamatta)  
Best Indie Short, Best Original Story

Director - Jes Pace  
Writer - Jes Pace  
Producer - Fish Wish Productions



**Reality Check (China)**  
Running Time - 4:50

The film tells the story of a morning in a family, in which the four characters are father, mother, elder brother, and younger brother. Through the morning of a family of four, the scene of a Chinese family is depicted in a comedic way.

Awarded (October 2024)  
Best Comedy Short

Director - Glan Guan  
Writer - Glan Guan  
Producer - Xing Wang



**Sit With It (Canada)**  
Running Time - 12:25

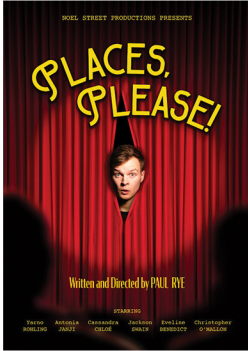
A middle-aged man on the brink of divorce gets stalked by a blue chair that refuses to go away.

Awarded (May 2024)  
Best Drama Short

Director - Manav Shah  
Writer - Christophine Opsetmoen  
Producer - Sahil Verma



# Intermission



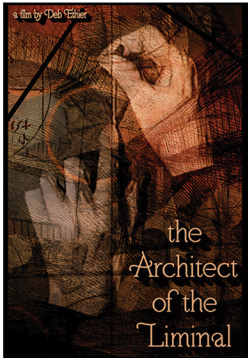
## Places, Please! (Australia)

Running Time - 10:00

Places, Please! delves into the frantic world behind the scenes of a local theatre's opening night. With the director stuck in traffic, first time stage manager Keith McRay faces a cascade of challenges: a missing actor, a rebellious cast member, an incompetent stage hand and a demanding lead actress.

Awarded (February 2024)  
Best Comedy Short

Director - Paul Keith Rye  
Writer - Paul Keith Rye  
Producer - Paul Keith Rye



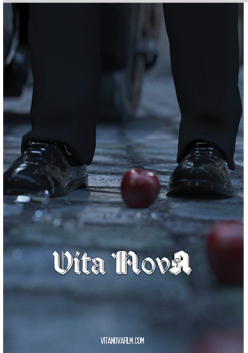
## The Architect of the Liminal (Canada)

Running Time - 3:04

An artist struggles to find her way in this quirky and off-kilter micro short from Deb Ethier. Taking some inspiration from classic silent films, it combines super 8 footage with 2D/3D animation and motion graphics. Music by Esther Garcia.

Awarded (October 2023)  
Best Experimental Short

Directors - Deb Ethier  
Writers - Deb Ethier  
Producer - Deb Ethier



## Vita Nova (Ukraine)

Running Time - 7:20

Man in post war Germany walks into a pharmacy to buy poison. Yet indecisive he hesitates. Even in hard times there are reasons to live. But is it too late?

Awarded (February 2024)  
Best Animation Short  
Best Original Score

Producer - Dmytro Zavora  
Writer - Josef Reding





### Hybrid (United States)

Running Time - 13:37

A story of a family's internal struggle during a global crisis. While trying to navigate unknown fears and events they have to learn how to draw closer to each other and work together.

Awarded (September 2024)

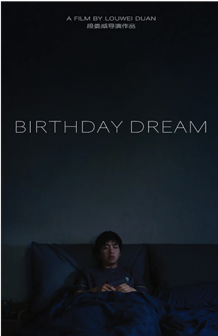
Best Sci-Fi Short

Best Actor

Director - Chris Romrell

Writer - Chris Romrell

Producer - Jason Edwards



### Birthday Dream (South Korea)

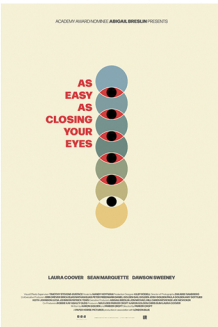
Running Time - 5:00

After losing his mother, Xiaode dreamed of the life with his mother every day. Perhaps, in the dream world, the mother has never disappeared.

Awarded (October 2024)

Best Original Story

Director - Louwei Duan



### As Easy As Closing Your Eyes (United States)

Running Time - 21:43

The story of a grieving mother who battles her addiction to a black-market drug that gives her life-like dreams about the son she lost.

Awarded (June 2024)

Best Indie Short, Best Actress,  
Best Actor, Best Director

Director - Parker Croft

Writers - Aaron Golden, Parker Croft

Producers - Max Loeb, Parker Croft, Aaron Golden,  
Chris Blim, Laura Coover



# Award Winners of 2024

As we draw the curtains on another remarkable year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support and trust. Your exceptional talent, dedication, and passion for independent cinema have made this year's festival a phenomenal success.

To our brilliant filmmakers, your creativity and hard work have not only entertained but also inspired and provoked thought. Your films have brought diverse stories to life, enriched our festival, and captivated our audiences. We are honored to showcase your work and to be a part of your journey.

To our loyal followers, your enthusiasm and love for independent films drive us to continually strive for excellence. Your presence, both in person and virtually, has created a vibrant and engaging festival atmosphere that we are deeply proud of.

As we celebrate this successful year, we look forward to the future with optimism and excitement. We wish you all a bright and prosperous future in your endeavors. May your creativity continue to flourish, and may your stories continue to touch hearts around the world.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of the Touchstone Independent Film Festival. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and celebration of independent cinema with you.

Warmest regards,

The Touchstone Independent Film Festival Team

We could share only a small portion of the Award Winning films of 2024, today. You are invited to visit our website to learn more about the remaining films and their creators.



# TOUCHSTONE

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Independent

Film

Festival

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□



Touchstone Independent Film Festival, LLC

Email: [info@touchstoneindependentfilmfestival.com](mailto:info@touchstoneindependentfilmfestival.com)

Website: <https://www.touchstoneindependentfilmfestival.com>

