

# Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum  
and the Naples Philharmonic

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## **MEDIA ALERT:**

### **THE 2019 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILMMAKER AWARD WINNERS**

**Amber McGinnis' *INTERNATIONAL FALLS* wins the  
Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature, Hilary Brougner receives a  
Special Achievement in Direction Award for *SOUTH MOUNTAIN*,  
and Bill Gallagher's *RUNNER* takes both the Jury Prize and the Audience Award  
for Best Documentary Feature**

**R.J. Daniel Hanna's *MISS VIRGINIA* wins the Audience Award  
for Best Narrative Feature and Rebecca Tansley's *THE HEART DANCES*  
is the winner of NIFF's first Focus on the Arts Award**

**Naples, FL (October 30, 2019)** — The 2019 Naples International Film Festival announced the filmmaker award winners during the Closing Night Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 27. The jury prize for Best Narrative Feature (and a cash prize of \$7,500) went to Amber McGinnis' *International Falls*, and the jury prize for Best Documentary Feature (and \$7,500) was given to Bill Gallagher's *Runner*. Gallagher's *Runner* also took NIFF's Audience Award for Documentary Feature (and an additional \$2,000), while R.J. Daniel Hanna's *Miss Virginia* was the Audience Choice for Narrative Feature (also receiving \$2,000).

The cash prizes given to the award-winning filmmakers for 2019 was \$27,500, which nearly tripled the amount awarded the previous year.

NIFF's trio of judges for the 2019 edition included Amazon Studios' Annalisa Shoemaker, screenwriter Larry Gross (*48 Hrs., We Don't Live Here Anymore*), and screenwriter/producer Colette Freedman (*Quality Problems, Miles Underwater*). In addition to their best Narrative and Best Documentary selections chosen from four films competing in each category, the jury also awarded a Special Achievement in Direction Award to Hilary Brougner for her work on *South Mountain*. The special award also included a \$2,500 cash prize.

The filmmaker awards selected by the programmers' committee included: New Zealand filmmaker Rebecca Tansley winning NIFF's first Focus on the Arts Award and \$5,000 for her film, *The Heart Dances*; Waad Al-Kateab and Edward Watts' *For Sama* winning the Impact Award for the social issues explored through their documentary work; Leon Chambers' *Above The Clouds* winning the Indie Spirit Award; and Peter Michael Dowd's *Mr. Jimmy* selected as the Programmers' Choice honoree. Matt Ratner's *Standing Up, Falling Down* took the Best First Feature honors, while *Princess of the Row* star Tayler Buck won this year's Rising Star Award. British filmmaker Andrew Margetson's *Housekeeping* received NIFF's Audience Award (and \$1,000) for Best Short Film.

NIFF screened 54 films (16 narrative features, nine documentary features, 29 short films) representing 20 countries during the four-day film festival. That total marked a 5% increase over the previous year, as NIFF continued its growth pattern in nearly all areas.. The premiere

list includes one world premiere, three films making their North American premieres, four East Coast premieres, and 28 Florida premieres. In addition to the films, more than 24 filmmakers attended the post-screening Q&A conversations and panel discussions during the festival and, as is the style of the Naples International Film Festival, were present throughout the festival, interacting and connecting with film fans. Those filmmakers included New Zealand's Tansley, the U.K.'s Margetson, Japan's Akio "Jimmy" Sakurai, as well as *From The Vine* director Sean Cisterna, who traveled from Spain to attend the film festival, which was recently included in *MovieMaker Magazine's* "25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World" list.

NIFF opened with a gala presentation of Van Maximilian Carlson's *Princess of the Row* in Artis—Naples, Hayes Hall, with the film's stars (Tayler Buck and Edi Gathegi) and co-writer and producer Shawn Austin receiving sustained ovations when they appeared onstage following the screening. At the after-party, Sakurai, the subject of the documentary *Mr. Jimmy*, stunned the Opening Night attendees with a performance of Led Zeppelin classics on acoustic guitar. Screenings and filmmaker panels followed for the next three days and evenings at Silverspot Cinema to full houses throughout, including an appearance by beloved character actor (and recipient of this year's Artis—Naples Award) Joe Pantoliano at both screenings of his film, *From the Vine*.

The Naples International Film Festival wrapped things up in interdisciplinary style following the filmmaker awards with a special presentation of Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, featuring a live performance of John Williams' classic score by the Naples Philharmonic, conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. Pantoliano officially received his 2019 Naples International Film Festival Artis—Naples Award (which honors a filmmaker, actor or artist who exemplifies the multidisciplinary approach to the arts that is at the heart of Artis—Naples) prior to the performance.

### **The 2019 Naples International Film Festival Award Winners:**

#### **Naples International Film Festival Artis—Naples Award**

Joe Pantoliano

#### **NIFF JURY AWARDS**

##### **Best Narrative Feature - \$7,500**

*International Falls*

Director: Amber McGinnis

##### **Best Documentary Feature - \$7,500**

*Runner*

Director: Bill Gallagher

##### **Special Achievement in Direction - \$2,500**

*South Mountain*

Director: Hilary Brougher

#### **NIFF PROGRAMMERS' AWARDS**

##### **Focus on the Arts Award - \$5,000**

*The Heart Dances*

Director: Rebecca Tansley

##### **Impact Award**

*For Sama*

Directors: Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts

##### **Indie Spirit Award**

*Above the Clouds*

Director: Leon Chambers

##### **Programmers' Choice Award**

*Mr. Jimmy*

Director: Peter Michael Dowd

**Best First Feature**

*Standing Up, Falling Down*

Director: Matt Ratner

**Rising Star Award**

Taylor Buck

*Princess of the Row*

**NIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS**

**Audience Award Winner, Narrative Feature - \$2,000**

*Miss Virginia*

Director: R.J. Daniel Hanna

**Audience Award Winner, Documentary Feature - \$2,000**

*Runner*

Director: Bill Gallagher

**Audience Award Winner, Best Short Film - \$1,000**

*Housekeeping*

Director: Andrew Margetson

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**About ARTIS—NAPLES**

Artis—Naples is the premier organization for the visual and performing arts in Southwest Florida. We are driven to inspire, educate and entertain by presenting world-class events that enrich our community. With the generous support of our patrons, we offer a unique range of programs including music, film, dance, comedy, lectures and exhibitions featuring internationally acclaimed artists. Our interdisciplinary approach cultivates a broader appreciation for art in its many forms.

The 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus includes two performance halls, Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion; The Baker Museum; and the Stabile Education building.

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen and Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director Andrey Boreyko, the organization offers audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually. Artis—Naples welcomes 300,000-plus visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities.

**NAPLES PHILHARMONIC**

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. The orchestra performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and July. In 2009, Jack Everly was named principal pops conductor and continues today in that role.

**THE BAKER MUSEUM**

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collections. Comprising more than 3,500 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are the museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art.

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY**

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. More than 45,000 students from Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming each year both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. Each year, the Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for 7,000-plus adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with over 4,000 members, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward fostering a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. NIFF was named one of 2019's Coolest Film Festivals in the World by *MovieMaker Magazine*.

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