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**23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL  
ANNOUNCES AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS FOR NARRATIVE,  
DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILMS**

**BURDEN, BATHTUBS OVER BROADWAY AND  
HOMELESS: THE SOUNDTRACK WIN AUDIENCE AWARDS**

**SHOWTIME TONY COX SCREENPLAY COMPETITION WINNERS INCLUDE  
CAMBRIDGE, LEGACY, ALL WE DO IS NGUYEN AND CINDERELLA WAR**

**WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR AND JULIET, NAKED ANNOUNCED AS  
BEST OF FEST**

**Nantucket, MA (June 25, 2018)** – The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) today announced the audience winners for this year's festival. **BURDEN**, written and directed by Andrew Heckler (NFF '18 New Voices in Screenwriting Honoree), is awarded Best Narrative Feature, and Lionsgate and Roadside Attractions' **JULIET, NAKED**, written by Evgenia Peretz, Jim Taylor & Tamara Jenkins, and directed by Jesse Peretz, is runner up. **BATHTUBS OVER BROADWAY**, directed by Dava Whisenant is the Best Documentary Feature winner, and Rudy Valdez's **THE SENTENCE** is the runner up. Irene Taylor Brodsky's **HOMELESS: THE SOUNDTRACK**, is awarded Best Short film, and Randall Christopher's, **THE DRIVER IS RED**, is the runner up.

In addition, NFF revealed its Best of Fest selections, special repeat screenings determined by popular demand: Focus Features' **WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR**, directed by Morgan Neville (NFF '18 Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling Award); and **JULIET, NAKED**.

NFF also announced the winners of the prestigious Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competition, which recognizes the best-unproduced screenplays and television pilots by emerging writers. Henry Hayes and Zolan Kanno-Youngs' **CAMBRIDGE** received the top prize as the winner of the Feature Screenplay Competition. The Episodic Screenplay nods went to Kellen Hertz's for **LEGACY** and to Huong Nguyen for **ALL WE DO IS NGUYEN**. The Short Screenplay Competition was won by Margaret Kane-Rowe for **CINDERELLA WAR**.

Henry Hayes and Zolan Kanno-Youngs' **CAMBRIDGE** showcases the life of Boston Bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, as seen by friends who knew him before the event, and who struggle to rationalize their friend with the killer he became. Hayes receives a \$5000 cash prize, VIP access to this year's Festival, a bound copy of his script, and an exclusive spot in the Screenwriters Colony writers retreat on Nantucket for the entire month of October.

The Showtime Tony Cox Award for Episodic 60-Minute Pilot, **LEGACY** by Kellen Hertz, explores the unearthing of a conspiracy behind a notorious, decades-old murder at an elite Connecticut university. Hertz receives a \$1000 cash prize, as well as a consultation with a Showtime executive.

The Half-Hour Episodic Screenplay winner, **ALL WE DO IS NGUYEN** by Huong Nguyen, is inspired by her family's Vietnamese-Midwestern background, following an over-achieving grown-up daughter as she adjusts to living back in her parents' home. Nguyen receives a \$1000 cash prize, VIP access to this year's Festival, a consultation with a Showtime executive, and one of only four slots in the Screenwriters Colony: Episodic Comedy, a two-week immersive writing and mentorship program on Nantucket earlier this month.

The Short Screenplay Competition winner, **CINDERELLA WAR** by Margaret Kane-Rowe, shares the story of a quiet family in Ireland who receive a hostile visit from the Irish Republican Army. Kane-Rowe receives a \$500 cash prize and VIP access to this year's Festival.

The Feature & Shorts Screenplay Competition jury was comprised of Miranda Bailey, filmmaker/actor (*YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY*); Dade Hayes, editor, Deadline Hollywood; and Janet Pierson, director of film, SXSW.

The Episodic Screenplay Competition jury was comprised of writer/producer Paul Eckstein (*Godfather of Harlem, Narcos*), showrunner/writer/producer Sera Gamble (*You, The Magicians*), and Lydia Cavallo Zasa, executive director, Screenwriters Colony.

NFF also announced the winner of the Adrienne Shelly Foundation Excellence in Filmmaking Award, a \$5,000 grant to an emerging female filmmaker in honor of writer, director, and actor Adrienne Shelly and her contributions to film. This year's recipient is Nancy Schwartzman, director of **ROLL RED ROLL**, an investigation into a notorious case of sexual assault by members of small town high school football team.

The Festival's Teen View on NFF Award, selected by a group of Nantucket junior high school students, went to **BAO**, written and directed by Domee Shi, an animated short about an aging mother who gets another chance at motherhood when one of her dumplings springs to life. Nantucket Golf Club Foundation, ReMain Nantucket Fund, and The Nantucket Fund provided grant support for the Teen View Jury. NFF worked in partnership with the Nantucket Community Television (NCTV) on the program curriculum and operation for the Teen View Program.

"As our 23rd edition comes to an end, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the winners and are thrilled the audience resonated with their incredible, thought provoking and vibrant films," said Mystelle Brabbee, Executive Director of the Nantucket Film Festival and Basil Tsiokos, Film Program Director of the Nantucket Film Festival. "We thank all of our filmmakers, audience members, staff, sponsors and volunteers for making the festival possible and such a success this year."

Actor, writer, director, producer, and NFF Board Member Ben Stiller and actor/comedian Mike Birbiglia co-hosted the Screenwriters Tribute Awards from the Scaonset Casino on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Director and Academy Award®-nominated screenwriter Noah Baumbach accepted the Screenwriting Tribute Award, presented to him by actor Adam Driver, who has appeared in Baumbach's *WHILE WE'RE YOUNG* and *FRANCES HA*, and will appear in the writer/director's next, as yet untitled, project.

Acclaimed documentary filmmaker Morgan Neville (NFF Centerpiece Film *WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?*) accepted the Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling Award, presented to him by Dr. François Clemmons, best known as "Officer Clemmons" from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. The New Voices in Screenwriting Award was presented to Andrew Heckler (NFF Spotlight Film *BURDEN*) by that film's lead actor Garrett Hedlund (*MUDBOUND*).

Special guests who attended NFF 2018 included Festival co-founders Jill and Jonathan Burkhart, Ben Stiller, Noah Baumbach, Adam Driver, Garrett Hedlund, Morgan Neville, Chris Matthews, Mike Birbiglia, Andrew Heckler, Greta Gerwig, Ophira Eisenberg, François Clemmons, Ben

Schwartz, Thomas Middleditch, Alysia Reiner, David Alan Basche, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Damian Young, Jesse Peretz, Evgenia Peretz, Miranda Bailey, Sera Gamble, Steve Young, Janet Pierson, Barbara Kopple, Lauren Greenfield, Nathaniel Kahn, Tom Cavanagh and many more.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by Showtime and The White Elephant Nantucket Island as Major Sponsors; A&E IndieFilms, Brand Content, Delta Air Lines and FilmNation Entertainment as Signature Sponsors; Citi, Ketel One Botanical, Cape Air, Nantucket Airlines, Nantucket Bank, Fleur de Prairie, Travel+Leisure as Producing Sponsors; and Lifetime, The Beachside on Nantucket, Kronenbourg, Josh Cellars, Joseph Carr, Inquirer & Mirror, Nantucket Today, Harborview Nantucket, SAGIndie, Cinesend, Montana Film Office, Polar Beverages, The Summer House, Vulcan Productions, WGA East, Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation and Withoutabox as Contributing Sponsors.

### **ABOUT THE NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL**

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded by brother and sister team Jonathan and Jill Burkhart in 1996 to promote the cultural awareness and appreciation of the fine art of screenwriting in the world of cinema. Since then, NFF has become one of the premier destination film festivals in the world. Visitors come from all over the world to experience the preview screenings, unique signature programs, and stand out hospitality on a magical island rich with history, a friendly atmosphere, and beautiful sandy beaches. In addition to screening over 100 films across six days, NFF presents the Screenwriters Tribute, In Their Shoes...<sup>®</sup>, our daily Morning Coffee With...<sup>®</sup>, and other Signature Programs.

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