

TFCA

TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION



THE ZONE OF INTEREST

A FILM BY JONATHAN GLAZER IN THEATRES DECEMBER 15TH

CAST: ANA KALINIC, ACCIO, ...
CREDITS: CHRISTIAN FRIEDEL, SASKIA KULLER, ...
MUSIC BY: MARIK A. WILSON, ...
EDITED BY: ...
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: ...
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ...
PRODUCED BY: ...
WRITTEN BY: ...
DIRECTED BY: JONATHAN GLAZER

BEST PICTURE 2023

27TH ANNUAL TFCA AWARDS



MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024
OMNI KING EDWARD HOTEL

27TH TFCA AWARDS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Toronto Film Critics Association 2024 awards gala, the party that might not have been. When we began planning this event, the US Screen Actors Guild had joined the Writers Guild of America on the picket lines, and the entertainment business, still recovering from the global Covid pandemic, felt precarious. The hardships hit us, too – our Canadian crews, our writers and actors who supported their US colleagues, our producers and distributors who thrive best when borders are porous. We entertainment reporters struggled to do our jobs with no one to talk to. Release dates bounced around like pinballs. Everyone was holding their breath.

And then something kind of miraculous happened. Everyone, from studio heads to audiences, remembered what a human business storytelling is. A.I. will find its place in filmed entertainment – it's always been a cutting-edge enterprise, an early adopter, an innovator. But A.I. can't be original. It doesn't have humanity. It can't write nuance, or depth of feeling, or belly laughs. Computer-generated actors can't make us cry. The strikes made us recommit to our humanity, alongside the idea that the writers and actors who do make us laugh and cry deserve to be paid for it.

Aptly, the movies that we're lauding from 2023 are a wildly original bunch, celebrating highly specific – highly human – voices, experiences and points of view, from writers, actors and directors who more than ever include Black, Indigenous, Asian, queer and female representation. Thanks to the generosity of our lead sponsor, Rogers, we're able to honour even more of them this year, with three new awards: Breakthrough Performance, Outstanding Performance in a Canadian Film, and the richest prize for Canadian film now shared between documentary and narrative features. It's a feast we can all enjoy, together.

Johanna Schneller

President, Toronto Film Critics Association

27TH TFCA AWARDS



2023 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Johanna Schneller

President; *The Globe and Mail*

Pat Mullen

Vice-president; *POV; ThatShelf*

Marc Glassman

Treasurer; *Classical 96.3 FM,*
POV Magazine

Kelsey Adams

Freelance

Nathalie Atkinson

The Globe and Mail, Noir City, Zoomer

Sarah-Tai Black

The Globe and Mail

Kelly Boutsalis

Freelance

Liz Braun

AWFJ, Original Cin

Anne Brodie

What She Said Talk Radio

Bill Chambers

Film Freak Central

Susan G. Cole

Freelance

Thom Ernst

Original Cin, Northern Stars

Marriska Fernandes

Freelance

Alicia Fletcher

A Year in Film (Hollywood Suite)

Eli Glasner

CBC News

Jason Gorber

ThatShelf, POV Magazine,
DTK Magazine, RogerEbert.com,
CBC Radio

Karen Gordon

Original-Cin

Sarah Hagi

Freelance

Barry Hertz

The Globe and Mail

Rachel Ho

Freelance (*Exclaim, POV, That Shelf*)

Peter Howell

The Toronto Star, Night Vision

Kim Hughes

Original-Cin

Brian D. Johnson

Maclean's Magazine, The Walrus,
Zoomer

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2023 TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Peter Knegt
CBC Arts

Chris Knight
Freelance

Liam Lacey
Original-Cin

Saffron Maeve
Freelance

Angelo Muredda
Film Freak Central

Adam Nayman
The Ringer

Andrew Parker
The Gate

Jennie Punter
Variety

Kevin Ritchie
Freelance

Gilbert Seah
*Afrotoronto; Toronto-Franco,
Festivalreviews*

Alice Shih
*Fairchild Media Group,
CineAction*

Radheyana Simonpillai
*CTV's Your Morning,
CTV News Channel, The Guardian,
Zoomer*

Jim Slotek
Original-Cin

Courtney Small
Cinema Axis, Frameline, POV

Victor Stiff
That Shelf

Glenn Sumi
Freelance

Kate Taylor
The Globe and Mail

José Teodoro
Film Comment

Jackson Weaver
CBC

Rachel West
That Shelf, AWFJ

Norm Wilner
*Shiny Things/
Someone Else's Movie (Frequency)*

EMERITUS

Jason Anderson
Tina Hassanina

Linda Barnard
Bruce Kirkland

27TH TFCA AWARDS



ROGERS BEST CANADIAN FILM AWARD NOMINEE



BLACKBERRY



MATT JOHNSON

I promise to shut up about Matt Johnson's new Canadian classic — once everyone else in the country has seen it, too. So, one more time: *BlackBerry* is an intensely entertaining tale of corporate hubris that confirms Johnson as this country's most talented mischief-maker. Shot with a contagious live-wire energy and stacked with

excellent performances, the nervy comedy is a singular (but not Cingular) thing to behold. It's as energizing a viewing experience as the rise enjoyed/endured by those favourite sons of Waterloo, Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel, tender and tragic) and Jim Balsillie (Glenn Howerton, all fiery rage). Can you hear us now, Apple? — BARRY HERTZ

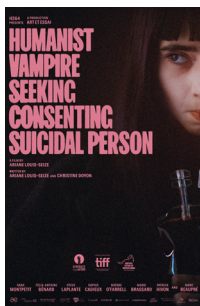
27TH TFCA AWARDS



ROGERS BEST CANADIAN FILM AWARD NOMINEE



HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON



ARIANE LOUIS-SEIZE

If you're going to play with the vampire canon, never mind use the word "suicidal" in the title, you'd better get it right. Quebec co-writer/director Ariane Louis-Seize's *Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person* certainly does. A loving vampire family in Quebec is trying to graduate teen daughter Sasha (the wonderful Sara Montpetit)

from blood packs to hunting her own dinner. This appalls her. Until she meets the morose Paul (Félix-Antoine Bénard) who really, really wants her to drink his blood. Louis-Seize's film is fresh and original: a sweet, funny, gothic movie with depth and heart. — KAREN GORDON

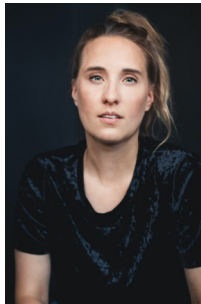
27TH TFCA AWARDS



ROGERS BEST CANADIAN FILM AWARD NOMINEE



SOLO



SOPHIE DUPUIS

Anchored by a transformative performance from Théodore Pellerin, Sophie Dupuis' devastating *Solo* shows us how people will go to psychologically damaging places to feel loved, admired, and wanted. A character study painted in fine detail, *Solo* is packed to bursting with yearning and desire. It's a cautionary tale about the nature of

co-dependency, but also a richer story about how generational traumas shape who we are, for better and for worse. — ANDREW PARKER

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OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A CANADIAN FILM



BLACKBERRY

GLENN HOWERTON

Glenn Howerton's versatility as an actor is at the forefront of his vein-popping, razor-sharp portrayal of Jim Balsillie. Who else could channel sociopathic rage so hilariously? He's been deserving of awards attention for a while now, and in *BlackBerry*, he reveals depth and range in equal measure. His performance lives rent-free in viewers' minds and proves that you don't have to be Canadian to nail a role in a Canadian film. — MARRISKA FERNANDES

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ROGERS BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY NOMINEE



ROJEK



ZAYNÊ AKYOL

Zaynê Akyol fearlessly digs into the roots of fundamentalism in this feat of access, artistry, and journalistic rigour. Akyol sits down with imprisoned members of the Islamic State for probing discussions about why they fight. In between these strikingly-shot portraits, Akyol looks outside the prison walls to observe resilience of survivors in the aftermath of war. At

a time when nuance too often proves an afterthought, *Rojek* shows how much we can further the conversation if we're simply willing to listen. – PAT MULLEN

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ROGERS BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY NOMINEE



SOMEONE LIVES HERE



ZACK RUSSELL

Highlighting the homeless epidemic in Toronto and one man's fight to find a solution, Zack Russell's documentary *Someone Lives Here* grants Khaleel Seivwright the space to share his story, and takes to task the infuriating policies and bureaucracy behind the City of Toronto, while never forgetting the people at the heart of the matter. A frustrating story told with frankness

and compassion, *Someone Lives Here* focuses on a light amidst one of the city's darkest realities. — RACHEL HO

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ROGERS BEST CANADIAN DOCUMENTARY NOMINEE



SWAN SONG



CHELSEA McMULLAN

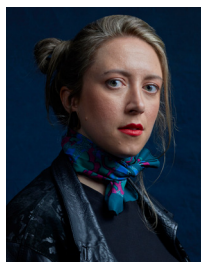
In *Swan Song*, Chelsea McMullan and their crew go behind the scenes of the creation of the National Ballet of Canada's 2022 production of *Swan Lake*, and deliver a gripping account fuelled by passion and conflict. The stakes are high: Karen Kain, in her directing debut with the ballet that first made her famous, fights for her feminist ideas; principal ballerina

Jurgita Dronina is masking injuries. But members of the corps — especially bad-ass Shaelynn Estrada — are the true stars here, as they sweat through the demanding choreography, never sure they'll make it to opening night. Heart-poundingly tense — and beautiful. — SUSAN G. COLE

27TH TFCA AWARDS



STELLA ARTOIS JAY SCOTT PRIZE FOR AN EMERGING ARTIST



ARIANE LOUIS-SEIZE

With her debut feature *Humanist Vampire Seeking Suicidal Consenting Person*, Ariane Louis-Seize more than fulfilled the promise she displayed in the bold and imaginative shorts that made her one of Quebecois cinema's most distinctive new talents. Along with her ability to ground elements of fantasy and horror in the quotidian experiences and concerns of her characters — often with slyly humorous results — Louis-Seize

demonstrates a remarkable flair for capturing moments of great nuance, and for creating images that are as surprising as they are beguiling. We can't wait to see what she does next. — JASON ANDERSON

27TH TFCA AWARDS



COMPANY 3 LUMINARY AWARD

COMPANY3



CHARLES OFFICER

This space is too small to do justice to Charles Officer. Even if we had the whole programme to work with, it'd still be too small — that's how big of a space he took up, and how much of a hole he leaves. A hockey player turned actor turned especially empathetic filmmaker, Officer's influence extends well beyond his own work; He mentored, advised, taught and generally improved the lives of just about everyone he met. After *Unarmed Voices* and *The Skin We're In* and *Akilla's Escape* and CBC's *The Porter*, it seemed the second act of his career was just beginning; there were decades ahead of him before he'd be considered for a Luminary award. Instead, this is the way we honour his untimely passing, mourning his loss – and the loss of all the work he still had left to give. Rest easy, Charles. — NORM WILNER

27TH TFCA AWARDS



TELEFILM CANADA EMERGING CRITIC AWARD

TELEFILM PARTNER
CANADA OF
CHOICE



WINNIE WANG

After earning a Master's at U of T's Cinema Studies Institute and programming for TIFF Next Wave—as well as working with the Toronto-based independent production and distribution company MDFF—Winnie Wang has produced a body of thoughtful, opinionated, and politically inflected film criticism, including reviews of several major Canadian features for *Cinema Scope*. Winnie's willingness to burrow into the inner workings of a film and go against the grain in their writing has already made them one of the country's finest young critics. — ADAM NAYMAN

27TH TFCA AWARDS



BEST PICTURE

The Zone of Interest, Jonathan Glazer

Runners-up

All of Us Strangers, Andrew Haigh

Killers of the Flower Moon, Martin Scorsese

BEST DIRECTOR

Jonathan Glazer, *The Zone of Interest*

Runners-up

Martin Scorsese, *Killers of the Flower Moon*

Justine Triet, *Anatomy of a Fall*

OUTSTANDING LEAD PERFORMANCE

Lily Gladstone, *Killers of the Flower Moon*

OUTSTANDING LEAD PERFORMANCE

Sandra Hüller, *Anatomy of a Fall*

Runners-up

Paul Giamatti, *The Holdovers*

Andrew Scott, *All of Us Strangers*

Emma Stone, *Poor Things*

Kôji Yakusho, *Perfect Days*

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE

Ryan Gosling, *Barbie*

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE

Da'Vine Joy Randolph, *The Holdovers*

Runners-up

Robert De Niro, *Killers of the Flower Moon*

Robert Downey, Jr., *Oppenheimer*

Glenn Howerton, *BlackBerry*

Charles Melton, *May December*

BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE

Teyana Taylor, *A Thousand and One*

Runners-up

Charles Melton, *May December*

Dominic Sessa, *The Holdovers*

27TH TFCA AWARDS



BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY *Barbie*, Greta Gerwig, Noah Baumbach

Runners-up *Anatomy of a Fall*
Past Lives

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY *Killers of the Flower Moon*
Eric Roth, Martin Scorsese

Runners-up *All of Us Strangers*
Poor Things

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE *Robot Dreams*, Pablo Berger

Runners-up *The Boy and the Heron*
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

ALLAN KING
DOCUMENTARY AWARD *20 Days in Mariupol*, Mstyslav Chernov

Runners-up *The Eternal Memory*
Four Daughters
Swan Song

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE *Fallen Leaves*, Aki Kaurismäki

Runners-up *Anatomy of a Fall*
The Zone of Interest

BEST FIRST FEATURE *Rye Lane*, Raine Allen Miller

Runners-up *American Fiction*
Past Lives

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TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION



Daniels/Stephenson Production