

# West Chester Film Festival Award Winners



## 2025 Award Winners

Best Drama	The Last Ranger	Cindy Lee	United States
Best Comedy	Silver Sizzle	Brian Russel	United States
Best Documentary	The Circle	Evgenii Bakirov	The Russian Federation
Best Animated Film	Cold Soup	Marta Monteiro	Portugal
Best Art/Experimental Film	Torii	Martin Gerigk	Germany
Best Student Film	Mother	Sebastian Kwidzinski	Poland
Best PA Filmmaker	Trans Heaven	Hansen Bursic	United States
Best Female Filmmaker*	Sally, Get the Potatoes	Danica Waldo	United States
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	The Last Ranger	Cindy Lee	United States

## 2024 Award Winners

Best Drama	Infraction	Timothy Blackwood	United States
Best Comedy	Dead Cat	Annie-Claude Caron & Dance Audet	Canada
Best Documentary	109 Below	Clare Larsen	United States
Best Animated Film	Bridges	Kris Theorin & Jonathan Davenport	United States
Best Art/Experimental Film	Pre-Existing Freedom	Frederick Taylor	United States
Best Student Film	Dinosaurs Are Dead	Anya Swanson	United States
Best PA Filmmaker	Bridges	Kris Theorin & Jonathan Davenport	United States
Best Female Filmmaker*	Preschool to Prison	Dr. Karen Baptiste	United States
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Infraction	Timothy Blackwood	United States

## 2023 Award Winners

Best Drama	Night Ride	Eirik Tveiten	Norway
Best Comedy	The Treatment	Álvaro Carmona	Spain
Best Documentary	Holding Moses	Rivkah Beth Medow	United States
Best Animated Film	Ice Merchants	João Gonzalez	Portugal
Best Art/Experimental Film	Walls Beneath Our Feet	Antti Suniala	Finland
Best Student Film	The Book	Farzad Foroughi	Iran
Best PA Filmmaker	Grump in the Night	Kris Theorin	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Holding Moses	Rivkah Beth Medow	United States
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Feeling Through	Doug Roland	United States

## 2020-2022 Award Winners

Best Drama	The Neighbor's Window	Marshall Curry	United States
Best Comedy	Fool's Day	Cody Blue Snider	United States
Best Documentary	Broken Orchestra	Charlie Tyrell	United States
Best Animated Film	Memorable	Bruno Collet	France
Best Student Film	Daughter	Daria Kashcheeva	Czech Republic
Best Experimental/Art Film	Play	Piotr Sulkowski	Poland
Best Female Filmmaker*	Negative Space	Max Porter & Ru Kuwahata	France
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Best PA Filmmaker	Eworth	Christopher Romano	United States
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Portraitist	Cyrus Neshvad	Luxembourg

## 2019 Award Winners

Best Drama	Skin	Salaud Morisset	
Best Comedy	Chuchotage	Barnabás Tóth	Hungary
Best Documentary	My Dead Dad's Porno Tapes	Charlie Tyrell	United States
Best Animated Film	One Small Step	Shaofu Zhang	United States
Best Student Film	Everything's Fine	Zack Morrison	United States
Best Art/Experimental Film	Short Wave	Mohamad Esmaeeli	Iran
Best PA Filmmaker	Justin Geller - Thought It Would Be A Good Story	Jon Rehr	United States
Best Female Filmmaker*	Late Afternoon	Louise Bagnall	Ireland
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Marguerite	Marianne Farley	Canada

## 2018 Award Winners

Best Drama	Witnesses	David Koch	France
Best Comedy	The Eleven O'Clock	Derin Seale	Australia
Best Documentary	116 Cameras	Davina Pardo	New York, US
Best Animated Film	Garden Party	Théophile Dufresne	France
Best Student Film	Watu Wote - All of Us	Katja Benrath	Germany
Best Art/Experimental Film	Lacrimosa	Tanja Mairitsch	Austria
Best PA Filmmaker	Character Study	Luke Brubaker	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Watu Wote - All of Us	Katja Benrath	Germany
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Watu Wote - All of Us	Katja Benrath	Germany

## 2017 Award Winners

Best Drama	Les Fremissement du The	Marc Fouchard	France
Best Comedy	Fabrizio's Initiation	Mariano Biasin	Argentina
Best Documentary	A System of Justice	Jane Wells	New York, US
Best Animated Film	Animated	Nick LeDonne	New Jersey, US
Best Student Film	The Little Dictator	Nurith Cohn	Israel
Best Art/Experimental Film	Le Potager	Grégoire Berthon	France
Best PA Filmmaker	Still Here	Ryan Kreston	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	He Said	Tara Lynn	California, US
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Sing	Kristof Deak	United Kingdom

& Hungary

## 2016 Award Winners

Best Drama	Scheharazade	Mehrnoush Aliaghaei	Alabama, US
Best Comedy	Apocalypse Rock	Brian Pennington	Maryland, US
Best Documentary	e-Nable	Brett Abramsky	North Carolina, US
Best Animated Film	The Story of Ginger and Snapper	D.C. Douglas	California, US
Best Student Film	Margret and Helmut	Clemens Beier	New York, US
Best Art/Experimental Film	Unfortunately	Sharokh Dolkou	New York, US
Best PA Filmmaker	A Grand Pursuit	Will Strathmann	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	UMBRA/Eclipse of the Moon	Urszula Nawrot	Poland
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Dear Santa	Maura Smith	United States

## 2015 Award Winners

Best Drama	Baghdad Messi	Sahim Omar Kalifa & Oost-Vlaanderen	Belgium
Best Comedy	The Voorman Problem	Mark Gill	United Kingdom
Best Documentary	Powerful Medicine: Simply Magic	Mwita Chacha & Kevin Spencer	Virginia, US
Best Animated Film	I M Possible	Prasad Narse	Georgia, US
Best Student Film	Snow Boat	Mirror Su	Georgia, US
Best Art/Experimental Film	Gumball	Kris Theorin & Kurtis Theorin	Pennsylvania, US
Best PA Filmmaker	Moths	Andy Fortenbacher	New York, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Bis Gleich (Til Then) 5 Tropoi Na Pethaneis (5 Ways 2 Die)	Benjamin Wolff Daina Papadaki	California, US Cyprus
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Bis Gleich (Til Then)	Benjamin Wolff	California, US

## 2014 Award Winners

Best Drama	Aquel No Era Yo	Esteban Crespo	Spain
Best Comedy	Grandma's Not A Toaster	Andrew Napier	California, US
Best Documentary	Sikh Formaggio	Katie Wise & Dan Duran	Italy & US
Best Animated Film	The Orphan and the Polar Bear	Devyn Bisson & Neil Christopher	Canada
Best Student Film	Nicoletta	Sonia Liza Kenterman	United Kingdom
Best Art/Experimental Film	The Tunnel	Cory Blasdell	Pennsylvania, US
Best PA Filmmaker	Pitchfork	Ryan Wood	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Nicoleta	Sonia Liza Kenterman	United Kingdom
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Curfew	Shawn Christensen	Georgia, US

## 2013 Award Winners

Best Drama	Record/Play	Jesse Atlas	California, US
Best Comedy	Harry Grows Up	Mark Nickelsburg	New York, US
Best Documentary	Brain Power	Tiffany Shlain	California, US
Best Animated Film	Abiogenesis	Richard Mans	New Zealand
Best Student Film	Yana	Boris Nikolov	Sweden
Best Art/Experimental Film	Blindspot	Tamara Britza	Australia
Best PA Filmmaker	Give Me a Sign	Greg Koorhan	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Stalled	Shannon Kohli	Canada
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Mothers of No Tomorrow	Sixx King	Pennsylvania, US

## 2012 Award Winners

Best Drama	Raju	Max Zahle	Germany
Best Comedy	Time Freak	Andrew Bowler & Gigi Causey	New York, US
Best Documentary	Look to the Cookie	Lindsay Lindenbaum	New York, US
Best Animated Film	Live Outside the Box	Shu-Hsuan Lin	California, US
Best Student Film	The Road Home	Rahul Gandotra	United Kingdom
Best Art/Experimental Film	Danse Macabre	Danny Lennon	Canada
Best PA Filmmaker	Following Chase	Greg Koorhan	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	The Maiden and the Princess	Ali Scher	California, US
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Raju	Max Zahle	Germany

## 2011 Award Winners

Best Drama	Little Children, Big Words (Sma Barn, Stora Ord)	Lisa James-Larsson	Sweden
Best Comedy	God of Love	Luke Matheny & Gigi Dement	New York, US
Best Documentary	Revolutionary Microphone	Therese Tran	Texas, US
Best Animated Film	Prayers for Peace	Dustin Grella	New York, US
Best Student Film	The Confession	Tanel Toom	United Kingdom
Best Art/Experimental Film	Sensology	Michel Gagne	Washington, US
Best PA Filmmaker	Coming off the DL	Dan Hunt & John O'Leary	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Little Children, Big Words (Sma Barn, Stora Ord)	Lisa James-Larsson	Sweden
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
H. Paul Fitzpatrick People's Choice Award	Reco	Chris Adler & Mary Boregino	Utah, US

## 2010 Award Winners

Best Drama	Zand	Joost van Ginkel & Helen Zwaan	Netherlands
Best Comedy	Le Hobby	Nicolas Zappi	France
Best Documentary	Nico's Challenge	Steve Audette	Massachusetts, US
Best Animated Film	Garbage Angels	Pierre M. Trudeau	Canada
Best Student Film	Time Machine	Mark Kendall	New York, US
Best Art/Experimental Film	Becoming	Ayelen Liberona & Joseph Johnson Cami	Canada
Best PA Filmmaker	Squared	Jeremy Braverman	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Down in Number 5	Kim Spurlock	New York, US
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Audience Choice Award	Level Up	Greg Koorhan	Pennsylvania, US

## 2009 Award Winners

Best Drama	The Line	Kent Bassett	California, US
Best Comedy	Tripping Up	Greg Koorhan	Pennsylvania, US
Best Documentary	Flowers of Rwanda	David Munoz	Spain
Best Animated Film	Red & Blue	Tyler Ayres	Ohio, US
Best Student Film	Open Your Eyes	Susan Cohen	California, US
Best Art/Experimental Film	Magritte Moment	Ian Fischer	New York, US
Best PA Filmmaker	Charlie Applebee	Patrick Taggart	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Mother, Mine	Susan Everett	United Kingdom
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Audience Choice Award	Charlie Applebee	Patrick Taggart	Pennsylvania, US

## 2008 Award Winners

Best Drama	Silver Tongues	Simon Arthur	Scotland
Best Comedy	I'm in the Mood for Death	Carolyn London	New York, US
Best Documentary	The Tribe	Tiffany Shlain	California, US
Best Animated Film	Simulacra	Tatchapon Lertwirojkul	New Jersey, US
Best Student Film	In Between	Jose E. Inglesias Vigil	Poland
Best Art/Experimental Film	Glimpse	Dustin Grella	New York, US
Best PA Filmmaker	Four Thorns for Aidan	Josh Smith	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	I'm in the Mood for Death	Carolyn London	New York, US
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Audience Choice Award	Life in a Bowl	Todd Bieber & Juliana Brafa	Pennsylvania, US

## 2006 Award Winners

Best Drama	Binta and the Grand Idea	Javier Fesser	Spain
Best Comedy	Pitch	Ian Gelfand	New York, US
Best Documentary	Alex Scott: A Stand for Hope	Larry Mendte	Pennsylvania, US
Best Animated Film	Moongirl	Henry Selick	Oregon, US
Best Student Film	Charlie	Matt Tegtmeier	California, US
Best Art/Experimental Film	Missing Pages	Jerome Olivier	Japan
Best PA Filmmaker	Benjamin Franklin: Stealing Lightning from the Sky	Larry Mendte	Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Twitch	Leah Meyerhoff	Pennsylvania, US
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Audience Choice Award	Rent Control	Tesia Barone	Pennsylvania, US

## 2005 Award Winners

Best Drama	Maree	James Pellerito	Italy
Best Comedy	Pee Shy	Deb Hagan	United States
Best Documentary	Shadow Of Liberty	Geoff Adams	United States
Best Animated Film	Dear Sweet Emma	John Cernak	United States
Best Student Film	Perils in Nude Modeling	Scott Rice	United States
Best Art/Experimental Film	Modus Vivendi	Richard Liukis	United States
Best PA Filmmaker	Snyder & Newton		Pennsylvania, US
Best Female Filmmaker*	Pee Shy	Deb Hagan	United States
*Presented by the Regional Center for Women in the Arts			
Audience Choice Award	Canta	Emre Sahin	Turkey & US