

Flow and *La Voix des Sirènes* make waves at OIAF, winning top prizes

The Ottawa International Animation Festival, the largest and longest-running festival of its kind in North America, announces Flow and La Voix des Sirènes as its Grand Prix winners at the Festival's Awards Ceremony on September 28, 2024, at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:30 PM ET ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2024

OTTAWA, 28 September 2024 - The **Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF)** awards *La Voix des Sirènes* (dir. Gianluigi Toccafondo) the **Grand Prize for Short Animation** and *Flow* (dir. Gintz Zilbalodis) the **Grand Prize for Feature Animation**. An expansion of Zilbalodis's student film *Aqua* (2012), *Flow* continues to make waves on the festival circuit with its complex world-building and story. A timeless film that uses a captivating mixed media approach, *La Voix des Sirènes* is the latest film from award-winning director Toccafondo. All awards were announced at the Festival's Awards Ceremony on September 28, 2024, at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

This year's **DGC Award for Best Canadian Animation** winner, *In the Shallows* (dir. Arash Akhgari), showcased a unique combination of animation techniques, digging into the dangerous allure of mass media intoxication. Akhgari also receives \$1000 CAD courtesy of the **Directors Guild of Canada** as a part of the award. Decided by Canadian animation duo **Wendy Tilby** and **Amanda Forbis**, the **Hélène Tanguay Award for Humor**, was awarded to *Samochód, który wrócił z morza* (*The Car That Came Back from the Sea*) (dir. Jadwiga Kowalska).

Recognized at the **Annecy International Animation Film Festival** and **Zagreb World Festival of Animated Films**, the humorous and somewhat erotic stop-motion tale *Carrotica* (dir. Daniel Sterlin-Altman), won the **Wacom Public Prize**. Sterlin-Altman also receives a Movink 13" OLED display drawing tablet courtesy of **Wacom** as a part of the award. Showcasing vulnerability and redefining masculinity, *Beautiful Men* (dir. Nicolas Keppens) received the award for **Best Narrative Short**.

The OIAF welcomed the expertise of **Neil Hunter** (Canada), **Jonathan Djob Nkondo** (France/United Kingdom), **Anastasiya Verlinska** (Ukraine), **Ivana Volda** (Croatia), **Dahee Jeong** (South Korea), and **Thomas Volda** (Croatia) as jurors for this year's Official Competition. Hunter, Jeong and T. Volda formed the Festival's Features Jury, while the Shorts Jury was comprised of Nkondo, Verlinska and I. Volda.

The Kids Jury included children from the Ottawa area between the ages of 8-12, who selected the winners of the Young Audiences 7+ Competition, while the Teen Audiences 13+ competition was decided by the Teen Vote @ OIAF Public Prize.

In keeping with tradition, the OIAF 2024 award statues were designed by Ottawa-based scrap metal artist **Tick Tock Tom**. The statues are working phénakisticopes featuring an animation by New York artist **George Griffin**.

The Complete Competition Prize Winner List

Grand Prize for Short Animation

Winner: *La Voix des Sirènes* (dir. Gianluigi Toccafondo)

Jury Comment: This visually astonishing and timeless piece utilizes a captivating mixed media approach, with an enchanting voice guiding us through a beautifully dark and twisted fairytale. For its originality in both technique and storytelling, this year's Grand Prize for Short Animation winner is *La Voix des Sirènes* by Gianluigi Toccafondo.

Grand Prize for Animated Feature

Winner: *Flow* (dir. Gintz Zilbalodis)

Jury Comment: Featuring impressive cinematography and a surprisingly uplifting narrative, this emotionally compelling story never felt predictable. For its immersive plot that is expressed without the use of words, refreshing animation and world-building, this year's Grand Prize winner for Best Animated Feature is *Flow* by Gintz Zilbalodis.

Honourable Mention: *Memoir of a Snail* (dir. Adam Elliot)

Jury Comment: This beautiful and tragic film presents a range of emotions, captivating audiences with every frame. For its clever use of dark humour and its compelling story, the Honourable Mention for Best Animated Feature is *Memoir of a Snail* by Adam Elliot.

Wacom Public Prize

Winner: *Carrotica* (dir. Daniel Sterlin-Altman)

DGC Award for Best Canadian Animation

Winner: *In the Shallows* (dir. Arash Akhgari)

Comment: For its brilliant combination of animation techniques and its perceptive, poetic evocation of our troubled contemporary times, the 2024 DGC Award for Best Canadian Animation goes to *In the Shallows* by Arash Akhgari.

Honourable Mention: Corridor 'Jump Cut' (dir. Winston Hacking)

Comment: For its kinetic, engaging collage of animation styles that both complement and enliven the music video for which it was commissioned, we give an Honourable Mention to Corridor 'Jump Cut' by Winston Hacking.

Honourable Mention: *Hairy Legs* (dir. Andrea Dorfman)

Comment: For its clever, amusing, and incisive coming-of-age exploration of gender identity and the body politic, hirsute, or shaved, we give an Honourable Mention to *Hairy Legs* by Andrea Dorfman.

Hélène Tanguay Award for Humor

Winner: *Samochód, który wrócił z morza* (*The Car That Came Back from the Sea*) (dir. Jadwiga Kowalska)

Comment: Passionate, funny, and deeply personal, this film skillfully transforms a less-than-ideal political and social situation into a playful and optimistic narrative set in 1980s Poland. The winner of the Hélène Tanguay Award for Humour is *Samochód, który wrócił z morza* (*The Car That Came Back from the Sea*) by Jadwiga Kowalska.

Animated Short Competition - Category Prizes

Best Non-Narrative Animation

Winner: *you've got a friend in me* (dir. Peter Millard)

Jury Comment: In a world filled with “important messages”, there is sometimes no place for being yourself. For bringing the guilty pleasures of acting weird and expressing true emotions, the award for Best Non-Narrative Animation goes to *you've got a friend in me* by Peter Millard.

Best Narrative

Winner: *Beautiful Men* (dir. Nicolas Keppens)

Jury Comment: Through its well-structured dramaturgy and compelling character arcs, this film redefines masculinity by depicting men in their vulnerable, authentic states. The award for Best Narrative goes to *Beautiful Men* by Nicolas Keppens.

Best Commissioned Animation

Winner: Corridor 'Jump Cut' (dir. Winston Hacking)

Jury Comment: For its playful morphing that perfectly captures the rhythm of the music, this cutting-edge composition showcases a brilliant blend of creativity and technical skill in a witty and playful way. The Award for Best Commissioned Animation goes to Corridor 'Jump Cut' by Winston Hacking.

Bento Box Award for Best Student Animation

Winner: *Martyr's Guidebook* (dir. Maks Rzontkowski)

Jury Comment: For reminding us that the more good you do, the more shit you get in return. The Bento Box Award for Best Student Animation goes to *Martyr's Guidebook* by Maks Rzontkowski.

Best Canadian Student Animation

Winner: *91 Thousand Unrelenting Stitches* (dir. Samuel Wasserman, Ontario College of Art and Design)

Comment: For its innovative fusion of traditional embroidery techniques with a mesmerizing soundtrack, the award for Best Canadian Student Animation is proudly presented to *91 Thousand Unrelenting Stitches* by Samuel Wasserman of the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Honourable Mention: *Hope in the Tundra* (dir. Jesu Medina, Concordia University)

Honourable Mention: *Rudy Goes Sightseeing* (dir. Sadie Berger, Concordia University)

Animation for Teen Audiences 13+ Competition

Winner: *Girls In Real Life Situations* (dir. Ofre Sparrow Vaknin)

Animation for Young Audiences 7+ Competition

Winner: *Freak of Nature* (dir. Alexandra Lermer)

Honourable Mention: *O krávkě (About a Cow)* (dir. Pavla Baštanová)

Animated Series Competition

Winner: *Scavengers Reign* 'The Signal' (dirs. Joe Bennett and Charles Huettner)

Comment: For its masterful construction of a captivating world, seamlessly weaving narrative threads with a deliberate pace that allows the story to breathe and the minimalist yet surreal and richly detailed visuals to shine, the award for Best Animated Series goes to *Scavengers Reign* 'The Signal', directed by Joe Bennett and Charles Huettner.

Honourable Mention: *Bad Bad Belgium* (dirs. Jasper Declercq, Wouter Medaer and Jonas Wellens, Belgium)

Animated Short Competition - Craft Awards

Best Script

Winner: *I Died in Irpin* (dir. Anastasiia Falileieva)

Jury Comment: The film reflects on the traumatic events that the author had to go through again and again, to tell her story of sacrifice, persistence, and resistance. For the bravery to share this intimate recount in her own voice, the award for the Best Script goes to *I Died in Irpin* by Anastasiia Falileieva.

Best Design

Winner: *Percebes* (dirs. Alexandra Ramires and Laura Gonçalves)

Jury Comment: The choice of colours and seamless character transitions in this film not only enhances the storytelling but also evokes an emotional response, making the viewer feel connected to the traditions and stories being told. The award for Best Design goes to *Percebes* by Alexandra Ramires and Laura Gonçalves.

XPPen Craft Award Prize for Best Animation Technique

Winner: *Glass House* (dir. Boris Labbé)

Jury Comment: This experiment leaves the viewer curious and intrigued by the vibrating patterns and complex layers, all while creating a hypnotic geometric dance. XPPen Craft Award Prize for Best Animation Technique goes to *Glass House* by Boris Labbé.

Best Sound Design

Winner: *Once Upon A Time On Earth* (dir. Phil Mulloy)

Jury Comment: This story resonates within the viewer through the sound that pushes the boundaries of the visuals and brings the feeling of disturbance and numbness simultaneously. For making the silence loud, the award for Best Sound Design goes to *Once Upon A Time On Earth* by Phil Mulloy.

The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is one of the world's leading animation events providing screenings, exhibits, workshops and entertainment since 1976. Attracting artists, producers, students and animation fans from around the globe, the OIAF brings together art and industry to experience world-class animated works. This year's OIAF runs from September 25 to September 29. Visit the OIAF [website](#) for more information about this year's festival.

For additional information, accreditation, interviews, press materials, and photos, please contact:

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