



LOS ANGELES LATINO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2024 AWARD WINNERS

LOS ANGELES, CA – MAY 6, 2024 – Latino Film Institute’s (LFI) [Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival \(LALIFF\)](#), one of the most anticipated events of the year for Latinos in entertainment and audiences alike, took place May 29 – June 2, 2024 at the iconic TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood, CA and the Regal LA Live in Downtown Los Angeles. The lineup included feature films, short films, episodic works, animation, masterclasses, panels, networking sessions, musical performances, and LALIFF’s first film market. The expanded LALIFF Industry Forum included in-person conversations with well-respected industry veterans about topics ranging from planning a festival strategy to the art of pitching a project. It also included virtual opportunities for those who were not able to physically attend.

The festival was attended by artists with official selections at the festival and others participating in industry panels and educational events. Some of those artists included Aaron Dominguez, Carlos Santos, Chelsea Rendon, Cinthia Camarona, Danny Pino, Erik Fellows, Gloria Calderón-Kellett, Izabella Alvarez, Jeff Kober, Jesse Garcia, Julio Macias, Justina Machado, Mia Maestro, Xochitl Gomez, Yalitza Aparicio, as well as festival founder and Academy Award®-nominated actor Edward James Olmos.

On the closing day of the festival, Latino Film Institute’s CEO, Axel Caballero, announced award winners at an intimate gathering at the Roosevelt Hotel.

“The Latino Film Institute extends heartfelt congratulations to all the talented award winners, as well as their casts and crews, whose remarkable contributions have truly elevated this edition of the festival,” said Axel Caballero, CEO of LFI. “Each submission showcased not only cinematic excellence but also rich cultural narratives that resonated deeply with audiences, making this year’s festival an unequivocal success.”

The [jury](#) included well regarded industry professionals who meticulously evaluated each entry across various categories considering artistic merit, originality, directorial vision and technical excellence.

LALIFF 2024 Award Winners:

[LFI 2024 Spark Animation Fellowship Winners Sponsored by Netflix](#)

The Spark Animation Grant awarded \$25,000 USD to three US-based Latino animation filmmakers: Alex Avila, Ana Ramírez González, and Juan M. Abdo.

[LFI Works in Progress Sponsored by Amazon Studios](#)

The winners will receive \$25,000 USD for the films’ post-production needs.

**Brownsville Bred*, written and directed by Elaine Del Valle

**Exodus Stories*, produced and directed by Ilse Fernandez

Best Episodic Short Award Presented by FX

The jury included Shola Ajewole, Senior Vice President of Creative and Cultural Diversity for FX and FX Productions; Lynette Coll, Co-Founder and Chief Creative Officer of The Rabble; and Anthony Nardolillo, award-winning film and television director and producer. The award comes with a \$4,000 USD cash prize granted to the creator.

Winner: *[Dreams & Schemes](#), created by Dolores Rivera

Best US Latino Animated Short Film Award Presented by LatinX in Animation (LXiA) with the support of Cartuna

The jury included Sydney Bright, Head of Global Animation at Wattpad WEBTOON Studios; Louis Gonzalez, animator; and Angeline Izquierdo, creative director. This award comes with a \$4,000 USD cash prize granted to the filmmaker.

Winner: *[Remember Us](#) directed by Pablo Leon

Special Jury Mention for International Latino Animation

Winner: *[Nyanga](#) directed by Medhin Tewolde Serrano

Best US Latino Live Action Short Award Presented by Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo

The jury included Pete Corona, development executive; Francis Román, Senior Film & TV Festival Programming Manager at SXSW; and Amanda Ross, Director of Strategy and Analytics at NBCU TV, DEI. The award comes with a \$4,000 USD cash prize to be shared by the director and producer (based on the “Produced By” credit).

Winner: *[First, I Dream](#), directed by Andrés Lira

Best US Latina Director of a Live Action Short Presented by Comcast NBCUniversal Telemundo

The jury included Pete Corona, development executive; Francis Román, Senior Film & TV Festival Programming Manager at SXSW; and Amanda Ross, Director of Strategy and Analytics at NBCU TV, DEI. The award comes with a \$4,000 USD cash price granted to the director.

Winner: *[Los Mosquitos](#), directed by Nicole Chi

Special Jury Recognition

Winner: *[Dream Creep](#), directed by Carlos A.F. Lopez

The festival congratulates all of this year’s award winners, along with their casts and crews, for their remarkable works that made this edition of the festival a success. LALIFF stands as a beacon of excellence for Latino storytellers, providing a vital platform for their voices to be heard and celebrated on a global stage. From captivating dramas to thought-provoking documentaries, the festival's lineup exemplified the diversity and richness of Latino entertainment, and LALIFF looks forward to supporting this work for years to come.

About Latino Film Institute (LFI)

The Latino Film Institute (LFI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating infrastructure for equity, diversity, and excellence for the Latino community in the entertainment industry. LFI houses five signature programs: The Youth

Cinema Project (YCP), the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF), LatinX in Animation (LXiA), LFI Scholar, and LFI Spotlight Series.
For more information on LFI, visit www.latinofilm.org.

About Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF)

The Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF) is a premiere international event dedicated to showcasing the entirety of human experience from the Latino perspective, whether through film, television, digital, music, art, or any other vehicle, regardless of platform.

For more information and updates on LALIFF visit www.laliff.org

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