



MEDIA RELEASE

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CIFF 2026 AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS CELEBRATE THE FILMS THAT CAPTIVATED CALGARY

CALGARY, AB - The Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Servus Credit Union, proudly announces the winners of the 2026 Audience Choice Awards, with the Special Presentation Feature Award going to *I PLAY ROCKY*, directed by Peter Farrelly. The awards are determined by audience votes collected throughout the 11-day festival, which concluded on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

This year's awards reflect the diverse range of voices and stories that resonated most with CIFF audiences across multiple categories, from Canadian and international features to short films and documentaries.

"What an incredible festival it's been. Audiences were so enthusiastic, with applause breaking out in the middle of films, including Julianne Moore's stunning, Oscar-worthy monologue in *THE DEBUT*, and one of the longest standing ovations I've seen in my years as a programmer following our closing night film, *SMUDGE THE BLADES*. This year's festival was filled with so many special films and created so many special memories. Congratulations to all the winners," said Brian Owens, CIFF's Artistic Director.

2026 CIFF Audience Choice Award Winners

Feature Film Audience Choice Awards

Audience Choice Award - Special Presentations

I PLAY ROCKY, directed by Peter Farrelly

Audience Choice Award - Documentary Special Presentation

RUN TERRY RUN, directed by Sean Menard

Audience Choice Award - Alberta Spotlight

WWW: THE WOMEN'S GROUP, directed by Wendy Hill-Tout

Audience Choice Award - Canadian Narrative

SMUDGE THE BLADES, directed by Cody Lightning

Audience Choice Award - Canadian Documentary

BA'S BOOK, directed by Ashley Duong

Audience Choice Award - New American Cinema

LOVE-LOVE, directed by Thomas Leisten Schneider

Audience Choice Award - Contemporary World Cinema

THE INCOMER, directed by Louis Paxton

Audience Choice Award - International Documentary

SCHOOL FOR DEFECTORS, directed by Jeremy Workman

Audience Choice Award - After Dark

JIM QUEEN, directed by Nicolas Athane and Marco Nguyen

Audience Choice Award - Music on Screen

FRAMPTON, directed by Rob Arthur

Short Film Audience Choice Awards

Audience Choice Award - Alberta Short

THE LEGACY OF A BUTTERFLY, directed by Monique Barrie

Audience Choice Award - Live Action Short

BOWL CUT, directed by Tamara Vittoz

Audience Choice Award - Animated Short

BEAST OF THE SEINE, directed by Jon Portman

Audience Choice Award - Documentary Short

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL, directed by Ben Proudfoot and Stephen Curry

Audience Choice Award - Experimental Short

WITH COFFEE (TALES WITH THE LETTER C), directed by María Manero Muro

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CIFF | Calgary International Film Festival

September 24 - October 4, 2026

ciffcalgary.ca | @CIFFcalgary #260, 999 8 St. SW Calgary, AB

About the Calgary International Film Festival

Founded in 2000, the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Calgary for its annual Fall festival and year-round programming. CIFF is now the largest event of its kind in Alberta and the sixth-largest film festival in Canada, bringing audiences together for remarkable and engaging cinematic experiences. CIFF is proud to present its 27th festival from September 24 – October 4, 2026, with in-cinema screenings, celebrating stand-out stories, and offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

CIFF thanks their Presenting Partner



CIFF Thanks Their 2026 Public Funders

