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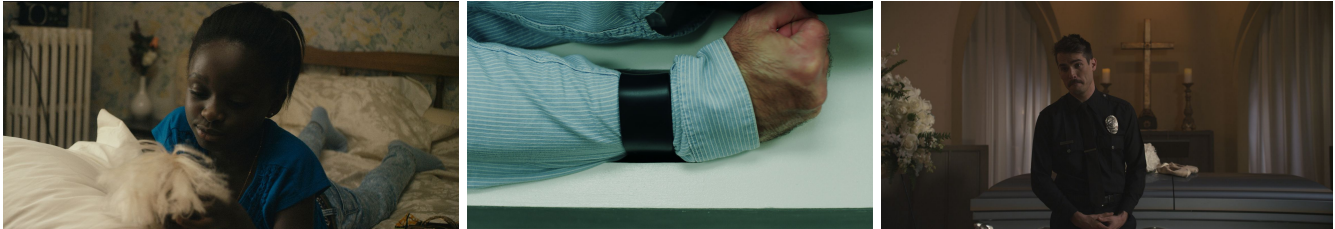
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SUNDANCE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES SHORT FILM AWARDS FOR 2016 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Thunder Road Wins Grand Jury Prize



(L-R) *Maman(s)*, Credit: Sundance Film Festival; *The Procedure*, Credit: Jacob Rosen; *Thunder Road*, Credit: Jim Cummings.

Park City, UT — Sundance Institute announced today the jury prizes in short filmmaking at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. The **Short Film Grand Jury Prize**, awarded to one film in the program of 72 short films selected from 8,712 submissions, went to ***Thunder Road*** by director and screenwriter **Jim Cummings**. The awards were presented at a ceremony in Park City, Utah; full video of the ceremony is at youtube.com/sff. The Short Film program is presented by YouTube.

This year's Short Film jurors are: star and co-creator of Comedy Central's *Key & Peele*, Keegan-Michael Key; development executive at Amazon Studios, Gina Kwon; and chief film critic for MTV, Amy Nicholson.

Short Film awards winners in previous years include *World of Tomorrow* by Don Hertzfeldt, *SMILF* by Frankie Shaw, *Of God and Dogs* by Abounaddara Collective, *Gregory Go Boom* by Janicza Bravo, *The Whistle* by Grzegorz Zariczny, *Whiplash* by Damien Chazelle, *FISHING WITHOUT NETS* by Cutter Hodierne, *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom* by Lucy Walker and *The Arm* by Brie Larson, Sarah Ramos and Jessie Ennis.

The short film program at the Festival is the centerpiece of Sundance Institute's year-round efforts to support short filmmaking, including a series of daylong workshops and a traveling program of short films.

2016 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Jury Awards:

The **Short Film Grand Jury Prize** was awarded to: ***Thunder Road*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Jim Cummings) — Officer Arnaud loved his mom.

The **Short Film Jury Award: U.S. Fiction** was presented to: ***The Procedure*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Calvin Lee Reeder) — A man is captured and forced to endure a strange experiment.



The **Short Film Jury Award: International Fiction** was presented to: *Maman(s)* / France (Director and screenwriter: Maïmouna Doucouré) — Life is disrupted for eight-year-old Aida when her father returns with a young Senegalese woman, Rama, whom he introduces as his second wife. Sensitive to her mother's distress, Aida decides to get rid of the new visitor.

The **Short Film Jury Award: Non-fiction** was presented to: *Bacon & God's Wrath* / Canada (Director: Sol Friedman) — A 90-year-old Jewish woman reflects on her life experiences as she prepares to try bacon for the first time.

The **Short Film Jury Award: Animation** was presented to: *Edmond* / United Kingdom (Director and screenwriter: Nina Gantz) — Edmond's impulse to love and be close to others is strong—maybe too strong. As he stands by a lake contemplating his options, he reflects on his defining moments in search of the origin of his desires.

A **Short Film Special Jury Award for Outstanding Performance** was presented to: **Grace Glowicki** for her performance in *Her Friend Adam*.

A **Short Film Special Jury Award for Best Direction** was presented to: *Peacock* / Czech Republic (Director: Ondřej Hudeček, Screenwriters: Jan Smutny, Ondřej Hudeček) — A twisted queer romance set in picturesque 19th-century Bohemia tells the true story of the birth of one of the nation's most influential writers, with suspense, laughter, violence, hope, nudity, sex, and a happy ending—mostly a happy ending.

The Sundance Film Festival®

The Sundance Film Festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past three decades, including *Boyhood*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Whiplash*, *Brooklyn*, *Twenty Feet from Stardom*, *Life Itself*, *The Cove*, *The End of the Tour*, *Blackfish*, *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, *Super Size Me*, *Dope*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *sex, lies, and videotape*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Precious* and *Napoleon Dynamite*. The New Frontier initiative, celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2016, has showcased groundbreaking media works by artists and creative technologists including Chris Milk, Doug Aitken, Palmer Luckey, Klip Collective and Nonny de la Peña. The Festival is a program of the non-profit Sundance Institute®. 2016 Festival sponsors **to date** include: Presenting Sponsors – Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Acura, SundanceTV, Chase Sapphire Preferred®, and Canada Goose; Leadership Sponsors – Adobe, Airbnb, DIRECTV, Tequila Don Julio™, Samsung, and YouTube; Sustaining Sponsors – BROOKSIDE Chocolate, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Dropbox, GEICO, The Hollywood Reporter, Kickstarter, LUNA Bar/Clif Bar & Company, Omnicom, Stella Artois®, and Uber. Sundance Institute recognizes critical support from the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, and the State of Utah as Festival Host State. The support of these organizations helps offset the Festival's costs and sustain the Institute's year-round programs for independent artists. sundance.org/festival

Sundance Institute

Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, and new media to create and thrive. The Institute's signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences to artists in igniting new ideas, discovering original voices, and building a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, *Fruitvale Station*, *Sin Nombre*, *The Invisible War*, *The Square*, *Dirty Wars*, *Spring Awakening*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and *Fun Home*. Join [Sundance Institute](http://SundanceInstitute.org) on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).



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