

# Independent Cinema Shines: Spotlight Feature Films Brings Best of the Festival Volume 1

Arriving this December, these films continue the company's mission to bring unique, impactful stories to audiences around the world.

LAGUNA BEACH, CA, UNITED STATES, December 16, 2024 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Spotlight Feature Films is pleased to introduce its latest release, Best of the Festival Volume 1 . Arriving this December, these films continue the company's mission to bring unique, impactful stories to audiences around the world.

Best of the Festival Volume 1 (Release Date: December 15th, 2025) Showcasing an eclectic mix of awardwinning short films, Best of the Festival Volume 2 celebrates the ingenuity and artistry of indie filmmakers worldwide. Each entry is a standout selection from the prestigious Spotlight International Film Festival (SIFF) and other notable global festivals. This curated collection spans genres and styles, offering something for every cinephile.



Movie Poster - Best of the Festival Volume 1 - D.B. Sweeney & Sean Astin



Sex Trafficking awareness non-profit film

"We are thrilled to share these remarkable films with the world," said Jessica Roszko, President of Spotlight Feature Films. "Both The Ride and Best of the Festival Volume 1 exemplify the passion and creativity that define independent cinema."

THE SHORT:

# The Veil Removed

Top winner "The Veil Removed," a supersized Christian miracle in both production value, narrative direction and messaging this short film directed by Branden J. Stanley, Sarò Melero Bonnin & Garrett Garcia was a top winner for the festival with the visuals to prove it, they are stunning.

A supernatural drama that explores where heaven and earth meet, The Veil Removed offers a breathtaking depiction of faith through the Mass as seen by saints and mystics. The celestial imagery, with beams of light piercing through church windows, creates an atmosphere from other worlds. This film beautifully uncovers the mysteries of religion, presenting a testimony of faith that feels powerful and intimate.

All credits here: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10005520/



## Stop the Bus by

A professor's suspenseful performance takes the lead, delivering a simple yet intensely gripping storyline. Director David Trujillo builds incredible tension in his short, creating a plot twist that packs a punch. Beyond the thrill, Stop the Bus delivers a profound message about the dangers of obsession and the addictive nature of competition, leaving viewers with plenty to think about.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12041722/?ref =nm\_ov\_bio\_lk</u>

#### Hive Mind

Set entirely in a diner, Hive Mind finds humor in the mundane, delivering sharp lines and relatable moments that turn everyday situations into comedic gold. Directed by Josiah Sampson this short has high production value and effective storytelling, this short film is short but sweet—a good example of how to craft comedy in a short film.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10881654/?ref\_=nm\_ov\_bio\_lk</u>

#### Sidepiece

This playful comedy centers on a married man and woman meeting in a park. Director Teddy Tenenbaum explores the complexities of relationships with well-thought-out dialogue and impeccable timing. Michael Muhney's portrayal of the "married man" adds charm to the narrative, and the story unfolds naturally with a satisfying development that balances humor with depth.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11316190/?ref =nm flmg job 2 cdt t 3</u>

## Two Dum Micks

<u>D.B. Sweeney</u> leads and directs this hilarious tale of two unlucky characters D.B and <u>Sean Astin</u> who hatch a wild plan to raise money by catching ducks for foie gras. With a clever premise, solid performances, and funny moments, Two Dum Micks is a class in comedic storytelling that truly earns its place as the best comedy in the lineup.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11131388/?ref\_=nm\_flmg\_job\_1\_cdt\_t\_8</u>

#### The Drive

With a nostalgic, grainy aesthetic, Directed by James Caley. The Drive contrasts technological advancements with the protagonist's desire to disconnect from an overly connected world. Great sound design enhances the sci-fi atmosphere, while the story resonates as a thoughtful critique of dependency on technology.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12226434/?ref\_=nm\_flmg\_knf\_t\_1</u>

#### My Daughter Yoshiko

Brian Blum directs this moving drama and captures the struggles of a Japanese-American mother coming to terms with her daughter's autism diagnosis. Based on true events, the film cinematography and rapid editing vividly share the sensory challenges of the child's world. The emotional depth and sensitive storytelling make it an unforgettable part of the volume.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8996294/?ref\_=nm\_ov\_bio\_lk</u>

#### Cazando Gamuzinos

A tale of imagination and belief, Cazando Gamuzinos follows young Hugo as he embarks on a journey to restore his father's vitality. Directed by Silvia Mañes with charming animation and a heartfelt message about faith, this short film is uplifting and visually captivating.

All credits here: <u>https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11725228/?ref =nm\_flmg\_knf\_t\_1</u>

A Dangerous Profession - I Will Rise Non-Profit

A Dangerous Profession pairs shocking statistics with a dramatic plot twist that forces viewers to

confront uncomfortable truths. Directed by Anita Cordell, she is tackling the realities of sexual abuse and human trafficking, this impactful short delivers a strong and necessary message, making it one of the most thought-provoking films in Volume 1.

Best of the Festival Volume 1 showcases exceptional talent and storytelling. Each film brings something unique, and together they form an entertaining and meaningful collection. Whether you're drawn to suspenseful thrillers, heartfelt dramas, or light comedies, there's something here for everyone. This lineup proves that short films can leave a lasting impact, and is a must-watch for any film lover. To donate to this charity run by the director visit <u>https://iwillriseproject.com/</u>

All credits here: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6633936/?ref =nm flmg knf t 4

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