Independent Shorts Awards Brings 71 Films From 27 Countries to Regal LA LIVE

The September 19 event features 28 premieres, four Industry Panel speakers, a red carpet and the Annual Awards Show.



Industry Panel guest speakers David Mahmoudieh, Frank Crim, Stacey Maltin and Susie Landau Finch will join the 8th Annual Independent Shorts Awards at Regal LA LIVE on September 19, 2026.

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 13, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Independent Shorts Awards International Film Festival will hold its 8th Annual Awards on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at Regal LA LIVE in downtown Los Angeles, bringing together 71 films from 27 countries for a full day devoted to independent short-form cinema.

Presented across 11 screening blocks in three auditoriums, the program includes 28 films carrying premiere status, among them eight world premieres. Screenings will run from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, followed by an Industry Panel, cocktail reception, red carpet photocall and press interviews, and the Annual Awards Show.

The films represent narrative, documentary, animation, experimental, comedy, drama, action, fantasy, horror and other genres. Filmmakers and representatives of most of the selected projects are expected to attend, with participants traveling to Los Angeles from across the United States and several other countries including Bulgaria, China, Czechia, France, Germany and Latvia.

“This year’s Annual Awards reflects what Independent Shorts Awards was created to do: bring filmmakers from different countries, backgrounds and stages of their careers together around their work,” said Victor Eustáquio, Director and Head of Programming of Independent Shorts Awards. “We want the event to be more than an awards ceremony. It is a full day in which films are experienced in a cinema, filmmakers meet one another, and conversations can continue beyond the screenings.”

A GLOBAL SHOWCASE OF INDEPENDENT SHORT CINEMA

The 2026 annual competition emerged from 3,409 submissions representing 73 countries, received between July 2025 and July 2026. From that field, 120 projects advanced as Annual Finalists and 71 received nominations across the festival's award categories.

The live showcase combines films already recognized at major international festivals—including Tribeca, SXSW, Cinequest, DOC NYC, Aspen Shortsfest, Palm Springs International ShortFest, HollyShorts and Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia—with emerging filmmakers and projects taking their first steps on the festival circuit.

Among the films screening at Regal LA LIVE are "Mr. Fleischmann," directed by Frank Crim and featuring "Star Trek" veteran Walter Koenig; "Boatlift 9/11," directed by Dale Fabrigar and starring acclaimed Swedish actress Sofia Helin; "Malka," directed by Stacey Maltin and starring Tovah Feldshuh; "Satomi," directed by Rayner Wang, which previously screened at Tribeca.

FOUR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

The day will also feature an Industry Panel from 4:45 PM to 6:00 PM in Cinema 10, with four confirmed guest speakers representing different areas of film and television:

Susie Landau Finch, producer, writer, director and film educator whose career includes work with Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope and executive producing "Fairyland," produced by Sofia Coppola and American Zoetrope.

Frank Crim, actor, writer, producer and director with more than 100 stage productions, 175 commercials and 50 television credits, including appearances in "NCIS," "Criminal Minds," "Bosch," "Dexter," "Parks and Recreation" and "Malcolm in the Middle."

Stacey Maltin, award-winning writer, director, producer and actor whose feature "Triple Threat" was released by Gravitas Ventures and whose short film "Malka" qualified for consideration for the 2026 Academy Awards following its award at Cinequest.

David Mahmoudieh, award-winning film and television director whose credits include an episode of Warner Bros. and The CW's "Superman & Lois," commercial campaigns for Google, LEGO and Kia, and projects in development with Roddenberry Entertainment.

The speakers are also representing films in the day's screening program, creating a direct connection between the Industry Panel and the filmmaking work presented on screen.

Following the screenings and panel, attendees will gather for a cocktail reception, red carpet photocall and press interviews on the Regal LA LIVE mezzanine from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The event will culminate with the Annual Awards Show in Cinema 8, beginning at 7:30 PM, where the winners of the 2026 Annual Awards will be revealed.

The 8th Annual Independent Shorts Awards is presented by FilmVault, the festival's Official DCP and Prize Partner.

Festival passes, individual screening tickets and the complete program are available through the official event page:
https://independentshortsawards.com/annual-awards-2026-full-festival-schedule/

ABOUT INDEPENDENT SHORTS AWARDS
Independent Shorts Awards is a Los Angeles-based international film festival and live event series dedicated to discovering, recognizing and presenting independent short-form filmmaking from around the world. Through monthly competitions, curated screenings, filmmaker activities and its Annual Awards, the festival creates opportunities for established and emerging filmmakers to have their work evaluated, celebrated and experienced by live audiences.

Victor Eustaquio
Independent Shorts Awards
info@independentshortsawards.com
Visit us on social media:
Instagram
Facebook
YouTube
X

This press release can be viewed online at: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/941814604

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.
© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.