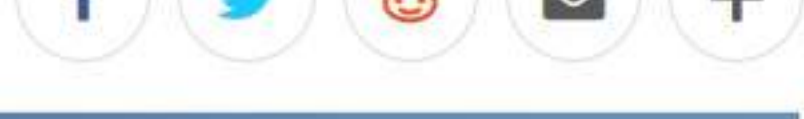


# LGBT Film Festival Outfest's Computer System 'Infiltrated' by Russian Bot and 'Irreparably Damaged'

By **MARC MALKIN**



**Now playing** - MJ Rodriguez on LeBron... William H. Macy began his hosting duties of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's grants gala on Thursday night by teasing that the evening would not include "colluding, fake news, nepotism, tweets, swamp draining, document checking, boats being untied and sent adrift, or alternative facts."

However, there was talk of Russian interference.

While presenting on stage, "Pose" star Billy Porter, revealed that the computer system of Los Angeles' LGBT film festival Outfest was "infiltrated" by a Russian bot two years ago.

The festival's computer infrastructure was wiped out the night before the opening of the annual event. "Their system crashed and was irreparably damaged, denying access to stakeholders, ticket sales, and membership donations," Porter said.

"But goodness does exist," Porter said before announcing that the HFFPA "has made a special grant to build and restore [Outfest's] website, that will once again serve not only filmmakers, but the community as well."

The Outfest grant was among dozens announced at the gala, which took place at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. "Every year, we have more organizations that we support," HFFPA president Meher Tatna told *Variety* earlier in the evening on the red carpet. "We give away scholarships, we endow chairs, we donate equipment, and we also restore films as part of preserving Hollywood's legacy, and then we do humanitarian grants as well."



Along with Porter, a star-studded roster of presenters, including Charlize Theron, Jennifer Garner, Lena Waithe, John David Washington, Mj Rodriguez, Joey King, Amber Heard, and Rami Malek, announced grants totaling \$3.5 million. For more than 25 years, the HFFPA has donated more than \$33 million.

Here is the complete list of this year's recipients:

**Higher Education: Fellowships & Institutional Support/strong>**

- California Institute for the Arts (CalArts): \$60,000**
- Cal State Fullerton: \$60,000**
- Cal State Long Beach: \$60,000**
- Cal State Los Angeles: \$60,000**
- Cal State Northridge: \$60,000**
- Columbia University: \$60,000**
- Los Angeles City College: \$25,000**
- Mt. San Antonio College Foundation: \$20,000**
- New York University: \$50,000**
- Santa Monica College - \$30,000**
- University of California, Los Angeles: \$125,000**

**Professional Training & Mentoring**

- American Film Institute: \$40,000
- Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment: \$20,000
- Exceptional Minds: \$25,000
- Film Independent, Project: Involve: \$60,000
- Independent Filmmaker Project (Brooklyn): \$20,000
- International Documentary Association: \$10,000
- Motion Picture & Television Fund: \$15,000
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles: \$15,000
- SAG-AFTRA Foundation: \$10,000
- Streetlights: \$20,000
- Sundance Institute: \$125,000
- Veterans in Film & Television: \$30,000
- Sharewell (Zimmer Children's Museum): \$10,000

**Pre-Professional Education & Mentoring**

- California State Summer School Arts Foundation: \$25,000
- Echo Park Film Center: \$10,000
- Ghetto Film School: \$30,000
- GlobalGirl Media: \$10,000
- Inner-City Arts (Downtown LA): \$30,000
- Inner City Filmmakers (Santa Monica): \$40,000
- Kids in the Spotlight: \$10,000
- LAUSD/USC Arts & Engineering Magnet: \$25,000
- Los Angeles County High School for the Arts: \$25,000
- Los Angeles LGBT Center: \$10,000
- The Music Center: \$5,000

**Preserve the Culture & History of Film**

- Film Noir: \$50,000
- Outfest (UCLA LGBT project): \$35,000
- The Film Foundation: \$350,000

**Promote Cultural Exchange Through Film**

- American Cinematheque: \$45,000
- Film Independent/LACMA Series: \$300,000
- FilmAid International: \$200,000
- Hollywood Heritage Museum: \$10,000
- Latin American Cinemateca of Los Angeles: \$15,000
- Library Foundation of Los Angeles: \$20,000
- Los Angeles Conservancy, Last Remaining Seats: \$35,000
- Museum of the Moving Image: \$10,000
- San Francisco Silent Film Festival: \$10,000
- University of California, Berkeley Film Archive: \$20,000
- University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana (Ebertfest): \$10,000

**Special Projects**

- Children's Hospital: \$35,000
- Ensemble Studio Theatre: \$15,000
- Gingold Theatre Group/Shaw Festival: \$20,000
- Lollipop Theater Network: \$20,000
- Pablove Foundation: \$20,000
- The Moth: \$70,000
- Young Musicians Foundation: \$10,000
- Young Storytellers Foundation: \$10,000

**2018 New Grantees**

- American Documentary Association: \$30,000
- Australians in Film: \$10,000
- Cal State Dominguez Hills: \$30,000
- Cal State Dominguez Hills: \$5,000
- City Year Los Angeles: \$10,000
- Dag Hammarskjold Fund for Journalists: \$10,000
- GetLit - Worlds Ignite: \$10,000
- IndieCollect: \$10,000
- LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation: \$10,000
- POPS the Club: \$10,000
- Southwestern Law School: \$30,000
- The Actor's Gang: \$10,000
- Women in Film: \$10,000

**2018 One-Time Equipment Grants**

- Cal State Fullerton: \$25,000
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles: \$20,730
- Ensemble Studio Theatre/LA: \$10,000
- Film Independent, Project Involve: \$25,000
- Inner City Filmmakers (Santa Monica): \$49,300
- Los Angeles Conservancy: \$10,000
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles: \$21,000
- Outfest: \$50,000
- Santa Monica College: \$20,000
- Sharewell (Zimmer Children's Museum): \$43,220
- Streetlights: \$23,700
- Young Musicians Foundation: \$7,500