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NewFilmmakers Sets Best of NFMLA Winners; Doc10 Names Inaugural Honorees; Cannes Market, Dances With Film Titles; More – Film Briefs

By [Matt Grobar](#)
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NewFilmmakers Los Angeles

EXCLUSIVE: NewFilmmakers Los Angeles today announced the winners of its 10th annual **Best of NFMLA Awards**.

The list included *Huella's* Gabriela Ortega (Best New Filmmaker), Tracey Deer's *Beans* (Best Feature Film), Nelson G. Navarrete and Maxx Caicedo's *A La Calle* (Best Documentary Feature Film), Ciara Lacy's *This Is the Way We Rise* (Best Short Film, Documentary), JJ Shpall's *Date Nite* (Best Short Film, Comedy), Isabella Issa's *Yellow Girl and Me* (Best Short Film, Drama), Sarah Clift's *The Birth of Valerie Venus* (Best International Short Film, Comedy), Gustavo Milan's *Under the Heavens (Seiva Bruta)* (Best International Short Film, Drama), Bastien Dubois' *Souvenir Souvenir* (Best Short Film, Animated), Devone X. King's *Last Black Man* (Best New Media & Experimental), Arnold Mwanjila's *Taliya* (Best Screenplay), *I Make Good Sounds at Parties* Russell Goldman (Best Performance, Comedy), *Yellow Girl and Me's* Dior Wilson (Best Performance, Drama), *Sweet Potatoes*' Luke Sargent (Best Cinematography), *From Here's* Christina Antonakos-Wallace and Aletta Von Vietinghoff (Best Film Editing), *The Fire Next Time's* Jose Pablo Ramirez (Best Sound Design) and *Livin' in the Light's* Onry (Best Score).

The Best of NFMLA Awards look to recognize the best talent in independent cinema from around the globe. This year's edition included 125 nominees across 16 Award categories. All nominated projects screened as part of the NFMLA Monthly Film Festival 2021 season which ran from January 1st, 2021 through December 31st, 2021. Best New Filmmaker winner Ortega claimed a \$3,000 Anthony Rhulen grant, with numerous other winners nabbing grants of \$2,000. Over \$5,000 in Blackmagic Design equipment will also be awarded to select winners, with post host Picture Shop hosting a post-production workshop for all nominees and winners.

NFMLA is a Los Angeles-based arts and culture non-profit organization that works year-round to highlight the works of independent artists. Its full list of 2022 Best of NFMLA nominees [can be found here](#).

EXCLUSIVE: Doc10 today announced its first-ever awards program, which this year will honor documentary filmmakers **N. Bird Runningwater and Jessica Devaney**.

The inaugural Luminary Award, celebrating filmmakers that shine a light on vital social issues, will be presented to Runningwater, who has supported such films as Billy Luther's *Miss Navajo* and Heather Rae's *Trudell*. The Vanguard Award, created to honor innovative and important documentary filmmakers, will be presented to Devaney, producer of some 17 shorts and features, including 2021 Doc10 selection *Pray Away*.



N. Bird Runningwater, Jessica Devaney
Courtesy of Josh S. Rose; Multitude Films

"The inaugural Luminary and Vanguard Awards were born to celebrate and promote the power of independent filmmaking," said Doc10 co-founders Steve Cohen and Paula Froehle. "Jess and Bird represent the now and the future of great, cinematic documentary producing and how independent, fearless storytelling can promote real change in our world." The 7th Doc10 documentary film festival will run from May 19-22 at the Davis Theatre and the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago. To find out more about it or to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

EXCLUSIVE: Patricia Velasquez (*The Mummy*) will exec produce and star in the sci-fi thriller **Space Racer**, from writer-director Erik Bernard (*Free Dead or Alive*), with NFTs related to the film to be released by Karman Studios at the Cannes Marché du Film.



Patricia Velasquez
Innovative Artists

The pic from Bernard's Rebel 6 Films and Gemini Films takes place in the year 2084. It finds Earth beginning to look to space for survival, at a point when it's barely able to sustain human life. At this juncture, humans have contacted alien race, with pilot James Colt earning the opportunity to represent Earth in its first intergalactic race.

Bernard and Lyndon Tait wrote the script for the pic, which is intended to set up a trilogy. Kevin Grevious (*Underworld*) is producing, with Velasquez, Bernard and Courtney LeMarco (*Hoarders*) exec producing, and Jasmin Espada (*Free Dead or Alive*) serving as co-producer. Velasquez is represented by Insurge-Ent and Innovative Artists; Bernard and LeMarco by Espada PR & Entertainment; and Grevious by Brent Johnson of One Entertainment.

EXCLUSIVE: Toric Films' Ojan Missaghi and David Wachs will be seeking distribution for their films **Day Labor**, **Out of Hand** and **Deadly Games** at this year's **Cannes Film Festival**—with actor **Gilles Marini** (*The Rookie*) also on hand to promote the company's slate.

Day Labor watches as a Latin American veteran seeks work as a day laborer in order to keep his family afloat. A regular day turns into a deadly game of survival when he is mistakenly dropped off at a private ranch in El Paso, Texas to be hunted for sport. R. Ellis Frazier directed the pic, which stars Amy Johnston, Louis Mandylor and Danny Arroyo.



Ojan Missaghi and David Wachs
Alex Ferra



Gilles Marini
Julian Dahl

Director Brian Skiba's *Out of Hand* is a thriller centered on Valerie (Louise Linton), a charismatic and sophisticated college professor who is married to a younger personal trainer heartthrob, David (Pierson Fode). When the heart leaves town to a secluded cabin in Lake Tahoe, things start to unravel. William Baldwin, Joana Metrass, David Wachs and Christy St. John also star.

Then, there's *Deadly Games*, in which four female influencers are invited to paradise island to partake in a million-dollar opportunity by a crypto mogul, fighting to gain the most subscribers during their weekend for the paysite contest. When one of the girls ends up dead, and the murder gets kept a secret, the influencers get more than they bargained for. Missaghi directed and produced the pic, which stars Marini, Metrass, Vanessa Angel, Roberto 'Sanz' Sanchez, Krista Kalmus and Emelina Adams.
