

SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival NY Announces the Award Winners of its 13th Edition

NEW YORK — March 2026 — The in-person section of the 13th edition of the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York (SRFF) concluded in New York City with its Closing Awards Ceremony at the Tenri Cultural Institute of New York, honoring films that highlight pressing social issues through powerful storytelling. The films stream online starting March 16.

The festival opened earlier in the week at the Lenfest Center for the Arts and continued with screenings across the city, including Cinema Village and Morningside Retirement and Health Services (MRHS).

This year's program featured a diverse international selection of narrative features, documentaries, and short films exploring themes such as BIPOC Films, Disability, Family and Home, Race, Religion and Exile, Gender Equality, Mental Health and Social Justice.

Among the top honors, *Abdo and Saneya*, directed by Omar Bakry, received the Best Narrative Feature Film Award, while the Vania Exerjian Award for Empowering Women went to *Grains of Sand*, directed by Sarah Gross. The Best Documentary Feature Film Award, presented Ex Aequo, went to *The Sky Was on Fire*, directed by Jonathan Maricle and John Finn Adkinson, and *No Filter Café*, directed by Coralie Van Rietschoten and Galaad Hemsli.

The IndiePix Vision Award and the Festival's annual Scriptwriting Contest awards were amongst the categories awarded. Additional awards were presented for the narrative and documentary shorts, best actor and best actress, Armenian cinema through the KIRK Awards, and the Women Film Critics Center Award.

Prizes, in addition to the award trophies, included a scarf from festival sponsor Lost Pattern and a HarperCollins book by Joze Piranian, *Stop Holding Back*, tracing an amazing journey of overcoming personal limitations. The complete list of awards and details may be found [here](#). Film trailers may be found [here](#).

About the festival

Founded in 2013 by actress and filmmaker Nora Armani, the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York was created to highlight films that address significant social issues and promote meaningful storytelling without relying on gratuitous violence or sensationalism.

Since its inception, the festival has presented over 800 films from around the world, offering audiences the opportunity to engage with filmmakers and explore stories that reflect the realities and aspirations of diverse communities.

The festival continues to champion cinema that fosters empathy, awareness, and constructive dialogue about the challenges shaping our global society.

Contact the festival for information, images, posters, and interviews with the winning filmmakers.

Contact:

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