

NXTUp 2026!

And the Nominees are...

Festival Film, Category 1

Don't Look Back Director Wyatt Ginter, Producer Darrell "Rell G" Reynolds

Heavy Directors Kevin Edilson & Jay Bolusan, Producer Colin Carnevale

Not What You Think Director Nathan Bogdan, Producers Raquel Calvo Méndez & Nikole Haraszti

Rug Burn Director Eduardo C. Torres, Producers Raquel Calvo Méndez & Nikole Haraszti

Directing, Category 1

Eduardo C. Torres *Rug Burn*

Kevin Edilson & Jay Bolusan *Heavy*

Nathan Bogdan *Not What You Think*

Wyatt Ginter *Don't Look Back*

Festival Film, Category 2

Do As I Say Director Jonathan Heskes, Producers Prabhnoor Gill & Akar Sharma

A Glass of Water Director Hanxin "Spencer" Zhang, Producer Yufei Sun

Let Your Fingers Do the Talking Director Will Stallings, Producers Prabhnoor Gill & Akar Sharma

Directing, Category 2

Hanxin "Spencer" Zhang *A Glass of Water*

Jonathan Heskes *Do As I Say*

Will Stallings *Let Your Fingers Do the Talking*

Short Form

Mrs. And Mrs. Capelli Director James Merkle

The Right Thing Director Scott Lathrom

Too Much to Ask Director Eden Moshe

Actress | Comedy

Chuer Huang *Assistance*

Copney Toler *The Office*

Ashley Wilkinson *Enter Laughing*

Actor | Comedy

Ilan Hernandez *Delusions of Bandeur*

Nikita Kalashnikov *Life's Too Short*

Kerry Wilson, *The Office*

Graduate Actress | Drama

Amiyah Sanders *Collected Stories*
Ashley Wilkinson *Collected Stories*
Ashley Wilkinson *Do as I Say*
Copney Toler *Rug Burn*
Cristiana Alexis *Do As I Say*
Madeline Kirby *Enlightened*
Stephanie Landing *Enlightened*

Undergraduate Actress | Drama

Brooke Worthen *Blue Surge*
Camille Goldstein *Blue Surge*
Camille Goldstein *Let Your Fingers Do the Talking*
Camille Goldstein *Not What You Think*
Tatiana Jones *Rabbit Hole*

Graduate Actor | Drama

Atlantis Clay *Not What You Think*
Jingxuan Du *Pick Your Poison*
Jingxuan Du *Weight in Gold*
John Delia *Enlightened*
Joshua Garcia Joe *Domino Rules*

Undergraduate Actor | Drama

Bernardo Martinez *Racks in the Chase*
Bernardo Martinez *Frequency*
Scott Steinhauer *Frequency*
Scott Steinhauer *Rug Burn*

Cinematography

Eden Moshe *River Giver*
Jay Bolusan *Heavy*
Jay Bolusan *Mine*
Liam Rizzo *Circadian Rhythm*
Shawn Santiago & Jay Bolusan *Second Chance (Kevin Edilson Music Video)*

Editing - Short Form

Chen Chen *Pas De Deux*
Eden Moshe *River Giver*
Guilherme Gomes *Being 1 of 1*

Nathan Mumford *The Mix Up*
Nathan Mumford *Second Chance*
Prabhnoor Gill *Circadian Rhythm*
Will Stallings *Master Givans*

Editing - Long Form

James Winter Montgomery *Not What You Think*
Jonathan Heskes *Do As I Say*
Kacey Pelletier *Don't Look Back*
Nathan Mumford *Half Life*
Will Stallings *Let Your Fingers Do the Talking*

Short Film Challenge

Beyond Therapy Director Joshua Prindiville
The Last Customer Director Tyler Little
Morning Argument Director Jonathan Heskes
One to Cut Director Shawn Santiago
Racks in the Chase Director James Montgomery
Yours Truly Director Jay Bolusan

Scene Production Lab

Assistance Director Akerrian McCrimmon
Half Life Director Oluremi Hart
In Due Time Director Antea Behzani
Herbal Life Director Dominic Waters
Pick Your Poison Director Joel Cazares
Weight in Gold Director Zach McBride

Documentary

Behind the Black Belt Director Will Stallings
Forever Son Director Zemario Sheppard
Lily's Voice Director Chrissie Harvey

Music Video

Betrayed Director Prabhnoor Gill
Circadian Rhythm Director Prabhnoor Gill
No Games Director MJ Fairgood
Play Me Like a Memory Director Kishawn McGhee

River Giver Director Eden Moshe

SaySum Directors Sage Lamela & Alejandro Caprile

Second Chance (Kevin Edilson Music Video) Director Jay Bolusan

Commercial/PSA

20 Feet Away Director Hanxin "Spencer" Zhang, Producer Prabhnoor Gill

Being 1 of 1 Producer-Director Guilherme Gomes

Be NERT Ready Director Ashlyn Minchew, Producer Prabhnoor Gill

Heroes Among Us Producer-Director Prabhnoor Gill

Ensemble Acting

Abbott Elementary Copney Toler, Biana, Kiani Broom & Atlantis Clay

Enter Laughing Ashley Wilkinson, Scott Lathrom & Lamont Williams, with Mark Rafael

Life's Too Short Nikita Kalashnikov, Kerry Wilson, Min Zo & Q Owens