

# FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

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## **2014 FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS FILMMAKER GRANT WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**Spirit Awards Winners To Be Revealed on Saturday, March 1  
Premiere broadcast on IFC at 10:00 pm ET/PT**

LOS ANGELES (January 11, 2014) – Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that produces the Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival, announced the winners of its three Spirit Awards filmmaker grants today at its annual Spirit Awards Nominee Brunch held at BOA Steakhouse in West Hollywood. Spirit Awards Honorary Chairperson Angela Bassett and actors Emily Mortimer and Alessandro Nivola hosted the event and handed out the honors.

“Supporting emerging filmmakers is a cornerstone of our organization’s mission,” said Film Independent President Josh Welsh. “These grants help ensure that their independent creativity can shine on. Congratulations to all the finalists and recipients.”

Toby Halbrooks and James M. Johnston received the Piaget Producers Award. The award honors emerging producers who, despite highly limited resources, demonstrate the creativity, tenacity, and vision required to produce quality, independent films. The annual award, in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant funded by Piaget. Finalists were Jacob Jaffke, Andrea Roa and Frederick Thornton.

Jason Osder, director of *Let the Fire Burn*, received the Stella Artois True Than Fiction Award. The award is presented to an emerging director of non-fiction features who has not received significant recognition. The award is in its 19<sup>th</sup> year and includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant funded by Stella Artois. Stephanie

Spray and Pacho Velez for *Manakamana* and Kalyanee Mam for *A River Changes Course* were also finalists for the award.

Shaka King, director of *Newlyweeds*, received the Someone to Watch Award. The award recognizes a talented filmmaker of singular vision who has not yet received appropriate recognition. The award is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year and includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant. The finalists for the award included Aaron Douglas Johnston for *My Sister's Quinceañera* and Madeleine Olnek for *The Foxy Merkins*.

The Film Independent Spirit Awards are sponsored by Premier Sponsors Piaget, the Lincoln Motor Company and IFC and by Principal Sponsor Stella Artois. Dark Horse is the Official Wine of the 2014 Spirit Awards. WireImage is the Official Photographer and PR Newswire is the Official Breaking News Service of Film Independent.

Winners for the remaining categories will be revealed at the 2014 Film Independent Spirit Awards in a tent at Santa Monica beach on Saturday, March 1, 2014. The awards ceremony will premiere later that evening at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT on IFC, and as previously announced, writer, actor and comedian Patton Oswalt will serve as host of the ceremony.

For more information on submission guidelines, voting, media and publicist credentials, and the history of the Spirit Awards, please visit [SpiritAwards.com](http://SpiritAwards.com).

### **ABOUT THE FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS**

Now in its 29th year, the Film Independent Spirit Awards is an annual celebration honoring artist-driven films made with an economy of means by filmmakers who embody independence and originality. The Spirit Awards recognizes the achievements of American independent filmmakers and promotes the finest independent films of the year to a wider audience. The winners of the Spirit Awards are voted upon by Film Independent and IFP Members.

Awards are given in the following categories: Best Feature, Best First Feature, Best First Screenplay, Best Director, Best Screenplay, John Cassavetes Award (given to the best feature made for a budget under \$500,000), Best Male Lead, Best Female Lead, Best Supporting Male, Best Supporting Female, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, and the Robert Altman Award, Best International Film, and Best Documentary. The Filmmaker Grants include the Piaget Producers Award, the Stella Artois Truer Than Fiction Award and the Someone to Watch Award.

## **ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT**

Film Independent is a nonprofit arts organization that champion's independent film and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation, and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds an audience for their projects, and works to diversify the film industry. Film Independent's Board of Directors, filmmakers, staff, and constituents, is comprised of an inclusive community of individuals across ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation. Anyone passionate about film can become a member, whether you are a filmmaker, industry professional, or a film lover. Film Independent produces the Spirit Awards, the annual celebration honoring artist-driven films and recognizing the finest achievements of American independent filmmakers, as well as the Los Angeles Film Festival, celebrating its 20th anniversary of showcasing the best of American and international cinema. Film Independent also produces the Film Independent at LACMA Film Series, a year-round, weekly program that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public.

With over 250 annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent's Artist Development program offers free Labs for selected writers, directors, producers and documentary filmmakers and presents year-round networking opportunities. Project Involve is Film Independent's signature program dedicated to fostering the careers of talented filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the film industry.

For more information or to become a member, visit [filmindependent.org](http://filmindependent.org).

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