

Terry Blade's "Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues" Earns Major Honors from Shorty Impact Awards and Anthem Awards



Denver, Colorado Nov 21, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Blade Arthouse Media announces that Chicago-based multimedia artist and singer-songwriter **Terry Blade** has earned significant international recognition in **2025** for his blues-archive project *Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues*.

The project has been honored at the **10th Annual Shorty Impact Awards** and the **2025 Anthem Awards**, underscoring Blade's growing status as a cultural preservationist and independent creative force.

- **Shorty Impact Awards (2025)** – *Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues*
 - **Winner – Arts & Culture**
 - **Gold Honoree – Audio & Music**
- **Anthem Awards (2025)** – *Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues*

◦ Silver Winner – Education, Art & Culture: Special Projects

These 2025 accolades place Blade alongside global brands, major nonprofits, and top creative agencies while he operates as a fully independent, artist-led studio.

A Living Archive of Chicago Blues

Released in February 2025, [Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues](#) is an **audio-based ethnographic project**. Blade stages an intergenerational call-and-response dialogue across time by fusing:

- His original blues songs;
- With **1977 interview recordings in the public domain** of Chicago blues figures like **Theresa Needham, James 'Muddy Waters Jr.' Williams, Jimmy Walker, Walter 'Lefty Dizz' Williams, and Willie Monroe**, sourced from the US Library of Congress; and
- His stripped-down Delta blues rendition of **Arthur 'Big Boy' Crudup's** "That's All Right."

The project plays like a **documentary in album form**: archival voices are interwoven within and between songs, turning static field recordings into a continuous, narrative immersive listening experience that bridges past and present.

"*Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues* is as much about contemporary folklife as it is about heritage preservation," said Blade. "It's a way of putting real Chicago blues elders back in the room with us — not as ghosts in a museum, but as people still speaking to what's happening in our communities right now."

The work confronts contemporary issues — including American injustice and Chicago gun violence — through the lens of the blues, using historical voices as witnesses and co-authors of the narrative.

Why These 2025 Honors Matter

The **Shorty Impact Awards** recognize social impact work across digital and social media, judged by leaders from major platforms, entertainment companies, and advocacy organizations. The **Arts & Culture** win positions *Chicago Kinfolk* as a benchmark project for **cultural preservation and heritage storytelling**, while the **Gold Honor in Audio & Music** highlights its craft in sound design and audio narrative.

The **Anthem Awards**, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences, honor purpose- and mission-driven work worldwide. A **Silver in Education, Art & Culture: Special Projects** marks *Chicago Kinfolk* as a serious contribution to public education and cultural memory, not just to the music industry.

Together, these 2025 honors:

- Validate Blade's role as an **independent cultural archivist**, not just a recording artist
- Place *Chicago Kinfolk* in the same conversation as large-scale, institutionally funded campaigns

- Strengthen the album's standing as a **teachable, curatable cultural document** (it has already been added to multiple French public library digital collections).

About Terry Blade

Terry Blade is a Chicago-based, cross-disciplinary artist whose work blends blues, soul, folk, Americana, and experimental storytelling. His catalog includes projects such as *American Descendant of Slavery, the Album*, *Neo Queer*, *Ethos: Son of a Sharecropper*, and *Chicago Kinfolk: The Juke Joint Blues*, each functioning as a **sonic archive of identity, history, and social commentary**.



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