

## **CSIFF26 Award Winners Gain Film Distribution Deals and Industry Support from Leading Sponsors**

Renderyard, Avid, Scriptation, Alliance of Women Directors, and ShotDeck provide Caribbean filmmakers with distribution opportunities, professional tools, and industry memberships.



2026  
NEW YORK CITY

OUR CULTURE  
LIVES IN OUR  
STORIES

# AWARD WINNERS

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CARIBBEAN AND DIASPORA CINEMA

## BEST FILM



**I F\*CKING HATE YOU!**  
Gabriela Paciel  
CUBAN HERITAGE

## BEST DIRECTOR



**Mummy?**  
Noella Letitia Mingo  
GUYANESE-BRITISH HERITAGE

## BEST SCREENPLAY



**A Shade of Indigo**  
Hanif James  
JAMAICAN HERITAGE

## BEST DOCUMENTARY



**Raizal: The Jamaican Connection**  
Jamar Cleary  
JAMAICAN HERITAGE

## BEST STUDENT FILM



**Cadencia**  
Paulis Cofresi  
PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE

## BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM



**Adrift Wak-Leu**  
Velvet Zoé Ramos  
ARUBAN HERITAGE

## BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY



**Pan Gyl**  
Michelle Clementine  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JULIETTE JEFFERS  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS HERITAGE

## BEST LEAD PERFORMER



**Stand Clear the Closing Doors**  
Stacey Sargeant  
TRINIDADIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

## BEST ANIMATION



**Suspicious**  
Maison Evan Teixeira  
BELIZEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

## AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD



**Pan Gyl**  
Juliette Jeffers  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS HERITAGE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD WINNERS!

**New York City, New York Oct 20, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.Issuewire.com)) - QUEENS, NY** — Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora filmmakers honored at Conch Shell International Film Fest 2026 (CSIFF26) are gaining opportunities to take their work beyond the festival screen. Through partnerships with Renderyard, Avid, Scriptation, Alliance of Women Directors, and ShotDeck, this year's award winners received film distribution opportunities, professional filmmaking tools, and industry memberships.

Among the most significant awards were three-year distribution opportunities from Renderyard for the winning films *Suspicious* and *Pan Gyul*. Additional sponsors contributed one-year subscriptions and memberships designed to help filmmakers develop their craft, expand their professional networks, and pursue future projects.

“An award is a wonderful acknowledgment of a filmmaker's work, but what happens after the applause matters just as much,” said **Magaly Colimon-Christopher, Founder and Festival Director of CSIFF26**. “We want to help Caribbean filmmakers continue developing their craft, building their careers, and reaching new audiences. Our award sponsors are helping us turn that commitment into meaningful opportunities.”

The awards were presented October 11 at Regal UA Midway in Forest Hills, Queens, concluding the three-day festival.

### **Renderyard Brings Award-Winning Films to New Audiences**

Independent film distributor **Renderyard** provided three-year distribution opportunities in three award categories:

- **Best Animation:** *Suspicious*, directed by Maison Evan Teixeira (Belizean-American heritage).
- **Best Cinematography:** *Pan Gyul*, cinematography by Michelle Clementine; written and directed by Juliette Jeffers (St. Kitts and Nevis heritage).
- **Audience Choice Award:** *Pan Gyul*, written and directed by Juliette Jeffers.

*Pan Gyul*, which follows a young girl's determination to connect with her father through steel pan music, received two festival honors. Distribution arrangements for the films are subject to Renderyard's agreements.

“Renderyard is proud to be an award sponsor with Conch Shell Intl Film Festival and was blown away by not only the CSIFF team but also the films in competition. We congratulate "Pan Gyul" and "Suspicious" and are committed to spreading these filmmakers' talent and their projects' visibility across the globe, through our platform and streaming partners.”

— **Gillian Isabelle, CEO, Renderyard**

### **Industry Sponsors Invest in Filmmakers' Futures**

Four additional award sponsors contributed professional resources and memberships to select CSIFF26 winners.

**Avid** provided one-year subscriptions to professional media creation tools, supporting filmmakers as they develop and produce future projects.

**Scriptation**, the Emmy® Award-winning script annotation app, awarded its premium **Scriptation Industry Pro** toolkit. Used by film and television professionals, the app helps creative teams annotate scripts, track revisions, organize production notes, generate breakdown reports, and collaborate throughout production.

“We’re honored to support the Conch Shell International Film Festival by awarding our premium toolkit, Scriptation Industry Pro, to this year’s winners. Congratulations to every filmmaker who took part in CSIFF26. Your creativity and talent are the reason we do what we do and we can’t wait to see what you make next.”

### — Scriptation

**Alliance of Women Directors (AWD)** contributed one-year memberships supporting professional development, industry connections, and community-building opportunities for women and gender-diverse directors.

“The Alliance of Women Directors (AWD) is proud to support the 2026 Conch Shell International Film Fest,” said **Kylie Eaton, Executive Director, AWD**. “Through our professional development and community-building initiatives, AWD is committed to helping women and gender diverse directors build meaningful connections, strengthen their craft, and advance their careers. We’re honored to contribute to a creative community where diverse voices are amplified to champion social change through storytelling.”

**ShotDeck** provided one-year subscriptions to its cinematic image library, giving filmmakers access to visual references that support creative development and communication across production teams.

Together, these sponsorships provide filmmakers with resources that extend beyond festival recognition and support their continued professional growth.

### Celebrating Caribbean Stories and Creative Excellence

Held October 9–11 in New York City under the theme “**Our Culture Lives in Our Stories**,” CSIFF26 showcased 42 films from 14 countries.

The festival opened with industry panels at HB Playwrights Theatre in Manhattan, followed by screenings, filmmaker Q&As, and the October 11 awards ceremony at Regal UA Midway in Forest Hills, Queens.

Through its growing relationships with industry organizations, CSIFF continues to build opportunities for Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora filmmakers to share their work, connect with audiences, and advance their careers.

### About Conch Shell International Film Fest

Conch Shell International Film Fest is presented by **Conch Shell Productions, Inc.**, a Queens-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to amplifying the voices of Caribbean and Caribbean diaspora artists through theater and film, and to inspiring social change through storytelling.

Through screenings, industry conversations, and professional development, the festival gives independent filmmakers a platform to share their work, engage audiences, and build connections across the global filmmaking community.

CSIFF26 is made possible in part with support from a PSC-CUNY Research Award from The City University of New York, Resorts World Gives, and ART/NY Creative Opportunity.

**Award Sponsor Websites:**

Renderyard — [www.renderyard.com](http://www.renderyard.com)

Avid — [www.avid.com](http://www.avid.com)

Scriptation — [www.scriptation.com](http://www.scriptation.com)

Alliance of Women Directors — [www.allianceforwomendirectors.org](http://www.allianceforwomendirectors.org)

ShotDeck — [www.shotdeck.com](http://www.shotdeck.com)

**Festival Website:** [www.conchshelliff.com](http://www.conchshelliff.com)

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