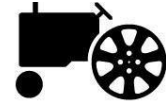




**HILL  
COUNTRY**  
FILM FESTIVAL



HILL COUNTRY  
FILM SOCIETY

## **Eighth Annual Hill Country Film Festival Comes to a Close**

### ***DEALT Takes Cinema Dulce Best of Fest Award and Audience Choice Award***

**AUSTIN, Texas (May 3, 2017)** – The [Hill Country Film Festival](#) (HCFF), an independent film event held in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, Fredericksburg, Texas, April 27 – 30, 2017, and presented by the Hill Country Film Society wrapped its eighth annual festival following a spectacular weekend of diverse programming, expert panel discussions and a variety of hosted events.

HCFF screened 17 feature films and 85 short films representing 11 countries. The festival also showcased a special event, *A Conversation with Robert Walden*, focusing on the Emmy-nominated actor's prolific career, work process and his passion for intensive character development. A new initiative was launched at the 2017 festival, Focus on Film, putting filmmakers in the classroom at three local schools for students to learn first-hand from industry professionals about various aspects of filmmaking.

Hosted events included the filmmakers' welcome reception at The Backyard at Fritztown Cinema; filmmakers' lounge happy hours; panel discussions; and event parties at Ausländer Restaurant and Biergarten and West End Pizza Company on Main Street in Fredericksburg. The festival was capped by a closing night party and awards ceremony on April 29 at the Nimitz Ballroom at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. A special sendoff reception was held on April 30 at Pedernales Cellars in Stonewall, Texas.

### **Festival Award Winners**

Award winners include:

Cinema Dulce - Best of Fest: **DEALT** (d. Luke Korem, U.S.)

Audience Choice Award: **DEALT** (d. Luke Korem, U.S.)

Best Texas Film: **THE IMPORTANCE OF SEX EDUCATION** (d. L. Elizabeth Powers, U.S.)

Best Feature Film: **LA BARRACUDA** (d., Jason Cortlund and Julia Halperin U.S.)

Best Short Film: **GUIDANCE** (d. Josh Wolff, U.S.)

Best Documentary Film: **A FORCE IN NATURE: JOHANN EYFELLS** (d. Hayden de Maisoneuve Yates, U.S.)

Best Student Short Film: **THE WISHGRANTER** (d. Kal Athannassov, John Mc Donald & Echo Wu, U.S.)

Best Director: Brandon Dickerson for **VICTOR** (d. Brandon Dickerson, U.S.)

Best Actress: Abigail Hawk in **ALMOST PARIS** (d. Domenica Cameron-Scorsese, U.S.)

Best Actor: Jason London in **AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE** (d. David Franklin, U.S.)

Best Short Screenplay: **THE TIME BEFORE HIM** written by Kevin Thrasher

Best Feature Screenplay: **SPEECHLESS** written by Tom Helberg

### **Festival Program and Photos**

The official program for this year's HCFF is available at <http://www.hillcountryff.com/festival/past/>.

Festival photos available at [https://www.facebook.com/HillCountryFilmFestival/photos\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/HillCountryFilmFestival/photos_stream).

The 2018 festival is scheduled to be held April 26-29, 2018.

### **About Festival Sponsors**

Hill Country Film Festival is supported by Auslander Restaurant and Biergarten; Austin Eastciders; The Backyard at Fritztown Cinema; Capital Printing Company; Cinco Vodka; Der Küchen Laden; Feast and Merriment Catering; Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau; Friends and Allies Brewing; Fritztown Cinema; Go Fredericksburg Visitor Guide; H-E-B; Moonshine Sweet Tea; MPS Studios; Pedernales Cellars; Ramona Press; Ranch Road Roasters; Seersucker Gin; Sun Radio; TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication; Texas Film Commission; Tequila 512; TX Whiskey; Whataburger; West End Pizza Company; and YETI.

### **About Hill Country Film Festival**

Set in Fredericksburg, Texas, the Hill Country Film Festival (HCFF) is the vision of its executive director Chad Mathews, an actor, screenwriter, producer, and native Texan. Having participated in the film festival circuit, Mathews came to love the camaraderie and shared respect of those who are committed to the art of independent filmmaking. HCFF was created to celebrate and showcase filmmakers from Texas and around the world and is annually presented by the Hill Country Film Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information, visit [www.hillcountryff.com](http://www.hillcountryff.com).

### **About Hill Country Film Society**

The Hill Country Film Festival, created in 2010 to celebrate and showcase filmmakers from Texas and around the world, quickly evolved into a non-profit organization with a broader vision. The Hill Country Film Society not only hosts the annual festival, but provides year-round independent film programming in the Texas Hill Country as well as

education in the art of independent film. Its mission is to encourage discovery through visual storytelling and create experiences that educate, inspire and engage. The society relies on its sponsors and members to help achieve its mission and ensure the future of film as part of a vibrant, creative culture. For more information, visit [www.hillcountryff.com/film-society](http://www.hillcountryff.com/film-society).

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