

SCA FESTIVALS & DISTRIBUTION NEWSLETTER

90th Academy Award Animation Short List

USC School of Cinematic Arts students/alumni animated shorts were shortlisted:

- ***“Cradle”*** directed by Devon Manney
- ***“Life Smartphone”*** directed by Chenglin Xie

Nominations will be announced on January 23, 2018 and the 90th annual Academy Awards will be held on March 4, 2018.

Dust Channel

Premiering in December, Dust is showcasing science fiction short films made by USC students culminating with the presentation of a very special short film from a USC alum. DUST will showcase one student’s sci-fi short every day of the week starting today, and will conclude with the premiere of George Lucas’ USC 1967 short film Electronic Labyrinth: THX 1138 4EB.

Sundance Screenwriters Lab

Congratulations to C. Wren Ball for being selected for the 2018 Sundance Screenwriters Lab. [Festivals & Distribution Newsletter](#)

Student Academy Awards

Two USC School of Cinematic Arts students were honored this year at the 2017 Student Academy Awards. Devon Manney won Silver in the Animation (Domestic Film Schools) Category for ***“Cradle”*** and Ariel Heller won Silver in the Narrative (Domestic Film Schools) Division for ***“Mammoth”***. In ***“Cradle”*** a young veteran battles phantom pains,



prosthetics, and memories of his pre-war life while reaching for a sense of normalcy after returning to the US from losing both arms overseas. In ***“Mammoth”***, when Paul’s older brother Elliot is diagnosed with terminal cancer, they embark on one last road trip together to Mammoth, California, where Elliot plans to end his life under the Death With Dignity law.



DGA Student Film Awards

At this year’s DGA Student Film Awards, three SCA students were honored. Sanford Jenkins won the Best African American Student Filmmaker Award for ***“A Craftsman”***, Mei LiYing won Best Asian American Student Filmmaker Award for ***“Cocoon”***, and Gisele Tong won Best Woman Student Filmmaker for her film ***“Spring Flower”***.

WGA Awards 2018

SCA Alum Barbara Stepansky was nominated for the Writers Guild Award in Long Form Original category for ***“Flint”*** on Lifetime. ***“Flint”*** is the gripping retelling of a crisis that shook a nation and shines a light on the whistleblowers who exposed the biggest environmental scandal of our generation.

Clermont-Ferrand Int'l Short Film Festival

Undergrad thesis "*One Small Step*" directed by Aqsa Altaf and alumni film "*Hasta Siempre, Comandante*" directed by Faisal Attrache is selected for the Clermont-Ferrand Int'l Short Film Festival. "*One Small Step*" is a story about an 11-year-old from Compton, California, who dreams of being an astronaut as she juggles the realities of her circumstances. "*Hasta siempre, comandante*" is about Ernest, a 14-year old barber, wants to get a tattoo despite his father's adamant objection to it.

Like us on Facebook

Watch our films

Select student films are available for viewing on our films website. To view these films, please click on [this link](#).

To create an account to view the films please use the invite code: USC

Contact us

For more information about the USC School of Cinematic Arts Industry Relations office, please contact us at 213-740-4432 or email us at industryrelations@cinema.usc.edu

Sundance Film Festival: Short Films

Graduate thesis film "*WYRM*" produced by Faissal Sam Shaub was selected for the 2018 Sundance Film Festival as part of the U.S. Narrative Short Films category. "*WYRM*" is about a boy who has two days to get his first kiss or he'll be held back as part of the school district's No Child Left Alone program and forced to wear his My.E.Q. Remote Monitoring collar through high school.



Sundance Next

Film by SCA alum Aneesh Chaganty, "*Search*" has been selected to screen at Sundance Next. Pure, bold works distinguished by an innovative, forward-thinking approach to storytelling populate this program. Digital technology paired with unfettered creativity promises that the films in this section will shape a "greater" next wave in American cinema. "*Search*" is a thriller that unfolds entirely on computer screens.

Sundance Ignite Fellows

Congratulations to USC Students Amri Rigby and Andrea Porras-Madero for being selected as 2018 Sundance Ignite Fellows.

Sundance New Frontier

USC VR short "*Micro Giants*" lead artist Yifu Zhou and "*TendAR*" lead artist Samantha Gorman has been selected for Sundance New Frontier.

Slamdance 2018

"*Falling*" written and directed by Ewen Wright has been selected for the Slamdance Film Festival as a Narrative Short.

