

22nd edition of Reelworld Film Festival introduces two increased cash prizes totaling \$35,000

Media Release

Toronto: March 1, 2022 - The 22nd edition of Reelworld Film Festival increases its support of Canadian talent with two significant cash prize awards of **\$25,000 for Outstanding Feature** and **\$10,000 for Outstanding Short Film**. Films in competition that have Canadian or Ontario premiere status will be eligible for the cash awards. Reelworld Film Festival is the only film festival in Canada with a mission and mandate that continues to support only Canadian filmmakers who are Indigenous, Black, Asian and People of Colour.

Emerging filmmakers are often challenged with getting the funds they require to artistically express themselves through the creation of film and other forms of content. Monetary awards are a form of financial support that provides them with the opportunity to work independently and secure the resources that enable them to continue to create.

“Covid has hit our artists hard, and it is our responsibility to support them however we can,” says Tonya Williams, founder and executive director. “With the increased support Reelworld has received from its sponsors and donors we are able to help these filmmakers with these new cash prize increases. It is in all our interests to strengthen the diverse content that Canada has to offer.”

Last year we saw filmmaker Brishkay Ahmed take home two cash prizes for her feature film *In the Rumbling Belly of Motherland*, making her the largest cash prize winner.

"For independent filmmakers, like myself, cash prizes allow the opportunity to continue sharing our film with global audiences, lessening the economic burden that comes with festival submissions and travels," says Ahmed. "Plus, cash prizes fuel our creative desire to continue making films while boosting our morale. Thank you, Reelworld, for supporting filmmakers!"

Each year, the Reelworld Film Festival presents 15 jury-selected awards and 1 audience-selected award to recognize outstanding films as well as talents above and below the line. Films in competition are eligible for the Canadian Screen Awards. The full list of awards are listed below.

Audience Choice Award for a feature film

Outstanding Actress in a feature film award

Outstanding Actor in a feature film award

Outstanding Director for a Feature Film award

Outstanding Writer for a feature film award

Outstanding Cinematographer for feature film award

Outstanding Feature Film Producer award

Outstanding Feature Film award

Outstanding Actress in a Short film award
Outstanding Actor for a Short Film award
Outstanding Director for short film award
Outstanding Writer for short film award
Outstanding Cinematographer for a Short Film award
Outstanding Producer for Short film award
Outstanding Short film award

Submissions to the 2022 Reelworld Film Festival running from October 12th-18th are now open on [FilmFreeway](#) and will close on May 25th, 2022.

About Reelworld

Reelworld was founded in 2000 by award-winning actress and producer Tonya Williams to advance opportunities for Canadians who are Black, Indigenous, Asian, South Asian, and People of Colour in the screen industries by providing professional development and advocating for racial equity in Canadian content and production. Reelworld Screen Institute, a non-profit, provides training programs and presents the acclaimed Reelworld Film Festival, which celebrates stories by racialized Canadians. Providing access to opportunities is core to Reelworld, and Access Reelworld is Canada's leading hiring platform for racialized crews and talent. Reelworld Foundation, a registered charity, is transforming the industry by creating mechanisms that hold systems accountable for greater equity.

Media Contact
Alison Cosgrove
Communications Director
media@reelworld.ca