

For Immediate Release

Ann Arbor, Michigan (May 22, 2019) — On May 16, the Cinetopia Film Festival's annual short film competition, "Detroit Voices", featured 12 finalists' short films at the Senate Theater in Detroit, Michigan. Detroit Voices celebrates the strongest storytelling that Michigan has to offer, with five documentaries and seven narrative shorts making up the final shortlist.

The winners of the 2019 Detroit Voices awards are:

Knight Foundation Award for Best Narrative Film: *Femme Queen Chronicles* directed by Ahya Simone

Knight Foundation Award for Best Documentary Film: *Walking for Ded* directed by Scott Boehm

Barb & Jeff Duncan Award: *Sidelots* directed by Atieno Nyar Kasagam

Audience Award: *Knock, Knock* directed by Kennikki Jones-Jones

The Detroit Voices event was hosted at the Senate Theater, an historic movie palace on Michigan Ave. and home to the Detroit Theater Organ Society and an original Wurlitzer organ. Detroit Voices serves as an opportunity for young Michigan-based filmmakers to explore their creativity, network with film industry professionals, and showcase their work to a wide audience.

Special Thanks to The Applebaum Family Compass Fund for major support of Detroit Voices. Other support comes from Michigan Film & Digital Media Office and the National Association of Theatre Owners.

*"We are proud to partner with Cinetopia to support Detroit Voices for the second year in a row. Providing the opportunity for filmmakers to share their stories aligns with our mission of nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit."* - Pamela Applebaum, The Applebaum Family Compass Fund, Applebaum Family Philanthropy

The night before, on May 15, the Senate hosted Distribution Stories, a free event that featured a panel discussion with filmmakers from across the industry who discussed the ins and outs of film production, from raising funds to final distribution. Speakers included Eddie Rubin, producer of *The Farewell*; Joshua Riehl and Jenny Feterovich, director and producer of *The Russian Five*; Robert Clift and Hillary Demmon, directors of *Making Montgomery Clift*; Peter Dowd, director of *Mr. Jimmy*; and Phil Contrino of the National Association of Theatre Owners.

Distribution Stories was presented by the National Association of Theatre Owners, with additional support from The Applebaum Family Compass Fund, Michigan Film & Digital Media Office, Michigan Medicine, and the Knight Foundation.

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### **About Cinetopia Film Festival**

The Cinetopia Film Festival is an annual, curated festival in metro Detroit, featuring more than 60 of the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, and more). It takes place over the span of 10 days every spring at venues throughout the region. The festival is not submission-based; instead, the extensive festival program is selected by a team led by Indiewire Influencer Russ Collins from the nationally-renowned Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. Created in 2011 for the people of Southeast Michigan, Cinetopia honors the rich heritage of cinematic culture and Michigan's proud legacy of outstanding cinema artists through special pre- and post-film events, including presentations, discussion panels, and Q&A sessions with directors, writers, and actors. For more information, visit [cinetopiafestival.org](https://www.cinetopiafestival.org).

Cinetopia Contact:

Ariel Wan

[ariel@michtheater.org](mailto:ariel@michtheater.org)

<https://www.cinetopiafestival.org/>

734.668.8397 x16

Cinetopia Film Festival's Official Social Channels:

Website: <https://www.cinetopiafestival.org>

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