



2026
NOVA FEST
AWARD NOMINATIONS & RESULTS
(Updated 3/13/26)

FILM

BEST FEATURE FILM

Wired

The Floaters

BEST SHORT FILM

How's That Working For You?

The Hiring Protocol

Humanity

BEST FOREIGN FILM

Free Syria: Syria's Economic Renewal (Syrian Arab Republic)

„Hier kennt einer das Fürchten nicht“ (Germany)

The Hiring Protocol (France)

Climb Malawi (Malawi)

Humanity (Brazil, China, Netherlands, Australia, Kenya, and Antarctica)

BEST FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

„Hier kennt einer das Fürchten nicht“ - Behind the scenes with Klaus Florian Vogt

BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Free Syria: Syria's Economic Renewal

Gauley Guide

Climb Malawi

Alaska Rescue Story

The Donut Dollies: 627 Women Who Also Served In Vietnam

BEST Web/TV Series

ImSoTyReil Make Some Noise

The Human, Will

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

No Other Gods

Forever

909

BEST Trailer

My Man

PRECURSOR

BEST ACTOR – FEATURE FILM

Charlie Waite - Wired

BEST ACTRESS - FEATURE FILM

Jackie Tohn – The Floaters

BEST ACTOR - SHORT FILM

Brad Bingham – This is My Rifle

Aaron Stein – GUILT

Jacob A. Ware – Nowhere Good

BEST ACTRESS - SHORT FILM

Sammy Smedley – How's That Working For You?

Janae Palmer Cruz – Sip

Jessica Craig – Operation Dark Site

Kim Rhodes – Nowhere Good

Adèle Galloy – The Hiring Protocol

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - FEATURE FILM

Seth Green - The Floaters

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - FEATURE FILM

Sarah Podemski - The Floaters

Abby Turner - Wired

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - SHORT FILM

Robert Maisonett - How's That Working For You?

Matthew Sharpe – This is My Rifle

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - SHORT FILM

Francesca Domenichini - The Hiring Protocol

Leslie Talley - GUILT

BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE

Humanity

The Floaters

This is My Rifle

How's That Working For You?

BEST DIRECTOR - FEATURE FILM

Rachel Israel – The Floaters

Jonathan Widdup - Wired

BEST DIRECTOR - SHORT FILM

François Choquené - The Hiring Protocol

Bryant Carroll - Nowhere Good

Rachel Chelsea Foster – Sip

Bobby Huotari – GUILT

Brad Bingham, Hope MacDonald - This is My Rifle

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - FEATURE LENGTH FILM

„Hier kennt einer das Fürchten nicht“ - Behind the scenes with Klaus Florian Vogt

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - FILM SHORT

Humanity

GUILT

Operation Dark Site

Nowhere Good

The Human, Will

The Hiring Protocol

This is My Rifle

BEST DRAMA – Feature

Wired

BEST DRAMA – SHORT FILM

Sip

Nowhere Good

The Hiring Protocol

Operation Dark Site

GUILT

This Is My Rifle

BEST COMEDY

How's That Working For You?

The Floaters

The Human, Will

BEST HORROR

GUILT

BEST SCI FI

The Hiring Protocol

Soldier of Fortune

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY - FEATURE FILM

Wired

The Floaters

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY - SHORT FILM

How's That Working For You?

The Hiring Protocol

RUSSELL WILLIAMS II AWARD for BEST SOUNDSCAPE

Operation Dark Site

The Donut Dollies: 627 Women Who Also Served In Vietnam

This is My Rifle

The Hiring Protocol

BEST EDITING - FEATURE LENGTH FILM

The Floaters

BEST EDITING - FILM SHORT

This Is My Rifle

The Donut Dollies: 627 Women Who Also Served In Vietnam

Alaska Rescue Story

The Hiring Protocol

BEST SCI-FI / FANTASY

The Hiring Protocol

GUILT

BEST FAMILY / FAITH BASED FILM

Operation Dark Site

Alaska Rescue Story

No Other Gods

The Floaters

Filling in Your Scrapbook

BEST THRILLER FILM

Nowhere Good

The Hiring Protocol

Wired

GUILT

BEST INSPIRATIONAL FILM

Free Syria: Syria's Economic Renewal

Climb Malawi

Alaska Rescue Story

Humanity

BEST ACTION FILM

The Hiring Protocol

Soldier of Fortune

BEST ANIMATION

Filling in Your Scrapbook

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

Guilt

The Hiring Protocol

Soldier of Fortune

BEST ART & DESIGN

Filling in Your Scrapbook

The Hiring Protocol

The Human, Will

GUILT

SCREENPLAY

UNDER 20 PAGES:

BEST DRAMA

Blank Canvas - Andrew Akbari

TROUBADOUR'S LAST NOTE - Michael J Volpe

BEST COMEDY

ALPHARETTA'S TEA CAKES - Alessandra Ashley

BEST THRILLER

Blank Canvas - Andrew Akbari

BEST HORROR

Dead Ed - Samantha Hospodar, Chris Ethridge

BEST ROMANCE

TROUBADOUR'S LAST NOTE - Michael J Volpe

BEST SCREENPLAY

Dead Ed - Samantha Hospodar, Chris Ethridge

TROUBADOUR'S LAST NOTE - Michael J Volpe

Blank Canvas - Andrew Akbari

ALPHARETTA'S TEA CAKES - Alessandra Ashley

OVER 20 PAGES:**BEST DRAMA**

Lifeboat - Bill Baber & Mason Mendoza

WHITE TIDE - Felipe Perrotta

Conduct Unbecoming - Don Marcari

The Fourth Psalm - John Martins III

Freedom Clan - Richard Levine

Filibusta - Ross Weinstein

Nine Tenths of The Law - Koura Linda

Summer in Lovettsville - Grace Walters

BEST ROMANCE

Summer in Lovettsville - Grace Walters

Between the Kisses - Joseph DiFrancesco

BEST LGBT

Summer in Lovettsville - Grace Walters

BEST SCI FI

Lifeboat - Bill Baber & Mason Mendoza

BEST ACTION

Nine Tenths of The Law - Nick Gambino, Koura Linda

BEST PERIOD

Nine Tenths of The Law - Nick Gambino, Koura Linda

Freedom Clan - Richard Levine

BEST THRILLER

WHITE TIDE - Felipe Perrotta

BEST SCREENPLAY

Filibusta - Ross Weinstein

Freedom Clan - Richard Levine

The Fourth Psalm - John Martins III

Nine Tenths of The Law - Nick Gambino, Koura Linda

Between the Kisses - Joseph DiFrancesco

Dancing Beyond - Sarah Daly

WHITE TIDE - Felipe Perrotta

Summer in Lovettsville - Grace Walters

Lifeboat - Bill Baber & Mason Mendoza

BEST TELEPLAY:**DRAMA - 60 MINUTES**

Situational Awareness - Dara Sanandaji, Jeffry Mulrain

SPECIAL AWARDS**Harold L. Brown Award of Excellence - 1st Time Writer**

Dead Ed - Samantha Hospodar, Chris Ethridge

Filibusta - Ross Weinstein

The James Christopher - NOVA JURY AWARD - FILM

(All Official Selections Eligible)

Free Syria: Syria's Economic Renewal

Alaska Rescue Story

NOVA JURY AWARD – SCREENPLAY

(All Official Selections Eligible)

The Fourth Psalm - John Martins III
Conduct Unbecoming - Don Marcari
Dancing Beyond - Sarah Daly

The NOVA Award – FILM

(Best Locally Produced Film)

Climb Malawi
The Floaters
909
Filling in Your Scrapbook
Operation Dark Site
Sip

The NOVA Award – SCREENPLAY

(Best Locally Written Screenplay)

Blank Canvas - Andrew Akbari
Nine Tenths of The Law - Nick Gambino, Koura Linda
TROUBADOUR'S LAST NOTE - Michael J Volpe

SCREENPLAY OF THE YEAR

(All Official Selections Eligible)

TROUBADOUR'S LAST NOTE - Michael J Volpe

FILM OF THE YEAR

(All Official Selections Eligible)

The Hiring Protocol

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

(All Artists Eligible)

Michael J Volpe