

10TH ANNUAL

PLAYHOUSE WEST FILM FESTIVAL - PHILADELPHIA

AUGUST 18-20, 2023

1218 WALLACE ST., PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



CREATE YOUR OWN LANE

OFFICIAL FESTIVAL PROGRAM

PLAYHOUSE WEST

Philadelphia

AUTHENTIC MEISNER TRAINING

Los Angeles
Est. 1981

Acting School & Theater

Philadelphia
Est. 2012

Playhouse West is a training ground for actors, writers and directors founded by Robert Carnegie and Jeff Goldblum in 1981. For over 40 years we have been highly regarded and recommended by industry professionals as one of the premiere acting schools in the country. Many of our members work at the highest level within the entertainment business.

PWFF-Philadelphia, is an off-shoot of the Playhouse West Film Festival in Los Angeles, established in 1997. In 2012, long-time Artistic Director/ Instructor, and PWFF Director, Tony Savant, moved to Philadelphia and founded a branch of the world-renown school, **Playhouse West-Philadelphia**. The following year, in 2013, the school hosted it's first annual film festival in the City of Brotherly Love, which is also now an annual event.

The Playhouse West Film Festival-Philadelphia is sponsored by the Playhouse West Arts Foundation, a 501(c)3 Non Profit organization dedicated to the inspiration, education and development of motion picture and theater artists of independent vision, and to the exhibition of their work. By sponsoring programs such as the Playhouse West Film Festival, we can also educate the public about the art of filmmaking, and introduce them to the work of aspiring new film artists of the future.

The Playhouse West Film Festival is well known as one of the most positive, filmmaker-friendly festivals in the country. Each year we hear from more and more filmmakers that our festival has been their favorite. From our well organized, run-on-time format, to our unique Q&A's after each screening block, giving filmmakers a platform to discuss their films at length with our audience, we take great pride in making our festival a fantastic experience for filmmakers.

As an institution, Playhouse West leads the way in encouraging young filmmakers. Playhouse West members from Los Angeles and Philadelphia produce over 250 films per year, many which go on to be accepted and win awards at film festivals around the country and world.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our
DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE MEMBERS & STAFF
for creating and supporting our

10th Annual
PLAYHOUSE WEST - PHILADELPHIA
FILM FESTIVAL

FILM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
Tony Savant

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE | GRAND JURY MEMBERS

Christopher Castagna • Sara Chodak • Eric Eisenstein •
Eva Lin Feidt • Kylie Gibson • Kelly Holstrom • Ryan Irving •
Patrick Milligan • Michelle Opalesky • Cal Plohoros •
Navia Prezeau • Alex Samuelian

PROGRAM DESIGN

Alex Samuelian • Tony Savant

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Kim Savant, Joe Hough

PLAYHOUSE WEST ARTS FOUNDATION | BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Savant • Ed Aristone • Wendy Young

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Wasser Family,
The Creative School at Playhouse, Winter Wooden

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

6:00pm - 7:00pm | Patron Check-in / Red Carpet

7:00pm | 10th Annual Playhouse West Film Festival - Philadelphia Opening Ceremony

OPENING CEREMONY SHORT FILM

Greeting from Playhouse West-Philadelphia Founder & Festival Director, Tony Savant

Opening Night Shorts

LIFELESS • JUNIPER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

9:00am - 10:30 am | Shorts

LOVE • KNUCKLES • THE CUSTODIAN

10:30am - 12:00pm | Shorts

LIMITED SLIP • WHERE DO WE GO • THE LONG WAY

12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH BREAK

1:00pm - 2:30pm | Shorts

EHARMONYCS • COFFEE FOR THREE • BUGGIN' OUT • UNEXPECTED GUEST

2:30pm - 3:30pm | Shorts

STANDING UP • HELMET

3:30pm - 5:00pm | Shorts

DREAMS DEFERRED • GRANDEUR DELUSIONS

5:00pm - 7:30pm DINNER BREAK

7:30pm | Shorts

SAMUEL, SAMUEL • THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN • AMERICAN DREAM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00am - 10:30am | Shorts

HAIR • JUDGE NOT

10:30am - 12:00pm | Shorts

ROOMMATES • RESET • SLAP • MEET MUFASA

12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH BREAK

1:00pm - 2:30 pm | Shorts

COLLEGE • DOUBLE DEALINGS • TO KEEP YOUR VITAL ORGANS WARM

2:30pm - 3:30pm | Shorts

TIME BOUND • TOMORROW AND FOREVER

3:30pm - 5:00pm | Shorts

INTIME • LOVE LANGUAGE

5:00pm - 7:30pm DINNER BREAK

7:30pm | PWFF-Philadelphia Awards Ceremony

2023 AUDIENCE CHOICE & GRAND JURY AWARDS

FRIDAY OPENING NIGHT | 7:00pm | Shorts



LIFELESS (6:17, drama)
DIRECTOR: Darrah Lashley*
PRODUCER: Darrah Lashley*
SCREENPLAY: Darrah Lashley*
CAST: Darrah Lashley*, Ajinkya Dhage*, Katherine Wylde*

SYNOPSIS: When Valerie receives a life altering, dream shattering report, she struggles with how to deliver the news to her fiancé, Dev.

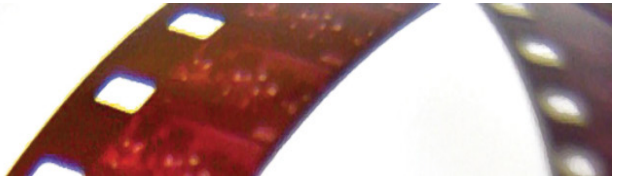


JUNIPER (24:13, thriller)
DIRECTOR: Pratigya Paudel*
PRODUCER: Pratigya Paudel*
SCREENPLAY: Pratigya Paudel*
CAST: Pratigya Paudel*, Julianne Lea*, Juliette Valdez*, Pratibha Paudel

SYNOPSIS: After receiving some troubling news, Juniper struggles to maintain her composure and her roommate is definitely not helping.

* Denotes Playhouse West Member

SCREENWRITING SAVANT



Taught by Playhouse West-Philadelphia Director, Tony Savant, you will learn the essential fundamental elements contained in all well-constructed screenplays and films. Mr. Savant's approach is based on Lajos Egri's classic, "The Art of Dramatic Writing", adapted exclusively to screenplay structure. But Savant also offers his experience of many years studying, deconstructing and analyzing the finest films and screenplays ever written and what they have in common, as well as studying the master directors and writers who made these pictures.

The class aims at demystifying the screenwriting process and giving you a real, practical, step by step approach to writing a script, from idea to finished product. Also a great course in script analysis! Will break down an Academy Award-winning film and screenplay in great detail, scene-by-scene, so you can see how well-crafted scripts are designed. You will do a lot of writing exercises, complete a screenplay for a short film, and also have the tools and feel empowered by a real approach to go write other screenplays!

- 30+ Hours of Video Lectures. Receive Many Written Guides, Handouts & Writing Exercises.
- Many Other Resources, Including a Recommended Reading List and 65 Great Screenplays to Read.

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR PLAYHOUSE WEST MEMBERS & FESTIVAL ATTENDEES

ScreenwritingSavant.com

SATURDAY | 9:00am - 10:30am | Shorts



LOVE (7:33, drama)

DIRECTOR: Ryan J. Irving*, Anh Nguyen*

PRODUCER: Eric Eisenstein*

SCREENPLAY: Ryan J. Irving*

CAST: Ryan J. Irving*, Sarah Dolhansky*, Daleigh Joan Moulder

SYNOPSIS: Mort unravels as he goes through a breakup.



KNUCKLES (7:51, drama)

DIRECTOR: Christian Liatos*

PRODUCER: ShaunPaul Costello*, Christian Liatos

SCREENPLAY: Christian Liatos*

CAST: Juliette Valdez*, ShaunPaul Costello*, Joe Henderson*, Seth Sharpe*, Christian Liatos*

SYNOPSIS: A plan to make money goes awry.



THE CUSTODIAN (28:05, drama)

DIRECTOR: Eric A. Eisenstein*

PRODUCER: Kenneth Malts*, Eric A. Eisenstein*

SCREENPLAY: Kenneth Malts*

CAST: David Huppert*, Kathryn Wylde*, Akanksha Kataria*

SYNOPSIS: A man at the end of his rope has only one option to cure his loneliness and alleviate his pain.

SATURDAY | 10:30am - 12:00pm | Shorts



LIMITED SLIP (15:36, drama)

DIRECTOR: Clint Calvert*

PRODUCER: Clint Calvert*

SCREENPLAY: Clint Calvert*

CAST: Clint Calvert*, Maci Miller*, Mardell Elmer, Markus Porter, Krystyn Sayre

SYNOPSIS: Driver has a last job to pull off, or is it? A broken daughter is in direct conflict.



WHERE DO WE GO (13:46, drama)
 DIRECTOR: Whitney Bass*
 PRODUCER: Shawn Moss*, Whitney Bass*, Kevin Diep*, Eva Lin Feindt*, Kaitlyn Diehl*
 SCREENPLAY: Eva Lin Feindt*, Kaitlyn Diehl*
 CAST: Kaitlyn Diehl*, Eva Lin Feindt*
 SYNOPSIS: Two long-time best friends address the nature of their changing relationship.



THE LONG WAY (17:51, drama)
 DIRECTOR: Christian Liatos*
 PRODUCER: ShaunPaul Costello*, Christian Liatos*
 SCREENPLAY: Christian Liatos*, Johnny Redwood*
 CAST: Johnny Redwood*, ShaunPaul Costello*, Ashton Moio*, David Fruechting*
 SYNOPSIS: A man in over his head in

gambling debt goes to extremes to get what he owes.

12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH BREAK

SATURDAY | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Shorts



EHARMONYCS (3:28, comedy)
 DIRECTOR: RT Bowersox
 PRODUCER: Kathryn Wylde*
 SCREENPLAY: RT Bowersox
 CAST: Kathryn Wylde*, Johnny Fernandez
 SYNOPSIS: Two people meet in a bar and decide whether or not to get to know each other

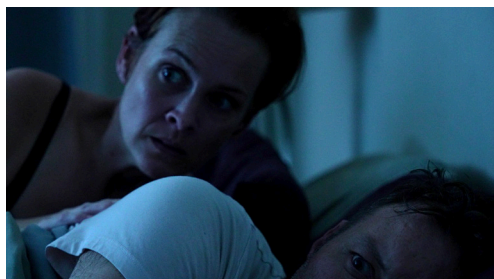


COFFEE FOR THREE (9:53, comedy)
 DIRECTOR: Anh Nguyen*
 PRODUCER: Anh Nguyen*, Pat Casey*, Michael Dwayne Paylor*, Chris Manero*
 SCREENPLAY: Pat Casey*, Michael Dwayne Paylor*
 CAST: Pat Casey*, Michael Dwane Paylor*, Nicole Darecca*, Sanaa Scott*, Lexi Lewis*, Teddie Pittman*
 SYNOPSIS: A man searches for

companionship, that end in comedic woes, with the help of his friend.



BUGGIN' OUT (9:51, comedy)
DIRECTOR: ShaunPaul Costello*
PRODUCER: ShaunPaul Costello*
SCREENPLAY: ShaunPaul Costello*, Juliette Valdez*
CAST: Juliette Valdez*, ShaunPaul Costello*
SYNOPSIS: A woman who just wants a quiet evening with her dog gets more than she bargains for when she gets some unwanted guests.

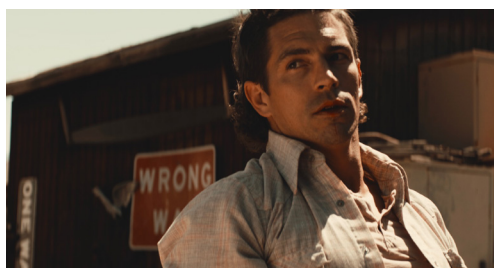


UNEXPECTED GUEST (9:37, comedy)
DIRECTOR: Brian Scott Campbell*
PRODUCER: Brian Scott Campbell*
SCREENPLAY: Brian Scott Campbell*
CAST: Brian Scott Campbell*, Kathryn Wylde*, Joe Hough*
SYNOPSIS: A sleeping couple gets a surprise house call from an unwelcome visitor.

SATURDAY | 2:30pm - 3:30pm | Shorts



STANDING UP (9:54, comedy)
DIRECTOR: Morgan Sitzler*
PRODUCER: Morgan Sitzler*
SCREENPLAY: Morgan Sitzler*, Emma Orr*
CAST: Emma Orr*, Daniel River*, Julianne Lea*, Joe Hough*
SYNOPSIS: After an awkward break-up, Casey finds a creative way to channel her heartbreak.



HELMET (22:33, drama)
DIRECTOR: Sean Crampton*
PRODUCER: Bart Rome, Sean Crampton*, Kyle Brady*, Jordan Wiseley, Brian Lally*
SCREENPLAY: Sean Crampton*
CAST: Jordan Wiseley, Nora Garrett, Eddie Shin*, Alexa Silvaggio, Gabriel Grier*, Brian Lally*, Kyle Brady*, Sean Crampton*
SYNOPSIS: Helmet has nowhere to go when he joins the last honest tow truck company in LA...only it isn't honest.

* Denotes Playhouse West Member

SATURDAY | 3:30pm - 5:00pm | Shorts



DREAMS DEFERRED (13:14, drama)

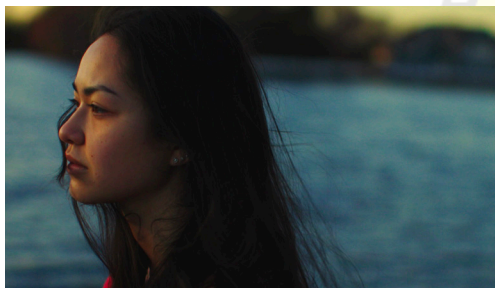
DIRECTOR: Peter Anastasiadis*

PRODUCER: Robert Boyd*, Ajinkya Dhage*, Mathias Lojewski*

SCREENPLAY: Mathias Lojewski*

CAST: Ajinkya Dhage*, Mathias Lojewski*

SYNOPSIS: An actor's failed dreams lead to drastic actions.



GRANDEUR DELUSIONS (32:19, drama)

DIRECTOR: Alyssa Rose Capitini

PRODUCER: Alyssa Rose Capitini

SCREENPLAY: Alyssa Rose Capitini

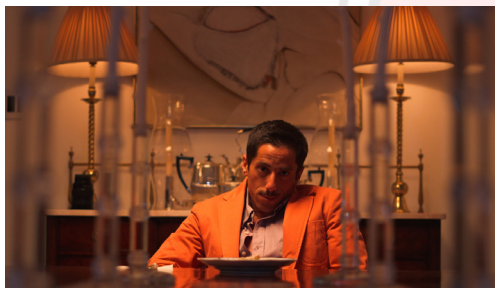
CAST: Eva Lin Feindt*, Michael James Mina*, Joe Henderson*, Michelle Opalesky*

SYNOPSIS: In the midst of a deteriorating relationship with Lucas, Stella becomes increasingly unaware of his changed nature, desperately holding onto the hope that he can transform into the person she initially

fell in love with. As the mistreatment intensifies, Stella faces a pivotal choice: to endure the hardships alongside Lucas or let him go.

5:00pm - 7:30pm DINNER BREAK

SATURDAY | 7:30pm | Shorts



SAMUEL, SAMUEL (9:19, drama)

DIRECTOR: Michael James Mina*

PRODUCER: Big Eye Productions

SCREENPLAY: Michael James Mina*

CAST: Michael James Mina*, Juliette Valdez*

SYNOPSIS: Upon finding himself alone, a man prepares for the return of the object of his desire.



THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN (18:23, drama)
 DIRECTOR: Whitney Bass*
 PRODUCER: Whitney Bass*, Tyler Andrews*
 SCREENPLAY: Tyler Andrews*
 CAST: Tyler Andrews*, Daniel River*, Jason Andrews*

SYNOPSIS: Returning back to his hometown a journalist is on a mission to expose a childhood best friend.



AMERICAN DREAM (13:38, drama)
 DIRECTOR: Robert Boyd*
 PRODUCER: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*, Melitza Iglesias-Colon, Brandon McDowell*
 SCREENPLAY: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*
 CAST: Ajinkya Dhage, Darrah Lashley, Ed Aristone, Peter Anastasiadis

SYNOPSIS: Aakash works in the US in the tech industry as an IT specialist but his dream is to become a serious actor. Unfortunately, his visa status is put at risk when his dreams begin to manifest.

Final Day of our Festival

SUNDAY | 9:00am - 10:30am | Shorts



HAIR (16:08, drama)
 DIRECTORS: Joshua Daniel*, Alex Samuelian*
 PRODUCERS: Joshua Daniel*
 SCREENPLAY: Joshua Daniel*
 CAST: Joshua Daniel*, Ajinkya Dhage*, Alex Samuelian*, Brooke Storms*, Darrah Lashley*, Joshua Shannon*, Salymae Denoon*

SYNOPSIS: A woman pushes through misogyny and stereotypes in her office while focusing on her bigger goal.

* Denotes Playhouse West Member



JUDGE NOT (36:59, drama)
DIRECTOR: Nina Ragland*, Jody Williams
PRODUCERS: Nina Ragland*
SCREENPLAY: Nina Ragland*
CAST: Nina Ragland*, Eric Brizuela*, Sonya C. Miles*, Celeste Allen

SYNOPSIS: A woman who rediscovers her Christian faith, finds herself neglecting her best friend who is a member of the LGBTQ community.

SUNDAY | 10:30am - 12:00pm | Shorts



ROOMMATES (4:10, suspense)
DIRECTOR: Andrew Perez
PRODUCER: Alana Hill*, Andrew Perez
SCREENPLAY: Jeff Hawthorne
CAST: Daniel River*, Haley Cassidy*, Hyzeem Brown*, Avery Perez, Andrea Ong*, Junior Ortega

SYNOPSIS: The voices of a man's roommates resonate in his mind, but he finds solace behind the closet door



RESET (9:55, drama)
DIRECTOR: Eric A. Eisenstein*
PRODUCER: Kenneth Malts*, Eric A. Eisenstein*
SCREENPLAY: Kenneth Malts*
CAST: Ryan J. Irving*, Abbie Allen*, Matteo LeCompte*, Michelle Real-Opalesky*
SYNOPSIS: One year sober, Morgan must renew his battle with his personal demons to save his sobriety, and possibly his life.



SLAP (15:38, comedy)
DIRECTOR: ShaunPaul Costello*, Seth Sharpe*
PRODUCER: ShaunPaul Costello*, Seth Sharpe*
SCREENPLAY: ShaunPaul Costello*, Seth Sharpe*
CAST: ShaunPaul Costello*, Seth Sharpe*, Alana Hill*, Eric Brizuela*, Ajinkya Dhage*, Dan Rivers*

SYNOPSIS: A man, desperate for money to take his girlfriend out on a date enters a Slap bet for the money.



MEET MUFASA (15:50, comedy/farce)

DIRECTOR: Queen Hadi*

PRODUCER: Joe Henderson

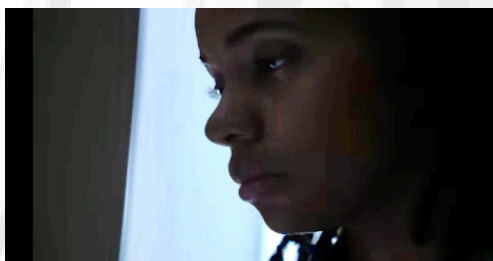
SCREENPLAY: Joe Henderson

CAST: Queen Hadi*, Joe Henderson*, Rob Hudson*, Leslie Jones-Collins*, Michael Paylor*

SYNOPSIS: The children of a single mother are introduced to her new boyfriend who happens to be an eccentric poet.

12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH BREAK

SUNDAY | 1:00pm - 2:30pm | Shorts



COLLEGE (6:46, drama)

DIRECTOR: Joe Henderson*

PRODUCERS: Anh Nguyen*

SCREENPLAY: Queen Hadi*, Joe Henderson*

CAST: Queen Hadi*, Leslie Hartwell*, Joe Henderson*

SYNOPSIS: Samara must make an important decision between love and her future.



DOUBLE DEALINGS (15:21, drama)

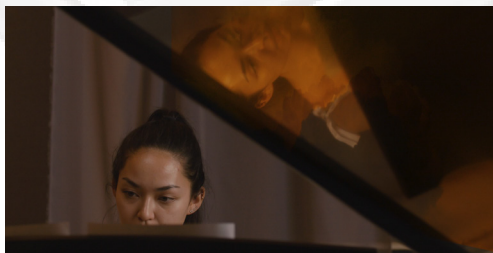
DIRECTOR: Seth Sharpe*, Christian Liatos*

PRODUCER: Christian Liatos*, ShaunPaul Costello*

SCREENPLAY: Christian Liatos*

CAST: Christian Liatos*, Margo Trovei, ShaunPaul Costello*, Juliette Valdez*, Ed Aristone*, Joe Hough*, Charles Ellison Washington*, Seth Sharpe*

SYNOPSIS: Two cops and one plans to get ahead of the other.



TO KEEP YOUR VITAL ORGANS WARM

(14:02, psychological horror)

DIRECTOR: Sophie Aguila

PRODUCER: Jackson Sweeney, Salvatori Camarote

SCREENPLAY: Sophie Aguila

CAST: Eva Lin Feindt*, James Navan

SYNOPSIS: A troubled young pianist is haunted by the memory of her contemptuous instructor monster.

* Denotes Playhouse West Member

SUNDAY | 2:30pm - 3:30pm | Shorts



TIME BOUND (9:57, drama)

DIRECTOR: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*

PRODUCER: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*

SCREENPLAY: Ajinkya Dhage*, Charlotte Chun

CAST: Ajinkya Dhage*, Charlotte Chun

SYNOPSIS: A man gets devastated after realizing that the love of his life has left him.



TOMORROW AND FOREVER

(17:11, drama)

DIRECTOR: Justin O'Neill

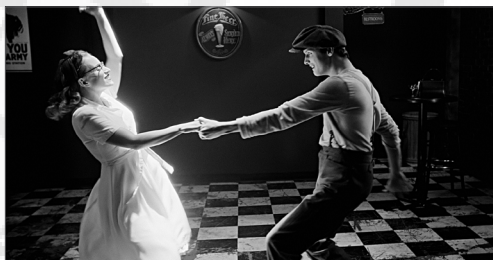
PRODUCERS: Jen Loww

SCREENPLAY: Justin O'Neill

CAST: ShaunPaul Costello, Margo Trovei

SYNOPSIS: When a brother and sister accidentally reunite at their family shore home, things do not go as planned.

SUNDAY | 3:30pm - 5:00pm | Shorts



INTIME (16:30, drama)

DIRECTOR: Gabriel de Santiago

PRODUCERS: Tyler W. Schnabel*, Gabriel De Santiago*, Jon Aranda

SCREENPLAY: Gabriel de Santiago

CAST: Josh Castille, Alexandria Lee, Grant Wright Gunderson

SYNOPSIS: On the last night before his brother departs for war, a deaf writer must conquer his fears if dancing with the girl of his dreams should ever become a reality.



LOVE LANGUAGE (19:50, comedy/romance)

DIRECTOR: Robert Boyd*

PRODUCERS: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*

SCREENPLAY: Ajinkya Dhage*, Robert Boyd*

CAST: Ajinkya Dhage*, Maria Del Pilar Rodriguez*, Julianne Lea*

SYNOPSIS: A picky bachelor who keeps love at arm's length is forced to reconsider dating when his mother issues an ultimatum.

5:00pm - 7:30pm DINNER BREAK

SUNDAY | 7:30pm

2023 PWFF-Philadelphia Awards Ceremony

This event is free and open to all Playhouse West members, filmmakers, cast, crew, family, friends & public. There are no feature film categories this year.

The Inaugural Edward William Wasser Award for Most Promising New Filmmaker

Audience Choice Awards

- Best Actress in a Short Film | Comedy
- Best Actor in a Short Film | Comedy
- Best Actress in a Short Film | Drama
- Best Actor in a Short Film | Drama
- Best Short Film | Comedy
- Best Short Film | Drama

Grand Jury Awards / Short Film Category

- Best Supporting Actress
- Best Supporting Actor
- Best Screenplay
- Best Director
- Best Actress
- Best Actor
- Best Short Film

***Announcing a New Playhouse West-Philadelphia Class
Coming This Fall...***

FILM LAB 1

Starts September 15

Taught by award-winning filmmaker, Robert Boyd, and supervised by PW-Philly Director, Tony Savant, the course will be very detailed and hands on, covering the fundamental technical aspects of filmmaking.

- Camera: anatomy, exposure, composition & angles, coverage, lenses, etc.
- Sound: how sound works, recording, mixers, mics, booms, lavaliers
- Grip & Electric: all equipment from C-Stands to sandbags
- Lighting: how light works, color temperature, motivated lighting, 3 point lighting, etc.

Students will get practical, hands on training with the equipment. This course will be the first level of three FILM LAB courses offered.

This course is available to Playhouse West members and non-members. For detailed information or to register for the class, please go to our website, ***playhousewest.com/philadelphia***

Upcoming Events

Playhouse West-Philadelphia regularly hosts Scene Presentations, where our students perform scenes they have been working on in the classes.

The Scene Presentations are free and open to the public.

For information about any upcoming events, to go our website.

PLAYHOUSEWEST.COM/PHILLY-UPCOMING-EVENTS



Twenty-five Day Film Project

Our 5th Annual 25 Day Film Project August 26 to September 20, 2023

25 Days to write, produce, cast, shoot, edit and complete a short film.

Registration and more information forthcoming on our website.

We are proud to announce the newest branch of our school...

PLAYHOUSE WEST *Waco*

We welcome the Founding Directors, Ric Maddox and Tamara Olson, and their inaugural students, to our the Playhouse West family.

And coming soon this fall... Playhouse West-Austin.

The great state of Texas just got a little better.



PLAYHOUSE WEST

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LANKERSHIM STUDIO
4250 Lankershim Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91602

MAGNOLIA STUDIO
10634 Magnolia Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91602

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