

Nov. 4, 2023

## **168 Film Festival Winners 2023**

*20<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival at Trilith Georgia  
Ten Short Films Invited for a Look by Angel Studios*

**Fayetteville, GA**-This weekend, from November 2nd to November 4th, the 20th annual 168 Film Festival unfolded at Trilith Town Stage in Fayetteville, Georgia, generously sponsored by Advent Media, Inc., Hollyland, and CT Cantina & Taqueria Trilith. Filmmakers honed and crafted their skills in the 168 speedfilm competition, producing films based on scripture verses inspired by the 2023 theme, "Time."

The prestigious title of Best Film was claimed by "Planted," directed by CC Weske and produced by Joshua Yadon, Haylee Graham, and Tim Weske.

According to Weske, "Being a full-time mother of two children under three years old, it was a miracle that the film got done! But I believed that He would strengthen me and give me perseverance. It's amazing what you can achieve when you put your trust in the Creator of the Universe."

"(168) is an extremely fun, yet very challenging competition. I believe it truly brings out the best in artists. I would highly recommend it for both new and seasoned filmmakers."

"Planted" earned six awards, including Best Director – CC Weske, Best Screenplay – Haylee Graham, 168 Exclamation Award - Leslie Laursen and Alora Weisz, Best Speed Film, and Best Film.

Best Film Runner-Up went to "Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy" by Darren Cogan, Christopher Shawn Shaw, Susan Shearer, Gary Voelker, and Aaron Fullan. This film excelled, winning in eight categories, including Best Original Score – Aaron Fullan, Best Production Design, Best Comedy Screenplay – Darren Cogan, Best Cinematography – Micah Powell, Best Supporting Actress - Darby Cappillino, 168 Exclamation Award - Victoria Jackson and Best Comedy.

The Best Proof of Concept went to "Hard Side of Miracles," directed by John Fornof and produced by Justin Manntai and Steve Stiles. Since 2016, Producer Justin Manntai has received multiple nominations for various 168 awards. Justin Manntai produced three films in the 2023 competition: "The Likes of You," "Hard Side of Miracles," and "Flatline," which won for Best Write of Passage.

Manntai remarked, "We were filming 'The Likes of You' when 'Hurricane Hillary' was approaching SoCal. Some cast and crew were concerned about the impending storm in Huntington Beach. We all agreed to complete the shoot in one day. Our cast performed remarkably, handling the sudden change with ease.

Ten short films were invited for a first look by the Angel Studios Guild for potential funding and distribution as features and TV. Invited films include: Lifeless - A Musical Zomedy (by Darren Cogan, Christopher Shawn Shaw, Susan Shearer, Gary Voelker, Aaron Fullan), Flatline (by Justin Manntai, James Lee Beeler), Planted (by CC Weske), Hard Side of Miracles (by Justin Manntai), The Last Truth (by Sandra Martin), Brother of the King (by Aaron Kamp), Just Deserts (by Jonason Pauley), Little Daryl (by Jeff Reed), Family Therapy (by Lauren Shelfo), Waves of Grace (by Paul Giret).

The Best Student Film award was presented to “The Art of Kindness” by Michaela Ray of Atlanta, Georgia.

Best Alumni Film was bestowed upon “Dumplings” by Abbey Moe of Idaho Falls, ID. Moe’s second entry, “Christian Hitmen,” secured a 168 Exclamation Award for Steven Fitchpatrick and the Best Making of 168 Film award.

The Best KidVid award was claimed by “Shades of Hope” by Kathryn Owens.

## **2023 Winners - 168 Film Festival**

1. Best Making of 168 BTS Film - Christian Hitmen - Abbey Moe
2. Best Sound Design – *The Likes of You*, Joe Valdez
2. Best Original Score - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy - Aaron Fullan
3. Best Production Design - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy - Maddie Klaus
4. Audience Favorite - ?
5. Audience Favorite - ?
6. 169 Award - Deborah Brown—for *Ministry to the World Through Film*
7. Best Screenplay - Planted – Haylee Graham
8. Best Screenplay – Comedy - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy – Darren Cogan
9. Best Scriptural Integration - Family Therapy – Lauren Shelfo
10. Evangelista Award - Family Therapy – Lauren Shelfo
11. Best Editor - The Likes of You – Matt Green
12. Best Cinematography - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy - Micah Powell
13. Best Supporting Actor - Simone Scigliano as Dad in Family Therapy
14. Best Supporting Actress - Darby Cappillino as Delilah in Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy
15. Best Actor - Miles Anderson as Paul in Flatline
16. Best Actress - Liz DeCoudres as Mom in Family Therapy
17. 168 Exclamation Award! - Steven Fitchpatrick as Hitman #1 in Christian Hitmen
18. 168 Exclamation Award! - Chase Gamwell as Pete in Family Therapy
19. 168 Exclamation Award! - Victoria Jackson as Angel in Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy
20. 168 Exclamation Award! - Leslie Laursen as Grandma in Planted
21. 168 Exclamation Award! - Alora Weisz as Lilly in Planted
22. Best Director - CC Weske for Planted
23. Best Documentary - Redeeming the Time – Mona Hylton

24. Best KidVid - Shades of Hope - Kathryn Owens
25. Best Write of Passage Film - Flatline - Justin Manntai, James Lee Beeler
26. Best Alumni Film - Dumplings - Abbey Moe
27. Best Speed Film - Planted - Joshua Yadon, Haylee Graham, Tim Weske
28. Best Student Film- The Art of Kindness – Michaela Ray
29. Best Comedy - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy - Darren Cogan, Christopher Shawn Shaw, Susan Shearer, Gary Voelker, Aaron Fullan
30. Best Proof of Concept Film: Hard Side of Miracles – Director: John Fornof, Producers: Justin Manntai, Steve Stiles
31. Best Film Runner-Up - Lifeless: A Musical Zomedy - Darren Cogan, Christopher Shawn Shaw, Susan Shearer, Gary Voelker, Aaron Fullan
32. Best of the 168 Film Festival - Planted – Director: CC Weske, Producers: Joshua Yadon, Haylee Graham, Tim Weske
33. Angel Studios Invitations: these short films will be considered by the Angel Studios Guild for feature funding and distribution.