

Frameline

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Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com

FRAMELINE45, THE WORLD'S LARGEST LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL, WRAPS RECORD-BREAKING 17-DAY FESTIVAL

Held September 10–27, 2021, Frameline45 was the largest and most attended festival in Frameline history

Recipients of the First Feature Award and the Audience Awards
announced

SAN FRANCISCO (June 30, 2021)—With over 134 film screenings, which included 16 world premieres, nine international premieres, 10 North American premieres, and eight US premieres, **Frameline45**—the world's largest LGBTQ+ film festival—wrapped its record-breaking 17-day festival with record-breaking attendance, a hybrid of in-person and virtual offerings, a series of thought-provoking talks, and a host of award winners.

"Frameline45 has officially become the largest and most ambitious festival in the history of the organization," said Frameline Executive Director **James Woolley**. "We are beyond proud of what we have accomplished this year and look forward to returning to a full in-person festival next year."

"We are grateful to our supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area and around the United States who continue to support Frameline," adds Frameline Director of Programming **Allegra Madsen**. "Throughout the 17-day festival, patrons in 45 states took advantage of our nationwide accessibility. Through this support, Frameline is able to drive forward its mission of changing the world through queer cinema."

RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE

With a hybrid of in-person and virtual offerings—including the first-ever Pride Movie Nights at Oracle Park, four drive-in screenings, special screenings at San Francisco's historic Castro Theatre and Roxy Theater—Frameline45 drew record-breaking attendance with over 89,000 patrons nationwide.

FRAMELINE45 AWARDS

At this year's festival, Frameline handed out two sets of awards—the **First Feature Award** and the **Audience Awards**.

FIRST FEATURE AWARD

For the second year in a row, Frameline has been proud to partner with the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle to present the First Feature Award to a notable narrative feature from an emerging voice in LGBTQ+ cinema. This year's festival featured 11 eligible debut films. The 2021 First Feature Award award went to "**Milkwater**" from writer/director **Morgan Ingari**. The jury, comprised of working film critics and journalists, stated that Ingari "created a story that elevates itself above a simple light-hearted tale." Honorable mentions went to **Natalie Morales'** "**Language Lessons**," and **Peeter Rebane's** "**Firebird**."

Said Morgan Ingari (writer/director), Molly Bernard (executive producer and lead), and Candice Kuwahara (producer) in a statement: "This award means so much to all of us, particularly because Frameline was our late executive producer, Ash Christian's, favorite festival in the world. Before we'd even started principal photography on "Milkwater," he told us he hoped we'd get to be a part of Frameline, and it's so incredibly special that we got the chance to. It's such a gift that so many stories are being told about queer families in their many forms. As we all know, there isn't just one type of queer person, and there is hardly one type of queer family structure. We're so honored that this movie meant something to you. Even to be one voice in a chorus of queer narrative is profound. Thank you so much to The Critic's Circle and Frameline for recognizing us."

AUDIENCE AWARDS

Frameline45 gave audiences the opportunity to weigh in on their personal favorites, issuing the annual Audience Awards in three categories: Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, and Short Film. Choosing from the Festival's eligible films, every ticket holder was able to cast a vote using a star-based rating system in Frameline's Digital Screening Room.

The Audience Award for Narrative Feature went to **Laurent Micheli's "Lola (Lola vers la mer)."** In the Documentary Feature category, the Audience Award went to **T.J. Parcell's "Invisible."** Competing with a wide array of exceptional shorts, **Faraz Arif Ansari's "Sheer Qorma"** took home the Audience Award for Short Film.

PRIDE MOVIE NIGHTS AT ORACLE PARK

For the first-time ever, Frameline and San Francisco Pride presented Pride Movie Nights at Oracle Park. A natural extension of Frameline and SF Pride's decades-long, mutually advantageous relationship, and was further strengthened by a partnership with the San Francisco Giants and support from the City and County of San Francisco. Audiences were treated to special screenings of Jon M. Chu's acclaimed film adaptation of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony Award-winning musical, **"In the Heights"** on June 11, and the film adaptation of the hit, award-winning West End musical, **"Everybody's Talking About Jamie"** on June 12. Over 15,000 guests were in attendance over the course of the two evenings. Pre-movie festivities included a lineup of in-person and virtual appearances, including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

DRIVE-INS

Frameline45 featured four Drive-in screenings—one at Concord's West Wind Solano Drive-In and three at San Francisco's Fort Mason Flix.

IN-PERSON SCREENINGS

Marking the first audiences since the onset of the pandemic, Frameline held two-days of in-person screenings at San Francisco's Castro Theater. Special guests on the red carpet included cast members and creative teams from four films—two narrative features and two documentaries—as well as two shorts programs. Patrons were treated to the Castro Theatre's legendary pre-film organ performance. Frameline also hosted two in-person screenings at the Roxie Theater

FRAMELINE TALKS

Frameline45 saw the largest talks series in the history of the festival. Throughout the festival, Frameline curated a series of exclusive talks supported by *Variety*. All conversations are archived and available to watch on Frameline's YouTube and Facebook channels. Notable inclusions included a conversation with

actor and activist **Wilson Cruz** and a **Raffy Ermac**, editor-in-chief of the LGBTQ+ youth-oriented entertainment website *Pride*; a panel on African American queer representation with **Clay Cane**, **Brittani Nichols**, **Elegance Bratton**, **Kat Blaque**, **Maisie Richardson Sellers**, and **Nathan Hale Williams**. *Variety's* Film & Media Reporter, **Angelique Jackson**, served as moderator; and a panel on youth on screen moderated by *IndieWire's* **Jude Dry**, and featuring **Jordan Seamon** (HBO's "We Are Who We Are"), **Daniel Barnz** (Co-creator of HBO Max's "Generation"), **Javicia Leslie** (CW's "Batwoman"), and **Crystal Moselle** (HBO's "Betty").

LOOKING AHEAD

Stay tuned for Frameline's Fall Showcase in November, as well as information on Frameline46.

FRAMELINE45 FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Frameline45 was made possible with generous support from Premier Partners **GILEAD SCIENCES, INC., BANK OF AMERICA, SHOWTIME®, SF PRIDE**, and **WARNERMEDIA**; Premier Airline **ALASKA AIRLINES**; Premiere Creative **TOMORROW PARTNERS**; and Premier Hotel **HILTON SAN FRANCISCO UNION SQUARE**. Additional support is provided by **ARNOLD & PORTER, BANK OF THE WEST, TiVo**, and **GIANTS ENTERPRISES**. Media Partners for Frameline45 include **VARIETY, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, PRIDE MEDIA, OUT**, and **THE ADVOCATE**.

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#AllKindsOfQueer

#FL45 #Frameline45

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Frameline's mission is to change the world through the power of queer cinema. As a media arts nonprofit, Frameline's integrated programs connect filmmakers and audiences in San Francisco and around the globe. Frameline provides critical funding for emerging LGBTQ+ filmmakers, reaches hundreds of thousands with a collection of over 250 films distributed worldwide, inspires thousands of students in schools across the nation with free films and curricula through Youth in Motion, and creates an international stage for the world's best LGBTQ+ film through the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival and additional year-round screenings and cinematic events. For more information on Frameline, visit www.frameline.org.