

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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THE 2022 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILMMAKER AWARD WINNERS

**Alex Lehmann's *Acidman* wins the
Jury Prize for Best Narrative Feature, and Amy Bandlien Storkel
and Bryan Storkel's *The Pez Outlaw* wins the Jury Prize for Best Documentary
Feature**

**Audience Award winners include Balbinka Korzeniowska's *Playing Through*
(Best Narrative Feature) and Eric Bendick's *Path of the Panther*
(Best Documentary Feature)**

**Johanna Putnam's *Shudderbugs* is a two-time winner,
taking the Indie Spirit Award and the Rising Star Award**

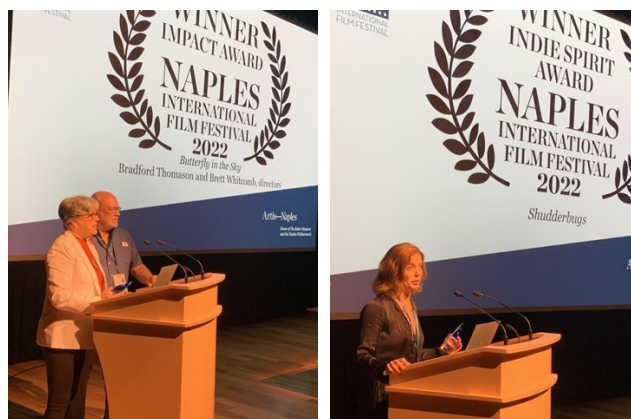


(L to R): Danny Mooney (*Disfluency*), Liz Cardenas (*Acidman*), Julia Rae, Balbinka Korzeniowska (*Playing Through*), Cecily and Larry Lancit (*Butterfly in the Sky*), Carlton Ward Jr. and Eric Bendick (*Path of the Panther*), and Johanna Putnam, Brennan Brooks, and Jamie Unruh (*Shudderbugs*).
(Photo by Wildman)

Naples, FL (November 1, 2022) — The 2022 Naples International Film Festival announced the filmmaker award winners during the Closing Night Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October

30. The jury prize for Best Narrative Feature (and a cash prize of \$2,500) went to Alex Lehmann's **Acidman**, and the jury prize for Best Documentary Feature (and \$2,500) was given to Amy Bandlien Storkel and Bryan Storkel's **The Pez Outlaw**. Audience Awards went to Balbinka Korzeniowska's **Playing Through** (Best Narrative Feature), Eric Bendick's **Path of the Panther** (Best Documentary Feature) and Diane Moore's **Conducting Life** (Best Short Film). Both feature films received cash prizes of \$1,000 and the short film winner received a cash prize of \$500.

Johanna Putnam's **Shudderbugs** took home two awards, with the film winning the Indie Spirit Award and Putnam also winning the Rising Star Award for her work as the director, writer and star of the film. Both awards also came with a \$250 cash prize.



Cecily and Larry Lancit (*Butterfly in the Sky*) and Johanna Putnam (*Shudderbugs*) accepting their awards (Photos by Wildman)

NIFF's trio of judges for the 2022 edition of the juried competition included journalists Caleb Hammond (*Moviemaker Magazine*), Tim Wassburg (*Inside Reel*) and producer/journalist Bart Weiss (PBS' *Frame of Mind*, *Fog of Truth* podcast).

Additional filmmaker awards selected by the festival programmers included Alysa Nahmias winning NIFF's coveted Focus on the Arts Award and \$1,500 for her film, **Art & Crimes by Crimes**; Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb's **Butterfly in the Sky** winning the Impact Award; Brett Wagner's **The Big Bend** selected as the Programmers' Choice honoree; and Anna Baumgarten's **Disfluency** taking Best First Feature honors. Each of these filmmakers also received a \$250 cash prize.

The awards ceremony brought an entertaining conclusion to an event that was lauded for offering the Naples community an opportunity to take a momentary break from the recovery efforts from the devastation brought on by Hurricane Ian to come and enjoy the art of film. The Naples International Film Festival has built a reputation for the forging of friendships and support among filmmakers during its celebratory weekend of screenings and events, and filmmaker after filmmaker—including two-time winner Johanna Putnam—spoke eloquently about that unique experience. This year also marked an impressive number of films produced and shot in Florida, and the appreciation those filmmakers felt from having been given that platform to show their work was also a consistent theme.

NIFF opened with a red-carpet celebration of **Butterfly in the Sky**, which included appearances by Naples' own Cecily and Larry Lancit, co-creators and producers of *Reading Rainbow*, the television program that was the subject of the feature documentary. Also in attendance was the show's co-creator Twila Liggett, who made the trip down from St. Petersburg for the event at Artis—Naples. In-person screenings and filmmaker panels followed, including screenings under the stars in Norris Garden on Artis—Naples' Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus and at Silverspot Cinema, which brought out audiences thrilled to see the films and meet the filmmakers. NIFF wrapped things up in entertaining and multidisciplinary style following the filmmaker awards with a special presentation of **Jurassic Park in Concert** featuring a live performance of John Williams' classic score from Steven Spielberg's iconic film by the Naples Philharmonic, conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly.



Art & Krimes by Krimes, Disfluency

The 2022 Naples International Film Festival Award Winners:

NIFF JURY AWARDS

Best Narrative Feature - \$2,500

Acidman

Director: Alex Lehmann

Best Documentary Feature - \$2,500

The Pez Outlaw

Directors: Amy Bandlien Storkel, Bryan Storkel

NIFF PROGRAMMERS' AWARDS

Focus on the Arts Award - \$1,500

Art & Krimes by Krimes

Director: Alys Nahmias

Impact Award - \$250

Butterfly in the Sky

Directors: Bradford Thomason, Brett Whitcomb

Indie Spirit Award - \$250

Shudderbugs

Director: Johanna Putnam

Programmers' Choice Award - \$250

The Big Bend

Director: Brett Wagner

Best First Feature - \$250

Disfluency

Director: Anna Baumgarten

Rising Star Award - \$250

Shudderbugs

Director/Screenwriter/Cast: Johanna Putnam

NIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS

Audience Award Winner, Narrative Feature - \$1,000

Playing Through

Director: Balbinka Korzeniowska

Audience Award Winner, Documentary Feature - \$1,000

Path of the Panther

Director: Eric Bendick

Audience Award Winner, Best Short Film - \$500

Conducting Life

Director: Diane Moore

We extend our deep gratitude to Festival Presenting Sponsors Dr. Richard Lublin and Christine Stahl Lublin. Generous support is also provided by the Collier County Tourist Development Council.

Sincere thanks to Opening Night Film and Party Sponsors Roger and Kathy Marino, Closing Night Event Sponsors Rick and Gayle Landuyt, Filmmaker Lounge Sponsors Stan and Sarann Kraushaar, and Theater Sponsors Damien M. Drab Sr., Bobbi and David Drobis, Vincent and Debra Maffeo and Entech. We are pleased to partner with Gulfshore Life and Naples Daily News as our exclusive Media Sponsors

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building, and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. Other podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival’s continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine’s “Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World,” and in 2022 celebrates its 14th year in the community.