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## **HEARTLAND FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES GRAND PRIZE WINNERS**

*"Hide Your Smiling Faces" wins \$50,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature, "The Network" wins \$50,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature, "The Amber Amulet" wins \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short and "Wrinkles of the City – La Havana" wins \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Short*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)** – This evening the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Heartland Film Festival (Oct. 17-26) has announced its four Grand Prize Award Winners at its Awards Ceremony at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

The black tie event was emceed by **Michael Grady**, Indiana Pacers/Indiana Fever emcee and ESPN Radio personality, and introduced by Indianapolis **Mayor Greg Ballard**. Special guest presenters included professional basketball player **Tamika Catchings** (Indiana Fever), radio personality **Scott Hoke** (WFYI) and **Janet Allen** (Indiana Repertory Theatre). Actor **Vanessa Hudgens** received the Pioneering Spirit: Rising Star Award for her role in "Gimme Shelter," the Festival's Opening Night Event film that held its world premiere on Thursday.

"Every year it's exciting to see amazing filmmaker talent from around the world right here in Indianapolis," said Tim Irwin, Heartland's artistic director. "Our Festival does an amazing job of connecting films to audiences and audiences to filmmakers. Heartland is proud to honor the very best in international, independent films that do more than just entertain. As evidenced by this year's winners, Heartland continues to grow artistically and redefine expectations of what inspiring film looks like."

Winners and nominees include:

### Narrative Feature (\$50,000 Grand Prize)

- **"Hide Your Smiling Faces"**
  - Directed by Daniel Patrick Carbone, accepted by Producer Jordan Bailey-Hoover
- "The Forgotten Kingdom"
- "Life Inside Out"
- "This is Where We Live"
- "When a Wolf Falls in Love with a Sheep"

### Documentary Features (\$50,000 Grand Prize)

- **"The Network"**
  - Directed by Eva Orner
- "Barzan"
- "Blood Brother"
- "The Genius of Marian"
- "Life According to Sam"

### Narrative Short (\$5,000 Grand Prize)

- **"The Amber Amulet"**
  - Directed by Matthew Moore
- "Liquidation"
- "Rhino Full Throttle"
- "Springtime"
- "The Sweatshop"

### Documentary Short (\$5,000 Grand Prize)

- **"Wrinkles of the City – La Havana"**
  - Directed by José Parlá and J.R., accepted by Rey Parlá
- "Atomic Dream"
- "The Circle"
- "Herd in Iceland"
- "How the Light Gets In"

### High School Film Competition (\$2,500 Grand Prize)

- **"Uprooted"**
  - Directed by Carol Nguyen
- "The Painted Girl"
- "Media Matters"
- "Paradigm"
- "Quicksand"

As an Academy Award®-qualifying festival within the Short Films category, Heartland is widely respected in the independent film community. Offering 282 film screenings, Q&A sessions with filmmakers, workshops and special events, Heartland gives fans the opportunity to see films from around the world and meet the filmmakers who craft them.

Visit [HeartlandFilmFestival.org](http://HeartlandFilmFestival.org) for tickets, press materials and additional information.

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### **About Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**

*Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a nonprofit arts organization, seeks to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Its flagship event, the Heartland Film Festival®, launched in 1991 and runs each October in Indianapolis, screening independent films from around the world. Each year, the Festival awards more than \$125,000 in cash prizes and presents its Festival Awards to the top-judged submissions. Heartland has awarded more than \$2.5 million to support filmmakers during the last 20 years. The organization's Truly Moving Picture Award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission. By bestowing this award seal to honored films, the award allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film's transformative power and appeal. Heartland is also dedicated to cultivating youth, and thus created the Heartland Institute to*

*provide innovative educational and outreach programs that enrich the minds and lives of youth and aspiring filmmakers. Heartland shares inspiring films year-round in the community through the Heartland Roadshow, bringing meaningful films across Indiana. For more information, visit [TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://TrulyMovingPictures.org).*