

“A SCARY MOVIE” AND “SACRED” WIN THE 31ST EDITION OF IT’S ALL TRUE

“Blackout Dreams” and “Olinda’s Golden Arches” won among the shorts; all four winners will have encore screenings on April 19th in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

It’s All True – International Documentary Film Festival announced this Saturday (18) the winners of its 31st edition. The films in the main competitions receive the It’s All True Trophy, created by Carlito Carvalhosa, and become eligible for Oscar consideration. Since 2018, **It’s All True** has been recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an Academy Award qualifying festival.

The top prize in the International Feature and Medium-Length Film Competition went to *A Scary Movie* (Spain/Portugal), by Brazilian director Sergio Oksman, based in Spain. In the film, he stays with his 12-year-old son in a Lisbon hotel reminiscent of the one in Stanley Kubrick’s classic *The Shining*. The film receives a prize of R\$ 12,000.

JURY STATEMENT

In this horror film, there are no monsters, only the distance between two worlds, between father and son. The father fears inheriting the ghosts of the past, while the son moves lightly, almost shadowless.

The jury awarded an honorable mention to debut filmmaker Jihan for how *My Father and Qaddafi* weaves together family and politics.

JURY STATEMENT

Through a daughter’s search for her father, we are led into the workings of power in a country marked by conflict.

Among the international shorts, the award went to *Blackout Dreams*, by Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, and Andrea Settembrini, about blackouts in Cuba. The film also receives R\$ 6,000.

JURY STATEMENT

A society worn down over time, and how to live with endless restrictions. The absence of electricity on the island becomes an expressive, cinematic tool.

In the same category, the jury awarded an honorable mention to the French film *If You Don't Like It, Look Away*, by debut director Margaux Fournier.

JURY STATEMENT

On the sand, under the open sky, irreverent retired women meet often, overflowing with a love of life. They speak without filters, sincere, direct, alive. A cinema of intimacy in which the body is political.

This year's International Competition jury was made up of producer, director, and cinematographer Heloisa Passos (*Eneida*, 2022), documentary filmmaker and producer Ricardo Casas (*El Padre de Gardel*, 2014), and filmmaker Vivian Ostrovsky, honored with a retrospective in this edition of **It's All True**.

São Paulo filmmaker Alice Riff won the Brazilian Competition for Feature and Medium-Length Films with *Sacred*, which follows the daily lives of teachers and staff at a public school in Diadema, in Greater São Paulo. The film receives a prize of R\$ 20,000.

JURY STATEMENT

"For affirming, with rare precision, a cinema in which politics is inscribed in form, gesture, and everyday relationships. Without resorting to artifice, the film sustains, from its title to its final shot, a confident, rigorous direction, deeply aware of its means. By choosing a narrative strategy grounded in listening,

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observation, and radical respect for its characters, it builds an experience in which the invisible becomes a tangible presence. Drawing on archival material that needs no explanation, the film unfolds in a spiral until it reaches a final long take of great power, carried by the children's voices. In this gesture, simple only in appearance, the film asserts itself as a work of rare integrity, in which aesthetic craft and political force are inseparable. And it reaffirms, with delicacy and rigor, a cinema in which invention, poetry, and struggle are inseparable."

Apopcalypse According to Baby, Rafael Saar's portrait of Baby do Brasil, received an honorable mention in the same category.

JURY STATEMENT

"For articulating, in a visceral and authentic way, the protagonist's personality and her performative persona, incorporating into the film's very form her strength, energy, and pulse. By evoking the memory of Brazilian popular music, the film builds a faithful, vibrant portrait that preserves the subject's originality while revealing rigorous research and careful craft. In its use of archival materials, the filmmaker's rigor, care, and deep respect are evident."

Pernambuco filmmaker Douglas Henrique's debut film, *Olinda's Golden Arches*, about the clash over the opening of a McDonald's in the city, won the award for Best Brazilian Short Film, with a prize of R\$ 6,000.

JURY STATEMENT

"For its irreverence and humor in shaping a playful narrative that surprises by reinventing archival material. By transforming it with freedom and invention, the film delivers a critique of imperialism that is both sharp and disarming, embracing without hesitation the popular, the cliché, and the contradictions of its own identity."

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In the same category, the jury also awarded honorable mentions to two films: *Film Copacabana*, by debut director Sofia Leão, and *Divino: His People Through His Lens*, directed by Clea Torres and Gilson Costta.

JURY STATEMENT

Film Copacabana

“For the boldness of its approach and its inventive use of sound as the backbone of the editing, weaving together affect and bodies to create a sensitive portrait of a multifaceted territory.”

Divino: His People Through His Lens

“For Divino’s singular presence on screen and for the way the film turns the act of filming into an act of memory and endurance. By incorporating the process itself into the narrative, the film offers a living reflection on images, time, and continuity.”

The Brazilian Competition jury was made up of documentary filmmaker and editor Carol Benjamin (*Fico te Devendo uma Carta Sobre o Brasil*, 2019), director Eryk Rocha (*Rocha que Voa*, 2002), and researcher and filmmaker Helena Tassara.

“The Brazilian jury highlights the strength and vitality of the films in competition in the 2026 lineup, across features and shorts. Taken together, the works paint a vibrant picture of contemporary Brazilian documentary, where forms and narratives are reinvented with rigor, freedom, and risk. These are films marked by bold authorial voices that, through a plurality of perspectives, affirm the creative power of a cinema in constant transformation. From this field of tensions emerges a cinema that is multiple, unruly, and deeply committed to its time,” they wrote in announcing the winners.

The **31st edition of It's All True – International Documentary Film Festival** is sponsored by Itaú, in partnership with Sesc-SP, with cultural support from Spcine, Galo

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da Manhã, Fundação Itaú, and Itaú Cultural. The festival is produced by the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Culture, via the Rouanet Law, and by the Government of the State of São Paulo, through the Secretariat of Culture, Economy and Creative Industries.

It's All True 2026 presented 75 films from 25 countries, with free screenings at four venues in São Paulo and three in Rio de Janeiro. An exclusive streaming program on **Itaú Cultural Play** will feature, from April 20th to May 5th, 10 highlights from the short films in this 31st edition.

The 2026 retrospective was dedicated to the 80th birthday of filmmaker Vivian Ostrovsky (born in New York, raised in Rio de Janeiro, and trained in Paris). Curated by filmmaker and researcher Fernanda Pessoa, it presented 14 films spanning four decades, with images shot in more than ten countries. The program also included a new film about Vivian directed by Fernanda.

The festival also paid tribute to five documentary filmmakers: Jean-Claude Bernardet, with a screening of *About the 60s* (2000); Luiz Ferraz and Rubens Crispim Jr., with *In the Name of the Game* (2025); Silvio Da-Rin, with *Operation 115* (2018); and Silvio Tendler, with *The JK Years – A Political Trajectory* (1980).

Parallel Awards

The winners of the parallel awards were also announced at the ceremony:

Canal Brasil Short Film Award

R\$ 15,000 and the Canal Brasil Trophy for Best Documentary in the Brazilian Competition: Short Films

Winner: *Olinda's Golden Arches*, by Douglas Henrique

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Mistika Award

R\$ 15,000 in image or sound post-production services, valid for one year, for Best Documentary in the Brazilian Competition: Short Films

Winner: *Olinda's Golden Arches*, by Douglas Henrique

edt. Award (Associação de Profissionais de Edição Audiovisual)

edt. Trophy for Best Editing in the Brazilian Competition: Short Films and the Brazilian Competition: Feature or Medium-Length Films

Winners: *Olinda's Golden Arches*, edited by Douglas Henrique, and *Apocalypse According to Baby*, edited by Claudio Tammela and Rafael Saar, with assistant editing by Mayara Proença and Vinícius Medeiros

Maria Rita Galvão Award PAVIC - Pesquisadores de Audiovisual, Iconografia e Conteúdo, ABPA - Associação Brasileira de Preservação Audiovisual and REPIA - Rede de Pesquisa de Imagens de Arquivo

R\$ 6,000 (PAVIC / Abrolhos Filmes) and LTO recording (ABPA / REPIA / Museu da Pessoa) for Best Research in the Brazilian Competition: Feature or Medium-Length Films

Winner: *Apocalypse According to Baby*, directed and researched by Rafael Saar

APACI Award (Associação Paulista de Cineastas)

APACI Trophy for Best Directing in the Brazilian Competition: Short Films and the Brazilian Competition: Feature or Medium-Length Films

Winners: Douglas Henrique's *Olinda's Golden Arches*, and Alice Riff's *Sacred*

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SERVICE

31st It's All True - International Documentary Film Festival

Screenings of Winning Films:

São Paulo

Sunday, April 19

4pm

Blackout Dreams

Dir. Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, Andrea Settembrini

Cuba, Italy; 20'; 2025

A Scary Movie

Dir. Sergio Oksman

Spain, Portugal; 72'; 2025

6pm

Olinda's Golden Arches

Dir. Douglas Henrique

Brazil; 24'; 2025

Sacred

Dir. Alice Riff

Brazil; 90'; 2026

CINEMATECA BRASILEIRA

Sala Grande Otelo - 208 seats

Largo Senador Raul Cardoso, 207, Vila Clementino

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Rio de Janeiro

Sunday, April 19

3pm

Blackout Dreams

Dir. Gabriele Licchelli, Francesco Lorusso, Andrea Settembrini
Cuba, Italy; 20'; 2025

A Scary Movie

Dir. Sergio Oksman
Spain, Portugal; 72'; 2025

17h30

Olinda's Golden Arches

Dir. Douglas Henrique
Brazil; 24'; 2025

Sacred

Dir. Alice Riff
Brazil; 90'; 2026

ESTAÇÃO NET RIO

Sala 5 - 107 seats
Rua Voluntários da Pátria, 35, Botafogo

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