



13TH ANNUAL CHELSEA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2025 INCUBATOR FINALISTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10th, 2025

Chelsea, NY — The 13th Annual Edition of Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) is releasing the 2025 Incubator Finalists selected at this year's edition.

The 2025 Chelsea Film Festival Screenwriting Incubator program is a highly selective initiative dedicated to offering 10 New York-based BIPOC directors the opportunity to have their films produced by the Chelsea Film Festival.

The incubator supports the cohort through a 9-month process, with screenwriting and producing mentorship sessions, and state-of-the-art equipment sponsored by AbelCine. Filmmakers receive guidance through pre-production and production, as well as a cash grant for post-production.

Two Short Films (NICE JEWISH GIRL Directed by Dana Schneider and THE THINGS WE CARRY Directed by Kevin Edwin) will receive a guaranteed slot in the 2025 Official Lineup to premiere their film.

Submissions for the 2026 incubator program opened August 1st via FilmFreeway and is accepting applications from all NY-based BIPOC filmmakers.

The Official List of Films is below, which also includes the Run Time, Genre, Country of Origin and Director(s).

As Ingrid Jean-Baptiste, Founder of The Chelsea Film Festival, stated: **"Making the World a Better Place by Giving a Voice to the Unheard."**

CFF will hold its thirteenth edition both in-person at **Regal Theatres 14th St.** October 16-20 (in-person) and online on FilmFestival+ (<https://filmfestivalplus.com>, also accessible through AppleTV) from October 16-31, 2025.

DANA SCHNEIDER (BIO)

is a Yemenite-Jewish American filmmaker, writer, and producer. Born in New York, she has spent her life and career working in both the United States and Israel. As a filmmaker, she has focused her work on telling stories from underrepresented communities, most recently drawing inspiration from her own experiences as a Mizrahi woman in the United States. Human connection and storytelling have been at the heart of her journey from the beginning, and she is committed to creating a more inclusive world through visual and narrative connection.

NICE JEWISH GIRL (SYNOPSIS)

The film follows Danielle, a Mizrahi Jewish actress living in New York struggling to navigate her identity through the lens of her environment. How does identity play into her own pursuit of happiness and will it

dictate her future? These challenges ultimately lead her to make a decision that could change the trajectory of her life and relocate altogether.

KYVON EDWIN (BIO)

is an award-winning Saint Lucian Director, Producer, Writer, and Actor based in New York. A graduate of the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute, his work has screened at top festivals including the American Black Film Festival, Essence Film Festival, and Cannes. He founded Roots Productions to spotlight stories from the West Indian diaspora; its debut, *Lettre La*, premiered at Chelsea Film Festival to critical acclaim. Kyvon trained at Bushwick Film Institute and is a member of the Black TV & Film Collective. He is represented by Artists & Representatives and Tash Moseley Management.

THE THINGS WE CARRY (SYNOPSIS)

A rising cricket prodigy forgoes his dreams and sets out to bring peace in his home from the clutches of his toxic father.

[Bios and photos are available here.](#)

About Chelsea Film Festival

CFF was founded by actresses Ingrid & Sonia Jean-Baptiste to give voices to the unheard by providing a platform to independent films and discovering new talents.

Chelsea Film Festival Board of Directors consists of renowned industry insiders: Paul Calderon, Elizabeth Kemp, Pascal Chemin and John Patrick Shanley.

The Advisory Board includes Aaron Pierce, Bruno Chatelin, Kiki Lambden-Stout, Lawrence M. Kaye Michael Ruotolo,

Our Mission: Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) - 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization - is an international film festival, enlightening the work of emerging filmmakers, producers, and actors. It offers a wide range of films, such as shorts, documentaries, and feature-length pieces. It empowers the work of risk-taking storytellers and remains committed to its mission to discover and develop independent artists and audiences around the world.

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