

RTS Student Television Awards 2019 – Nomination Citations

Undergraduate Animation

The jury felt there were blown away by the outstanding films and selecting the winner was a difficult. There were some particularly impressive undergraduate films which for first films were incredible.

Anna: This immersive and touching film about Dementia. The jury were blown away strong production design, high production values and rich textures. The cinematography was purposeful and motivated.

Earthly Delights: The jury loved the originality of this stylised and sensual film. Being an allegory about mother nature it opened up a wider debate about ecology with the jury. Delights conveyed serious issues using the comedic touch that made us all laugh out loud.

Towels: This punchy film sneaked up on the jury with its delicious slow pace and fast paced confrontation. We loved the strong graphic style. music and sound effects. The filmmakers skilfully conveyed an array of emotions even though the characters didn't have features to create a memorable experience.

Postgraduate Animation

Desire Line: This highly original film explores ideas around AI using stylish graphics. The fresh narrative is fast paced and engaging telling its story without characters which is a challenge which the film excels at.

Good Intentions: In this big story there was lots of details which made the film perfect for repeated viewing. The cinematic piece really didn't feel like was 8 minutes long as this subtly told story skipped by.

Music and Clowns: The jury were moved by this fascinating snapshot of a family. The filmmakers had laid themselves bare and created an honest and genuinely affecting film.

Undergraduate Comedy and Entertainment

Chopsticks!!: The Jury was impressed by the cinematography and direction. Well crafted, compelling fight scenes. All in all an extremely slick production with a good story, comedy timing and quirky characters.

Meatball: This made us all laugh. It was very funny, and the strong lead actor made the whole thing for us. We predict a bright future for him and everyone attached to this horror film.

Delicious Love: Unanimous in its impact on the whole jury. It was distinctive, original, and a memorable visual treat with its use of graphics, colour, and set. Loved the narration too. Congratulations.

Postgraduate Comedy and Entertainment

Control: Brilliantly ambitious in its execution, this felt like we were watching a fully formed format on television. Each set up went the extra mile and we were beyond impressed with the multiple locations and game play.

Pre-Occupation: We were hooked in by the internship story, with a fabulous leading actor who lit up the screen from the start. In the mix of the other submissions it stood out with the subject matter.

Uncommon: Brilliant, mortality tale for Christmas. The Jury loved the use of a rhyming narration and the friendship which was at the centre of the storytelling. Warm, well shot and comic timing was excellent in the writing and the acting.

Undergraduate Drama

Backwater: This film takes a big topic but cleverly delivers it in a small and sensitive way. Very well directed with a structure that allows the conflict between its characters to play out sensitively and without judgement. This film was confident, beautifully shot, well acted and really delivered on its promise.

Just Josie: A charming feel good film with a good contrast of characters that sends a strong and positive message to celebrate individuality. With a strong narrative structure and clever set design allowing the delightful low tech aliens to perfectly find their way into the story. If you live the way you want to live and keep true to your beliefs rewards will come your way.

What Separates Us From The Beasts: The film cleverly managed to tell a story about cancer without being a cancer story. Like a love letter to Beauty and the Beast and with strong performances, this multi layered piece celebrates the power of telling stories and passing stories on. It felt all departments worked towards the same goal, with wonderful production design and locations the film really delivered on its message.

Postgraduate Drama

Dead Birds: *Dead Birds* is an arresting film from the very first shot. With visual flair, a bold script balancing comedy and horror and fantastic characterisation and performances - this short really stood out for the panel.

Smoked Mackerel: *Smoked Mackerel* is a terrific piece of grounded realist filmmaking, making full use of the Irish setting and language, which gives it an immersive sense of place. The panel praised this subtle coming of age film for its fantastic young performances and atmosphere.

The Pilot: *The Pilot* is such a bold idea, incredibly well executed. The panel were entertained – and genuinely scared – by the filmmaker’s take on the genre. Great performances, a building sense of tension and interesting camerawork made this an impressive piece of work on a limited budget.

Undergraduate Factual

Nick Reynolds: The Final Portrait: Had the jurors gripped from the start. It was a layered film that had so much to say about death and how we view the subject matter. Nick is a great documentary character and the film left us wanting more. Great music.

Mathew vs Pritchard: This film explored male themes that we don’t often see on TV. A high end production with stunning opening shots. This could have been a taster tape for a real commission. Great casting. Moving, horrific and with bits that made me laugh out loud.

The Bad Guy: Emotionally put together. The teasing of the narrative was very sophisticated. It was beautifully cut and I loved the music. There were surprises and layers in the story that brought tears to my eyes.

Postgraduate Factual

Fake News Fairytale: A highly original film that tells a topical urban horror story with insight, wit and panache.

Some of These Days: A very touching film which takes a personal love story, sprinkled with interesting metaphors and wry humour, to throw a light on dark times.

We are All Here: A moving story, beautifully told, that resonates by using a tragic event to start a very important conversation.

Undergraduate News

A Testing Choice for Down's Syndrome: Judges were impressed with Jennifer's entry. They thought it was an ambitious story with a strong editorial narrative. Case studies were dealt with sensitively and displayed a high level of emotional intelligence.

At Arm's Length: Judges loved the central character of this film. His story was told in an engaging and fun way. Interviews were handled well and the entry had strong picture sequences especially at the climbing wall.

Horse Racing's Gender Divide: The Final Hurdle: Judges thought this was a fresh look at the role of women in sport. Good voices that were given time to breath. The entry was technically accomplished in its production and Judges had particular praise for the sequences shot out on the gallops.

Postgraduate News

Special Needs: Failure to Educate: Judges' were full of praise for this entry - a great story told in an interesting way. A combination of good access and strong case studies made for a story that told the audience new things.

There's Something in the Water: The judges loved Grace's entry. A well-produced package that delivered for its target audience – complex science told in an engaging way. Grace succeeded in not dumbing down her journalism. The real highlight was Kurt the Crab – a simple idea and well executed.

Twnel y Rhondda - The Rhondda Tunnel: A good local story told in an engaging and refreshing way. Good use of the humble vox pop too. Judges were impressed with Jared's commitment to the story revealed in his piece to camera descending into the tunnel.

Undergraduate Short Form

I Love Tennis: Writing was poetic with a rhythmic coherence

Nose: Imaginative, personally engaging and a lovely mix of media

Speak to Her: Touching, simple and compelling

Postgraduate Short Form

A Missing Beat: Managed to convey so much in so little time and must be applauded for its attempt and making connections

Hold Still: Simple, stunning and fantastically executed in a single shot

The Pool: Visually distinctive and left you thinking a long time after.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Camerawork

Backwater: This film grabbed you for the opening shot, the camerawork in this film was incredibly accomplished. Natural and well lit, you could have been watching work done by a professional.

Chopsticks!: Fun and inspired. This was filmmaking shot to the highest level.

Speak to Her: The strong sharp visuals in this film were very impressive and perfectly captivated the viewer.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Editing

Backwater: Fantastic timing, an impressive edit helped to tell this story in the best way possible. Nailed it.

Chopsticks!: Snappy edits, which considering the impressive choreography, was not mean feat. Done to very high standard, the edit made this film look Tarantino-esque!

Speak to Her: This short film was incredibly well put together, great pacing and technically very accomplished.

Undergraduate Craft Skills - Production Design

Backwater: Great locations and very clever set designs and dressing. A complete piece made even more impressive by the design.

Delicious Love: So bright and so clever, the look and design of this film were simply outstanding.

Just Josie: The look of any film is crucial to the story telling and the design in this film really helped bring the story to life.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Sound

Chopsticks!: Very impressive sound design in this film richly complimented the striking visuals.

Delicious Love: Highly imaginative, this very full dub felt just right and spot on. The sound perfectly complimented the story.

What Separates us from the Beasts: Multi-layered and well mixed, technically very accomplished and very impressive use of location sound, this was done by a very impressive practitioner.

Undergraduate Craft Skills – Writing

Anna: A very well done, self-contained short film highlighted by this very tight script.

Backwater: Poignant, real, brilliant. These are just a few adjectives to describe such a moving film. An incredibly accomplished script allowed these strong performances to come to love.

Speak to Her: A beautiful story, very well told.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Camerawork

Dead Birds: An incredibly impressive film, filled with stand-out moments and featuring a wide range of outstanding shots, all shot by a very skilled practitioner.

Fake News Fairytale: Featuring a wide range of different camera techniques, this film was very well made and shot, featuring some great effects.

some of these days: This was a beautifully shot film by a filmmaker with a great eye for detail and the ability to capture tender and lovely moments in a quirky manner, which all combined to make this a lovely piece of work.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Editing

Dead Birds: Great pacing, impressive layering and beautiful attention to detail.

Smoked Mackerel: A very professional edit really helped to bring this story to life.

some of these days: The edit for this film really helped bring to the fore the heart in this story.

Postgraduate Craft Skills - Production Design

Control: An impressive use of graphics and incredible design helped make this a very professionally looking film.

Dead Birds: The design in this film was very well thought out and executed.

A Missing Beat: The look of any film is so important and the beautiful design in this film is a testament to the skills and eye of the designer.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Sound

A Missing Beat: The beautiful soundscape at the beginning of the film really helped to draw the viewer in.

Dead Birds: Fantastic sound design which was well executed, the dub both complimented and enhanced the visuals and dramatic sections.

some of these days: Without this outstanding sound design, this film about jazz and dictators could have not been made.

Postgraduate Craft Skills – Writing

Dead Birds: A staggering and ambitious film was the end result of this outstanding script.

Smoked Mackerel: An excellent script is just the beginning for this outstanding film.

Fake News Fairytale: Very well written with a great sense of humour. This highly polished script made this a truly intriguing film.