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| **For Immediate Release** |

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| **Out Film CT Announces Winners of 34th Annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival Jury and Audience Awards** |

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| Still from *Summer of '85,*winner of the 2021 Audience Award for Best Feature Film for the 34th Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival. |

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| Still from *Sheer Qorma*, winner of the 2021 Audience Award for Best Short Film for the 34th Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival. |

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| Still from *Sublet*, winner of the 2021 Jury Award for Best Feature Film for the 34th Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival. |

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| **June 30, 2021/Hartford, CT... Out Film CT** recently wrapped the **34th Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival,**a hybrid festival of features and short films presented both in-person screenings at the historic Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College in Hartford and via virtual streaming. Already narrowed down from over 500 submissions, audiences and the jury had the opportunity to view and vote on over 100 full-length films and shorts.As in previous years, audience members were asked to rate their enjoyment of the films they watched, but this year the **Audience Award** results come from a combination of paper voting at the cinema and electronic balloting online. Festival Co-Director **Jaime Ortega** states, "By offering a hybrid format, we were able to allow audiences to comfortably enjoy films in a theatre again as well as at home. We are thrilled with the audience response and are delighted to share the results of their voting as well as the festival jury's selections as the best of the festival."Out Film CT now proudly announces the films honored with **2021** **Audience and Jury Awards**. Filmmakers will share $3,500 in prize money, which is meant to assist them with the funding of their future projects. This year's honorees showcased the rich diversity of our community. Festival Co-Director **Shane Engstrom**states, "Five out of the six Audience and Jury Best Film selections went to films from outside the United States. It's a testament to the importance and awareness of the Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival that we received so many strong international submissions this year, movies from over 30 countries spanning 6 continents."**Audience Award - Best Feature: *Summer of 85 (Été 85)***When Alexis capsizes off the coast of France, David comes to the rescue and opens his eyes to a new horizon of friendship, art and sexual bliss.Runner Up: *Sublet***Audience Award - Best Documentary: *No Ordinary Man***In this brilliantly crafted documentary, the legacy of American jazz musician and trans icon Billy Tipton is brought to life by a diverse group of contemporary transgender artists. Tipton gained musical fame in the 1940s and 50s, but his transgender identity was not revealed publicly until after his death in 1989.Runner Up: *P.S. Burn This Letter Please***Audience Award - Best Short Film: *Sheer Qorma*** *Sheer Qorma* is a story of belonging and acceptance, identity and family told through courageous, queer women and non-binary characters who choose to embrace love that exists beyond their personal beliefs and social moralities.Runner Up: *I Know Her**﻿*Honorable Mention: God's Daughter DancesOut Film CT's panel of jurors, having seen all of the films presented, have selected the following films for the**2021 Jury Awards:****Jury Award – Feature Film: *Sublet***This story about two very different people from very different worlds having a profound effect on one another is a tonic for our time. Sublet checks all the boxes for a brilliant film: an intelligent script that deftly weaves between comedy and drama, outstanding acting, nuanced character development, and emotional impact. It’s a crowd pleaser with substance.**Jury Special Mention – Feature Film: *Summer of 85***This beautifully photographed, taut thriller went well beyond the typical coming-of-age story to create a captivating world of love, obsession, and betrayal.**Jury Award – Documentary: *P.S. Burn This Letter Please***An overlooked yet important piece of LGBTQ history is brought to life in a unique and imaginative way. The voices of our past recreate a fascinating world that is long gone and almost lost to the ages.**Jury Award – Short Film: *The Night Train***Mostly wordless, this compact masterpiece uses stunning cinematography, knowing glances and indelible visual images to tell an exquisitely sensual story.**Rising Star Award: Patricia Vidal Delgado (*La Leyenda Negra*)**The inaugural Rising Star Award, in memory of recently deceased festival volunteer and supporter Pam Connelly, highlights and rewards new talent in the independent film industry. This gritty and gripping story about an undocumented teen’s life on the edge demonstrates that Delgado is a filmmaker on the rise. We look forward to seeing what lies ahead for this gifted storyteller.**Director's Award: Wes Hurley (*Potato Dreams of America*)**Wes Hurley brought a unique perspective and fresh vision to his first feature film, demonstrating his ability to transform a serious, autobiographical story into a comic masterpiece. For more information about Out Film CT's monthly screenings and next year's festival, visit [**OutFilmCT.org**](http://www.outfilmct.org/)**.****About Out Film CT**Out Film CT’s mission is to entertain, educate and promote community through the exhibition of LGBTQ film. A volunteer, nonprofit cultural organization, Out Film CT is dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBTQ cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminating in the nine-day Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival. Connecticut’s largest LGBTQ cultural event holds a special place in our state’s cultural landscape, bringing the community together to introduce, celebrate and rediscover the ideas and values that make the LGBTQ community unique. Out Film CT also presents the monthly Queer Thursdays film series in partnership with Cinestudio, usually shown on the second Thursday of each month.### |

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