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With the conclusion of the festival, which welcomed hundreds of attendees from throughout the state and beyond, Out Film CT is proud to announce the films honored with **Audience and Jury Awards**.  After each film, audience members had the opportunity to rate their enjoyment of the feature film or full-length documentary. Audience ballots were tallied and the highest-rated films received the **Audience Awards**. This year's honorees have a distinctly international feel, highlighting the global reach of the Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival.  **Audience Award - Best Feature**   * **Winner: *Tell It to the Bees* (U.K.)** * Runner Up: *The Shiny Shrimps* (France) * Special Mention: *Erik & Erika*(Austria)   *Tell it to the Bees* is a lush tale of forbidden lesbian love, set against a backdrop of social unrest in small-town, post-World War II Great Britain, with a parallel story about a young boy who tells his secrets to a colony of bees while trying to make sense of the crazy world around him. It stars Oscar-winning actress Anna Paquin.  **Audience Award - Best Documentary Feature**   * **Winner: *Gay Chorus Deep South*(U.S.)** * Runner Up: *Dykes, Camera, Action!*(U.S.)   *Gay Chorus Deep South*follows the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus as it tours the American Deep South to try to set the record straight about LGBTQ people after the divisive 2016 presidential election. It’s a celebration of the power of music to unite us, and an unflinching look at the influence religion has in contemporary American society.  Out Film CT's panel of jurors, having seen all of the films presented, has selected the following films for the 2019 **Jury Awards:**  **Jury Award - Best Feature**   * **Winner: *Canary* (South Africa)** * Special Mention: *Socrates* (Brazil)   The Jury selected *Canary (Kanarie)*because it is challenging, complex, thought-provoking and unrelenting to the end. It is a prime example of how sophisticated LGBTQ films have become. In this coming-of-age drama, set in South Africa in 1986, Johan is called up for compulsory military service at the age of 18. After he is accepted into the military choir, the Canaries, Johan falls in love with a choir mate. As his life starts to unravel, he begins to question everything about himself and his world, including religion and patriotism.  A Special Mention was awarded to *Socrates*for the beautiful and heartbreaking performance of its young star, an untrained actor fresh from the streets of São Paulo, Brazil.  **Jury Award - Best Doc**   * **Winner: *Gay Chorus Deep South*(U.S.)**   The Jury selected *Gay Chorus Deep South*because it told an important, meaningful and contemporary story while brilliantly weaving together the experiences of chorus members and their families.  **Jury Award - Best Short**   * **Winner: *The Serenade (La Seranata)* (U.S.)** * Runner Up: *Malik*(France) * Special Mention: *Time & Again*(U.K.)   The Jury selected *The Serenade*because it shows how the love, acceptance and complete devotion of understanding parents can make a huge difference in the self-esteem of a young child. In this charming short film*,*two young Mexican American parents are caught off guard when their son wants to find a special song to serenade the little boy he loves.  Festival Director Shane Engstrom named *Tell It to the Bees*director **Annabel Jankel** as the winner of this year's **Director’s Award**. Engstrom cited the film’s quality and overall impact, as evidenced by its exceptionally high audience score, as well as Jankel’s thoughtful responses during the post-screening Q&A session that left a lasting impression on the audience.  The Festival will return next year for a sensational 33rd season, **May 29 – June 6, 2020.**  **Out Film CT**,which organizes the Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival,is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBTQ cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminating in the nine-day Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival. Connecticut's longest-running film festival 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 LGBT community unique. Out Film CT also presents the Queer Thursdays Cinema series, with screenings at Cinestudio on the second Thursday of the month. [www.outfilmct.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wlJYrd_Y-gfxwtem785UU84sFy0H2bDHn-5CVPW-DrrV66MqmT1Nfbr13V_C8W1XVU-1Yx3dvEjV1Ldy3N8qgIcS-CpNoOBLUXOeAcgtEv75pWlhlFxN3oWt-BZ4x2NsGtxE7e6BIWykrm9C9yp8uQ==&c=81SCRt3LhzhOGIhjRzRYn8eExpO9C5TPdQf6RqUWNRURIRLicJkfpw==&ch=jY93xEfdBwydGgu6wvIENWy2z0QgtAXJW2yALSBoTkeCW8fjZqNncg==)  ### | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | BuzzEngine | 109 Talcott Road | (860) 953-0444| [Buzz-Engine.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wlJYrd_Y-gfxwtem785UU84sFy0H2bDHn-5CVPW-DrrV66MqmT1Nffa4a-I4rrHS0fDimtee7iYRCQS52NS_USNSFRPZSEqOxhB1fve8rVEABslYZPsQ44hpdlk10ZFDvbMB48ULaRyKweU07ON7ZQ==&c=81SCRt3LhzhOGIhjRzRYn8eExpO9C5TPdQf6RqUWNRURIRLicJkfpw==&ch=jY93xEfdBwydGgu6wvIENWy2z0QgtAXJW2yALSBoTkeCW8fjZqNncg==) | | | | |