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Press Contact: Joanna White-Oldham

Tel: (929) 503-8923

Email: [info@centerforactivelearning.org](mailto:info@centerforactivelearning.org)

## *FIRST ANNUAL MOM FILM FEST ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL AWARDEES*



## *WINNERS RECEIVE FREE YEAR OF VIMEO PRO AND SMALL CASH AWARD PROVIDED BY FESTIVAL*

New York City, August 2020 – [Making Our Movies Film Festival \(MOM Film Fest\)](#) announces the list of award winners for the 2020 edition of its first annual online film festival. This year's lineup included 38 films and series that featured a mom in a leadership position on each project. The festival began on Friday, August 14th and ended on Tuesday, August 18th. The awards ceremony was held on [Instagram Live](#) on Monday, August 24th.

[Vimeo](#) will provide winning filmmakers each a free one year Vimeo Pro subscription, and winners will split a 30% pool of monies raised. Viewers who voted for The Audience Choice Award were entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of two free breast pumps from [Medela](#), one valued at over \$400 and the other valued at over \$200.

The MOM Film Fest Judges were Anna Sang Park, Squeaky Moore, Rosalyn Coleman, Tracy Sayre, Jamie Gordon, and Miranda Plant.

And the 2020 MOM Film Fest winners are:

Best Short Film - Yolonda Johnson-Young for the documentary film *Finding Elijah*

Best Director - Alexandra Torterotot for the film *The Mermaid's Journey*

Best Series - Christina Wren for the series *Hicksters*

Best Mom-themed - Karisa Bruin for the film *Labor Relations*

Best Social Justice - Pearl Gluck for the film *Junior*

Best Story - Jamie Lou for the film *Lady Lazarus*

Audience Choice Award - Tamioka Briscoe for the film *And One*

"It was amazing to have a hand in giving these moms the recognition they deserve for creating such great work. Many of the winning projects centered around motherhood and that is a theme we need to see more of on screen as these stories shed light on a range of topics including maternity leave, postpartum depression, pregnancy, love, and loss. We cannot wait to see what types of films we will receive next year when we open our submissions in March 2021," said Tonya McCornell, Founder of MOM Film Fest.

"There's something about that connection that we share as women and as mothers that no one else can really appreciate, so supporting each other is really important. And there has been so much support here with filmmakers supporting each other on social media, watching each other's films, giving each other compliments, and encouraging each other. It's the community Tonya was talking about building and it's awesome to see it unfold," said Joanna White-Oldham, Founder of The Center for Active Learning and Co-Founder of MOM Film Fest.

Connect with us @MOMFilmFest on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

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#### About MOM Film Fest

Fiscally sponsored by [The Center for Active Learning](#), MOM Film Fest is an exciting initiative dedicated to elevating and celebrating filmmakers who are mothers taking on two enormous tasks at the same time - making movies and raising kids. Projects in the festival are narrative or documentary short films and series that feature moms in leadership positions. Award categories are Best Short Film, Best Series, Best Director, Best Mom-themed Project, Best Social Justice Project, and Audience Choice.

#### About CAL

The Center for Active Learning (CAL) is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in Brooklyn, New York with the mission to provide enriching educational experiences for adults at low to no cost. CAL provides community workshops, health seminars, and also produces informational events for creatives. All activities are founded in active learning methodologies which encourage learner engagement, and afford the learner the opportunity to process information from their own cultural and experiential perspectives. For more information about upcoming initiatives, workshops, and events, visit: [centerforactivelearning.org](http://centerforactivelearning.org). For press inquiries, please contact [info@centerforactivelearning.org](mailto:info@centerforactivelearning.org).