



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The 12th Annual BronzeLens Virtual Experience Presents 2021 “Best of Festival” Winners

ATLANTA – August 26, 2021 – The 12th BronzeLens Film Festival (BronzeLens) culminated with nine filmmakers and two actors receiving top honors in the festival’s competitive categories. Special tributes were given to recipients of both the Founders Award and Trailblazer Award. The six-day festival, presented for the second year virtually, wrapped its annual event of multifaceted Powerhouse panels, workshops and demos by honoring the Best of Festival winners.

“As we bring to a close the 12th year of BronzeLens, it is with great pleasure that we salute these talented storytellers, actors and special honorees for their authentic and diverse works and accomplishments in the film industry,” said Kathleen Bertrand, founder and executive producer BronzeLens Film Festival. The positive response from this year’s BronzeLens is a testament to the wealth of extraordinary stories from various parts of the world, waiting to be shared and that despite the challenges of the pandemic, we are triumphant.”

This year the festival presented two special awards to honor the accomplishments of two distinguished professionals who have made countless contributions to the entertainment industry. The Founder’s Award was presented to Tia Powell, publisher of OZ Magazine; the Festival’s Trailblazer Award winner was Madeline Anderson, award-winning documentary filmmaker/producer director/film editor/educator.

BronzeLens’ 2012 lineup presented a record 180 official selections with 63 world premieres, 15 from returning filmmakers from 13 countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Ireland, India, Israel, Ghana, the Netherland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Americas.

The 2021 list of BronzeLens winners including, Features, Documentaries, International Films, Shorts, Student Films, Webisodes, Music Video Best Actress and Actor are listed below.

Roads to Olympia – Director: Ramazan Nanayev; Producer: Ramazan Nanayev, Elise Sievert, Yanal Kassay, Eline Porto

BEST FEATURE

Queen of the Morning Calm - Director: Gloria Ui Young Kim; Producer: Gloria Ui Young Kim

BEST DOCUMENTARY

2020 The Year of the Nurse – Director: Robyn Jones; Producer: Robyn Jones, William Roebuck,

BEST SHORT

Al-Sit – Director: Suzannah Mirghani; Producer: Suzannah Mirghani, Eiman Mirghani

BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Continuing a Legacy – Director: Elizabeth Bayne; Producer: Elizabeth Bayne

BEST REEL SOUTH SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Wonderfully Made – Director: Benita Ozoude; Producer: Benita Ozoude

BEST WEB SERIES

The Bottom – Director: Supadope; Producer: Marcus Munroe, Lem Collins, Karon Joseph Riley, Travis Love

Hunter 1 & 2 – Director: Kelvin Owens; Producer: Kai Turé, Tiffany Turé, Elliott Turé

BEST STUDENT FILM

My Own Mecca – Director: Alba Roland Mejia; Producer: Maddy Graves, Monica Castro

BEST MUSIC/DANCE VIDEO

META – Director: Danielle Swatzie, Kamryn Harris; Producer: True Colors Theatre Company

BEST ACTOR

Antonio Carlos – Roads to Olympia

BEST ACTRESS:

Nikki Lynette Get Out Alive

About Madeline Anderson

Madeline Anderson is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, producer, director, film editor and educator. She learned the technical skills of filmmaking while working in the industry. An important part of her training was obtained while working at Ricky Leacock's production company. Leacock, a world-famous documentary filmmaker, was Anderson's mentor when she directed her first film *Integration Report 1* in 1960.

Anderson adopted a method of filmmaking which combined footage shot on location during the time of the incidences with newsreel footage to tell the story. This technique, which was dictated by economy and time, became the distinctive style of her filmmaking. With the completion of *Integration Report 1*, Anderson

became the first African American woman born in the United States to produce and direct a 20-minute 16-millimeter sync sound documentary film.

After working with Shirley Clarke on *The Cool World*, Anderson was finally admitted into the film editor's union after a bitter fight. She then became the first African American to work as a staff writer editor for NET (now WNET) Productions and later worked as a film editor on the original "Black Journal" series. She left *Black Journal* to direct and edit *I Am Somebody*, the film she is most recognized for.

Anderson has also made films for children while working at the Children's Television Workshop (CTW) and for the PBS series "Infinity Factory" on which she also served as the executive producer.

About Tia Powell

For 30 years, Tia Powell has been a central and instrumental figure in Georgia's thriving film and television production industry.

Powell began her career in 1980 as a crew person for Canadian film and TV. She is now the publisher and sole owner of Oz Publishing, Inc., the award-winning voice for the film and television industry in Georgia and a resource for productions across the nation since 1990. Oz publishes four annual directories for the film and television production industry, with the Georgia Film and Television SourceBook as bellwether: over 600 pages featuring some 3,900 crew, vendors and companies with a huge online viewership. In addition to the directories, *Oz Magazine* is a 25-year-old business-to-business online and printed magazine for and about the people and companies working in Georgia's film and television production industry. In 2014, Oz published the Industry Yearbook, a 40-year history of Georgia's Film Industry and the people who helped build it.

Powell was a founding member of the Georgia Production Partnership (GPP), a non-profit organization founded in 1995. The original goal was dedicated to reversing the collapse of production in Georgia. She was the first chairperson of GPP's Communications Committee. Through grassroots efforts, GPP became a unified force for the industry and was a key player in the drafting and passing of several bills, including the Georgia Sales & Use Tax industry in Georgia and is the primary reason for Georgia's preeminence in the production business.

Powell has won numerous awards and honors for her work in the industry and in 2016 won a bid to bring the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI)'s annual Cineposium to Atlanta. Her most coveted awards are The Founder award from the Black Women Film Network, and the Top Film Directory in the world voted by the Association of Film Commissioners International (2017).

About the BronzeLens Film Festival

BronzeLens Film Festival of Atlanta, Georgia, is a non-profit organization, founded in 2009, that is dedicated to bringing national and worldwide attention to Atlanta as a center for film and film production for people of color. Its mission is two-fold: to promote Atlanta as the film mecca for people of color, and to showcase films and provide networking opportunities that will develop the next generation of filmmakers. Since its inception, BronzeLens producers have brought national and worldwide attention to Atlanta, helping to showcase the city as a leader in the thriving film industry. For more information regarding the BronzeLens Film Festival, please visit <https://bronzelens.com/>.

Support for the 2021 BronzeLens Film Festival comes from:

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