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France, Uruguay & Spain For The Win @Filminute 2019

**One-minute films from 19 countries gave perspective
& voice to some of the world's most pressing issues.**

Bucharest/London/Toronto, November 7, 2019 – French filmmaking duo Merick & Gohu have won Best Filminute, the top award at Filminute 2019. Their film, ***I AM NOT AFRAID*** (France), reframes a migrant's story in a powerful and startling way, leaving many jury and audience members feeling unsettled and deeply moved. In awarding the festival's top prize, the international jury praised the film for its "casting, expert editing and sound design, and confidence in going against the grain."

On the public side, Uruguayan filmmaker Facundo Sosa picked up the most votes to win the People's Choice Award (along with a Jury Commendation) for ***UNO DE NOSOTROS/ONE OF US*** (Uruguay). The prophetic and powerful film, set in a typical suburban living room in the near future, imagines an immigration process packaged as a reality TV game show.

Rounding out the public awards at Filminute 2019 is this year's Top Rated Film, ***SEARCHING*** (Spain), directed by San Sebastian-based filmmaker Manuel Martín Merino. After all the moving drama of the festival's top two films, the public appreciated Merino's deft use of humor to highlight the universal challenge of screen addiction.

"One-minute films not only tap into the zeitgeist but to do so in novel and original ways that broaden our understanding and foster discussion," said Filminute Co-Founder and Head of Jury, John Ketchum. "The strong reaction to this year's films also points the way to a number of themes and ideas that are ripe and ready for expansion."

19 countries are represented on this year's shortlist of 25 films: Argentina(2), Australia, Canada, France(3), Hungary, India, Iran(2), Iraq, Lesotho, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden(2), Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UK(4), Uruguay, and the USA.

This year, the international Filminute jury included: the veteran French editor and director, **Anne Goursaud**; the award-winning American fiction writer, **Maile Meloy**; FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) Deputy General Secretary and Istanbul-based film critic, **Alin Tasciyan**; Canadian executive producer and film



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industry advisor, **Indira J Guha**; South Korean filmmaker and winner of Best Filminute 2018, **Nuri Jeong**; Filminute Co-Founder, **Sabaa Quao**; and Filminute Co-Founder and Head of Jury, **John Ketchum**.

In addition to Best Filminute, the jury awarded 5 Commendations to: **Life Goes On** (Norway); **The Tenants** (Hungary); **Turn Back Time** (Sweden); **Uno De Nosotros / One Of Us** (Uruguay); and **The Factory** (Iran).

Filminute Partner Awards this year include the Cineuropa Audience Award, voted on by fans of the European cinema site, and won this year by Spanish director Manuel Martín Merino for his film **Searching** (Spain).

The 2019 winner of the “Filminute Trophy” handed out by the jury of Les Films de Cannes a Bucarest, goes to **Life Goes On** (Norway) by director Henry K. Norvall.

The festival’s annual development prize, The CineCoup Award, will be announced November 21st. The award, part of the Filminute Development Prize, is given each year to the film believed to have the most commercial potential and supports the development of a script and pitch-ready project.

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More information and full details are available at www.filminute.com. You may also follow Filminute on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/filminute>, on Facebook, via <http://www.facebook.com/filminute>.

About Filminute

Filminute is the international one-minute film festival that challenges filmmakers, writers, animators, artists, designers, and creative producers to develop and submit the world's best one-minute films. www.filminute.com

Every year, from October 1 – 31st, the Filminute festival presents an extraordinary array of 25 films online, for viewers around the world to enjoy, share and discuss.

Press Kits For Winning Films

<http://www.filminute.com/pages/press-kit>

Press Office

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FILMINUTE 2019 WINNERS

BEST FILMINUTE

I AM NOT AFRAID <https://filminute.com/2019/i-am-not-afraid/>
Merick & Gohu (France)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

UNO DE NOSOTROS / ONE OF US <https://filminute.com/2019/uno-de-nosotros/>
Facundo Sosa (Uruguay)

TOP RATED

SEARCHING <https://filminute.com/2019/searching/>
Manuel Martín Merino (Spain)

5 JURY COMMENDATIONS

LIFE GOES ON <https://filminute.com/2019/life-goes-on/>
Henry K. Norvalls (Norway)

THE TENANTS <https://filminute.com/2019/the-tenants/>
Regős Ábel (Hungary)

TURN BACK TIME <https://filminute.com/2019/turn-back-time/>
Daniel Lundh (Sweden)

UNO DE NOSOTROS / ONE OF US <https://filminute.com/2019/uno-de-nosotros/>
Facundo Sosa (Uruguay)

THE FACTORY <https://filminute.com/2019/the-factory/>
Ali Rahimi & Mohammad Amin Sharifi (Iran)

FILMINUTE 2019 CINEUROPA AUDIENCE AWARD

SEARCHING <https://filminute.com/2019/searching/>
Manuel Martín Merino (Spain)

FILMINUTE 2019 TROPHY AT LES FILMS DE CANNES A BUCAREST



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LIFE GOES ON <https://filminute.com/2019/life-goes-on/>

Henry K. Norvalls (Norway)