

Social Safari Edited by R. Couri Hay: New York City International Film Festival Closing Award Ceremony

by Carlos Lacayo © March 5, 2019

The **New York City International Film Festival** (NYCIFF), presented by Russian Standard, wrapped up its tenth consecutive edition with the Closing Award ceremony on March 1st at The Dolby Screening Room in New York City. Founded by **Roberto Rizzo**, the NYCIFF celebrates storytelling in all its forms, from feature filmmaking to short-story narrative, and web series to documentaries.

Opening night featured the North American premier of *Factory Cowboys – Working with Warhol*, introduced by director **Ulli Lommel**. Based on Lommel's 2017 biography "Factory Fame – Working with Warhol," the feature film focuses on Warhol's factory life in Manhattan during the late 1970's.

Veneno – The First Fall, starring accomplished actor **Manny Pérez** in the role of Dominican wrestler Jack Veneno, was also screened on Monday night and ultimately went on to win Best Feature Film at the Closing Award ceremony. Director Tabare Blanchard and Roberto Rizzo moderated a Q&A post screening to discuss Veneno's impact and legacy in the Dominican Republic and beyond.

Included in Best Documentary Short category was *Depicting the Invisible*, which traces the creation of a portrait series by artist **Susan J. Barron** that depicts 15 American veterans suffering from PTSD and their inspirational stories.

NEW YORK CITY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS 2019

BEST DIRECTOR IN A SHORT FILM

Blake Winston Rice

People Like You

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Depicting the Invisible