



## BEST QUEER LONG FORMAT

Filmfest Munich, June 30, 2025

### **OUTERLANDS** (USA 2025, fiction)

“The film we are celebrating today follows the tradition of queer cinema in which outsiders become heroes, though not necessarily in the classical sense of heroism. Not the kind of heroism which hurts others to show its own strength but rather finding the courage to find oneself and leave old hurts behind. We get to experience an intimate hero’s journey which is particularly political in today’s times of reactionary backlash.

OUTERLANDS is a film of our time: protagonist Cass endures an isolated existence in the big city, forced to work two jobs just to afford a small apartment in a San Francisco which is no longer the queer Mekka it once was. The film opens with Cass in a home which reflects the affluence of its inhabitants. The opening gives us the wrong impression – Cass is there as the hired help. The film continues to challenge our expectations.

Cass is hiding a secret, one that pulls us into the film and is revealed to be the contention with their own past. The queer identity itself is never questioned or seen as the issue. On the contrary: Cass’ non-binary identity is portrayed in a manner of fact way, impressing us and seeming of particular importance to us considering the current government in the United States, which seeks to erase hard-earned visibility and acceptance of gender diversity with the stroke of a pen. One beautiful instance thereof is the tender and yet candid portrayal of Cass and coworker Kalli’s intimacy.

Cass isn’t instantly lovable as the protagonist, they cover their loneliness with a tough exterior, betraying even themselves. Getting to know Kalli’s daughter, for whom Cass becomes a caregiver, allows them to reconnect with their own vulnerability and start to care for themselves.

Without spoiling the ending, it moved us in its realism and stayed consistent with the film; while giving us the hope we all need so desperately. OUTERLANDS was produced by Marc Smolowitz and his independent prodco 13<sup>th</sup> Gen, a company whose credits include numerous films about trans characters and themes. Writer and director Elena Oxman moved and touched us with this debut feature and we congratulate her on the well-deserved QMS AWARD 2025 for BEST QUEER LONG FORMAT.”

*The Jury: Angelina Maccarone, Christine Klee, Hayal Kaya, Marcus Ammon, Jochen Hick*



## HONORARY MENTION

Filmfest Munich, June 30, 2025

### **MÁSCARAS DE OXIGÊNIO NÃO CAIRÃO AUTOMATICAMENTE**

(OXYGEN MASKS WILL (NOT) DROP AUTOMATICALLY) OXYGEN MASKS WILL (NOT) DROP AUTOMATICALLY) (BR 2024, Series)

“Colorful, entertaining, bashfully celebrating sensuality and big emotions, this production aims to reach a wide audience. Packaged as an entertaining mainstream series it conveys a serious topic, one that is of particular relevance to the queer community and that must not be forgotten: the AIDS crisis of the 80s.

The setting is Brazil, a country which was hit hard and in which homophobia became violent. The protagonist starts out as a hedonistic flight attendant and smuggler who over the course of the series grows into an activist, bringing life-saving drugs from New York to Rio, even to those who cannot afford them.

MÁSCARAS DE OXIGÊNIO NÃO CAIRÃO AUTOMATICAMENTE reminds us of the importance of chosen family, the community as well as our allies. Paraíso, a bar which offers a home to LGBT communities, becomes the blaring indicator of the AIDS epidemic. But not only the community is impacted, the series artfully portrays diverse segments of society which all suffer; a true image of the time, during which Brazil experienced a vast gap between rich and poor and a morality greatly influenced by the Catholic Church.

Co-Director Marcelo Gomes and the creatives on set as well as at HBO created a courageous, modern and entertaining series in MÁSCARAS DE OXIGÊNIO NÃO CAIRÃO AUTOMATICAMENTE. Neither German public nor private broadcasters have produced a series which is comparable in themes or production budget. We would like to use this honorary mention to invite streamer WOW (which offers HBO content in Germany) to make MÁSCARAS DE OXIGÊNIO... available to German-language audiences. We also view this honorary mention as a call to local broadcasters to see queer historical projects, as well as projects of other – so-called – minorities, as attractive and relevant to audiences.”

*The Jury: Angelina Maccarone, Christine Klee, Hayal Kaya, Marcus Ammon, Jochen Hick*