

SXSW Film Awards: ‘Cesar Chavez,’ ‘Before I Disappear’ Win Audience Prizes



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Diego Luna’s biopic “Cesar Chavez” (pictured), Shawn Christensen’s gripping drama “[Before I Disappear](http://variety.com/t/before-i-disappear/)” and the abortion doc “[Vessel](http://variety.com/t/vessel/)” were among SXSW’s big audience award winners on Saturday.

“Vessel,” Diana Whitten’s film about a pro-choice activist, received a special jury recognition for political courage in the documentary competition earlier this week in addition to today’s documentary feature prize.

“Before I Disappear,” which Christensen starred in, wrote and directed based on his Oscar-winning 2012 short film “Curfew,” won in the narrative feature competition, while “Cesar Chavez,” a drama about the titular labor

organizer, took the award in the narrative spotlight category.

Prizes were also given in the documentary spotlight (“DamNation”), visions, midnighters, episodic, SXGlobal, festival favorites and design categories. The 24 Beats Per Second category will be announced on Monday following Saturday screenings.

Additional showings have been scheduled on Saturday — the final day of SXSW Film – for all audience award winners.

On Tuesday, the millennial comedy “Fort Tilden” won the narrative feature grand jury prize (<http://variety.com/2014/film/news/sxsw-fort-tilden-the-great-invisible-win-top-feature-prizes-1201129825/>) and the BP oil spill expose “The Great Invisible” nabbed best documentary feature.

This year’s SXSW Film Festival audience award winners:

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Audience Award Winner: Before I Disappear

Director: Shawn Christensen



DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT

Audience Award Winner: DamNation

Director: Ben Knight & Travis Rummel

NARRATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Audience Award Winner: CESAR CHAVEZ

Directors: Diego Luna

VISIONS

Audience Award Winner: Yakona

Director: Anlo Sepulveda & Paul Collins

MIDNIGHTERS

Audience Award Winner: Exists

Director: Eduardo Sánchez

EPISODIC

Audience Award Winner: Silicon Valley

Director: Mike Judge

SXGLOBAL

Audience Award Winner: The Special Need

Directors: Carlo Zoratti

FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Audience Award Winner: The Case Against 8

Director: Ben Cotner & Ryan White

SXSW Film Design Awards

EXCELLENCE IN POSTER DESIGN

Audience Award Winner: Big Significant Things

Designer: Corey Holmes

EXCELLENCE IN TITLE DESIGN

Audience Award Winner: True Detective

Designer: Patrick Clair for Elastic

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