endings (2023, Canada) by Philip Hoffman and Isiah Medina

For creating a layered and complex work that brings to the screen the essential elements of natural life in parallel with the very essence of cinema: Image, Sound (and its absence) Editing. The apparent simplicity of the image is contrasted with an intricate, associative, rollercoaster-like editing punctuated by the presence and absence of sound.

Some of the original 16mm footage is developed by hand using the photochemical properties of plants—oregano, walnuts, and other indigenous plants—that infuse the film with a tactile materiality that reverberates in the viewer and awakens memory at its most intimate level. This analog process is reworked through digital interventions by Isiah Medina, whose contribution expands the film’s organic origins, creating a necessary counterpoint. This alchemical operation unfolds so that the images we see on the screen – the endings of plants, the endings of flowers – are the elements that give life to the film itself, dragging the viewer into a hypnotic and visceral experience.

Ribalta Film Festival, Italy 2025 Award: Best Director(s)