

FOR CITY OF NEWARK, NJ CONSIDERATION / IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highlight video for download: <https://vimeo.com/dreamplay/emerge-grind-emma-award-screening>

Photos for download: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16L9NV628v7LtwUy5lqLyrOWDExVvHc9y?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16L9NV628v7LtwUy5lqLyrOWDExVvHc9y?usp=share_link)

Story link: <https://dreamplaymedia.com/screening>

## **NEWARK-BASED DREAMPLAY FILMS AND DIRECTOR YURI ALVES WIN TWO EMMY® AWARDS AND HOST RED CARPET SCREENING IN NEWARK**

### **CELEBRATION EVENT ATTENDED BY 200+ GUESTS AT CITYPLEX12 THEATER**

- DreamPlay Films and Yuri Alves win 2 EMMY® Awards; 4 EMMY® nominations in the Mid-Atlantic Region
- EMERGE Concert Film Trilogy stars NJ Symphony Music Director Xian Zhang features unprecedented orchestral performances recorded live at NJPAC during the pandemic, fused with stunning visuals and dance sequences
- GRIND short film stars Robert "NDO Champ" Wilmore and has won festival awards worldwide
- Welcome remarks by Deputy Mayor Ligia DeFreitas and Councilmember-at-Large Louise Scott-Rountree
- At After-Party, Newark Councilman Michael Silva announced intention to award a Proclamation to Alves brothers
- Event highlight video and photos available at: [dreamplaymedia.com/emerge-grind-screening](http://dreamplaymedia.com/emerge-grind-screening)

**NEWARK, NJ** — Over 200 guests and local officials attended the **EMERGE + GRIND Red Carpet Live Film Premiere and Emmy® Awards Celebration** at CityPlex12 Newark Theater, presented by DreamPlay Media, New Jersey Symphony and Plusable PR. The memorable event showcased New Jersey-made independent films directed by **Yuri Alves** and produced by Newark-based **DreamPlay Films** and **Igor Alves**. The Alves brothers celebrated their recent EMMY® Award wins for EMERGE, a concert film trilogy starring Xian Zhang and the New Jersey Symphony, and for GRIND, a format-bending short film starring fitness influencer **Robert "NDO Champ" Wilmore**. DreamPlay Films and Yuri Alves also earned a total of four Emmy® Award nominations in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The program at the SHAQ-DX premium auditorium kicked off with remarks by Newark Deputy Mayor **Ligia DeFreitas** and Councilmember-at-Large **Louise Scott-Rountree**. The ceremony continued with DreamPlay Films' presentation of EMMY® statuettes to their partners at **New Jersey Symphony**, represented by Marshall Jones Kumahor, and NDO Nation, represented by "NDO Champ" Robert Black Wilmore. The main film program at the SHAQ-DX premium auditorium featured 4K presentations of "TRANSCEND (excerpt)", "Tap With Me" starring Maurice Chestnut, "The Portal", "GRIND" and a special "Maverick Cut" of the "EMERGE Concert Film Trilogy". Featured performers from EMERGE, Cori Barnes, M.A. Taylor, Nequin, as well as the local film team were recognized and joined for a group photograph.

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The celebration continued past 2AM at Allegro Lounge, with music by DJ Miguel Casimiro, DJ Jon Canoo, and live musical performances by J Read, Raphael Sax and Carlos Ferreira. Special thanks to Newark City Historian Junius Williams for joining in attendance, and Newark East Ward Councilman Michael Silva, who announced his intention to award Yuri Alves and Igor Alves with a Proclamation of Merit on behalf of the City of Newark.

The event was made possible, in part, by The City of Newark Creative Catalyst Fund in partnership with Newark Arts, with additional support provided by Newark Happening.

For **EMERGE**, Alves and the DreamPlay Films team captured the NJ Symphony performances live at NJPAC with a highly immersive and uniquely intimate camera approach, while filming on ultra-high-definition RED cinema cameras. EMERGE expands the universe of orchestral music through a mix of live stage performance, stunning visuals, mesmerizing dance sequences and format-bending elements on and off stage.

**GRIND** is a format-bending profile of **Robert Black Wilmote (@NDO\_Champ)**, directed by **Yuri Alves**, which reveals the story of a Liberian refugee forced to flee the most drastic and terrible circumstances imaginable. Through dramatic reenactments, featuring Robert Wilmote himself, we discover how Robert's struggle led him from prison life on to his journey as an inspiration to millions of people.

#### **EMMY® AWARDS RECOGNITION**

**DreamPlay Films** and director **Yuri Alves** won two EMMY® Awards for films produced in Newark. At a gala ceremony in Philadelphia, the immersive concert film **EMERGE Part 1** won in the "Arts – Long Form" category and director-editor Yuri Alves also won in the "Editing" category in the Mid-Atlantic Region, earned for his work on **GRIND** and **EMERGE Part 3**. Director Yuri Alves and producer Igor Alves were joined at the awards event by EMERGE star and **New Jersey Symphony** Music Director **Xian Zhang**.

The individual awardees include: (2x) Yuri Alves, Director + Editing, Igor Alves, Producer, Xian Zhang, Writer / Musical Arrangement, Caroline Sincaruk, Camera Operator, Michael Gomes, Camera Operator, Victor Buitrago, Editor. DreamPlay Films and Yuri Alves also earned Emmy® nominations for **TRANSCEND**, in the "Documentary" category, and **EMERGE Part 2**, in the "Long Form Program" category. All nominated films were broadcast by NJPBS and PBS online, where they remain available to watch.

The four EMMY® nominations and two wins are the first for DreamPlay Films and Yuri Alves, as well as for the New Jersey Symphony, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary year. **DreamPlay Films** is part of **DreamPlay Media**, a creative media company co-founded a decade ago by brothers Igor Alves and Yuri Alves, each born in Brazil and raised in Newark. DreamPlay has earned over 20 marketing awards and 20-plus film awards, mostly for work produced in New Jersey.

The EMMY® Awards recognize excellence within various areas of television and emerging media, and are voted on by members of the National Academy of Television of Arts and Sciences.

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**Director Yuri Alves says:** "I am thrilled to have won these EMMY Awards, not just on behalf of our films but also on behalf of the crew and artists who collaborated with me. For EMERGE, we aimed to ambitiously exceed audience expectations for a filmed orchestral performance - in these films, we really see Xian, the orchestra and the special guests at their best and from unique vantage points. For GRIND, I knew that Robert had an incredible life story to share and that he was the best person to star in it - he is a phenomenon. I think people will be excited and surprised by both this trilogy and the documentary."

**Producer Igor Alves says:** "I hope these awards help audiences discover the EMERGE trilogy and treasure its unique sensibility and artistic quality above all, while appreciating how it advances diversity in the arts: here we have a project featuring a female Asian conductor, musical works by composers of color, in a film directed by a Brazilian immigrant raised in Newark, with images featuring dancers and residents of color from the neighboring area. As for GRIND, I think Yuri and Robert are a powerhouse duo, with Yuri and a tight team creating a truly compelling portrait of a man on a journey to higher purpose."

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**EMERGE: An NJ Symphony Concert Film Trilogy**

Music Director Xian Zhang leads the New Jersey Symphony back on the main stage to masterfully conduct a striking selection of orchestral works, showcased in a uniquely intimate style by maverick filmmaker Yuri Alves. The EMERGE concert film trilogy expands the universe of orchestral music through a mix of live stage performance, stunning visuals, mesmerizing dance sequences and format-bending elements. The EMERGE Trilogy features world-renown guest performers such as Simone Dinnerstein, Inon Barnatan and superstar Daniil Trifonov, and special collaborators like dancer Cori Barnes, M.A. Taylor, Nequin and more.

[dreamplaymedia.com/emerge](http://dreamplaymedia.com/emerge)

**GRIND**

This format-bending profile of Robert Black Wilmote (NDO Champ), directed by Yuri Alves, reveals the story of a Liberian refugee, who at his absolute bottom, knew he was meant for greater good. Through dramatic reenactments, we discover how Robert's passion for fitness and helping others empowered him to transcend a life of violence and become a legend.

[dreamplaymedia.com/grind](http://dreamplaymedia.com/grind)

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**YURI ALVES**

Yuri Alves is a multiple award-winning filmmaker who has written and directed films, primetime television programs and commercial projects in the U.S. and Europe. Alves' films have screened at over 100 film festivals worldwide, earning over 20 awards. Alves' projects include Grind, On the Cusp, Echoes of Fado and Exit Road, and the critically acclaimed European primetime television series "Tempo Final" and "Filha da Lei." Most recently, Alves directed and edited the EMERGE Concert Film Trilogy and TRANSCEND, which together earned 4 Emmy® Award nominations, winning two Emmy® Awards in the Mid-Atlantic Region. [yurialves.com](http://yurialves.com)

**DREAMPLAY FILMS**

DreamPlay Films, part of DreamPlay Media, is an award-winning independent film production company based in Newark, producers of narrative and documentary films. [dreamplayfilms.com](http://dreamplayfilms.com) | [dreamplaymedia.com](http://dreamplaymedia.com)

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY, XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR**

The New Jersey Symphony connects with the people and diverse communities of New Jersey through the power of live symphonic music to inspire, entertain and educate. [njsymphony.org](http://njsymphony.org)

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