

Film Festivals

Film/ Entertainment

Film Festivals

If you want an opportunity to get your movie in front of an audience and have your work viewed by professional critics, then film festivals are for you. These events are staged by either universities, private organizations, local governments or art associations. Movies that get accepted into film festivals also get attention from the press, and are a good way to get exposure as a working professional.

There are many different kinds of festivals, some of them leaning more towards certain specific genres than others. Bigger festivals tend to welcome all kinds of films, from features to shorts, fiction or documentary. Try to find the ones that fit more with your affinities and goals as a filmmaker. Many festivals also have student categories, and encourage film students to participate and get a head start on their careers as filmmakers. Keep in mind that a lot of festivals have fees for submitting a project.

Trying to figure out what festivals to send your work to can be daunting. Luckily, there are many resources online that you can use for free to get you started. We recommend using FilmFreeway, which is a free platform for submitting your short films to many festivals. It can also help you narrow down your search for options, and figure out where is the best platform to display your work. For more information go to www.filmfreeway.com

The following is a list with some of the most significant film festivals worldwide, sorted by the month they take place in. The list also mentions whether these festivals qualify for eligibility at both the Academy Awards, and the Student Academy Awards. You can also use Ctrl+F (Windows) or Cmd+F (MacOS) to search for a specific festival on this list.





- Academy Awards Qualifying



- Student Academy Awards Qualifying

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
January				
César Academie des Arts et Techniques du Cinema	www.academie-cinema.org/en/	France	✓	
David Di Donatello Awards	www.daviddidonatello.it/	Italy	✓	
Flickerfest International Short Film Festival	www.flickerfest.com	Australia	✓	✓
International Film Festival Rotterdam	www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com	Netherlands		
Lebu International Film Festival	cinelebu.cl/2019/	Chile	✓	✓
Reel Recovery Film Festival	reelrecoveryfilmfestivl.org	USA		
San Diego Black Film Festival	www.sdbff.com	California, USA		
Slamdance Film Festival	www.slamdance.org	Utah, USA	✓	✓
Stuttgarter Filmwinter	www.filmwibnter.de	Germany		
Sundance Film Festival	www.sundance.org	Utah, USA	✓	✓
February				
Animayo International Film Festival of Animation	www.animayo.com/	Spain	✓	✓
BAMKids Film Festival	www.bam.org/kidsfilmfest	New York, USA		
Berlin Film Festival "Berlinale"	www.berlinale.de	Germany	✓	✓
Black Maria Film Festival	www.blackmariafilmfestival.org	New Jersey, USA		
Brussels Anima Festival	www.animatv.be	Belgium	✓	✓

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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Cinequest Film Festival	www.cinequest.org	California, USA	✓	✓
Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival	www.clermont-filmfest.com	France	✓	✓
D&AD Awards	www.dandad.org	United Kingdom		
Fantasporto	www.fantasporto.com	Portugal		
FIFE- International Environmental Film Festival	www.env-health.org	France		
GoGo Toons Film Festival	www.gogotoons.com	Online		
New York International Children's Film Festival	www.nyicff.org	New York, USA	✓	✓
Norwegian Short Film Festival	www.kortfilmfestivalen.no/en/pages	Norway	✓	✓
Palm Springs International Film Festival	www.psfilmfest.org	California, USA	✓	✓
Pan African Film Festival	www.paff.org	California, USA	✓	✓
San Francisco Independent Film Festival	www.sfindie.com	California, USA		
Santa Barbara International Film Festival	www.santabarbaraca.com	California, USA	✓	✓
St. Kilda Film Festival	www.stkildaifilmfestival.com.au/	Australia	✓	✓
Tehran International Animation Festival	www.tehran-animafestival.ir	Iran		



March

American Documentary Film Festival	www.americandocumentaryfilmfestival.com	California, USA		
Ann Arbor Film Festival	www.aafilmfest.org	Michigan, USA	✓	✓



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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Another Hole in the Head	www.sfndie.com	California, USA		
Bermuda International Film Festival	www.biff.bm/	Bermuda	✓	✓
CAAMFest (Center for Asian American Media)	www.caamedia.org	California, USA		
Canadian Screen Awards	www.academy.ca/	Canada	✓	
Cinema Du Reel	www.cinemadureel.org/fr	France		
Cleveland International Film Fest	www.clevedandfilm.org	Ohio, USA	✓	✓
Edmonton International Film Festival	www.edmontonfilmfest.com/	Canada	✓	✓
Festival International Du Film D'Aubagne	www.aubagne-filmfest.fr	France		
Film Society Lincoln Center	www.filmlinc.com	New York, USA		
Guadalajara International Film Festival FICG	www.ficg.mx/	Mexico	✓	✓
Holland Animation Film Festival	www.haff.nl	Netherlands	✓	✓
In The Palace International Film Festival	www.inthepalace.com/en/home.html	Bulgaria	✓	✓
Interfilm International Short Film Festival	www.interfilm.de/en/	Germany	✓	✓
International Women's Film Festival (FIFF Creteil)	http://filmsdefemmes.com/fr/	France		
Leipzig International Festival	www.dok-leipzig.de/	Germany	✓	✓
Lunafest	www.lunafest.org	California, USA		

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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Miami International Film Festival	www.miamifilmfestival.com	Ohio, USA		
New Directors/New Films Festival	www.newdirectors.org/	New York, USA		✓
Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO)	www.fespaco.bf/	Burkina Faso		
Rome Independent Film Festival	www.riff.it	Italy		
San Diego Latino Film Festival	www.sdlatinofilm.com	California, USA		
SIGGRAPH	www.siggraph.org	USA	✓	✓
South By Southwest Festival	www.sxsw.com	Texas, USA	✓	✓
Tampere International Short Film Festival	tamperefilmfestival.fi	Finland	✓	✓
The AFI Dallas International Film Festival	www.dallasfilm.org	Texas, USA		
The International Andy Awards	www.andyawards.com	New York, USA		
True/False Film Festival	www.truefalse.org	Missouri, USA		
April				
360/365 George Eastman Film Festival	www.eastman.org	New York, USA		
Aspen Short Fest	www.aspenfilm.org	Colorado, USA	✓	✓
Athens International Film Festival	athensfilmfest.org/	Ohio, USA	✓	✓
Atlanta Film Festival	www.atlantafilmfestival.com	Georgia, USA	✓	✓



FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Black & White International Audiovisual Festival	www.effe.eu	Europe		
Brussels International Fantasy, Fantasy, Fantastic Thriller & Science Fiction Film Festival	www.biff.net/	Belgium		
Brussels Short Film Festival	bsff.be/en/	Belgium	✓	✓
Buenos Aires Film Festival	www.festivales.buenosaires.gob	Argentina		
Cellu L' Art Short Film Festival	www.cellulart.de	Germany		
Chicago Latino Film Festival	www.chicagolatinofilmfestival.org	Illinois, USA		
Cinema/Chicago	www.chicagofilmfestival.com	Illinois, USA		
Crossroads Film Festival	www.crossroadsfilmfestival.com/	Mississippi, USA		
Davis Feminist Film Festival	www.wrrc.ucdavis.edu	California, USA		
DisOrient Film Festival	www.disorientfilm.org/index/	Oregon, USA		
FilmFest Dresden	www.filmfest-dresden.de	Germany		
Florida Film Festival	www.floridafilmfestival.com	Ohio, USA	✓	✓
Friars Club Comedy Film Festival	www.friarsclub.com	New York, USA		
Full Frame Documentary Film Festival	www.fullframefest.org	N Carolina, USA		
Go Short International Short Film Festival Nijmegen	www.goshort.nl/	Netherlands	✓	✓
Hi Lo Film Festival	www.hilofilmfestival.com	California, USA		



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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival	www.hotdocs.ca	Canada	✓	✓
Kiev Documentary Festival	molodist.com/en/	Ukraine		
L.A. Comendy Short Film Festival Film Festival	www.lacomedyshorts.com	California, USA		
LACMA Muse Young Directors Night	www.lacma.org	California, USA		
Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival	www.asianfilmfestla.org	California, USA	✓	✓
Nashville Independent Film Festival	www.nashvillefilmfestival.org	Tennessee, USA	✓	✓
Newport Beach Film Festival	newportbeachfilmfest.com	California, USA		
NIFFTY-National Film Festival for Talent	www.nffty.org	Washington, USA		
Sarasota Film Festival	www.sarasotafilmfestival.com	Ohio, USA		
Stuttgart Trickfilm Festival of Animated Film	www.itfs.de/en/	Germany	✓	
Tiburon International Film Festival	www.tiburonfilmfestival.com/	California, USA		
Tribeca Film Festival	www.tribecafilm.com	New York, USA	✓	✓
USA Film Festival/Dallas	www.usafilmfestival.com/	Texas, USA		
Visions du Reel, International Film Festival Nyon	www.visionsdureel.ch/en/	Switzerland		✓

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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
May				
Cannes Cinfondation (Student Section)	www.festival-cannes.com/fr/	France		
Cannes Directors' Fortnight	www.quinzaine-realisateurs.com/	France		
Cannes International Film Festival	www.festival-cannes.com/en/	France	✓	✓
Docville Festival, Belgium	www.docville.be/	Belgium		
Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival	www.encounters-festival.org.uk/	United Kingdom	✓	✓
GI Film Festival	www.gifilmfestival.com	California, USA		
Hamburg Short Film Festival	www.shortfilm.com	Germany		
Human Rights Arts & Film Festival	2018.hraff.org.au	Australia		
Krakov Film Festival	www.krakowfilmfestival.pl/en/	Poland	✓	✓
LA Asian Pacific Film Festival	LAutdesign.com	California, USA		
Legacy Film Festival on Aging	www.legacyfilmfestivalonaging.org/	California, USA		
Oberhausen International Short Film Festival	www.kurzfilmtage.de	Germany	✓	✓
Ourense Film Festival	www.ouff.org/en/	Spain		
Quinzaine des Realisateurs	www.quinzaine-realisateurs.com/en/	France		
Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival	www.reelsisters.com/	New York, USA	✓	✓
Santa Fe Film Festival	www.santafefilmfestival.com/index/	New Mexico, USA		

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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Seoul SICAF Animation Festival	www.sicaf.org/	Korea		
Show Me Shorts Film Festival	www.showmeshorts.co.nz/	New Zealand	✓	✓
Trebon AniFest Festival	www.anifest.cz	Czech Republic		
June				
ABFF Amercian Black Film Festival	www.abff.com	New York, USA		
AFI Docs	www.afi.com/afidocs/	Washington, USA		
AICP Awards	www.aicp.com/aicp-awards	USA		
Anim'est - Bucharest International Animation Film Festival	www.animest.ro	Romania	✓	✓
Animafest Zagreb Festival of Animated Films	www.animafest.hr	Croatia	✓	✓
ARCIPELAGO - International Festival of Short Films and New Images	www.arcipelagofilmfestival.org/	Italy		
Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Brazil	www.festivaldecurtasbh.com.br/19/	Brazil		
Brooklyn International Film Festival	www.brooklynfilmfestival.org/	New York, USA		
Calgary International Film Festival	www.calgaryfilm.com	Canada	✓	✓
Edinburgh International Film Festival	www.edfilmfest.org.uk/	Scotland		
FICA - International Festival of Environmental Film and Video	www.film.britishcouncil.org	Brazil		



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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Huesca International Film Festival	www.huesca-filmfestival.com/en/	Spain	✓	✓
International Animated Film Festival & Market (Annecy)	www.annecy.org	France	✓	✓
Kaliber35 Munich International Film Festival	www.kaliber35.de/	Germany		
Kinofilm/Manchester International Film Festival	www.kinofilm.org.uk/	United Kingdom		
LA Chinese Film Festival	www.lacff.org/en/rules/	California, USA		
Little Big Shots International Film Festival For Kids	www.littlebigshots.com.au/	Australia		
Los Angeles Film Festival	www.film-independent.org	California, USA	✓	✓
Queer Women of Color Film Festival	www.festival2018.qwocmap.org/	California, USA		
San Francisco Black Film Festival	www.sfbff.org	California, USA		
San Francisco Documentary Film Festival	www.sfindie.com	California, USA		
San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival/ Frameline	www.frameline.org/	California, USA		
Seattle International Film Festival	www.siff.net/	Washington D.C., USA	✓	✓
Sheffield International Documentary Festival	www.sheffdocfest.com/	United Kingdom		
Short Shorts Film Festival	www.shortshorts.org/	Japan	✓	✓
Sydney International Film Festival	www.sff.org.au/	Australia	✓	✓



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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival	www.taufilmfest.com/	Israel		
The Melbourne International Animation Festival	www.miaf.net/	Australia		
Tirana International Film Festival	www.tiranafilmfest.com/	Albania	✓	✓
Young Director Awards	www.youngdirectoraward.com	France		
July				
Animator International Animated Film Festival	www.animator-festival.com/en	Poland	✓	✓
Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival	www.bifan.kr/	South Korea	✓	✓
Capalbio Cinema International Film Festival	www.capalbiocinema.com	Italy		
Curtus Vila do Conde	www.festival.curtas.pt/	Portugal		
Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles	www.dtlaff.com	California, USA		
Galway Film Fleadh	www.galwayfilmfleadh.com/	Ireland	✓	✓
Guanajuato International Film Festival	www.giff.mx/	Mexico	✓	✓
Jerusalem Film Festival	www.jff.org.il/	Israel	✓	✓
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival	www.kviff.com/en/homepage	Czech Republic		
Long Beach International Film Festival	www.longbeachfilm.com/	California, USA		
Los Angeles Shorts Film Festival	www.lashortsfest.com	California, USA	✓	✓

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Outfest Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival	www.outfest.org/	California, USA	✓	✓
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival	www.jfi.org/sfjff-2018	California, USA		✓
Sarajevo Film Festival	www.sff.ba/en	Sarajevo		
Short Film Festival of Grenoble	www.effe.eu	France		
Winterthur International Short Film Festival	www.kurzfilmtage.ch/EN	Switzerland	✓	✓
August				
Anima Mundi	www.animamundi.com.br/pt/	Brazil	✓	✓
Hiroshima International Animation Festival	www.hiroanim.org/index_en.php	Japan	✓	✓
HollyShorts Film Festival	www.hollyshorts.com/	California, USA	✓	✓
Hong Kong International Film Festival	www.hkiff.org.hk/	Hong Kong		
Locarno International Film Festival	www.locarnofestival.ch	Switzerland	✓	✓
Melbourne International Film Festival	www.miff.com.au/	Australia	✓	✓
Montreal World Film Festival	www.ffm-montreal.org	Canada		
Odense International Film Festival	www.filmfestival.dk/en/	Denmark	✓	✓
One Lens Film Festival	www.onelensfilmfestival.com/	California, USA		
Rhode Island International Film Festival	www.film-festival.org/	Rhode Island, USA	✓	✓

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
San Francisco International Film Festival	www.sffilm.org/	California, USA	✓	✓
Sao Paulo International Short Film Festival	www.kinoforum.org/	Brazil		
Telluride Film Festival	www.telluridefilmfestival.org/	N. Hampshire, USA		
Thai Short Film & Video	www.viddsee.com	Thailand		
Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival	www.holland.org	Michigan, USA		
September				
Big Bear Lake International Film Fest	www.bigbear.com	California, USA		
Camden International Film Festival	www.pointsnorthinstitute.org/	Maine, USA		✓
Clio Awards	www.clios.com	New York, USA		
Drama Film Festival	www.dramafilmfestival.gr/	Greece		
Fantastic Fest	www.fantasticfest.com/	Texas, USA		
International Student Film Festival Hollywood	www.isffhollywood.org/	California, USA		
Message to Man Festival	www.message2man.com/en/	Russia		
Moondance International Film Festival	www.moondancefilmfestival.com/	Colorado, USA		
New York Film Festival	www.filmlinc.org/nyff2018/	New York, USA		
Nordisk Panorama - 5 Cities Film Festival	www.nordiskpanorama.com/en/festival/	Sweden	✓	✓
Ottawa International Animation Festival	www.animationfestival.ca/	Canada	✓	✓

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Raindance Film Festival	www.raindance.org/festival/	London	✓	✓
Reeling The Chicago Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival	www.reelingfilmfestival.org/2018/	Illinois, USA		
San Francisco Latino Film Festival	www.sflatinofilmfestival.org/	California, USA		
San Sebastian International Film Festival	www.sansebastianfestival.com/	Spain		
Seoul International Extreme-Short Image & Film Festival	www.asianfilmfestivals.com	Korea		
Toronto International Film Festival, Canada	www.tiff.net/	Canada		
Urbanworld Film Festival	www.urbanworld.org/	New York, USA	✓	✓
Venice International Film Festival	www.labiennale.org	Italy	✓	✓
Woodstock Film Festival	www.woodstockfilmfestival.org/	New York, USA		
October				
Austin Film Festival	www.austinfilmfestival.com/	Texas, USA	✓	✓
Berkely Video and Film Festival	www.berkeleyvideofilmfest.org/	California, USA		
Busan International Film Festival	www.biff.kr	South Korea	✓	✓
Chelsea Film Festival	www.chelseafilm.org/	New York, USA		
Chicago International Children's Film Festival	www.festival.facets.org/	Illinois, USA	✓	✓
Chicago International Film Festival	www.chicagofilmfestival.com/	Illinois, USA	✓	✓

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
China (Beijing) International Student Animation Festival	www.en.cuc.edu.cn	China		
CineEco International Environmental Film Festival	www.dokweb.net	Portugal		
Festival du Nouveau Cinema de Montreal, Canada	www.nouveaucinema.ca/en/	Canada	✓	✓
Goya Awards	www.premiosgoya.com	Spain	✓	
Heartland Film Festival	www.heartlandfilm.org/festival/	Indiana, USA	✓	✓
Hollywood Film Festival	www.hollywoodfilmfestival.com/	California, USA		
Hull Short Film Festival	www.hullindependentcinema.com	United Kingdom		
IRIS Prize Film Festival	www.irisprize.org/	United Kingdom		
Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival	www.dokument-festival.com/	Czech Republic		✓
Kiev "Molodist" Festiva, Ukraine	www.molodist.com/en/	Ukraine		
London International Film Festival, UK	www.filmfestinternational.com/london/	United Kingdom		
Mill Valley Film Festival	www.mvff.com/	California, USA		
Morelia International Film Festival	www.moreliafilmfest.com/en/	Mexico	✓	✓
New Hampshire Film Festival	www.nhfilmfestival.com/	N. Hampshire, USA		
New Orleans Film Festival	www.neworleansfilmsociety.org	New Orleans, USA	✓	✓
San Francisco International Short Film Festival	www.sffshorts.org/	California, USA		
Sapporo Short Fest & Market, Japan	www.sapporoshortfest.jp/	Japan		



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Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Savannah Film & Video Film Festival	www.filmfest.scad.edu/	Georgia, USA		
ScreamFest Los Angeles	www.screamfestla.com/	California, USA		
Seattle Latino Film Festival	www.slatinoff.org/	Washington, USA		
Sitges Film Festival	www.sitgesfilmfestival.com/	Spain	✓	✓
The Hamptons International Film Festival	www.hamptonsfilmfest.org/	Connecticut, USA	✓	✓
The Valley Film Festival	www.valleyfilmfest.com/valleyfilmfest/app/home	California, USA		
Uppsala International Short Film Festival	www.shortfilmfestival.com/en/	Sweden	✓	✓
Valladolid "Seminci" International Film Festival, Spain	www.seminci.es/	Spain		
Warsaw Film Festival	www.wff.pl/en/	Poland	✓	✓
November				
3rd I San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival	www.thirdi.org/about/	California, USA		
A Night of Horror	www.anightofhorror.com/	Sydney Australia		
AFI Fest, CA	www.afi.com/	California, USA	✓	✓
Alcine: Festival de Cine Alcala de Henares	www.alcine.org/	Spain	✓	✓
Bilbao Short Film Festival	www.zinebi.eus/web/	Spain	✓	✓
Boston Latino International Film Festival	www.bliff.org/http://www.bliff.org/	Massachusetts, USA		

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)	awards.bafta.org/entry	United Kingdom	✓	
Chicago Comedy Film Festival	www.chicagocomedyfilmfestival.com/	Illinois, USA		
Cinanima International Animated Film Festival	www.cinanima.pt/	Portugal	✓	✓
CineSol Film Festival	www.cinesol.com/	Texas, USA		
Cork International Film Festival	www.corkfilmfest.org/	Ireland	✓	✓
Denver Film Festival	www.denverfilm.org/	Colorado, USA		
Festival Tous Courts	www.festivaltouscourts.com/	France		
Foyle Film Festival, Northern Ireland	www.foylefilmfestival.org/	Ireland	✓	✓
German Shot Film Awards	www.deutscher-kurzfilmpreis.de/	Germany	✓	✓
Gijon International Film Festival for Young People	www.en.fic.gijon.es/	Spain	✓	✓
International Documentary Film Festival	www.idfa.nl/nl/info/industry	Amsterdam		
Leeds Film Festival, UK	www.leedsfilmcity.com/	United Kingdom	✓	✓
Leuven International Short Film	www.kortfilmfestival.be/	Belgium	✓	✓
Munich FilmschoolFest	www.filmschoolfest-munich.de	Germany		
Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival	www.phillyasianfilmfest.org/	Pennsylvania, USA		
Porsche International Student Advertising Film Award	www.filmakademie.de/de/aktuelles-projekte/porsche-award/about/porsche-award-info/	Germany		

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film Festival	Website	State or Country		
Regard - Saguenay International Film Festival	www.festivalregard.com/	Canada	✓	✓
Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival	www.curtacinema.com.br/home/	Brazil	✓	✓
San Diego Asian Film Festival	www.festival.sdaff.org/spring2018/	California, USA		
Singapore International Film Festival	www.sjiff.com/	Singapore	✓	✓
St. Louis International Film Festival	www.cinemastlouis.org/	Missouri, USA		✓
Stockholm International Film Fest	www.stockholmfilmfestival.se/sv	Sweden		
Thessaloniki International Film Festival	www2.filmfestival.gr/el/	Greece		
Torino Film Festival	www.torinofilmfest.org/	Italy		
Vancouver Asian Film Festival	www.vaff.org/	Canada		
December				
BronzeLends Film Festival	www.bronzelens.com	Atlanta, USA	✓	✓
Cartagena International Film Festival FICCI	www.ficcifestival.com/	Colombia	✓	✓
Carthage Film Festival	www.jcctunisie.org/	Tunisia	✓	
Dubai International Film Festival	www.dubaifilmfest.com/	India	✓	✓
Raw Science Film Festival	www.rawsciencefilmfestival.tv/	California, USA		
Riverrun International Film Festival	www.riverrunfilm.com/	North Carolina, USA	✓	✓

FILM FESTIVAL BY MONTH

Film
Festival

Website

State or
Country



Thessaloniki Documentary
Film Festival

www.filmfestival.gr/el/

Greece

Ventana Sur

www.ventana-sur.com/en/

Argentina