KEY FESTIVALS WITH A SHORT FILM SECTION list

There are thousands of film festivals in the world and it would be impossible to list all of them. The information below should be seen as a guide only as we cannot verify its accuracy as Film Festival details change frequently. It is important that you check each festival's own website regularly for updates regarding entry deadlines and festival regulations.

AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Film Festival
The AFF was established by the Premier of South Australia as a biennial film and video event, which celebrates and explores contemporary screen culture with a unique program of screenings and special events
www.adelaidefilmfestival.org

Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF)
BIFF provides a focus for film culture in Queensland by showcasing the best and most interesting cinema from around the world. Each year BIFF draws film enthusiasts to view an entertaining mix of local and international films, retrospectives and colourful events that embrace the vibrant art of filmmaking.
www.biff.com.au

Flickerfest International Short Film festival
Flickerfest is Australia’s only competitive Academy accredited International Short Film Festival, screening the best of short films from around the world and Australia. Held in January in Sydney the competitive films tour nationally.
www.flickerfest.com.au

Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)
The Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) is an iconic Melbourne event. MIFF hosts a feast of cinematic delicacies from over 50 countries for nineteen days each Winter, heavily garnished with a range of parties and special events that cast a celebratory mood over the city.
www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au

Movie EXTRA Tropfest
Each February Movie EXTRA Tropfest screens 16 finalist films in free outdoor screenings across the country to large crowds. All films are united each year by a Tropfest Signature Item (TSI)
www.tropfest.com

Queer Screen
Australia's premier promoter of LGBT cinema, producer of the Mardi Gras Film Festival, QueerDOC and My Queer Career.
www.queerscreen.com.au

Revelation Film Festival
Held in Perth Revelation is WA’s leading showcase for independent and innovative cinema.
www.revelationfilmfest.org

Sydney Film Festival (SFF)
Sydney Film Festival is New South Wales' pre-eminent showcase for contemporary cinema from Australia and around the world. Established in 1954, Sydney Film Festival is a major cultural event on the city's social calendar and one of the world's longest running film festivals.
www.sff.org

St Kilda Short Film Festival
St Kilda film festival is 26 years old and screens a top 100 Australian shorts films in competition. The festival is held in May each year.
www.stkildafilmfestival.com.au
INTERNATIONAL

Annecy International Animation Festival
The Annecy International Animated Film Festival in France was established in 1960 and is one of the most important festivals dedicated to animation in the world. Held in May each year the festival attracts over 5,000 animation enthusiasts, buyers and filmmakers. Australia has traditionally been well represented in this festival with over 100 films being screened since 1990.
www.annecy.org

Aspen Shortsfest
This young festival, set in the snowy mountains of North America, was inaugurated in 1992 and has developed a reputation as an adventurous and fresh event devoted to shorts, which tell compelling stories in imaginative ways. Each year Aspen seemingly programs a generous number of Australian shorts (over 50 films screened since 1990) that vie for generous prize money (in US dollars!).
www.aspenfilm.org

Berlin International Film Festival
Australian films first screened at the Berlin Film Festival in 1955. Today Berlin is one of the most significant film festivals in the world alongside Cannes and Venice. Held in February each year the festival requires films in competition to be world premieres. To highlight the ever growing importance of the short film format, the short film programs within the Competition and Panorama section merged into a single short film section, the Berlinale Shorts.
www.berlinale.de

Cannes Film Festival
Held in May each year Cannes is recognised as the most prestigious Film Festival in the world. Shorts films screening in competition must be under 15 minutes and must be a world premier outside of their country of origin. They cannot have been screened on the internet. Cannes has also incorporated a short film corner in recent years where filmmakers can pay to screen their film in the market place.
www.festival-cannes.fr
www.shortfilmcorner.com

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival
The biggest short film festival in Europe held in late January early February every year with an international competition, digital competition and a very large short film market attended by thousand of short film makers, festival directors, industry representatives and short film buyers from around the world.
www.clermont-filmfest.com

Cork Film Festival
Since its inception in 1956, Cork Film Festival has championed the short film. The festival to be held in November 2009 has enjoyed a steady growth in scale, numbers of admissions and guests, in reputation and media coverage. The program is wide ranging, from big budget pictures and world cinema to innovative independent films, documentaries and shorts. Australia has traditionally been well represented at this festival with over 130 films screened since 1990
www.corkfilmfest.org

Créteil International Women’s Film Festival
For over 25 years the festival has brought more than 30,000 spectators to Créteil each year. 10 days of non-stop screenings remain a unique opportunity to see feature films, shorts, and documentaries directed by women from all over the world. Also in attendance are international producers, distributors and 250 journalists from the French and international press and media.
www.filmesdesfemmes.com
Edinburgh International Film Festival
Established in 1947 - the Edinburgh Film Festival has certainly evolved over time according to cinematic trends and has fast become an event not to be missed on the festival calendar. The festival aims to stand as a festival of discovery, a celebration of cinema that screens high quality new film and video work in all genres from around the world. Australia is traditionally well represented at this festival with over 150 films screened since 1990.
www.edfilmfest.org.uk

Hamburg International Short Film Festival (IHSFF)
With its presentation of short films drawn from the entire range of international production, the festival has become a forum for presenting the diversity of internationally produced short films and a place of encounter for filmmakers both domestically and internationally. Australian shorts have had a solid presence at Hamburg, with over 50 films in the program since 1990.
www.shortfilm.com

Hiroshima International Animation Festival (IAFH)
The most respected and oldest animation festival in the Asia region. Hiroshima is a competitive biennial festival focusing on progressing animation in the Asia and Pan-Pacific regions. Each year, Hiroshima screens a staggering 1200 titles over a five-day period.
www.hiroanim.org

Leipzig International Festival of Documentary and Animation Films
A festival with a dual personality, Leipzig screens only documentaries and animations and seeks to explore the area where these two seemingly opposed formats merge. It is the largest German and one of the leading international festivals for documentary and animated film.
www.dokfestival-leipzig.de

Locarno International Film Festival
The Locarno Film Festival upholds the tradition of experimentation, discovery, eclecticism and passion for auteur cinema. The largest film festival in Switzerland held in august each year the key competitions for short filmmakers is ‘The Leopards of Tomorrow’.
www.pardo.ch

Mumbai IFF for Documentary, Short & Animation Films
Formerly the Bombay Film Festival, Mumbai has a simple program structure consisting of a National and International Competition, Information Films and Retrospectives. Traditionally, Australia has had a very strong presence at this festival averaging around seven films each festival.
www.miffindia.in

Oberhausen International Short Film Festival
The Oberhausen festival is the longest standing international short film competition in the world and receives more than 2,600 entries annually for its International Competition alone. It has always been a flexible and independent festival in the standard of quality against which it measures short form.
www.kurzfilmtage.de

Ottawa International Animation Festival
The Ottawa International Animation Festival is the largest event of its kind in North America and one of the most respected animation events in the world. Ottawa looks for groundbreaking, provocative, and inspiring animated films. The festival offers recruiters, suppliers, schools and many animation companies.
www.awn.com/ottawa
Pusan International Film Festival
The Pusan Festival began in 1996 with the goal of becoming Asia's most dynamic film event. Since that time, along with the growing strength of Korean Cinema in the late 90s, Pusan has now established itself as a must-attend event. Each year over 50 short films, docs and animated films from more than 20 different countries are screened in the Wide Angle section. The films are unique and extraordinary films programmed with the aim of touching the viewers' hearts.
www.piff.or/eng/index.asp

Rotterdam International Film Festival (IFFR)
The International Film Festival Rotterdam offers a quality selection of worldwide independent, innovative and experimental cinema as well as a series of film-related visual arts exhibitions and live performances. Devoted to actively support independent filmmaking from around the globe, IFFR is the essential hub in Holland for discovering film talent, for catching premieres, and for exploring its competitions, main sections of recent feature films, short films and documentaries, visual arts exhibitions, theme sections and debates.
www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com

San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
The San Francisco International LGBT is the oldest and largest event of its kind in the world. Organised by Frameline, a distributor of lesbian and gay film, the festival screens over 250 films and videos each year ranging from narratives and documentaries to experimental and animation. It represents the most artistically innovative, thematically rich and socially relevant LGBT images and ideas.
www.frameline.org

Sao Paulo International Film Festival
The largest short film competition in Brazil. This competitive festival with an emphasis on independent works is faithful to its original vocation. The festival features a selection of films contemplating diversity and revealing new talents in filmmaking.
www.mostra.org

Sundance Film Festival
The most respected film independent film competition in the USA. Because so many buyers and execs attend, Sundance can generate hype and excitement like few other festivals. Sundance has a long history of showcasing the works of emerging and established Australian directors, with over 80 films screened since 1990.
www.festival.sundance.org/festival

Tampere International Short Film Festival
This highly esteemed festival receives 3,000 entries each year, of which 80 are selected for Competition. The best film is awarded a generous € 5 000. If your film is accepted, the festival may pay for your accommodation in Tampere during the festival. Along with a reputation for great hospitality, Tampere is also famous for holding a sauna party for it's overseas visitors.
www.tamperefilmfestival.fi

Telluride Film Festival
Although concentrating mainly on features, Telluride also programs three programs of short films (the Great Expectations program focuses specifically on short feature-length films). A unique trait of this festival is that the film line-up is never revealed until the first day of screenings. Note: This is a non-competitive festival.
www.telluridefilm.com
Tribeca Film Festival
Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff founded the Tribeca Film Festival in 2001 following the attacks on the World Trade Center to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan through an annual celebration of film, music and culture. Tribeca has supported Australian films throughout its 7 editions having showcased Australian feature and/or shorts each year. Shorts (narrative and documentary - under 40 minutes) are eligible for: Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short, and Student Visionary Award. Student short films must be produced through an accredited educational institution.
www.tribecafilmfestival.org

Uppsala International Short Film Festival
Established in 1982, the festival has become Sweden's premiere arena for short film. A director-oriented festival, one of the aims of Uppsala is to promote the distribution of foreign short films throughout Sweden. The festival has a focus on well made short fiction of the more classic tradition as well as cutting edge films from every conceivable genre. Australia has traditionally been well represented at this festival with over 70 films screened since 1990.
www.shortfilmfestival.com

Venice International Film Festival
Regarded as one of the top three feature film festivals in the world (alongside Cannes and Berlin), Venice prides itself on having discovered a balance between a festival committed to showing films for the market and one dedicated to showing films that reveal truly independent visions. Short films are screened in the Corto Cortissimo section: An international competition for short films, screened here as world premieres or at least not yet given public screening outside their country of origin.
www.labiennale.org

International Directories of Film Festivals

British Council Festivals Directory
This directory lists over 600 international film, television and video festivals, giving details on how and when to enter these events.
www.britfilms.com/festivals

European Coordination of Film Festivals
The European Coordination of Film Festivals (ECFF) is a network of 200 audio-visual festivals with strong roots in the regions of Europe. Member festivals are dynamic, cultural events which have made a commitment to promote the diversity of the European moving image.
www.eurofilmfest.org

Film Festival World
FilmFestivalWorld.com is about launching films on the festival circuit where independent filmmakers will have access to the entertainment media and to some of cinema's best audiences for their work.
www.filmfestivalworld.com

Film Festivals.com
Extensive listing of international film festivals sortable by date and location.
www.filmfestivals.com/ffs/search2.htm

IMDB Events Browser
This site lists just about every film festival there is in the world sorted in alphabetical order.
www.us.imdb.com/Sections/Awards/Events.html

Screen Daily Festival Calendar
Hosted by Screendaily.com, Europe's first daily news service for the global film industry, generated by the team that publishes Screen. Includes a searchable festival index by month, keyword and location.