

FILM INDEPENDENT'S

LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

Los Angeles Times

## FACT SHEET

### About The Los Angeles Film Festival

Held annually in June, Film Independent's Los Angeles Film Festival showcases the best of American and international cinema over the course of ten days. Drawing a diverse audience of over 85,000 people, more than 200 feature films, music videos and shorts are screened at the Festival, alongside gala premieres, panels and seminars, free outdoor screenings, Family Day, and live musical performances.

The Festival also features unique signature programs including the exclusive Filmmaker Retreat - hosted by the Festival's annual Guest Director - and the Spirit of Independence Award ceremony and gala. Additionally, the Festival screens short films created by high school students and has a special section devoted to music videos.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Los Angeles Film Festival is widely recognized as a world-class event, providing the movie-loving public with access to some of the most critically acclaimed filmmakers, scholars, critics, film industry professionals, and emerging talent from around the world.

Approximately 70 features, 70 shorts, and 50 music videos representing more than 30 countries make up the main body of the Festival. Films submitted to the Festival are reviewed by Film Independent's programming department, which evaluates each film, looking for the best in new American and International cinema. This year, Festival programmers considered more than 4,600 submissions.

The Los Angeles Film Festival is a qualifying festival in all categories for Film Independent's Spirit Awards. The Festival is also a qualifying festival for the short films categories of the Academy Awards®.

The Los Angeles Film Festival has grown to more than 85,000 attendees, unveiling such films as "Young @ Heart," "August Evening," "Deliver Us From Evil," "Rock School," "Mayor of the Sunset Strip," "Kissing Jessica Stein," and "George Washington."

Awards are given out in the following categories at the conclusion of the Festival: Target Filmmaker Award for Best Narrative Feature (award carries an unrestricted cash prize of \$50,000); Target Filmmaker Award for Best Documentary Feature (award carries an unrestricted cash prize of \$50,000); Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature; Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature; Audience Award for Best International Feature; Outstanding Performance in the Narrative Competition; Best Narrative Short Film; Best Documentary Short Film; Best Animated/Experimental Short Film; and the Audience Award for Best Short Film.

The Festival is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **History Of The Festival**

The Los Angeles Film Festival began as the Los Angeles International Film Festival [LAIFF] in 1995. The LAIFF took place over the course of five days in one location at the DGA in Hollywood, California. The LAIFF ran for 7 years, until it was absorbed by Film Independent in 2001. At its height the LAIFF attracted 19,000 attendees. Today the Los Angeles Film Festival attracts over 85,000 visitors.

In 2006, the Festival moved to Westwood Village, home of the Los Angeles Film Festival. The transition from Hollywood to Westwood was met with great success, with an audience increase of more than 20,000 attendees from 2005. Strategic partners involved in the transition to Westwood included the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, Mann Theatres, Landmark Theatres, the Majestic Crest Theatre, the Geffen Playhouse, and the Hammer Museum.

With each year, the Los Angeles Film Festival continues to grow in leaps and bounds, both in film submissions and attendance, as well as the caliber of work the Festival screens. From 1995 to 2006, the number of films submitted to the Festival increased from 350 submissions in 1995 to more than 4,500 in 2009. Audiences have also increased from 4,000 attendees in 1995 to more than 85,000 attendees in 2008.

~~The number of World Premieres each year has also risen at a steady rate, from nine World Premieres in 1995 to TBD World Premieres in 2006. The Festival has also continued to add signature events to its slate, such as the highly attended Family Day.~~

### **Festival Acquisitions**

Recent films, which were acquired for theatrical distribution out of the 2008 Festival, include Darius Marder's "Loot" (HBO), Morgan Dews' "Must Read After My Death" (Gigantic Releasing),

Mark Mann's "Finishing Heaven" (HBO), and Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker's "Pressure Cooker" (BEV Pictures).

Previous acquisitions include "Kabluey" (Regent Releasing), "Severed Ways" (Magnet Releasing), "What We Do Is Secret" (Vitagraph Films), "Constantine's Sword" (First Run Features), "Resolved" (HBO), "Young @ Heart" (Fox Searchlight), "August Evening" (Maya Releasing), "Deliver Us From Evil" (Lionsgate Films), "Snoop Dogg's Hood of Horror" (Xenon Pictures), "Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple" (Seventh Art Releasing), "The Foot Fist Way" (Paramount Vantage), "Rock School" (Newmarket Films), "Mayor of the Sunset Strip" (First Look Media/Lakeshore Entertainment), and "Kissing Jessica Stein" (Fox Searchlight).

### **Guest Directors Throughout The Years**

Alfonso Cuaron ("Children of Men," "Y Tu Mama Tambien")  
Curtis Hanson ("L.A. Confidential")  
Chen Kaige ("Farewell My Concubine")  
Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding," "Vanity Fair")  
Sydney Pollack ("Out of Africa," "Tootsie")  
George Lucas ("Star Wars," "Indiana Jones")  
Melvin Van Peebles ("Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," "Panther")

### **Notable Speakers And Panelists Throughout The Years**

Allison Anders ("Things Behind The Sun," "Gas Food and Lodging")  
Philip Baker Hall ("The Insider," "Magnolia")  
Tom Cruise ("Collateral," "Jerry Maguire")  
Ileana Douglas ("Ghost World," "Goodfellas")  
Diane English ("The Women," "Murphy Brown")  
Jodie Foster ("The Brave One," "Silence of the Lambs")  
William Friedkin ("Rules of Engagement," "The Exorcist")  
Janeane Garofalo ("Ratatouille," "Dogma")  
Daryl Hannah ("Kill Bill," "Splash")  
Agnieszka Holland ("Washington Square," "Europa, Europa")  
Holly Hunter ("Thirteen," "Home for the Holidays")  
Lawrence Kasdan ("Star Wars," "Indiana Jones")  
Neil LaBute ("Nurse Betty," "In The Company of Men")  
Kasi Lemmons ("The Silence of the Lambs")  
Richard Linklater ("Before Sunrise," "A Scanner Darkly")  
Michael Mann ("Collateral," "The Aviator")  
Cheech Marin ("Grindhouse," "Up in Smoke")  
Michael Moore ("Sicko," "Fahrenheit 9/11")  
Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding," "Vanity Fair")  
Sidney Poitier ("Brother John," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner")  
Sydney Pollack ("Out of Africa," "Tootsie")  
Bob Rafelson ("Five Easy Pieces")  
Rob Reiner ("The American President," "A Few Good Men")

Mark Ruffalo ("Collateral," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind")

Bryan Singer ("X-Men," "The Usual Suspects")

Steven Soderbergh ("Ocean's Eleven," "Erin Brockovich")

### **Notable Screenings And Debuts Throughout The Years**

"Wanted," directed by Timur Bekmambetov

"Hellboy II: The Golden Army," directed by Guillermo Del Toro

"Anvil! The Story of Anvil," directed by Sacha Gervasi.

"Transformers," directed by Michael Bay

"An Inconvenient Truth," directed by David Guggenheim

"The Clearing," directed by Pieter Jan Brugge

"The Cooler," directed by Wayne Kramer

"Deadman," directed by Jim Jarmusch

"The Devil Wears Prada," directed by David Frankel

"Fahrenheit 9/11," directed by Michael Moore

"Garden State," directed by Zach Braff

"Little Miss Sunshine," directed by Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris

"Monster House," directed by Gil Kenan

"Sidewalks of New York," directed by Ed Burns

"Things Behind the Sun," directed by Allison Anders

"With A Friend Like Harry," directed by Dominik Moll

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Feature films, short films, and music videos must have been completed after January 1, 2008. Feature films must not have had any public or festival screenings in the greater Los Angeles area, including Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura counties.

Feature films and short films must not have had any commercial theatrical or television play in the US. Feature films must not have been broadcast on the internet. Short films may have had non-commercial broadcast on the internet for a limited time only.

For feature films, especially American films without US distribution, world and US premieres are not required but are strongly preferred, and premiere status will be one of the factors considered when determining a film's inclusion in the Festival. For short films and music videos, premiere status is not a factor in the selection process. Music videos must have a running time of less than 10 minutes.

Feature films and short films in a language other than English must be subtitled in English for Festival presentation. For submission purposes, preview tapes/DVDs may be works-in-progress, films with temporary soundtracks, or digital outputs.

High school films must be works shot, directed, and produced by high school or secondary school (pre-college) students. Adult

supervision must be limited to an advisory capacity.

### **Festival Awards & Prizes**

Select narrative features, documentary features, and short films participate in the Festival's three competitive sections, the winners of which are chosen by special juries. The winner of the Narrative Feature Competition receives the Target Filmmaker Award, while the winner of the Documentary Feature Competition receives the Target Documentary Award. The Target Filmmaker Award and the Target Documentary Award each carry a \$50,000 unrestricted cash grant renewed annually by Target. In the Short Film Competition, awards are given for Best Animated/Experimental Short, Best Documentary Short, and Best Narrative Short.

All features and shorts are eligible for Audience Awards, which are chosen based on ballots submitted by Festival audiences and are presented in the following categories: Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, International Feature, Short Film, and Music Video.

The Los Angeles Film Festival is a qualifying festival in all categories for Film Independent's Spirit Awards and is also a qualifying festival for the Narrative and Animated Short Films categories of the Academy Awards®.