

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL MARKETING GUIDE 2025



Kia ora, welcome to Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) Short Film Festival Marketing Guide,
designed to help with your most frequently asked festival related questions
and to support you in planning a targeted release strategy for your short film.

Wishing you the best of luck on your festival journey.



Film Still: *First Horse* (2024) – Directed by Awanui Simich-Pene (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauā),
written by Heperi Mita (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāi Te Rangī) and Awanui Simich-Pene,
produced by Mia Marama Henry-Teirney (Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kuri),
Heperi Mita and Putiputirā Simich (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauā). Photo credit: Fred Renata (Ngāpuhi)

Official Selection: Sydney Film Festival – Winner First Nations Award,
Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival -
Winner New Zealand's Best Auckland Live Spirit of The Civic Award,
Melbourne International Film Festival, Hawai'i International Film Festival,
Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Darwin International Film Festival,
Santa Fe International Film Festival – Winner Jury Award for Best Short by an Indigenous Director

DISCLAIMER: This document is written as a guide only, intended for use by short film directors, writers
and producers when referring to 'you', 'your' and 'filmmakers'.

Festival dates included in this guide are correct at publishing and subject to change.

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THE FIRST STEPS – PREPARING FOR FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Your film's journey to success doesn't start on completion; you should be preparing for future festival marketing opportunities as early as possible.

IN PRE-PRODUCTION

- Think about your voice as a filmmaker, what is the story you want to tell, why are you telling it? What is unique about your project and how will this film launch or add to your career as a filmmaker? Festival selection is highly competitive and in assessing thousands of submissions, selectors are looking for unique perspectives, quality, individuality and strong filmmaker voice. Watch as many short films as possible, familiarise yourself with films that have screened at international festivals in recent years, know your competition and empower yourself to push boundaries. Make an impactful short film that will make your mark as a filmmaker.
- Even at this early stage, think ahead to where you see your film positioned in terms of audience, your ideal premiere and the festivals that you would like to submit your film to, once complete. When are the upcoming submission deadlines and festival dates for these events? It may pay to think about your timelines and if your film will be comfortably ready to submit to one of your chosen festivals.
- If your budget allows, schedule an onset photographer to make sure that you have someone on board to shoot as much as you can while filming. Brief them thoroughly on the storyline, key characters, tone and message of your film. Ensure they understand your brief and capture a variety of potential key/hero imagery, behind the scenes and creative content. You will need hi-res image files for the creation of your key art, for submission to festivals and to pitch potential sales, as well as content on hand for marketing and social media opportunities. Film stills pulled from the final film will not always be suitable for print and digital reproduction or be of high enough resolution for marketing use. We cannot stress enough, how important it is to have your imagery planned for and available when needed, as this is what will sell your short film to festival programmers, buyers and audiences
– DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

IN PRODUCTION

- Work with your onset photographer, make sure they are getting high-res imagery to your brief, in landscape and portrait ratio options, key moments, key cast, close/mid and long shots, full colour. Make sure they get some great photos of your director, producer, writer on set. In addition to a strong key image, most festivals require filmmaker portraits for online and printed catalogues as well as publicity, so take this opportunity to get some wonderful photos.
It is better to have too many options to choose from, than not enough.

IN POST-PRODUCTION

- This is the point where you *may* feel ready to start submitting to festivals. Your film should be at a minimum, picture locked with music cleared (ie. Locked film duration with no further edits). Though festival selectors are used to previewing films that are yet to be graded/final sound completed, remember that your film will be considered alongside fully completed films. You have ONE CHANCE to have your film viewed by a selector and festivals do not accept revised edits, so make sure your film is as close to complete as possible, you are confident in what you are submitting and giving your film the best chance at selection.

AT THE FINISH LINE

Congratulations on completing your short film! Now you are officially ready to submit to festivals, you will need the following submission materials ready.

- **PRESS KIT** - Including key information:

Title of film

Key image - An arresting/captivating image

Country of production

Date of completion - Generally the month and year first applied for festivals or when the film was finally output

Available screening format(s) - May include Pro Res, H264, Blu-ray and/or DCP formats

Screen ratio

Film duration – Including credits

Film genre – Drama, comedy, musical, documentary, experimental etc

Logline - Tells the film's essential storyline in its most dramatic form, in one sentence.

Short synopsis – The expanded film storyline in one paragraph, usually less than 100 words

Director statement – An impactful statement explaining the director's connection to the film, story and/or subjects, your creative process and mission

Director credit, biography, filmography

Writer credit, biography, filmography

Producer credit, biography, filmography

Cast / Crew credits

Main contact details – Including email, mobile phone number with international dialling code +64 for Aotearoa New Zealand

Production company – Include contact details if different from main contact above

Do not include a film screener in your press kit

- You can view [examples of film press kits](#) by browsing the short films listed on the NZFC website under 'Our Films'. Filter short film titles by the 'Format' dropdown option, click on short film titles of interest and scroll to the bottom of each page, where you will find press kits available for download on some short films.

- **3-5 HI-RES KEY IMAGES** - How to select key images is hard to define, but you might want to look for the following:

Images that are arresting/pique interest and would grab attention in a busy environment – would your image make someone STOP and pay attention if they were browsing through a sea of submissions or a packed festival catalogue?

Face/eyes to camera is often an impactful option - it is human nature to respond to someone looking at you, even if it is only in an image.

Images should DEFINE your film, if you only had 1-3 images, what would capture the whole essence of your film, what the story is and what you are trying to say?

Make sure you select a good range of images in landscape (standard) and portrait ratios, colour and black and white options (if applicable) and in hi-res, jpeg and tiff formats, ideally a frame size of 5472 x 3648 pixels. This will allow flexibility for both print and digital use.

[View examples of landscape ratio short film key images throughout this Guide](#)

- **DIRECTOR PHOTO** – Portrait ratio, ideally medium close-up, colour or black & white, well-lit, with a complimentary background. Hi-res, jpeg and tiff formats, ideally a frame size of 3648 x 5472 pixels
NOTE: You will also need 1 x Producer Photo and 1 x Writer Photo as applicable, for use in your marketing campaign.

[Examples of a portrait ratio medium close-up director photo:](#)



Awanui Simich-Pene (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauā)
Writer/Director, *First Horse*
Photo credit: Putiputirā Simich (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hauā)



Tom Furniss
Writer/Director, *Rochelle*
Photo credit: Lyndon Katene

- **PASSWORD PROTECTED FILM SCREENER** - It is highly important that your film is protected against piracy and not available freely online. You will need a secure online screener for submission to festivals, so please make sure that it is password protected, ideally watermarked and not downloadable. The most widely accepted screener host for festival submission, is password protected [Vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com). Double check your screener settings for privacy as if your film is available publicly, this will limit your film’s eligibility for many festivals and may impact sales opportunities.



Film Still: *Rochelle* (2024) – Written and directed by Tom Furniss, produced by Luke Sharpe
Photo credit: Lyndon Katene

Official Selection: Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival -
Winner New Zealand’s Best Panavision Audience Award, Winner Creative New Zealand Emerging Talent Award Jury Prize,
Show Me Shorts Film Festival – Winner Studio Butter Best Cinematographer (Ryan Heron),
Edmonton International Film Festival – Winner Wedgie Award for Best Comedy Short,
Flickerfest Film Festival – Best of International Shorts

FORMING YOUR FESTIVAL STRATEGY

For a short film distribution plan, it is best to first lock in your festival release strategy. Having your film screen at festivals with a market attachment or strong word of mouth and/or industry attendance will help you to reach potential sales and talent agencies as well as distribution and project development opportunities. Film festivals are an important platform to get your film seen, and positive audience reviews and industry buzz are excellent sales points for interested buyers and potential partners. You can also add festival screening history and official selection laurels to your film press kit, ahead of approaching short film distributors and talent agencies.

POSITIONING YOUR FILM

Before submitting your film to festivals, you first need to think about your goals for this project: who do you want to see it and where does this film fit in terms of your career development? In marketing your film, are you focused on reaching as many viewers as possible with your message, finding international distribution, following a festival awards trail or perhaps you want to focus on making strong connections for future short or feature film development? What are your primary and secondary goals?

You will then need to research and identify the festivals that would fit into either your primary or secondary strategy, including the associated industry and audiences who would most identify with your film.

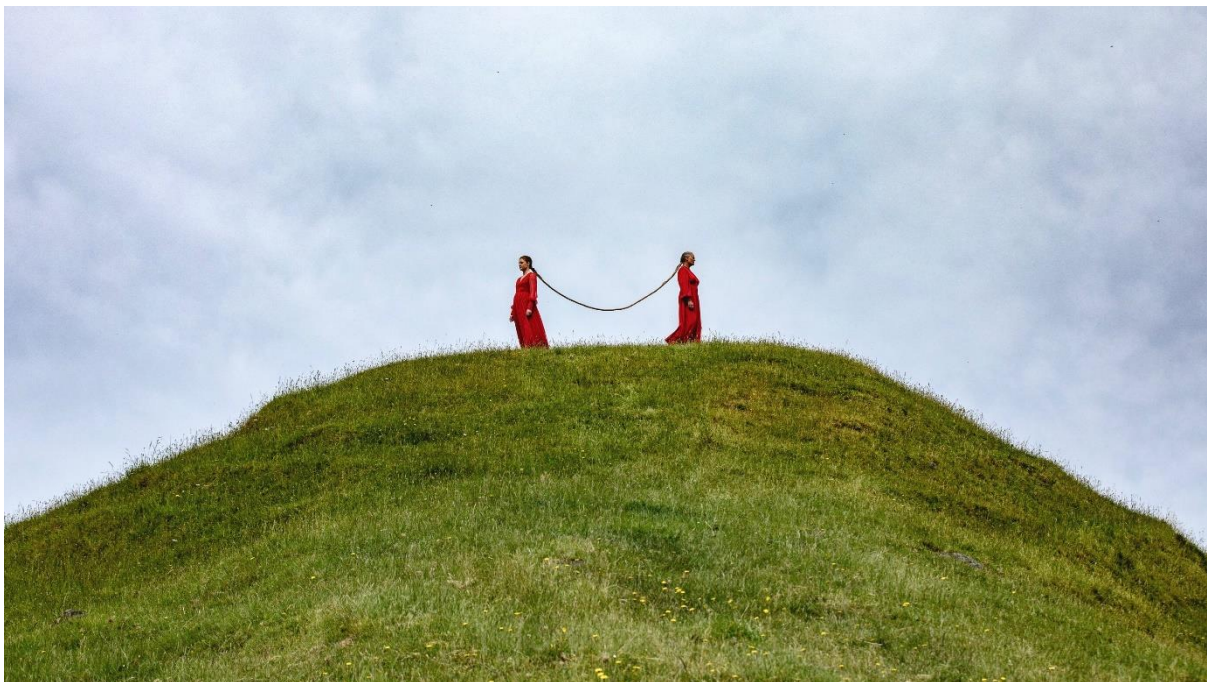
Example of a primary goal

Submit to festivals with an associated market first, with potential for being selected and gaining an international sales agent or distributor to represent my film internationally.

Example of a secondary goal

Submit to festivals that champion themes and/or help to communicate the message of my film directly to key audiences ie. Indigenous festivals, children's festivals, women's festivals, documentary festivals.

- For more information on target audiences, visit the NZFC website resource page: [Know How – Distribution and Marketing](#)



Film Still: *Milk of Dreams* (2024) – Written and directed by Sarah Grohnert, produced by Estelle Clark
Photo credit: Jen Raoult

Official Selection: Bogotá Experimental Film Festival, Moving International Film Festival Mexico - Special Jury Award,
Torino Film Festival – International Short Films Competition

WHICH FESTIVALS TO SUBMIT TO?

There are many wonderful festivals around the world that you may feel would be a good fit for your film, some screening both features and shorts and some being shorts, genre or theme specific. You can research their archived programmes to find out what sort of films a festival has screened in the past and check their social feeds and submission information for particular programme streams or themes they might be focussing on for the coming year.

Is your film tonally, thematically and/or aesthetically similar to the films screened in this festival? It is important to honestly think about whether or not your film would fit comfortably within a festival's programme and brand before submitting for consideration. If not realistic, (ie. You are looking at a festival with a strong history of screening arthouse films and your project is sci-fi) it would make strategic sense to instead focus on festivals better suited to your film, with a greater chance at being selected and reaching your primary/secondary audience.

Another tip is to find a 'like film' or 'comp title' from the last few years, that is tonally and/or thematically similar to your project and research online. Which festivals did this film screen in? What was its screening path and how did the filmmakers promote their film? This research could inspire your strategy.

- View short films selected by international festivals and find 'comp titles' via the following platforms, available to audiences in Aotearoa New Zealand:

[Argo](#)

[Beamafilm](#)

[DocPlay](#)

[Kanopy](#)

[Netflix](#)

[NZ Film OnDemand](#)

[NZ On Screen](#)

[Show Me Shorts](#)

[Vimeo](#)

[Youtube](#)

Finally, if you have had a previous film screen at a festival, you might like to reach out to current contacts at this event to let them know that you have a new film and you will be submitting for upcoming programme consideration. Utilise these positive relationships.

Later in this guide, you will find film festivals listed by month, genre and theme to start you off on your event research.

FESTIVAL SUBMISSION & TRACKING WEBSITES

- Make sure to sign up to festival submission websites to keep updated with regular ‘open for submission’ and upcoming deadline news. Note that some festivals do not use the following sites to host submissions, so you will need to visit the individual festival websites to sign up to newsletters and submit officially if you can’t find particular festivals listed on the following major submission portals.

[Film Freeway](#)

[Short Film Depot](#)

[FestHome](#)

- You can also follow our Facebook page: facebook.com/nzfilm and also join our Facebook industry group: [New Zealand Filmmakers](#) where we post weekly ‘Festival Friday’ deadline lists.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR STRATEGY & SUBMISSIONS

Though the submission portal sites listed above each offer the ability to save preferred festivals and trace history for submissions made via their platform, when you are submitting to multiple festivals across multiple websites, it can get confusing! You will want to document your strategy and keep detailed records of submissions made for your film, the submission tracking numbers, submission dates and fees paid. We recommend creating a spreadsheet or Google Doc Sheet to share with your film team as applicable, to track the following key information as you complete submissions:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	FESTIVAL NAME / COUNTRY	YEAR	PREMIERE REQUIRED	STATUS	SUBMITTED BY / DATE	SUBMISSION TRACKING NUMBER	FESTIVAL START DATE	FESTIVAL END DATE	FEE PAID (INTL CURRENCY)	FEE PAID (NZD)
									TOTAL	

STATUS KEY
Declined
Submitted & Pending
Accepted



Film Still: *Stella* (2023) – Written and directed by Alison Titulaer, produced by Emma Mortimer, Stacey Murdoch
Photo credit: Maria Ines Manchego
Official Selection: Show Me Shorts Film Festival, Aesthetica Short Film Festival,
Flickerfest Film Festival – Best of International Shorts, Minikino Film Week

FESTIVAL PREMIERE REQUIREMENTS

Many festivals have a ‘premiere requirement’ rule, whereby a film cannot have screened anywhere in cinema, on TV or available to view online within their designated premiere territory.

A ‘world premiere’ is the first public screening anywhere in the world. If your first public screening takes place in Aotearoa New Zealand, this is still your world premiere and the next screening outside of Aotearoa would be your ‘international premiere’.

An ‘international premiere’ is the first public screening outside of a film’s country of origin. If an international screening is the first public screening of the film ever, then this of course would be your ‘world premiere’.

Strategically speaking, many filmmakers will prioritise festivals requiring a world or international premiere first, before then submitting to festivals that require a country, region, state, city or no premiere, in that order. For short films, many film festivals prefer world and international premieres, though your strategy may focus on festivals in key cities or particular genres, with no premiere requirements.

- Make sure you read the full submission rules and meet eligibility requirements for any festival, before submitting your film. Check out the festival website’s FAQ’s page as well, for additional useful information.

FESTIVAL DATE OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

Most festivals have a date of completion requirement in their rules and regulations, where your film must have been completed within the designated date of completion time frame. This completion date requirement could sit within the 12 months prior to the next festival start date or there might be no date of completion requirement at all. Your film's date of completion will be the date that your film was 'delivered', though some filmmakers use their date of first public screening or international premiere as their date of completion. You will need to visit the website of the festivals you are interested in submitting to, to check if your film is eligible.

FESTIVAL FILM DURATION REQUIREMENTS

Festivals have strict regulations around what they consider a 'short film' with regards to film duration, and this can vary between events. Some festivals consider a short film as being anything under 40 minutes, while others, like Cannes Film Festival, will only consider short films with a maximum run time of 15 minutes including credits. You might see some festivals placing non-feature length films under categories of short or medium length, with your film sitting in the medium length category as it is 21 minutes. It is important that you carefully check the requirements for your chosen festival and submit to the appropriate category.



Film Still: *I See You* (2024) – Written and directed by Briar March, produced by Caroline Hutchison
Photo credit: Elizabeth March

Official Selection: Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival – New Zealand's Best, Australian Women's Film Festival – Winner Best Actor (Anne March), Best Cinematography, Audience Award, Newport Beach Film Fest, Naples International Film Festival, Art Without Limit International Film Festival, Mirada Corta Short Film Festival - Visiones Unicas, FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania

RECEIVED A FESTIVAL INVITATION? – NEXT STEPS!

Congratulations on receiving an official festival invitation to screen! Here are some important tips:

- Make sure you consider and accept or decline the invitation, by the festival's requested deadline. Read the invitation details in full and make sure you understand and respect any guidelines and requirements. YOU CANNOT PULL OUT OF A FESTIVAL PROGRAMME ONCE ACCEPTED.
- Pay attention to strict festival announcement embargo dates, which restrict you and your film team from announcing the festival invitation publicly, ahead of the festival's official programme announcement – this includes posting on social media, adding to your press kit or website, or discussing outside of your immediate team. Though you will of course be super excited to share the news, know that promoting ahead of the official festival announcement could jeopardise your invitation to screen.
- Ahead of the official festival announcement, draft a press release including the exact festival programme selection and/or competition information, festival event dates, select your key image and compile your key contact list, ready to share once the programme is publicly available. To be safe, first check your film listing is live on the festival's website, before going out with your press release. You will also want to share the news via your social channels, tagging the appropriate social handles, as suggested by the festival.
- Make sure you update your press kit and social imagery with the official festival selection laurel once the embargo lifts. Laurel files will be supplied by the festival and can be used in accordance with their usage guidelines. Keep your festival selection and award history up to date in your publicity materials, including on film submission portals like Film Freeway and Short Film Depot. This information could help your film to gain further festival invitations and start you on a festival screening circuit.
- The festival will guide you on delivery of screening and publicity materials as required, including technical specs and deadlines. Standard short film materials required by festivals include the film file for screening (DCP, H264 or Pro Res files), a 30 second trailer or clip, high-res stills, photos of your key creatives (director, writer, producer) and press kit. Online festivals may request a short intro video from the director. For festivals in non-English language countries, you may also require an English dialogue list for the creation of local language subtitles, or you may need to supply your film with subtitles burnt in or supplied as a separate .stl file (both common for premiere festivals). Check the festival supplied technical specs for exact requirements. It is incredibly important that you meet all delivery deadlines and efficiently collaborate with the festival on all opportunities to connect and publicize your film.
- For festivals screening online or hybrid (both online and physical screenings), you should ask about geo-blocking and viewer cap requirements. Geo-blocking limits the online territory in which audiences will be able to view your film, dependent on their geographic location (ie. Restricted to the festival's country, territory, or world/no geo-block). Viewer cap refers to the maximum number of people who can view your

film in the online programme. Viewer caps should mirror the seat capacity that would exist with a physical festival screening. It also ensures the local market for your film isn't exhausted, making the film less attractive for other festivals in the same territory. Before agreeing to the geo-block and viewer cap requirements for your film, it is important to think about your festival strategy and how these online reach factors will affect your premiere status for future festivals (see page 10 'Festival Premiere Requirements'). You can generally negotiate with festivals on how your film will be presented in an online programme, as selectors will want to support and contribute to the ongoing success of your film!

- In accepting an invitation to screen online, it is also important to ask after a festival's host platform DRM (digital rights management) system, to confirm your film will be secure and protected against piracy. This information is frequently included in the festival's screening agreement and/or technical specs. If you are unsure, don't be shy to ask the festival for clarification.
- Lastly, enjoy the ride! Meet and network with as many industry and filmmaking contacts as possible, do your research on attending virtual or in-person professionals and send formal meeting invitations to distributors and sales agents who could be a good fit for your film. Have business cards printed and on hand for unexpected meeting opportunities and ensure your full contact details are added to your email signature. Think about how you would like your career to grow, if you have other projects in development and how you could use the current publicity and buzz around your film selection to meet with talent agents and gain future support. Participate in all festival and market-initiated programmes, whether virtual or in-person, ask lots of questions, learn, be confident and have fun!



Film Still: *New Followers* (2024) – Written and directed by Guy Pigden, produced by Harley Neville
Photo credit: Isaac Newcombe

Official Selection: Show Me Shorts Film Festival, Monster Fest – Winner Best International Short Film,
Misty Flicks Film Festival – Honourable Mention, ScreamFest New Orleans, Terror-Fi Film Festival



Film Still: *Help, I'm Alien Pregnant* (2024) – Written and directed by THUNDERLIPS,
produced by Morgan Leigh Stewart, Alix Whittaker, Ilai Amar
Photo credit: Bayley Broome-Peake

Official Selection: Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival – Winner Special Jury Prize: Bucheon Choice section, Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival, Show Me Shorts Film Festival, Screamfest LA, SLASH Fantastic Film Festival, Imagine Fantastic Film Festival, Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival, Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, Courts Mais Trash Brussels Underground Film Festival, Les Utopiales International Science-Fiction Film Festival – Winner Le Prix Canal + Award - International Short Film Competition

RECEIVED A FESTIVAL DECLINE? – STAY POSITIVE!

An unfortunate, but realistic part of submitting to film festivals is the majority of submissions made, will likely result in decline. Though it is always disappointing to receive (sometimes yet another!) decline notification, it is important to appreciate that the field is extremely competitive, selectors have to make very tough decisions from a large number of wonderful films to choose from and to understand that not all films can screen.

Here are some tips on dealing with not-so-great festival selection news:

- Know that a festival decline is not an indication of the quality of your film and that selectors will always welcome the submission of your future projects.
- You might never know what other projects were in consideration, if your film made it to the final round, if selectors were programming for a particular theme or looking for something different in any given year. Sometimes your film just wasn't quite the right fit, but it might be just what the next festival is looking for!
- Though this particular submission did not result in an invitation, there are many more fantastic festivals to submit to and following each notification, you should

continually assess your strategy and add or remove upcoming festivals in line with your progression.

- If you have been waiting for submission news for what seems like forever, don't be tempted to chase or follow up with festival submission teams repeatedly. They will be busy assessing each film and will notify submitters when ready.
- Some festivals will provide feedback on their selection decision, though most won't due to the huge number of films in consideration. For the festivals who do personally notify you of decline, respond to them as soon as possible with a courteous reply and thank them for their time – you never know when you might be submitting your next project and you may have just started a fruitful new relationship!
- Last, but certainly not least, stay positive through the journey. Continue with your submissions and stay focussed on your strategy, making tweaks as you go along. Remember that it takes some films longer than others to find their place in the world. Some will find success via an unexpected path and not all will reach their destined audience via film festivals - though you won't know until you try!

FREQUENTLY ASKED FESTIVAL QUESTIONS

Q. I missed the submission deadline for a festival, can I still submit?

- A. Many festivals offer staggered deadlines to meet the varying completion stages of films. If you think you have missed a deadline, check the festival's website or submission portal partner to see if they are offering late or extended deadlines or if they have a late submission request function, where you can apply for a late waiver. Note that late submission fees can sometimes be higher. If the festival is not offering extensions, you will need to check the following year and submit if your film is still eligible.

Q. I submitted a work-in-progress version of my short film for festival consideration. My film is now complete, can I send a new link to the festival?

- A. Festival selectors are not able to accept multiple screeners or cuts of your film. Submit your screener once and make it count.

Q. Can I re-submit my short film to a festival, if they have considered it in the past?

- A. If a festival has considered your film in a previous year and declined, they will generally not reconsider your film again, unless it has had substantial changes to the edit.

Q. Do festivals offer submission fee waivers?

- A. You will need to check the rules and regulations for each film festival as some offer discounts for multiple films from one submitter. However, in general, festivals do not offer waivers as submission fees are an important contribution to operational budgets and ensure continued success and filmmaker opportunities for these important events.

Q. If my short film has screened on television, will this affect my festival premiere status?

- A. It is important that you check the individual rules and regulations for the festival you are interested in submitting to. However public screenings of any kind, including as part of a festival, online, or on television, within the designated premiere territory of a festival, will affect your film's eligibility.

Q. Will posting a clip or trailer online for my short film jeopardise my festival premiere status?

- A. No, but having your full film available to view online, either via non-password protected screener link, open Youtube or Vimeo, will affect your premiere status.

Q. Can I post images and behind the scenes content for my short film via social media?

- A. Posting this content online before your film has had its world premiere won't affect eligibility for festival submission, but you will want to have a good selection of strong, unseen images to deliver to festivals once invited. It can also take some time to receive your first festival invitation, so save your buzz generating content for when you can tie this in with the festival's announcement plans and build excitement for your audience!

Q. My short film screened at a festival two years ago and has not shown anywhere else publicly since, can I still submit to festivals?

- A. Many festivals have a date of completion requirement in their rules and regulations, where your film must have been completed within the designated date of completion time frame. This completion date could sit within the 12 months prior to the next festival or there might be no date of completion requirement at all. You will need to visit the website of the festivals you are interested in submitting to, to check if your film is eligible.

Q. Can the New Zealand Film Commission view my short film and help me with a festival strategy? Can you put in a good word for me with selectors?

- A. Short and feature film festival strategy and guided submissions are handled by the Marketing team at the NZFC, in partnership with filmmakers, associated sales agents and distributors. Our focus is always on films that have received NZFC funding support. We have limited capacity and resources to offer festival strategy support to independent short film projects, however our approach is curatorial and extended to films assessed as being suitable for premiere festival submission.

We hope this guide offers helpful information, where we are unable to give individual support.



Film Still: *Lea Tupu'anga / Mother Tongue* (2024) – Directed by Vea Mafile'o, written by Luciane Buchanan, produced by Alex Lovell, Eldon Booth. Photo credit: Ralph Brown
Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival, Sydney Film Festival – In Competition, First Nations Award, Palm Springs International Shorts Fest, Māoriland Film Festival – Winner Best Short Film (Drama), Edinburgh International Film Festival, Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival - New Zealand's Best, Atlantic International Film Festival, Hawai'i International Film Festival, Adelaide Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, San Diego Asian Film Festival, FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Show Me Shorts Film Festival – Winner Department of Post Best New Zealand Film (Vea Mafile'o, Eldon Booth, Alex Lovell), Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Bend Film Festival – Winner Best Indigenous Short

THE FESTIVALS

Below you will find a list of internationally recognised film festivals divided by category, genre and month as a general guide only, with many more festival events to discover and add to your strategy.

PREMIERE FESTIVALS

[Berlin Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Cannes Critics' Week, France](#)
[Cannes Directors' Fortnight, France](#)
[Cannes Film Festival, France](#)
[Sundance Film Festival, USA](#)
[Toronto International Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Venice Film Festival, Italy](#)

FESTIVALS WITH MARKET / INDUSTRY ATTACHMENT

[Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France - Mifa](#)
[Berlin Film Festival, Germany - European Film Market \(EFM\)](#)
[Cannes Film Festival, France - Short Film Corner](#)
[Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France - Short Film Market](#)
[IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands - Docs for Sale](#)
[Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia - MIFF 37°South](#)
[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands - IFFR Pro + CineMart](#)
[Sheffield Doc/Fest, UK - MeetMarket](#)
[Sundance Film Festival, USA - Sundance Industry Office \(SIO\)](#)
[Toronto International Film Festival, Canada - TIFF Industry](#)
[Venice Film Festival, Italy - Venice Production Bridge](#)

ACADEMY ACCREDITED FESTIVALS

Some festivals are 'Academy Accredited', meaning that if your film wins an Academy accredited award at one of these designated short film or documentary short film festivals around the world, you are then eligible to submit this film to the next Academy Awards. The current list of accredited festivals and the eligible awards can be found below:

[Short Films Qualifying Festival List](#)

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND FESTIVALS

[Doc Edge Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand *Academy Accredited](#)
[Māoriland Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Show Me Shorts, Aotearoa New Zealand *Academy Accredited](#)
[Terror-Fi Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

ANIMATION FESTIVALS

[ANIMA – Brussels Animation Film Festival, Belgium](#)
[Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France](#)
[Bucheon International Animation Festival, Korea](#)
[Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[London International Animation Festival, UK](#)
[Ottawa International Animation Film Festival, Canada](#)
[SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival, USA](#)
[Trickfilm Animated Film Festival Stuttgart, Germany](#)

CHILDREN / YOUTH AUDIENCE FESTIVALS

[Berlin International Film Festival, Germany - Generation Programmes](#)

[Chicago International Children's Film Festival, USA](#)

[Children's Film Festival Seattle, USA](#)

[Cinekid Film Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands](#)

[Giffoni Film Festival, Italy](#)

[IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands – Competition for Kids & Docs](#)

[Kuki International Short Film Festival for Children and Youth Berlin, Germany](#)

[Māoriland Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand - Rangatahi Film Festival](#)

[Mo&Friese Children's Short Film Festival Hamburg, Germany](#)

[New York International Children's Film Festival, USA](#)

[Plein la Bobine - International Short Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, France](#)

[Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience, Germany](#)

[Stockholm International Film Festival Junior, Sweden](#)

[Zlín International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Czech Republic](#)

COMEDY INCLUSIVE FESTIVALS

[Aspen ShortsFest, USA](#)

[BFI London Film Festival, UK](#)

[Boston Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Brussels Short Film Festival, Belgium](#)

[Chicago International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France](#)

[Cork International Film Festival, Ireland](#)

[Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK](#)

[Encounters Film Festival Bristol, UK](#)

[Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Heartland Indy Shorts Film Festival, USA](#)

[LA Shorts International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Leeds International Film Festival, UK](#)

[Palm Springs Shorts Fest, USA](#)

[PÖFF Shorts – Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia](#)

[Raindance Film Festival, UK](#)

[Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Slamdance Film Festival, USA](#)

[Sydney Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Tribeca Film Festival, USA](#)

DANCE FILM FESTIVALS

[San Francisco Dance Film Festival, USA](#)

[Choreoscope Barcelona Dance Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Dance on Camera Film Festival New York, USA](#)

[Dances with Films Festival LA, USA](#)

[Dance Camera West LA, USA](#)

DISABILITY / ACCESSIBILITY FESTIVALS

[Aotearoa Mental Health Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand *2025 TBC](#)

[Focus on Ability Short Film Festival, Australia](#)

[NYC Mental Health Film Festival, USA *2025 TBC](#)

[NZ Deaf Short Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand *2025 TBC](#)

[ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York, USA](#)

[Slamdance Film Festival, USA - Unstoppable Programme](#)

[Superfest International Disability Film Festival San Francisco, USA](#)

DOCUMENTARY FESTIVALS

[Big Sky Documentary Film Festival Montana, USA](#)

[CPH: Dox, Denmark](#)

[Doc Edge Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

[Doc NYC, USA](#)

[Dock of the Bay Music Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Donostia - San Sebastian Human Rights Film Festival, Spain](#)

[DOXA Documentary Film Festival, Canada](#)

[FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Tahiti](#)

[GZDOC Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival, China](#)

[Hot Docs Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, USA](#)

[IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands](#)

[Ji. hlava International Documentary Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)

[Sheffield Doc/Fest, UK](#)

[True/False Film Festival, USA](#)

[Visions du Réel, Switzerland](#)

[Zinebi – Bilbao International Short & Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)

EMERGING / INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER FESTIVALS

[Boston Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Calgary Underground Film Festival, Canada](#)

[CUFF Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Indie Lisboa Film Festival, Portugal](#)

[Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Raindance Film Festival, UK](#)

[Slamdance Film Festival, USA](#)

[SXSW Film Festival, USA](#)

[Sundance Film Festival, USA](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVALS

[Environmental Film Festival at Yale, USA](#)

[Environmental Film Festival DC, USA](#)

[FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Tahiti](#)

[Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival, Canada](#)

[SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York, USA](#)

EXPERIMENTAL FESTIVALS

[Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA](#)

[CPH: Dox, Denmark](#)

[CUFF Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Images Festival Toronto, Canada](#)

[Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)

[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands](#)

GENRE FESTIVALS

[Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, Belgium](#)

[Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival \(BIFAN\), Korea](#)

[Fantasia Film Festival Quebec, Canada](#)

[Fantastic Fest Austin TX, USA](#)

[FrightFest London, UK](#)

[HÕFF Haapsalu Horror and Fantasy Film Festival, Estonia](#)

[Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, Sweden](#)

[Molins Horror Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Monster Fest, Australia](#)

[Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival, Switzerland](#)

[Overlook Film Festival, USA](#)

[Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival, Italy](#)

[Screamfest LA, USA](#)

[Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival Catalonia, Spain](#)

[Terror-Fi Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

[Toronto After Dark, Canada](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVALS

[Donostia - San Sebastian Human Rights Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Human Rights Arts & Film Festival, Australia](#)

[SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York, USA](#)

INCLUSIVE FESTIVALS

[Bentonville Film Festival, USA](#)

[Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival, USA](#)

INDIGENOUS FESTIVALS

[Asinabka Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)
[FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Tahiti](#)
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)
[Māoriland Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Native Spirit Film Festival, UK](#)
[Présence autochtone/Montréal First Peoples' Festival, Canada](#)
[Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Skábmagovat Indigenous Peoples' Film Festival, Finland](#)
[Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

INTERNATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC SHOWCASE FESTIVALS

[CAAMFest, USA](#)
[Chicago South Asian Film Festival, USA](#)
[FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Tahiti](#)
[Hawai'i International Film Festival, USA](#)
[LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA](#)
[Pacific Island Film Festival New York City, USA](#)
[San Diego Asian Film Festival, USA](#)
[Tasveer Film Festival, USA](#)

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS WITH SHORT FILM PROGRAMMES

[AFI Fest, USA](#)
[Atlanta Film Festival, USA](#)
[Atlantic International Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Berlin Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Bentonville Film Festival, USA](#)
[BFI London Film Festival, UK](#)
[Cannes Critics' Week, France](#)
[Cannes Directors' Fortnight, France](#)
[Cannes Film Festival, France](#)
[Chicago International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Cork International Film Festival, Ireland](#)
[Dharamshala International Film Festival, India](#)
[Durban International Film Festival, South Africa](#)
[Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK](#)
[Hawai'i International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Hong Kong International Film Festival, Hong Kong \(SAR\)](#)
[Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Newport Beach Film Festival, USA](#)
[New York Film Festival, USA](#)
[Raintance Film Festival, UK](#)
[Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands](#)
[San Francisco International Film Festival, USA](#)
[San Sebastián International Film Festival, Spain](#)
[Santa Fe International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Seattle International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Seminci – Valladolid International Film Festival, Spain](#)
[Slamdance Film Festival, USA](#)
[Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden](#)
[SXSW Film Festival, USA](#)
[Sundance Film Festival, USA](#)
[Sydney Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Telluride Film Festival, USA](#)
[Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece](#)
[Torino Film Festival, Italy](#)
[Toronto International Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Tribeca Film Festival, USA](#)
[Venice Film Festival, Italy](#)

LGBTQIA+ FESTIVALS

[BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival, UK](#)
[Festival du Film LGBTQ de Paris Chéries-Chéris, France](#)
[Frameline - San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival, USA](#)
[Inside Out - Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Queer Lisboa International Queer Film Festival, Portugal](#)
[Queer Screen Mardi Gras Film Festival Sydney, Australia](#)
[NewFest - The New York LGBTQ Film Festival, USA](#)
[Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival, USA](#)
[Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival, USA](#)

MUSIC FILM FESTIVALS

[Dock of the Bay Music Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)
[Jecheon International Music & Film Festival, Korea](#)
[Seeyousound International Music Film Festival, Italy](#)
[SXSW Film Festival, USA](#)

SHORT FILM FESTIVALS

[Aesthetica Short Film Festival, UK](#)
[Aspen ShortsFest, USA](#)
[Brussels Short Film Festival, Belgium](#)
[Busan International Short Film Festival, Korea](#)
[Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France](#)
[Encounters Film Festival Bristol, UK](#)
[Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Focus on Ability Short Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Heartland Indy Shorts Film Festival, USA](#)
[HollyShorts Film Festival, USA](#)
[Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Kuki International Short Film Festival for Children and Youth Berlin, Germany](#)
[LA Shorts International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Minikino Film Week – Bali International Short Film Festival, Indonesia](#)
[Minimalen Short Film Festival, Norway](#)
[Mo&Friese Children's Short Film Festival Hamburg, Germany](#)
[Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Odense International Film Festival, Denmark](#)
[Palm Springs International ShortFest, USA](#)
[Plein la Bobine - International Short Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, France](#)
[PÖFF Shorts – Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia](#)
[Pragueshorts Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)
[São Paulo International Short Film Festival, Brazil](#)
[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Japan](#)
[Show Me Shorts, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Tampere International Short Film Festival, Finland](#)
[Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden](#)
[Winterthur International Short Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[Zinebi - Bilbao International Short & Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)

VR / INTERACTIVE INCLUSIVE FESTIVALS

[Aesthetica Short Film Festival, UK](#)
[Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France - VR@Annecy](#)
[Atlanta Film Festival, USA](#)
[Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France](#)
[CPH: Dox, Denmark - Inter:Active](#)
[Encounters Film Festival Bristol, UK](#)
[Geneva International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands – DocLab Competition for Immersive Non-Fiction](#)
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)
[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands](#)
[Sheffield Doc/Fest, UK - Arts Programme \(formerly Alternate Realities\)](#)
[SXSW Film Festival, USA - XR Screening Sections](#)
[Tribeca Film Festival, USA](#)
[Venice Film Festival, Italy - Venice Immersive](#)

WOMEN'S FESTIVALS

[Athena Film Festival New York, USA](#)

[Films de Femmes - Créteil International Festival of Women's Films, France](#)

[IFEMA - International Female Film Festival Malmö, Sweden](#)

[LA Femme International Film Festival, USA](#)

[St. Johns International Women's Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Women Make Waves Film Festival, Taiwan](#)

YOUTH / STUDENT FILMMAKER FESTIVALS

[BFI Future Film Festival, UK – Filmmakers aged 16+](#)

[Cinekid Film Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands – Shorts by Kids Competition](#)

[CineYouth Film Festival Chicago, USA – Filmmakers aged 22 years and under](#)

[Zlín International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Czech Republic - Zlín Dog:](#)

[International Competition of Student Films](#)

[Seattle International Film Festival, USA - FutureWave Shorts Competition](#)



Film Still: *Earthlings* (2023) – Written and directed by Jamie Lawrence,
produced by Desray Armstrong (Te Aitanga a Hauiti, Ngāti Porou).

Photo credit: Maria Ines Manchego

Official Selection: Melbourne International Film Festival,
Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival – Short Connections



Film Still: *Maunga Cassino* (2023) – Directed by Paolo Rotondo,
written by Rob Mokaraka (Ngāpuhi, Ngai Tūhoe), Paolo Rotondo,
produced by Luke Robinson, Andrew Marshall, Te Kohe Tuhaka (Ngāti Porou, Ngai Tūhoe).
Photo credit: Jackie Gay

Official Selection: Ora! Fest International Film Festival – Winner Best Short Film,
Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival – Shorts with Features, Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival,
Hawai'i International Film Festival, FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania

FESTIVALS BY MONTH *SUBJECT TO CHANGE

January

[Clermont Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France](#)

[Dance Camera West LA, USA](#)

[FIFO International Film Festival of Oceania, Tahiti](#)

[Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Minimalen Short Film Festival, Norway](#)

[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands](#)

[Skábmagovat Indigenous Peoples' Film Festival, Finland](#)

[Sundance Film Festival, USA](#)

February

[ANIMA - Brussels Animation Film Festival, Belgium](#)

[Berlin Film Festival, Germany](#)

[Big Sky Documentary Film Festival Montana, USA](#)

[BFI Future Film Festival, UK - Filmmakers aged 16+](#)

[Dance on Camera Film Festival New York, USA](#)

[New York International Children's Film Festival, USA](#)

[Pragueshorts Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)

[Queer Screen Mardi Gras Film Festival Sydney, Australia](#)

[Seeyousound International Music Film Festival, Italy](#)
[Slamdance Film Festival, USA](#)
[True/False Film Festival, USA](#)

March

[Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA](#)
[Aspen ShortsFest, USA](#)
[Athena Film Festival New York, USA](#)
[BFI Flare: London LGBTIQ+ Film Festival, UK](#)
[Boston Underground Film Festival, USA](#)
[Children's Film Festival Seattle, USA](#)
[CPH: Dox, Denmark](#)
[Environmental Film Festival DC, USA](#)
[Films de Femmes - Créteil International Festival of Women's Films, France](#)
[Māoriland Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York, USA](#)
[SXSW Film Festival, USA](#)
[Tampere International Short Film Festival, Finland](#)

April

[Atlanta Film Festival, USA](#)
[Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, Belgium](#)
[Brussels Short Film Festival, Belgium](#)
[Busan International Short Film Festival, Korea](#)
[Calgary Underground Film Festival, Canada](#)
[CineYouth Film Festival Chicago, USA – Filmmakers aged 22 years and under](#)
[Donostia - San Sebastian Human Rights Film Festival, Spain](#)
[Environmental Film Festival at Yale, USA](#)
[Hong Kong International Film Festival, Hong Kong \(SAR\)](#)
[Hot Docs Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Images Festival Toronto, Canada](#)
[Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, USA](#)
[Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Overlook Film Festival, USA](#)
[ReelAbilities Film Festival: New York, USA](#)
[San Francisco International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Stockholm International Film Festival Junior, Sweden](#)
[Visions du Réel, Switzerland](#)

May

[CAAMFest, USA](#)
[Cannes Critics' Week, France](#)
[Cannes Directors' Fortnight, France](#)
[Cannes Film Festival, France](#)
[DOXA Documentary Film Festival, Canada](#)
[HÕFF Haapsalu Horror and Fantasy Film Festival, Estonia](#)
[Indie Lisboa Film Festival, Portugal](#)

[Inside Out - Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Canada](#)
[Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA](#)
[Seattle International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Japan](#)
[Trickfilm Animated Film Festival Stuttgart, Germany](#)
[Zlín International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Czech Republic](#)

June

[Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France](#)
[Bentonville Film Festival, USA](#)
[Dances with Films Festival LA, USA](#)
[Doc Edge Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Dock of the Bay Music Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)
[Frameline - San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival, USA](#)
[Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)
[Mo&Frieze Children's Short Film Festival Hamburg, Germany](#)
[Palm Springs International ShortFest, USA](#)
[Plein la Bobine - International Short Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, France](#)
[Raindance Film Festival, UK](#)
[Sheffield Doc/Fest, UK](#)
[Sydney Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Tribeca Film Festival, USA](#)

July

[Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival \(BIFAN\), Korea](#)
[Durban International Film Festival, South Africa](#)
[Fantasia Film Festival Quebec, Canada](#)
[Giffoni Film Festival, Italy](#)
[Heartland Indy Shorts Film Festival, USA](#)
[LA Shorts International Film Festival, USA](#)
[Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

August

[Asinabka Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)
[Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK](#)
[FrightFest London, UK](#)
[HollyShorts Film Festival, USA](#)
[Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival, USA](#)
[Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia](#)
[Présence autochtone/Montréal First Peoples' Festival, Canada](#)
[Odense International Film Festival, Denmark](#)
[São Paulo International Short Film Festival, Brazil](#)
[SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival, USA](#)

[Telluride Film Festival, USA](#)

[Venice Film Festival, Italy](#)

September

[Atlantic International Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Chicago South Asian Film Festival, USA](#)

[CUFF Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Encounters Film Festival Bristol, UK](#)

[Fantastic Fest Austin TX, USA](#)

[Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, Switzerland](#)

[Focus on Ability Short Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Jecheon International Music & Film Festival, Korea](#)

[Minikino Film Week – Bali International Short Film Festival, Indonesia](#)

[New York Film Festival, USA](#)

[Ottawa International Animation Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Pacific Island Film Festival New York City, USA](#)

[Queer Lisboa International Queer Film Festival, Portugal](#)

[Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival, USA](#)

[San Sebastián International Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Schlingel International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience, Germany](#)

[Toronto International Film Festival, Canada](#)

October

[AFI Fest, USA](#)

[BFI London Film Festival, UK](#)

[Bucheon International Animation Festival, Korea](#)

[Chicago International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Choreoscope Barcelona Dance Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Cinekid Film Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands](#)

[Geneva International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)

[Hawai'i International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, USA](#)

[Ji. hlava International Documentary Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)

[LA Femme International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, Sweden](#)

[Monster Fest, Australia](#)

[Native Spirit Film Festival, UK](#)

[NewFest – The New York LGBTQ Film Festival, USA](#)

[Newport Beach Film Festival, USA](#)

[Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival, Italy](#)

[Santa Fe International Film Festival, USA](#)

[Screamfest LA, USA](#)

[Seminci – Valladolid International Film Festival, Spain](#)

[Show Me Shorts, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

[Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival Catalonia, Spain](#)

[St. Johns International Women's Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Superfest International Disability Film Festival San Francisco, USA](#)
[Tasveer Film Festival, USA](#)
[Terror-Fi Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece](#)
[Toronto After Dark, Canada](#)
[Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden](#)
[Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[Women Make Waves Film Festival, Taiwan](#)

November

[Aesthetica Short Film Festival, UK](#)
[Chicago International Children's Film Festival, USA](#)
[Cork International Film Festival, Ireland](#)
[Dharamshala International Film Festival, India](#)
[Doc NYC, USA](#)
[Festival du Film LGBTQ de Paris Chéries-Chéris, France](#)
[IDFA International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands](#)
[IFEMA - International Female Film Festival Malmö, Sweden](#)
[Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)
[Kuki International Short Film Festival for Children and Youth Berlin, Germany](#)
[Leeds International Film Festival, UK](#)
[London International Animation Festival, UK](#)
[Molins Horror Film Festival, Spain](#)
[PÖFF Shorts – Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Estonia](#)
[Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)
[San Diego Asian Film Festival, USA](#)
[San Francisco Dance Film Festival, USA](#)
[Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden](#)
[Torino Film Festival, Italy](#)
[Winterthur International Short Film Festival, Switzerland](#)
[Zinebi - Bilbao International Short & Documentary Film Festival, Spain](#)

December

[GZDOC Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival, China](#)



Film Still: *Ave Marie* (2024) – Written and directed by Celestina Sumbly, produced by Sabina Wallis
Photo credit: Chris Matthews

Official Selection: Toronto LGBTQ + Film Festival – Winner Audience Award for Best Direction,
Outfest Peru International Film Festival, BraveMaker Film Fest, Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival,
Atlanta Women's Film Festival – Nominated Best Ensemble Cast, Nominated Best Costume,
Hobnobben Film Festival – Winner First-time Filmmakers Award

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Interview with Mike Plante, Senior Programmer for Short Films at Sundance Film Festival](#)

- What makes a short film good, why short films are important, why a film might get chosen to play at Sundance and more: [Interview with Mike Plante](#)

[Interview with Jason Anderson, Director of Programming at Aspen Shortsfest and Lead Programmer for the Short Cuts section of Toronto International Film Festival](#)

- Advice for filmmakers in creating a festival strategy for their film, insight into the festival selection process and more: [Interview with Jason Anderson](#)

[Screen Daily 2025 Film Festivals & Markets Calendar](#)

- Screen is running this regularly updated page with the latest film festival and market dates from across the world: [2025 Film Festivals and Markets Calendar](#)

[Have additional questions?](#)

- Contact – Hayley Weston, Film Festival & Marketing Executive
New Zealand Film Commission E. hayley.weston@nzfilm.co.nz

This guide was written by Hayley Weston, Film Festival & Marketing Executive at the New Zealand Film Commission.

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Film Still: *Two Cars, One Night* (2004) – Written and directed by Taika Waititi (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui), produced by Ainsley Gardiner (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-a-Apanui, Whakatōhea), Catherine Fitzgerald
Photo credit: Taika Waititi

Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Sydney Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, Minimalen Short Film Festival, Pragueshorts Film Festival, Flickerfest Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Berlin International Film Festival – Winner Panorama Award for Best Short Film, Aspen ShortsFest – Winner Best Drama, Seattle International Film Festival – Winner Best Short Film, Oberhausen International Short Film Festival – Winner Jury Prize, Hamburg International Short Film Festival – Winner Best Short Film, Melbourne International Film Festival – Winner Best Short Film, AFI Fest – Winner AFI Grand Jury Prize, Academy Awards - Nomination, 2005 Best Short Film Live Action Sundance Film Festival - Sundance Institute 40th Anniversary Programme