

SF International Film Festival Programs & Events



By supporting the 51st International (April 24–May 8, 2008), you become a vital partner in presenting a beloved citywide cultural event to many enthusiastic and diverse constituencies in the Bay Area. The Film Society staff works closely with companies and individuals to craft customized, integrated packages that meet our partners' specific business objectives.

BIG NIGHTS

Opening Night Premiere and Gala Party

Opening Night launches the Festival with an eagerly anticipated new film. Talent is on hand to answer questions afterward. An exquisite kickoff party follows.

Centerpiece Screening and Party

The Centerpiece screening, held on an evening mid-Festival, features a highly anticipated film, onstage talent and a late-night party at one of SF's trendiest hot spots.

Midnight Awards

This award program honors a dynamic young American actor and actress entering the prime of their careers, who each have made outstanding contributions to independent and Hollywood cinema. This late-night cocktail reception is one of the Festival's most sought-after special events for the city's most discerning filmgoers. Last year's recipients: Rosario Dawson and Sam Rockwell.

Closing Night Premiere and Gala Party

Closing Night ends the Festival memorably, with a superb film from a well-known director, with onstage talent. A truly joyous after-party wraps the Festival's glorious 15 days.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Film Society Awards Night

The can't-miss, Who's-Who event of the Festival, this spectacular gala honors three consummate

film professionals on an opulent black-tie evening filled with special appearances, career highlights and onstage testimonials by awardees and their guests as well as magnificent dining and entertainment.

Live & Onstage: Directing Tribute

The recipient of the Film Society Directing Award engages in a long-form onstage interview prior to a screening of his or her work. In 2007 Spike Lee talked about his provocative filmmaking career and in 2006 Werner Herzog sold out the 1,400-seat Castro Theatre.

Live & Onstage: Acting Tribute

The winner of the Peter J. Owens Award discusses his or her career prior to a screening of one of his or her finest films. Recent recipients: Robin Williams, Ed Harris and Joan Allen.

Live & Onstage: Screenwriting Tribute

The winner of the Kanbar Award is interviewed onstage prior to a screening of one of his or her finest films. In 2007 Academy Award-nominated Peter Morgan talked about two of the most highly praised films of 2006—*The Queen* and *The Last King of Scotland*. Prior recipients of the Kanbar Award were Jean-Claude Carrière and Paul Haggis.

Golden Gate Awards Ceremony

The high-spirited Golden Gate Awards Ceremony announces the winners of the Festival's competitive cash prizes in the documentary, short narrative, animation,

"I was born in 1957, the same year that this great Festival began. And my film career started back in 1986 when we had the world premiere of *She's Gotta Have It* at the Festival. So it's great to be here. I feel I've come full circle."

— Spike Lee, 2007 Film Society Directing Award recipient

"The San Francisco International Film Festival was a memorable event for me, and I hope for the audience as well. I am convinced you are steering the Festival in the right direction. SFIFF and I belong together quite naturally!"

— Werner Herzog, 2006 Film Society Directing Award recipient

"When you see films from all over the world, you see how film brings people together and lets us understand each other!"

— Akira Kurosawa, SFIFF23, 1980

experimental and television categories, as well as the coveted New Directors Prize for first-time directors and the international FIPRESCI prize. 400 invitation-only filmmakers and industry professionals attend this marquee evening.

State of Cinema Address

One of the Festival's most sought-after tickets, this onstage talk provides a snapshot of the present and a forecast of the future of moviemaking. In 2007 the maverick theater and opera director Peter Sellars delivered a passionate and heartfelt address, underscoring the challenges facing art and humanity today.

Persistence of Vision Award

Given to a visionary filmmaker whose work consistently challenges and provokes. The honoree introduces his or her latest project and answers questions afterward. In 2007, the award went to Heddy Honigmann to honor her 25 years of documentary filmmaking.

Mel Novikoff Award

This award is given to an individual who has broadened and deepened the public's appreciation of world cinema. In 2007 Kevin Brownlow was honored for his extensive and peerless body of work.

Audience Awards: Best Narrative & Best Documentary Feature

Throughout the Festival, moviegoers vote on their favorite films, making these titles some of the most visible movies in the program. Past winners include *The Rape of Europa*, *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, *Whale Rider* and *Spirited Away*.

MAIN PROGRAM

Organized into four sections, the Festival features a dazzling array of terrific films and superb filmmakers. Some of these films arrive eagerly anticipated, while others are unheralded and may never again be seen in San Francisco. All offer viewers a ticket to exploration, discovery, transformation—even transcendence.

World Cinema

The World Cinema section features new works by acknowledged master directors and exciting selections by acclaimed major directors from Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and the Americas.

Documentaries

From the personal to the political, whether to save the Earth or share a funny story, these provocative films inform and engage audiences with the breadth of human experience.

New Directors

With their fresh visions, new stories, and unique voices, the dazzling first and second time feature directors in this section open new paths into cinema from around the world.

Short Films

Challenging, daring and enjoyable short-form animation, experimental, youth, documentary and narrative films. (Sometimes the best things come in small packages.)

SPOTLIGHTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight: KinoTek Digital Media

A dynamic showcase of new platforms, new work and new experiences from the world's digital pioneers. Program features include Cell Cinema/ Mobile Content, Games/Machinima, live video jockeying, Festival mashups and Web work.

Spotlight: International Animation

The finest new animated work from around the world, including feature films, Flash work, TV programs, motion graphics, shorts, music videos, video game cut scenes and more.

Spotlight: Youth Media

A focus on international work produced by youth 8–18.

Spotlight: Cinema by the Bay

A focus on work produced by the Bay Area film and media community.

Special Presentation: Films with Live Music

Silent films with live music—and a very contemporary twist. These amazing performances draw our most eclectic audiences.

Special Presentation: The Late Show

Explicitly daring, with a focus on edgy, outrageous and extreme films, the Late Show amuses, arouses and (intentionally) horrifies viewers.

FESTIVAL EVENTS

SF360 Live: Panels and Discussions

A series of provocative panels devoted to the innovative ways in which Bay Area film and media leaders are exploring new opportunities in the digital sphere.

SF360 Satellite Screenings

In collaboration with several arts organizations and nontraditional screening venues, selected programs are presented at satellite locations around the city. Programs have included a nonfiction storytelling event, an outdoor screening on a firefighter's training tower and a live interactive performance and dance party.
