



## **The 59<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival**

### **October 11-22, 2023**

The Chicago International Film Festival will present our 59th edition October 11-22, 2023. We will present an in-person event with the additional accessible and online components.

## **OFFICIAL REGULATIONS**

### **A.) Eligibility Requirements**

#### **1. Completion Date**

- a. Films must have been completed on or AFTER August 1, 2022.
- b. Films completed before August 1, 2022 are NOT eligible.

#### **2. Premiere Date**

- a. Films must premier/have premiered AFTER October 23, 2022.
- b. Films premiered anywhere on or before October 23, 2022 are NOT eligible.

#### **3. Premiere Status**

- a. Films must be at least a Chicago premiere.
- b. U.S. premieres are given priority.
- c. Films shown at private screenings not open to the public (for crew, investors, etc.) are eligible.
- d. Films that have previously shown online at U.S. film festivals **outside of** Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin **are** eligible for consideration.
- e. Films are NOT eligible if they:
  - i. Have theatrically screened publicly in the Chicago area.
  - ii. Have had a theatrical run in the US prior to the Festival dates.
  - iii. Have aired on US television prior to the Festival dates.
  - iv. Have shown online in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin prior to the Festival dates.
  - v. Are available to the public for purchase on DVD/Blu-ray or online.

4. Feature-length films (narrative or documentary) that are available for public online viewing in their entirety are NOT eligible. Short films (under 40 min) may be available online.
5. Films previously submitted to the Chicago International Film Festival are NOT eligible for consideration.
6. All entries must either be in English or subtitled in English. Dialogue lists are not accepted.
7. Entrant confirms and warrants required legal authority to submit the entry to the Festival and to use all music, images, and content in the entry.

*For any specific questions regarding a film's eligibility, please email:*  
[entries@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:entries@chicagofilmfestival.com)

## **B) Submission Guidelines**

1. Films must be submitted via an online screener hosted by Vimeo or another secure online platform. *(It is recommended that films submitted via online screener be available to download).* Please contact [entries@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:entries@chicagofilmfestival.com) if you prefer to submit a Bluray/DVD screener.
2. Only complete entries (including fee payment and screener) will be considered.
3. Entrants are permitted to submit works-in-progress (i.e., without final color correction or sound mixing), but please note that the programming committee will only consider the version submitted. Subsequent cuts or replacement copies will only be accepted at the request of the programming committee.
4. For theatrical screenings, all films selected for the Chicago International Film Festival will screen on DCP unless otherwise arranged. If required, file specifications for online screenings will be provided.

## **C) Deadlines**

**Early deadline** entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **April 3, 2023**.

**Regular deadline** entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **June 12, 2023**.

**Late deadline entries** must be postmarked/submitted online by **July 6, 2023**.

## **D) Judging & Selection**

Films are selected for Festival presentation by the Chicago International Film Festival programming committee. If a film is selected, the Festival office will contact the entrant by phone or email.

**For films selected to screen at the 59th Chicago International Film Festival, the Festival will only cover one-way shipping costs for the Festival screening hard drive or DCP.**

All entrants will be notified on or before **September 15, 2023**. **The Festival does not provide feedback or screening notes to entries that are not selected.**

Films selected for the International Feature, Documentary, New Directors, and OutLook Competitions are judged during the Festival. All other competitive film categories, including the Chicago Award and Short Film Competitions, are judged before the Festival.

### **E) Entry Fees**

Each entry must be accompanied by the appropriate entry fee. Entry fees are not refundable. Fees cover registration, registration notification, full consideration by the programming department, and notification of the results. These fees may be paid by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or American Express) or by check or money order, made payable to Cinema/Chicago.

<b>Submission deadline:</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>June 12</b>	<b>July 6</b>
Feature-length narrative	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Feature-length documentary	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$150.00
Short film (under 40 min)	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$70.00
Student film: feature (over 40 min)	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$80.00
Student film: short (under 40 min)	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$50.00

## FESTIVAL SECTIONS

The Chicago International Film Festival is the longest-running competitive film festival in North America. The Festival is dedicated to the discovery of new voices. We are inclusive in our programming, embracing and uplifting a wide range of identities, cultures, genres, aesthetics, and perspectives. Films are programmed in a variety of competitive and non-competitive sections as we present a festival that is designed to excite, provoke, enrich, and entertain.

### International Feature Film Competition

Representing a wide variety of styles and genres, these works compete for the top honor, the Gold Hugo - as well as awards for best actor, actress, director, writer, and more - in North America's longest-running competitive film festival.

### New Directors Competition

This selection of first and second feature films, receiving their U.S. premiere in Chicago, celebrates the spirit of discovery and innovation upon which the Festival was founded. To be eligible for the competition, films **must** be at least a U.S. premiere if selected for the Festival.

### Documentary Competition

Global in scope and representing a wide range of approaches to documentary form, this program offers a diverse cross-section of contemporary non-fiction filmmaking in both competitive and non-competitive sections. To be eligible for the International Documentary Competition, films **must** be at least a U.S. premiere if selected for the Festival.

### OutLook Competition

Competing for the Festival's QHugo Award, these superbly crafted films reflect the myriad perspectives and experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals.

### Short Film Competitions

Annually showcasing the best short films from around the globe, this competition highlights the work of both upcoming artists and masters of the short subject form. Programmed films are eligible for awards in the following categories: Animation, Documentary, and Live Action. The winners of the Best Live Action, Best Documentary Short and Best Animated Short awards are eligible to be considered by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the Academy Awards®.

### City & State

This program celebrates Illinois' rich filmmaking tradition, showcasing the best features, documentaries, and short films with their roots right here in Illinois. Films in this section compete for the **Chicago Award**, given to the year's best Illinois film.

## **Out of Competition**

### **After Dark**

Gathering genre films from horror and thrillers to edgy animation and dark comedies, this showcase of future cult classics and midnight favorites offers an exciting mix of late-night fare.

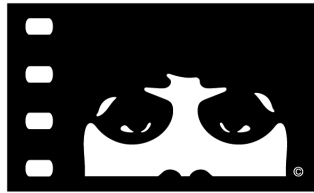
### **Black Perspectives**

Now in its 27th year, this program showcases films that celebrate the richness of African American filmmaking and the diversity of black cultures around the world and the filmmakers behind them.

### **Comedy**

From slapstick to subversive, surrealist to satirical, this program presents a range of films that will leave you laughing all the way home.

In addition to After Dark, Black Perspectives, and Comedy, the Chicago International Film Festival screens a vast range of films out of competition every year across a wide variety of genres and forms. Films screening out of competition are organized into categories at the discretion of the 59th Chicago International Film Festival and its programming staff.



**The  
Chicago  
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Film Festival**

**The 59<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival**  
**October 11-22, 2023**  
**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Original Title: \_\_\_\_\_

English Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: ☐ Feature narrative ☐ Feature documentary ☐ Short film (under 40 min)

Running Time (in minutes): \_\_\_\_\_

Countries of Production: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Producer: \_\_\_\_\_

Screenwriter: \_\_\_\_\_

Cinematographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Music: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select the program(s) to which you believe your film is best suited. See above for program descriptions. \* Select all that apply:

*\*Note that this is meant as a guide for our programming committee and that you are not applying for considerations in these programs exclusively. Selected films will be placed at the discretion of the programming team.*

☐ International Feature Competition ☐ New Directors Competition (first or second feature)

☐ Documentary Competition ☐ Out-Look Competition

☐ City and State ☐ After Dark

☐ Black Perspectives ☐ Cinemas of the Americas

☐ Global Currents

Was the director a student at the time of production? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If selected, screening will be a:

☐ World Premiere      ☐ North American Premiere

☐ U.S. Premiere      ☐ Chicago Premiere

Was the film produced or shot in Illinois? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please list any other festivals in which this film has screened or is scheduled to screen:

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Please provide a 25 – 30 word synopsis of the film:

### **Entrant Information**

All correspondence will be sent to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP / Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby state that I am authorized to submit this production to the Chicago International Film Festival, and that I have read and accept the Festival's regulations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check or money order (payable to Cinema/Chicago)

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

V-Code (final 3 digits on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Screener**

Link: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

*All adjustments to screener (link and password) access must be communicated to [entries@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:entries@chicagofilmfestival.com). It is preferred that films submitted via online screener be available for our programming staff to download.*

**Screening Format** - *All films presented in theaters at the Chicago International Film Festival will screen on DCP. Programmed films that have an exhibition format other than DCP must consult with the Festival and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

**Email completed form to [entries@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:entries@chicagofilmfestival.com)**