

The 55<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival  
Presented by Cinema/Chicago  
212 W. Van Buren St. Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Tel: 312.683.0121  
entries@chicagofilmfestival.com

## The 55<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival October 16 – 27, 2019

### OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

#### A) Eligibility Requirements

1. Films completed on or after October 1, 2018 are eligible for consideration
2. Films that have premiered on or before October 21, 2018 are NOT eligible for consideration.
3. Films previously submitted to the Chicago International Film Festival are NOT eligible for consideration.
4. Films must be at least a Chicago premiere, and US premieres are given priority. Films that (a) have screened publicly in the Chicago area, (b) have had a theatrical run in the US prior to the Festival dates, (c) have aired on US television prior to the Festival dates, or (d) are available for purchase in North America are NOT eligible.
5. 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.
6. Films shown at private screenings not open to the public (for crew, investors, etc.) are eligible.
7. All entries must be either in English or subtitled in English. Dialogue lists are not accepted.
8. 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.

#### B) Submission Guidelines

1. Feature-length films must be submitted via online screener hosted by Vimeo, on DVD or on Blu-ray disc. *(It is recommended that films submitted via online screener be available to download).*
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. To qualify for student entry fee rates, entrant must include proof of student status at the time of production (e.g., copy of student ID, transcript, etc.)
5. All films selected for the Chicago International Film Festival will screen on DCP unless otherwise arranged by the submitting filmmaker and programming team.

### C) Deadlines

**Early deadline** entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **April 8, 2019**.

**Regular deadline** entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **June 17, 2019**.

**Late deadline entries** must be postmarked/submitted online by **July 8, 2019**.

### D) Shipping

The cost of shipping an entry to the Festival must be paid by the entrant. Collect or COD shipments will not be accepted. All international entries must be sent “free domicile” to the Festival office with all transportation charges, duties, and taxes prepaid by the shipper. For films selected to screen at the 55th Chicago International Film Festival, the Festival will only cover one-way shipping costs for the Festival screening hard drive or DCP.

### E) 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. The Festival does not provide feedback or screening notes to entries that are not selected.

All entrants will be notified on or before August 31, 2019

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

### F) 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 check or money order, made payable to Cinema/Chicago, or by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, or American Express).

<b>Postmark deadline:</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>July 8</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

## COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

The Chicago International Film Festival is the longest-running competitive film festival in North America. Films programmed in these competitions are eligible for awards across a variety of categories.

### **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.

### **Out-Look Competition**

From the edgy to the tender, these bold LGBTQ-themed films exhibit new artistic perspectives on sexuality and identity, and compete for the Q Hugo Award.

### **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 and Best Documentary 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.

### **Founder's Award**

All films in the Festival are eligible for the Founder's Award, presented to one film or performance that captures the spirit of the Chicago International Film Festival for its unique and innovative approach to the art of the moving image.

## NON-COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

The Chicago International Film Festival screens a wide range of films out of competition every year. All non-competition films at the Festival are programmed under one of the following categories.

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Cinemas of the Americas**

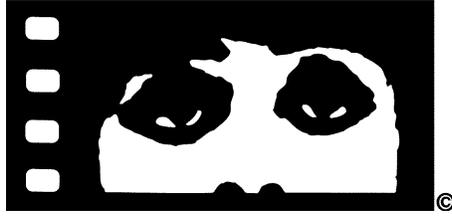
With films from Cuba and Colombia to Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, this program spotlights the fresh and vibrant work of emerging and veteran filmmakers from South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

### **World Cinema**

A mix of classic narratives and cutting edge forms, this program offers a snapshot of the contemporary cinematic landscape. Serving up the sights, sounds and stories from cultures around the globe, this section presents the latest from established masters, festival award winners, box-office hits, and hidden gems.

### **U.S. Indies**

These independent films represent the freshest and most innovative narrative filmmaking today. With budgets both large and small, films programmed in this section highlight great storytelling from across the U.S.



**The 55<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival**  
**October 16 – 27, 2019**

**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.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Feature Competition | <input type="checkbox"/> New Directors Competition (first or second feature) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Competition           | <input type="checkbox"/> Out-Look Competition                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City and State                    | <input type="checkbox"/> After Dark  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Perspectives                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cinemas of the Americas                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World Cinema                      | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Indies   |

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

If selected, screening will be a:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> World Premiere | <input type="checkbox"/> North American Premiere |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Premiere  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: \_\_\_\_\_ State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Entry Format

Indicate the format of the DVD or Blu-ray disc you are submitting, or online screener. Please encode discs region free, or Region 1 for DVD and Region A for Blu-ray.

DVD/Blu-ray disc

Online screener (all adjustments to screener access must be communicated to [entries@chicagofilmfestival.com](mailto:entries@chicagofilmfestival.com))

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

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

*It is preferred that films submitted via online screener be available for our programming staff to download.*

**Screening Format** - All films at the Chicago International Film Festival screen on DCP. Programmed films without DCP screening copies will be consulted on a case-by-case basis.

## Send completed form and 1 DVD or Blu-ray copy of your film to:

Entry Coordinator  
55<sup>th</sup> Chicago International Film Festival  
212 W. Van Buren St., Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Phone: 312.683.0121