



The 56th 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 56th Chicago International Film Festival October 14 – 25, 2020

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

A) Eligibility Requirements

1. Films completed on or after October 1, 2019 are eligible for consideration
2. Films that have premiered on or before October 27, 2019 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 (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 6, 2020**.

Regular deadline entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **June 15, 2020**.

Late deadline entries must be postmarked/submitted online by **July 6, 2020**.

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 56th 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 September 10, 2020

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 Competitions, 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, 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.

Postmark deadline:	April 6	June 15	July 6
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

This program of striking and masterfully crafted films from around the world showcases the best in cinema today. Telling essential, transportive stories, these titles compete for the Festival's top prize, as well as awards for best director, best actor, and more.

New Directors Competition

Screening for the first time in the U.S., these bold works from first- and second-time feature filmmakers are selected to represent the most exciting new voices in cinema. Prizes awarded in the category include the Gold and Silver Hugo as well as the Roger Ebert Award.

Documentary Competition

From the topical and timeless to the political and proactive, these real-life stories bring you up close and personal with the people and issues that define who we are, where we come from, and where we're going. Documentary Competition titles, making their U.S. premieres in Chicago, compete for the Festival's top nonfiction prize.

Short Film Competitions

Annually showcasing the best short films from around the globe, these competitions highlight 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 top winners in the Live Action and Documentary Short Film Competitions qualify for consideration at 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 our state. Films in this section compete for the Chicago Award, given to the year's best Illinois-made film.

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

From blood-splattering gore to suspenseful sci-fi to the outrageously wild, weird, and wicked, this program of boundary-pushing horror and fringe films from around the world will blow your mind and keep you up late.

Black Perspectives

Now in its 24th 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

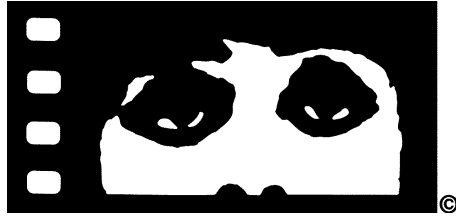
Showcasing fresh and vibrant work from emerging and veteran filmmakers from South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean, this program reflects the diversity, dynamism, and artistry of films from around the region

Global Currents

Grab your passport and journey around the globe with these films from Asia to Europe to South America and beyond. With an intimate view of these cultures and their stories, this program highlights contemporary cinema of all genres, with unique insights that transcend difference and remind us of the shared human experience.

Out-Look

Gender is as fluid as the types of films that address LGBTQ+ themes. From hard-hitting dramas to lesbian romances to documentaries about cultural icons, these films reflect superbly crafted perspectives on sexuality and identity from around the globe.



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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Original Title: _____

English Title: _____

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

Running Time (in minutes): _____

Country 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 |
| <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 | |

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:

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

Please provide online screener details below or indicate an alternative submission format. Please encode discs region free, Region 1 for DVD, or Region A for Blu-ray.

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

Link: _____

Password: _____

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

DVD/Blu-ray disc

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 with a screener link or DVD/Blu-ray to:

Entry Coordinator
56th Chicago International Film Festival
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