

# SHORT FILM FESTIVAL MARKETING GUIDE 2023



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: *Datsun* (2021) – Directed by Mark Albiston, written by Mark Albiston, J. Patrick McElroy,  
produced by Sharlene George, Gal Greenspan, Andy Mauger  
Photo credit: Tammy Williams

Official Selection: Berlin International Film Festival – Generation Kplus, SXSW Film Festival – Narrative Shorts Competition,  
Mo&Frieze Children's Short Film Festival Hamburg, Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival,  
Seminci - Valladolid International Film Festival, Winterthur International Short Film Festival,  
Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival – Winner NZ's Best Competition Audience Choice Award,  
Show Me Shorts – Winner Department of Post Best NZ Film, Best Cinematographer (Marty Williams)

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.

## INDEX

The First Steps – Preparing for Festival Success.....	3
In Pre-Production.....	3
In Production.....	3
In Post-Production.....	4
At the Finish Line.....	4
Press Kit.....	4
Hi-Res Images.....	5
Director Photo.....	5
Password Protected Film Screener.....	6
Forming Your Festival Strategy.....	6
Positioning Your Film.....	6
Which Festivals to Submit to?.....	7
Festival Submission & Tracking Websites.....	8
Keeping Track of Your Strategy & Submissions.....	9
Festival Premiere Requirements.....	9
Festival Date of Completion Requirements.....	10
Festival Film Duration Requirements.....	10
Received a Festival Invitation? – Next Steps!.....	11
Received a Festival Decline? – Stay Positive!.....	13
Frequently Asked Questions.....	14
The Festivals.....	16
NZFC Recommended Festivals.....	16
Premiere Festivals.....	16
Festivals with Market / Industry Attachment.....	17
Academy Accredited Festivals.....	17
Aotearoa New Zealand Festivals.....	17
Animation Festivals.....	17
Children / Youth Audience Festivals.....	18
Comedy Inclusive Festivals.....	18
Dance Film Festivals.....	18
Disability / Accessibility Festivals.....	19
Documentary Festivals.....	19
Emerging / Independent Filmmaker Festivals.....	19
Environmental Festivals.....	20
Experimental Festivals.....	20
Genre Festivals.....	20
Human Rights Festivals.....	20
Inclusive Festivals.....	20
Indigenous Festivals.....	21
International Festivals with Short Film Programmes.....	21
LGBTQIA+ Festivals.....	22
Short Film Festivals.....	22
VR / Interactive Inclusive Festivals.....	23
Women’s Festivals.....	23
Youth / Student Filmmaker Festivals.....	23
Festivals by Month.....	24
Additional Resources.....	29

## 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 Blu-ray, Pro Res, H264 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:](#)



Mark Albiston  
Writer/Director, *Datsun*



Kath Akuhata-Brown (Ngāti Porou)  
Writer/Director, *Washday*  
Photo credit: Verity Mackintosh

- **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](#). 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.

## **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 focussed 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](#)

## 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](#)

[Kanopy](#)

[Netflix](#)

[NZ Film OnDemand](#)

[NZ On Screen](#)

[Play Stuff](#)

[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.



Film Still: *Firsts* (2021) – Written and directed by Jesse Ung, produced by Elanor McKenzie  
Photo credit: Michelle Hyslop

Official Selection: BFI Flare LGBTQIA+ Film Festival, Outfest Fusion QTBIPOC Film Festival, Queer Screen Mardi Gras Film Festival Sydney, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, Melbourne Queer Film Festival, Out On Film Atlanta's LGBTQ Film Festival, Gaze International LGBTQ+ Film Festival, Seattle Queer Film Festival, Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival

## 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 sign up to the New Zealand Film Commission newsletter for festival deadline news here: [NZ Film Commission Newsletter](#) just scroll down to the newsletter subscription field and enter your email to subscribe.
- You can follow our Facebook page: [facebook.com/nzfilm](https://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

## 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: *Rustling* (2022) – Written and directed by Tom Furniss, produced by Morgan Waru (Ngāti Porou)  
Photo credit: Morgan Waru

Official Selection: Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival – NZ’s Best Competition, Palm Springs International Shortfest, Melbourne International Film Festival, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival PÖFF Shorts



Film Still: *Washday* (2022) – Written and directed Kath Akuhata-Brown (Ngāti Porou),  
Produced by Julian Arahanga (Ngāti Uenuku, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Raukawa), Verity Mackintosh (Pākēka, Croatian)  
Photo credit: Chris Mauger

Official Selection: Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival  
NZ's Best Competition – Winner Vista Group Award for Best Short Film,  
Wairoa Māori Film Festival – Winner Best Māori Director, Melbourne International Film Festival,  
Smithsonian Native Cinema Showcase Santa Fe, Asinabka Film & Media Arts Festival,  
Boden International Film Festival, Māoriland Film Festival, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival

## 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 9 '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 physical, ask lots of questions, learn, be confident and have fun!

If you are interested in attending a festival in support of your film screening or require assistance with post-production costs to meet festival screening material requirements, please see the [Additional Resources](#) section on the last page of this guide, with a link to the New Zealand Film Commission Short Film International Festival Fund.



Film Still: *Fetch* (2021) – Written and directed by Sam Gill, produced by Evie Mackay  
Official Selection: LA Shorts International Film Festival,  
Uppsala International Film Festival - Nominated for Best Children's Film,  
Show Me Shorts – Winner Final Draft Best Screenplay Award (Sam Gill),  
Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, Busan International Short Film Festival

### **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. 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: *Breathe* (2021) – Written and directed by Stephen Kang, produced by Mhairead Connor  
Photo credit: Zihan Chang

Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival – Midnight, In Competition, Fantasia Film Festival, Overlook Film Festival, Show Me Shorts – Winner DEGANZ Best Editor (Richard Shaw)

## 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.

## NZFC RECOMMENDED FESTIVALS

The Short Film International Festival Fund helps New Zealand short films and their makers get to significant film festivals. If your short film is invited to screen at an international film festival, you can check eligibility and find out how to apply for the Fund via our website:

[Short Film International Festival Fund](#)  
[NZFC Recommended Short Film Festivals](#)

## 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**

[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 lists of accredited festivals and the eligible awards can be found below:

[Short Films Qualifying Festival List](#)

[Documentary Short Subject 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](#)

[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](#)

[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**

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

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

[NZ Deaf Short Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand \\*Biennial](#)

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

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

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

## **DOCUMENTARY FESTIVALS**

[AFI Docs Film Festival, USA](#)

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

[CPH: Dox, Denmark](#)

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

[Doc NYC, USA](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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 FESTIVALS WITH SHORT FILM PROGRAMMES

[AFI Fest, USA](#)  
[Atlanta Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Berlin Film Festival, Germany](#)  
[Bentonville Film Festival, USA](#)  
[BFI London Film Festival, UK](#)  
[Boston Underground Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Calgary Underground Film Festival, Canada](#)  
[Cannes Critics' Week, France](#)  
[Cannes Directors' Fortnight, France](#)  
[Cannes Film Festival, France](#)  
[Chicago International Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Cork International Film Festival, Ireland](#)  
[CUFF Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA](#)  
[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, China](#)  
[Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)  
[Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia](#)  
[Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Newport Beach Film Festival, USA](#)  
[New York Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Raindance 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](#)  
[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](#)  
[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](#)  
[Thessaloniki International LGBTIQ Film Festival, Greece](#)

## **SHORT FILM FESTIVALS**

[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](#)  
[Minimalen Short Film Festival, Norway](#)  
[Mo&Frieze 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**

[Anney International Animation Film Festival, France - VR@Anney](#)  
[Atlanta Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, Belgium](#)  
[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](#)  
[Sundance Film Festival, USA – New Frontiers](#)  
[Tribeca Film Festival – Tribeca Immersive](#)  
[Venice Film Festival, Italy - Venice VR Expanded](#)

## **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: *Hot Mother* (2020) – Written and directed by Lucy Knox, produced by Evie Mackay, co-produced by Bill Bleakley  
Photo credit: Evie Mackay

Official Selection: Berlin International Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival,  
Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival, Flickerfest International Short Film Festival

## **FESTIVALS BY MONTH \*SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### January

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

[Dance Camera West LA, USA](#)

[Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia](#)

[Minimalen Short Film Festival, Norway](#)

[Rotterdam International Film Festival, Netherlands](#)

[Slamdance Film Festival, USA](#)

[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+](#)

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

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

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

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

[Pragueshorts Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)

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



## March

[Ann Arbor Film Festival, USA](#)

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

[BFI Flare: London LGBTIQ+ Film Festival, UK](#)

[Boston Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[CPH: Dox, Denmark](#)

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

[Environmental Film Festival DC, USA](#)

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

[Hong Kong International Film Festival, China](#)

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

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

[Overlook Film Festival, USA](#)

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

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

[SXSW Film Festival, USA](#)

[Tampere International Short Film Festival, Finland](#)

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

## April

[Aspen ShortsFest, USA](#)

[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](#)

[Hot Docs Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Indie Lisboa Film Festival, Portugal](#)

[Images Festival Toronto, Canada](#)

[Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, USA](#)

[Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)

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

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

[Trickfilm Animated Film Festival Stuttgart, Germany](#)

[Visions du Réel, Switzerland](#)

## May

[Cannes Critics' Week, France](#)

[Cannes Directors' Fortnight, France](#)

[Cannes Film Festival, France](#)

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

[DOXA Documentary Film Festival, Canada](#)

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

[Inside Out - Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Canada](#)

[Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, USA](#)

[NZ Deaf Short Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand \\*Biennial](#)  
[Plein la Bobine - International Short Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences, France](#)  
[Seattle International Film Festival, USA](#)

### June

[AFI Docs Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Annecy International Animation Film Festival, France](#)  
[Bentonville Film Festival, USA](#)  
[CUFF Chicago Underground Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Dances with Films Festival LA, USA](#)  
[Frameline - San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Germany](#)  
[Mo&Friese Children's Short Film Festival Hamburg, Germany](#)  
[Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival, Switzerland](#)  
[Palm Springs International ShortFest, USA](#)  
[Sheffield Doc/Fest, UK](#)  
[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Japan](#)  
[Sydney Film Festival, Australia](#)  
[Tribeca Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)  
[Zlín International Film Festival for Children and Youth, Czech Republic](#)

### 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](#)  
[Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)  
[Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Australia](#)

### August

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

## September

[Asinabka Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)  
[Encounters Film Festival Bristol, UK](#)  
[Fantastic Fest Austin TX, USA](#)  
[Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, Switzerland](#)  
[New York Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Ottawa International Animation Film Festival, Canada](#)  
[Queer Lisboa International Queer Film Festival, Portugal](#)  
[Rotorua Indigenous Film Festival, Aotearoa New Zealand](#)  
[San Sebastián International Film Festival, Spain](#)  
[Telluride Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Thessaloniki International LGBTIQ Film Festival, Greece](#)  
[Toronto International Film Festival, Canada](#)

## October

[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](#)  
[Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, USA](#)  
[imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Canada](#)  
[Ji. hlava International Documentary Film Festival, Czech Republic](#)  
[LA Femme International Film Festival, USA](#)  
[Lund International Fantastic Film Festival, Sweden](#)  
[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](#)  
[Raindance Film Festival, UK](#)  
[Ravenna Nightmare Film Festival, Italy](#)  
[San Francisco Dance 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](#)  
[Toronto After Dark, Canada](#)  
[Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden](#)  
[Women Make Waves Film Festival, Taiwan](#)

## November

[AFI Fest, USA](#)  
[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](#)

[Geneva International Film Festival, Switzerland](#)

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

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

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

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

[Leeds International Film Festival, UK](#)

[Molins Horror Film Festival, Spain](#)

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

[Stockholm International Film Festival, Sweden](#)

[Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Greece](#)

[Winterthur International Short Film Festival, Switzerland](#)

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

[December](#)

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

[London International Animation Festival, UK](#)

[Monster Fest, Australia](#)

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



Film Still: *Perianayaki* (2022) – Directed by Bala Murali Shingade, written and produced by Shreya Gejji  
Official Selection: Whānau Mārama: New Zealand International Film Festival  
NZ's Best Competition - Winner Flicks Award for Best Short Film, NZ's Best Audience Award,  
Creative New Zealand Emerging Talent Award (Bala Murali Shingade),  
NZ's Best Special Mention for Performance (Jeyagowri Sivakumaran),  
Melbourne International Film Festival, Show Me Shorts Film Festival, Dharamshala International Film Festival,  
Tasveer South Asian Film Festival Seattle, Chicago South Asian Film Festival

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### New Zealand Film Commission Short Film International Festival Fund

- The Short Film International Festival Fund helps New Zealand short films and their makers get to significant film festivals. If your short film is invited to screen at an international film festival, you can check eligibility and find out how to apply for the Fund via our website: [Short Film International Festival Fund](#)  
[NZFC Recommended Short Film Festivals](#)

### 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](#)

### Have additional questions?

- Contact – Hayley Weston, Film Festival & Marketing Executive  
New Zealand Film Commission E. [hayley.weston@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:hayley.weston@nzfilm.co.nz)

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

© New Zealand Film Commission 2023

For more information about the New Zealand Film Commission and other resources visit our website: [www.nzfilm.co.nz](http://www.nzfilm.co.nz)

Copyright notice: Organisations may make and use copies of all or part of this Resource, only as reasonably required for its own purposes (for no copyright fees) and must not sell or lend such copies.



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  
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