

MEDIA RESOURCE: Screamfest Horror Film Festival History, Awards & Ticketing

Screamfest Horror Film Festival is the largest and longest-running horror film festival in the United States. Widely known as the "Sundance of Horror," the festival is a premier destination for discovering the next generation of genre-defining talent.

Our Mission

At Screamfest Horror Film Festival, we're passionate about giving talented filmmakers and writers from around the globe a platform to showcase their work. Our mission is to help them advance their careers by connecting them with both the general public and industry professionals. Whether you're a horror enthusiast or simply love great cinema, we invite you to join us and experience the best of what the genre has to offer.

The Legacy of Screamfest

Founded in 2001 by producers Rachel Belofsky and Ross Martin, Screamfest was established to provide a high-profile venue for horror and sci-fi creators to have their work showcased to industry leaders. The festival has a storied history of launching massive franchises, most notably discovering and premiering *Paranormal Activity* in 2007, which led to immediate distribution and representation for director Oren Peli.

Notable Alumni Include:

- Michael Dougherty (*Trick 'r Treat*, *Godzilla: King of the Monsters*)
- Issa López (*Tigers Are Not Afraid*, *True Detective*)
- The Pierce Brothers (*The Wretched*)
- Mikael Håfström (*1408*)
- F. Javier Gutiérrez (*Rings*)

2026 Festival Details

- Dates: October 6th – 15th, 2026
- Location: TCL Chinese 6 Theatres at Ovation Hollywood (formerly Hollywood & Highland Center)
- Focus: Premiering new independent horror from American and international filmmakers.

Ticketing & Badge Tiers

For the 2026 season, badges are currently the only way to secure admission until the full lineup is announced in September.

- **Full Festival Badge:** The ultimate all-access pass. Includes admission to every film screening during the 10-day festival, plus entry to all parties and special events.
- **All Movie Badge:** Designed for the dedicated cinephile. Provides admission to every film screening throughout the 10-day festival.
- **Weekend of Screams Badge:** Priority admission to every film screening during the festival's peak weekend (Friday through Sunday).
- **Saturday Nightmares Badge (Oct. 10):** Grants access to all screenings and events taking place on the festival's high-energy first Saturday.
- **Bloody Sunday Badge (Oct. 12):** Provides admission to all screenings scheduled for Sunday, October 12th.

The Screamfest Awards

Screamfest honors excellence in horror filmmaking through its competitive awards program. Categories include:

- **Feature Film:** Best Feature, Best Directing, Best Actor/Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Special Effects, Best Special FX Makeup, and Best Musical Score.
- **Short Film:** Best Horror Short, Best Student Horror Short, Best Animated Horror Short, and Best Horror Comedy Short.

Submissions & Contact Information

- **Film Submissions:** screamfestla.com/submissions/submit-film
- **Screenplay Submissions:** screamfestla.com/submissions/submit-screenplay
- **Media Inquiries:** info@screamfestla.com | 310.358.3273

Official Support and Grants

Screamfest is a non-profit arts organization. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs.

Festival Information & Awards History

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Screamfest is supported, in part, by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery LA, an initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan.

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