

PRIMARY DEADLINE

Postmarked by
Friday, November 7, 2008

FINAL DEADLINE

Received in office by
Friday, December 12, 2008

CALL FOR ENTRIES

52nd SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**23 APRIL-
7 MAY
2009**

The longest-running film festival in the Americas, the San Francisco International Film Festival has built an international reputation for bringing the world's finest films and filmmakers together with passionate and enthusiastic Bay Area audiences.

The Festival's Golden Gate Awards recognize the best of international and Bay Area filmmaking talent by honoring innovation in narrative, documentary, animation, experimental and television works.

For more than 50 years, a significant element of the Golden Gate Awards, and of the Festival itself, has been the presentation of the most illuminating and provocative documentaries from across the globe.

SFIFF52 will inaugurate the Golden Gate Award for Best Investigative Documentary Feature with a juried cash prize of \$25,000. This new award, along with increases in the purse for Best Documentary Feature to \$20,000 and Best Bay Area Documentary Feature to \$15,000 will enable the Festival to showcase the world's finest nonfiction works.

And the Festival remains, as always, a wholehearted champion of innovative narrative film. SFIFF52 will see an increase in the cash purse for the New Directors Prize for best narrative first feature to \$15,000.



ALEXANDRA Alexander Sokurov, Russia.
Official Selection, 2008 SFIFF

Golden Gate Awards Competition

for Documentaries, Shorts, Animation, Experimental, Youth-Produced and Television Works

Criteria

The Golden Gate Awards competition is accepting submissions in 11 categories. Entries must have been completed on or after January 1, 2008. Works that have played a multiday commercial theatrical run in the Bay Area or had any kind of media broadcast are not eligible to apply to non-television categories. The Festival requires a San Francisco Bay Area premiere of documentary features.

- The New Visions category is ONLY for experimental film and video in which personal expression and aesthetic exploration are the primary concerns. If the entry is inappropriate for New Visions, the Festival will reassign it to the proper category.
- Youth Works category submissions and college student submissions must include with the application a copy of a photo ID indicating proof of age or university enrollment at the time of production. Adult participation in Youth Works is limited to an advisory role.
- Productions partially financed by television companies intended for theatrical presentation may be entered in non-television categories. Works specifically financed and produced for broadcast must be entered in television categories. Premiere telecast of the entry must have been on or after January 1, 2008.
- Bay Area filmmakers are eligible for additional Bay Area awards given in recognition of the rich variety of work that has established Northern California as a center of independent production. Awards are presented to a documentary feature film and two short films which can be selected from the documentary, narrative, animated or experimental categories. To qualify for a Bay Area award, entries must have been made by a filmmaker who is a current resident of the San Francisco Bay Area (the area roughly from Monterey to Mendocino: postal zip codes 93901 to 95457).
- Rough cuts or works-in-progress are accepted and reviewed. However, filmmakers are urged to submit as close to the final cut as possible. The Festival will not accept new versions of an entry unless it is requested by the programming staff.
- All entrants will be notified of the Festival's decision by the end of February. Official Selections are screened at the Festival, eligible to compete for a Golden Gate Award and listed in the Festival Program Guide which is circulated worldwide to distributors, film commissions, educators and the media.

Juried Awards

International juries view the Official Selections during the Festival and select the 15 Golden Gate Award winners, 11 of which receive a cash prize. Awards are given for excellence in form and content. Winners and cash prizes are announced and honored at the Golden Gate Awards celebration. Additional prizes of goods and services have included Final Cut Pro software from Apple, lab services from Efilm and film stock certificates from Eastman Kodak. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes the San Francisco International Film Festival as a qualifying festival for the short films (live action and animated) competitions of the 81st annual Academy Awards. Note: Previous television or Internet broadcast will disqualify a film from Oscar consideration.

Categories and Golden Gate Awards Prizes

Juries make one award per category.

1	Documentary Feature (40 minutes and longer)	
	Investigative Documentary Feature	\$25,000
	Documentary Feature (40 minutes and longer).....	\$20,000
	Bay Area Documentary Feature.....	\$15,000
2	Documentary Short (under 40 minutes)*	\$5,000
3	Narrative Short (under 40 minutes)*	\$5,000
4	Animated Short (under 40 minutes)*	\$2,000
5	New Visions*	\$1,500
6	Youth Works	\$1,500
7	Works for Kids and Families.....	\$1,500
8	Television Narrative Long Form (40 minutes and longer, including series).....	no cash award
9	Television Narrative Short Form (under 40 minutes)	no cash award
10	Television Documentary Long Form (40 minutes and longer, including series).....	no cash award
11	Television Documentary Short Form.....	no cash award

** All short film and New Visions works by Bay Area residents are also eligible for the Bay Area Short First Prize of \$2,000 and Second Prize of \$1,500.*

Narrative Feature Entries

Any narrative feature over 40 minutes completed after January 1, 2008 is eligible to be invited to the Festival. Work in all genres and forms (narrative, animation, experimental) is accepted in this category. Features previously exhibited in the Bay Area—theatrically, at another local festival or broadcast on any type of media—are not eligible to apply.

First features by emerging directors may be considered for the Festival's \$15,000 New Directors Prize competition for films exhibiting a unique artistic sensibility or vision deserving to be seen by as wide an audience as possible. An independent jury of film critics, filmmakers and film industry professionals will screen the international selection of films during the Festival with the winner announced at the Golden Gate Awards ceremony. In selecting the nominees, preference will be given to U.S. premieres. Narrative feature applicants will be notified of the Festival's decision by the end of February.

Audience Awards

- 1 Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Filmno cash award
- 2 Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature Film.....no cash award
- 3 Chris Holter Award for Humor in Film\$3,500

51st SFIFF Award Winners

New Directors Award – First Narrative Feature

Vasermil (Israel) Mushon Salmona. *Awarded \$10,000 and Avid Xpress Software*

FIPRESCI Prize

Ballast (USA), Lance Hammer

Chris Holter Award for Humor in Film

Time to Die (Poland) Dorota Kedzierzawska. *Awarded \$2,500 cash prize*

Golden Gate Awards

Documentary Feature

Up the Yangtze (Canada) Yung Chang. *Awarded \$15,000 cash prize sponsored by San Simeon Films and Final Cut Studio software courtesy of Apple*

Bay Area Documentary Feature

Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans (USA) Dawn Logsdon. *Awarded \$10,000 cash prize sponsored by San Simeon Films, Final Cut Studio software courtesy of Apple and \$2,000 digital lab services courtesy of EFilm and Deluxe Laboratories*

Narrative Short

Thick Skinned (France) Jean Bernard Marlin, Benoit Rambourg. *Awarded \$5,000 cash prize sponsored by Stella Artois and \$1,700 gift certificate courtesy of Eastman Kodak*

Documentary Short

The Ladies (USA) Christina A. Voros. *Awarded \$5,000 cash prize sponsored by Stella Artois*

Bay Area Short Film, First Prize

Cabinet (USA) Todd Herman. *Awarded \$2,000 cash prize*

Bay Area Short Film, Second Prize

On the Assassination of the President (USA) Adam Kecker. *Awarded \$1,500 cash prize*

Animated Short

Madame Tutli-Putli (Canada) Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski. *Awarded \$2,000 cash prize*

New Visions

Cabinet (USA) Todd Herman. *Awarded \$1,500 cash prize and \$1,700 gift certificate courtesy of Eastman Kodak*

Works for Kids and Families

When I Grow Up (USA) Michelle R. Meeker. *Awarded \$1,500 cash prize*

Youth Works

Writing History with Lightning: The Triumph & Tragedy of America's First Blockbuster (USA) Charlotte Burger. *Awarded \$1,500 cash prize and EP Scheduling and Budgeting software courtesy of Movie Magic*

Television Narrative Long Form

Operation Turquoise (France) Alain Tasma

Television Documentary Long Form

Calavera Highway (USA) Renee Tajima-Peña

Television Documentary Short Form

The Mystery of the Second Painting (France) Muriel Edelstein

How to Enter

Enter your film online at www.sffs.org

Preview Format

For review purposes, entries must be submitted on DVD (region 0 or 1). Please test your consumer-burned DVD on several makes and models of players before submitting it. If in doubt, send a VHS NTSC tape as backup. You may submit any number of titles. However, a separate entry form, preview copy and entry fee is required for each title.

Subtitled Entries

All non-English language entries must have English subtitles for preview and for Festival presentation.

Deadlines

PRIMARY DEADLINE: Postmarked by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008

To qualify for the discounted entry fee, a completed entry form or online application confirmation and nonrefundable entry fee must be received in our office by Friday, November 7, 2008.

FINAL DEADLINE: Received in office by FRIDAY, December 12, 2008

Note: You may submit the Entry Form and early submission fee by November 7 and indicate that the tape or DVD of your entry will arrive later. Nonetheless, it must be received in office by December 12, 2008.

Categories & Eligibility

Works must be submitted into one of the 11 main Golden Gate Award categories or as a Narrative Feature. The Festival reserves the right to move works into a category it deems appropriate.

Exhibition

Official Selections will be shown during the Festival in their original film gauge or video format whenever possible.

Entry Fees

Payment is accepted in U.S. dollars only by check (payable to San Francisco Film Society), money order, Visa or MasterCard. We cannot accept American Express. Checks must have a printed address and telephone number. A photocopy of your driver license must be enclosed with payment. International entries must pay by Visa, MasterCard or money order in U.S. dollars. International entrants who do not wish to pay by credit card must contact the Film Society for instructions on sending a bank wire transfer. (There is an additional \$20 fee for wire transfers.) Do not send cash. **Entry fees are not refundable. The Festival is unable to waive entry fees or provide discounts beyond those indicated.** If the Festival determines a work is entered in the wrong category and needs to reassign it, any discrepancy in entry fees between the categories must be paid by the entrant.

Entry Fee

by NOV 7 by DEC 12

For all film and video categories

Under 20 minutes.....	\$40.....	\$60
20 minutes and longer.....	\$55.....	\$80

Bay Area

See "Criteria" for details.

Under 20 minutes.....	\$25.....	\$45
20 minutes and longer.....	\$40.....	\$70

College Student

Include proof of enrollment at time of production

Under 20 minutes.....	\$25.....	\$45
20 minutes and longer.....	\$40.....	\$70

Filmmaker Pro members*

Any length.....	\$20.....	\$30
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Youth Works

For youth up to 18 years old; must include proof of age

Any length.....	\$20.....	\$30
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Television Categories

For works submitted by broadcasters

Under 40 minutes.....	\$110.....	\$140
40–120 minutes.....	\$150.....	\$185
120 minutes and longer.....	\$180.....	\$225

**Filmmaker Pro is a new Film Society membership category for filmmakers: \$75 student/\$90 single/\$170 dual. Membership verification is required.*

For more information about membership benefits, visit www.sffs.org/membership, or email members@sffs.org.

Shipping Information

PACKAGING Ship your cassette or DVD in a bubble-pack envelope in a plastic safe case. A fiberpack envelope can cause damage to disks as well as DVD decks.

COSTS & LABELING All shipping costs to and from San Francisco must be borne by the sender. All tapes must indicate title, shipper's name and return shipping address.

INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES We recommend that entries from outside the U.S. be sent Air Mail Registered or by parcel or express service. We cannot accept entries shipped via air freight if customs and delivery fees have not been prepaid.

RETURN OF ENTRIES Entries will NOT be returned unless a separate return fee is received at the time of the entry: \$10 for domestic and \$20 for international returns. You may also provide us with your FedEx or DHL account number, and we will return your DVD by either of these services. Submissions may also be picked up May 12–June 30 at the Film Society offices during business hours. After June 30, 2009, unclaimed submissions will be recycled. Every reasonable effort is made to protect screeners from damage or loss, but the Festival, its management and its juries cannot assume liability for damage or loss.

Send your entry to:

GGA COMPETITION
San Francisco Film Society
39 Mesa Street, Suite 110
The Presidio
San Francisco CA 94129
USA

OR NARRATIVE FEATURE ENTRIES
San Francisco Film Society
39 Mesa Street, Suite 110
The Presidio
San Francisco CA 94129
USA

ENTRY FORM 52nd SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009

PRIMARY DEADLINE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008 FINAL DEADLINE RECEIVED IN OFFICE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

BASIC INFORMATION

Check one: Golden Gate Awards competition Narrative feature entry

Film title _____

Original language title _____

Country(ies) of production _____

Running time _____ Year completed and/or premiere airdate _____

Original language(s) _____

Category _____

For narrative feature entries only

Is this a first feature by director? Yes No

Are you an SFFS Filmmaker Pro member? Yes No

Membership number _____

Are you a college student? Yes No

If so, please include proof of enrollment at time of production.

COLOR Color B&W

FORMATS

Submitted format for preview:

VHS-NTSC DVD (region 0) DVD (region 1)

English soundtrack English subtitles No dialogue

Production format _____ Format for public screening* _____

**Preferred formats: 35mm, Beta Sp, DigiBeta and HD. We have PAL projection capability*

ASPECT RATIO (for public screening)

FILM 1.33 1.66 1.85 2.35 **VIDEO** 4:3 16:9

PAYMENT AND RETURN

(Refer to "Entry Fees" under "How to Enter" for payment details.)

Entry fee.....\$ _____

Return to a U.S. address. Add \$10 per title.....\$ _____

Return to an International address. Add \$20 per title.....\$ _____

Use my FedEx DHL account.....\$ _____ no charge

Account number _____

Will pick up entry at SFFS office.....\$ _____ no charge

TOTAL amount enclosed.....\$ _____

Method of payment: Check or money order* Visa MasterCard

**Make check payable to San Francisco Film Society.*

Account number _____

Expiration date _____ Signature _____

RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1) I have read, understood and complied with all eligibility and entry requirements.
- 2) I am legally authorized to enter this film in the San Francisco International Film Festival and agree that, if accepted, a film print or copy in preferred format will be made available for screening during the Festival (April 23–May 7, 2009).
- 3) I hold the SFIFF harmless from damage to or loss of the print or entry form en route to and from the Festival.

Signature _____ Date _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact person _____

Title _____

Company name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Web site for film _____

CREDITS

Director _____

Producer _____

Screenwriter _____

Cinematographer _____

Editor _____

Music _____

Principal cast _____

SCREENINGS

List all public screenings and TV presentations of your film that will occur before May 7, 2009

List all prizes or awards received

MATERIALS

You can send written materials such as filmmaker bios, statement and synopsis, but please do not send elaborate press kits, folders, stills or marketing materials. If your film is selected, we will request these additional materials.

LOGLINE (Mandatory! Do Not Refer to Enclosed Materials)

Describe your entry in 25 words or less

How did you learn about the Festival?

Have you previously participated in the Festival?

Yes Year _____ No