



SAN DIEGO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2024

The 23rd Annual San Diego International Film Festival

Celebrating the Power of Film

Film that informs. Film that inspires. Film that entertains

(Updated August 2024)

OVERVIEW

Film Insider Series: May—August 2024

[film-insider-series](#)

San Diego International Film Festival: Wednesday, October 16 – Sunday, October 20, 2024

[sdfilmfest.com](#)

Our Claim To Fame

We are proud to share that this past year, the San Diego International Film Festival was named one of '20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations' by Moviemaker Magazine! And, once again this Festival was voted 'Best Film Festival in San Diego' by the San Diego Reader Poll.

These recognitions are much appreciated validations that we share with you, our Media Partners. Your help to promote this Festival is invaluable, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

That being said, the 23rd Annual San Diego International Film Festival (October 16-20) promises to be the best yet! The Festival is 'Celebrating The Power Of Film' with the Opening Night Film Premiere & Reception, the Night of the Stars Tribute, Culinary Cinema, Studio Premieres, Independent Features, Documentaries and Short Films, plus parties, panels and networking events.

Living Our Mission

In an increasingly diverse and complex world, count on the San Diego International Film Festival to use the experience of film to get the conversation started with compelling Social Impact Films and Panels on important topics such as: Environmental Sustainability, Social Inequities, Human Trafficking, LGBTQAI+ Rights and other topics affecting our world and our communities.

Key Dates

- **Wednesday, October 16, 2024**
Opening Night Film Premiere and Reception
at The Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park
- **Thursday, October 17, 2024**
Night of the Stars Tribute
at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, La Jolla
- **Wednesday, October 18 - Sunday, October 20, 2024**
Studio Premieres, Independent Film Screenings, Panels, Events
at AMC 14 @ Westfield UTC

- **Friday, October 19**
Party with a Purpose (fundraiser for FOCUS on Impact Education Program)
at Westfield UTC
- **Sunday, October 20, 2024**
Culinary Cinema
at AMC 14 @ Westfield UTC

According to Tonya Mantoath, CEO/Artistic Director:

“The Night of the Stars Tribute is back and we can’t wait to welcome Hollywood to San Diego! The 2024 San Diego International Film Festival is Celebrating the Power of Film with curated screenings that inform, inspire and entertain. You’ll experience Studio Premieres, Independent Films from around the world, The Night of the Stars Tribute, Culinary Cinema, Panels and Parties! It’s going to be an amazing 5 days of coming back together for cinema on the big screen, conversation and celebrations!”

Programming:

Each year the San Diego International Film Festival receives submissions from over 3200 independent filmmakers from approximately 85 countries. Selected films for the 2024 Festival will be announced in early September.

The San Diego International Film Festival is strategically positioned in October to premiere potential contenders just prior to the industry nominations and awards shows. The festival offers a wide range of films from creative narrative features to thought-provoking documentaries to engaging and enlightening short films.

Through the years, the San Diego International Film Festival has screened premieres that have garnered **33 ACADEMY AWARDS** and **149 NOMINATIONS!**

2024 SCHEDULE

2024 SAN DIEGO INTL FILM FESTIVAL

WED. OCT 16

Opening Night Film Premiere & Reception

The Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park

Pre-Reception and Screening

Join us on Wed, Oct 16th to kick off the 23rd Annual San Diego International Film Festival at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. Film lovers, filmmakers, arts patrons, elected officials, and business professionals will gather to ‘Celebrate the Power of Film.’ Guests will enjoy a Pre-screening Cocktail Party followed by a Studio Film Premiere and post reception.

THURS. OCT 17

Night of the Stars Tribute

The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, La Jolla

Time: 5:30pm Red Carpet and Pre-Reception; 7:00pm Presentations

The San Diego International Film Festival honors some of the film industry's most accomplished actors, directors and filmmakers. Each year we are proud to present the Gregory Peck Award of Excellence in Cinema with the support of the Peck family. Rising stars, auteurs, and visionaries are also recognized and celebrated.

Partial List of Past Honorees

- Laurence Fishburne
- Sir Patrick Stewart
- Annette Bening
- Andy Garcia
- Gus Van Sant
- Kenny Loggins
- Kate Beckinsale
- Geena Davis
- Judd Apatow
- Alan Arkin
- Adrian Brody
- Regina Hall
- Kumail Nanjiani
- Heather Graham

THURS. OCT 17—SUN. OCT 20

Studio Premieres and Independent Film Screenings

AMC UTC 14 @ Westfield UTC

Film lovers will enjoy film screenings of Studio Premieres and Independent Features, Documentaries and Short Films as well as Filmmaker Q&As and Panels. In between film screenings, guests can visit the Fest Lounge for snacks, cocktails and conversations with other Film Lovers.

SUN. OCT 20

Culinary Cinema

Capital One Café & AMC UTC 14 @ Westfield UTC

Culinary Cinema is the perfect recipe for Sunday fun and a dream come true for foodies! Hosted by Shawn Styles from CBS8's 'Cooking with Styles', the ingredients begin with an extravagant nosh at the Capital One Cafe, followed by a cuisine-themed film. Afterwards, enjoy bites and pairings inspired by renowned San Diego Chefs. Add some nice wines and good conversation with fellow film lovers and you have a perfect Sunday afternoon!

PASS PACKAGES/TICKETS

2024 SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The VIP Pass Package - \$550

*As a VIP PASS PACKAGE holder, you get the full Festival experience from:
Wednesday, October 16 – Sunday, October 20 including:*

- Opening Night Film Premiere & Reception | *Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park* (Wed, Oct 16)
- Night of the Stars Tribute | *The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, La Jolla* (Thurs, Oct 17)
- Culinary Cinema Screening and Tasting Event | *AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC* (Sun, Oct 20) •
- Studio Premieres; Independent Films from around the world; plus, in-person Parties, Panels, Networking Events and so much more | *AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC* (Thurs, Oct 17 – Sun, Oct 20)
- Festival Lounge Access (Complimentary beverages for VIP's)
- Pass Line access for seating in theater

**RSVP (Package Fulfillment) Required for attendance to all in person screenings & events (Starting Sept 4th).*

The Fest Pass Package - \$325

As a Fest Pass Package holder, you get the Festival experience for:

Thursday, October 16 – Sunday, October 20 including:

- Studio Premieres; Independent Films from around the world; plus, in-person Parties, Panels, Networking Events and so much more | *AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC* (Thurs, Oct 17 – Sun, Oct 20)
- Festival Lounge Access (Thurs, Oct 17 - Sun, Oct 20) - Sunday (Includes: Drinks at the Fest Bar, daily Filmmaker Happy hour event, Friday and Saturday Panels, coffee, snacks and desserts)
- Pass Line Access for seating in theater

Note: Does not include Opening Night Film & Reception Friday Night Party with a Purpose and Culinary Cinema

**RSVP (Ticket Fulfillment) Required for attendance to all in person screenings & events (Starting Sept 4th)*

Weekend Passes \$200

- Enjoy a weekend binge on curated films that inform, inspire and entertain for 2 days
- 2 days (Sat, Oct 19 - Sun, Oct 20) of Studio Premieres & independent Films from around the world. Plus, in-person Parties, Panels, Networking Events and so much more!
- Fest Lounge Access on Sat, Oct 19 - Sun, Oct 20 only. (Includes: Drinks at the Fest Bar, daily Filmmaker Happy hour event, Saturday Panels, coffee, snacks and desserts)
- Pass Line Access for seating in theater

Note: Does not include Opening Night Film & Reception Friday Night Party with a Purpose and Culinary Cinema

**RSVP (Ticket Fulfillment) Required for attendance to all in person screenings & events (Starting Sept 4th)*

The Patron Pass Package

As a PATRON PASS PACKAGE holder, you get the full Festival experience from:

Wednesday, October 16 – Sunday, October 20 including:

- Opening Night Film Premiere & Reception | *Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park* (Wed, Oct 16)

- Studio Premieres; Independent Films from around the world; plus, in-person Parties, Panels, Networking Events and so much more | AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC (Thurs, Oct 16 – Sun, Oct 20)
- Culinary Cinema Screening and Tasting Event | AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC (Sun, Oct 20)
- Studio Premieres; Independent Films from around the world; plus, in-person Parties, Panels, Networking Events and so much more | AMC 14 UTC @ Westfield UTC (Thurs Oct 16 – Sun, Oct 20)
- Night of the Stars Tribute | *The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, La Jolla* (Thurs, Oct 17). Includes the Patrons only reception where you can mingle with the celebrity guests.
- Exclusive event just for Patrons only during the Festival on Sat, Oct 19.
- Festival Lounge Access everyday (Includes: Drinks at the Fest Bar, daily Filmmaker Happy hour event, Friday and Saturday Panels, coffee, snacks and desserts)
- Patron Swag
- Patron front of the line access. Just walk into the theater when it opens!

**RSVP (Package Fulfillment) Required for attendance to all in person screenings & events (Starting Sept 4th). As a patron you can reserve yourself or use our patron customer service representative to fulfill for you.*

Individual Event/Screening Tickets - \$20/screening

Film lovers will enjoy film screenings of Studio Premieres and Independent Features, Documentaries and Short Films. In between film screenings, guests can visit the Festival Lounge for snacks, cocktails and conversations with other Film enthusiasts. \$20 Screening tickets for a specific film during the in-person screenings (Thurs, Oct 16 – Sun, Oct 20).

We are cashless/paperless and badges are printed physically. All tickets can be downloaded digitally and scanned.

FOCUS ON IMPACT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Imagine a scenario where educators have access to an extensive library of short films addressing a spectrum of intricate social issues. These films come equipped with curated curricula and pre-recorded interviews with the filmmakers, providing invaluable resources for teachers and students alike.

Through our educational initiative, high school and community college educators in San Diego County are equipped with the necessary tools to delve into pressing social impact topics. From environmental sustainability to cultural identity, LGBTQAI+ acceptance to immigration, our program offers a platform to explore and understand a multitude of relevant issues. Each year, submissions from filmmakers worldwide are carefully reviewed, with the most impactful films being selected for inclusion in the FOCUS on Impact Education Program at the San Diego International Film Festival.

Film is a uniquely potent medium, offering viewers a window into the lives of others and allowing for a profound understanding of complex issues. Following their participation in our program, 85% of students reported feeling more empathetic and informed.

Contributions in the form of donations and sponsorships, along with proceeds from festival events, are pivotal in expanding our educational outreach and nurturing local communities. Your generous

support enables us to fulfill our mission of empowering future leaders to effect positive change in society.

The San Diego International Film Festival's FOCUS on Impact Education Program is offered to teachers and schools at no cost. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions.

The FOCUS on Impact Education Program is in partnership with:

• San Diego Unified School District • San Diego County Office of Education • San Diego Community College District

FOCUS on Impact Film Library

Unleash the Power of Film: Access Perspectives on Social Impact Topics

In the upcoming Fall of 2024, we are thrilled to unveil the NEW FOCUS on Impact Film Library. This groundbreaking initiative grants high school and college educators unrestricted access to a curated collection of short films addressing various social issues. With this resource at their fingertips, teachers can seamlessly integrate these films into their curriculum throughout the academic year, ensuring timely and relevant discussions in the classroom.

Each short film in our library is complemented by a pre-recorded interview with the filmmakers, offering valuable insights into their creative process and sparking meaningful dialogue among students. Additionally, educators will have access to a comprehensive teacher's guide to facilitate seamless integration of these films into their lessons.

Our program is designed to equip future leaders with global perspectives through the transformative power of film, curriculum, and conversation. With this expansion, we are poised to impact over 50,000 high school and college students in San Diego and beyond.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Full access to films throughout the year
- ✓ Ability to preview films before showing them
- ✓ Access to curriculum materials
- ✓ Films include pre-recorded Q&A sessions with filmmakers
- ✓ Available at no cost to schools

Student Art Competition & Exhibit

The Power of Film Portrayed by Art Students

Film is known for its powerful storytelling, and now art students are challenged to tell stories through their artwork. The FOCUS on Impact Student Art Competition & Exhibit invites students to create pieces that raise awareness of critical social issues such as inclusion, equality, cultural identity, climate change, pollution (ocean, land, thermal, plastic, soil), homelessness, PTSD (military veterans), human trafficking, and LGBTQAI+ rights.

This initiative will highlight the creative and critical thinking skills developed by students in visual arts programs. This pilot program aims to showcase the innovative and analytical abilities of students who have pursued an education in visual arts.

2024/2025 short films added to Library from this year's Festival

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN'S MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA

The San Diego International Film Festival is thrilled to include the Women's Film Series in 2024 in partnership with the [Women's Museum of California](#). Qualifications for inclusion are that two out of three key roles (writer, director, producer) must be women. Together – the organizations will discover, cultivate and amplify diverse voices of women filmmakers who help shape our cultural landscape through the art of cinematic storytelling. This commitment to diversity, racial equity and inclusion is grounded in values established by both organizations and with efforts that ensure internal culture is demonstrative of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Tonya Mantooth, CEO and Artistic Director of the Festival shared “The San Diego International Film Festival and the Women's Museum of California have a shared passion for cultivating female written/directed and produced films. Both organizations have sought to create conversations focusing on the status of women in the film industry to spotlight and close the gender gap in Hollywood. At a time when women make up 50.8% of the U.S. population, just 4.2% of the 100 top-grossing American films are made by female directors; and that statistic hasn't changed over the last decade. The Women's Museum has devoted a Film Festival to addressing that statistic for the past 8 years. We are also both passionate about women supporting women in leadership roles. By partnering, we are able to combine the work we are both doing in this area and share female-led films with a broader audience. I am eager to work with Sandra Maas on our Women's Film Series during the festival to encourage female filmmakers by investing in women and look forward to evolving our partnership and continuing to support each other throughout the year.”

Sandra Maas, Board President of the Women's Museum of California, added “We are delighted to partner once again with Tonya Mantooth and the San Diego International Film Festival to shine the spotlight on relevant, groundbreaking, empowering stories that share the triumphs and challenges facing women in 2024. Curating films that amplify the stories and voices of women and promote diversity and gender equality, is not only a thrill, but brings with it the possibility of improving the lives of women everywhere.”

PARTNERSHIP WITH JOEY TRAVOLTA'S INCLUSION FILMS

Back by popular demand, the Festival continues its long standing partnership with Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films with the screening of the next season of *'Lights, Camera, Friendship!'* filmed in Valdosta, Georgia. The docuseries (filmed in a new town with a new cast each season) follows young adults on the autism spectrum as they navigate friendship.

Inclusion Films was started in 2007 by veteran filmmaker Joey Travolta. Inclusion Films teaches both the hard and soft skills of filmmaking to individuals with developmental differences in dedicated production studios across California. The neurodiverse production team that has been trained by Inclusion Films is available for hire - where they work side by side with veteran filmmakers. The ongoing goal of Joey Travolta and Inclusion Films' film training programs is *to continue to encourage and enable employment of individuals with developmental differences*.

This year's partnership includes an audience talkback with cast and crew members after the film screening, and a panel focused on inclusive hiring practices.

UC San Diego Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH)

The San Diego International Film Festival is proud to announce UC San Diego Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH) as a sponsor for this year's festival. This innovative collaboration will inspire conversation about the newest research in the treatment against antibiotic resistant superbugs.. IPATH is co-directed by Steffanie Strathdee, Ph.D. and Robert Schooley, M.D. and the center is part of the University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

The Inspiration:

IPATH was inspired by the successful treatment of Tom Patterson (Dr. Strathdee's husband) when he survived dying of a superbug infection.

Steffanie Strathdee, Ph.D. is an infectious disease epidemiologist and Harold Simon Distinguished Professor of Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine where she co-directs the Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH). In 2016, Strathdee, Schooley and colleagues were credited with saving her husband's life from a deadly superbug infection using bacteriophages – viruses that attack bacteria. The case, which involved cooperation from three universities, the U.S. Navy and researchers across the globe, shows how phage therapy has the potential to treat multidrug resistant bacterial infections which are expected to kill 10 million people per year by 2050. Patterson was the first person with a systemic superbug infection to be successfully cured via intravenous phage therapy in the U.S. Strathdee and her husband subsequently co-authored a memoir, The Perfect Predator: A Scientist's Race to Save Her Husband from a Deadly Superbug. For her efforts to revitalize phage therapy in the West, she was named one of TIME magazine's Most Influential People in Health Care in 2018.

The Organization:

Co-directed by Steffanie Strathdee, Ph.D. and Robert Schooley, M.D., the UC San Diego Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH) was founded in 2018. IPATH was the first dedicated phage therapy center in North America. IPATH's goal is to pursue, through collaboration with researchers, companies and institutions around the world, new treatments for combating antimicrobial resistant diseases-focusing on phage therapy. The center treats patients with life-threatening multi-drug resistant infections with phage therapy through the FDA's compassionate use program. They also strive to advance phage therapy into clinical trials so that it can be rigorously evaluated and if proven efficacious, become more widely available to combat the global superbug crisis. IPATH is currently involved with five clinical trials on phage therapy.

Film as a Catalyst for Discussion

The Film: **Last Chance To Save A Life** by Australian Writer/Director Emma Watts was inspired by Steffanie Strathdee's successful efforts to save her husband's life with phage therapy.

In a world threatened by deadly antibiotic-resistant infections, *Last Chance to Save a Life* paints a vivid portrait of an elusive 100-year-old therapy that could hold the key to humanity's survival. Watts explores the fact that as antibiotics fail, an elusive 100-year-old treatment promises to save lives and give hope to the world.

In Australia, as critically ill patients battle superbug infections, a new hope emerges from the unlikeliest of sources: viruses. Bacteriophages – or 'phages' for short' - are nature's viral warriors. These ancient viruses prey upon deadly bacteria with astonishing precision. Could phage therapy save these patients' lives and turn the tide of the looming medical crisis?

From the Emmy award-winning team at Genepool Productions, this intimate and unforgettable film bears witness to the global renaissance in phage therapy— an ancient weapon in the battle against superbugs and, perhaps, humanity’s last chance to save countless lives.

Join us to watch the film followed by a panel discussion with Emma, IPATH researchers and a phage therapy patient followed by a cocktail reception.