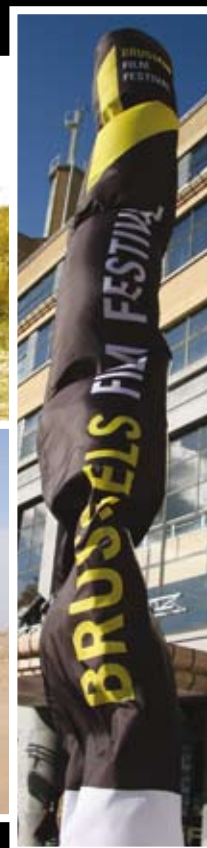


# Film Festivals 2009 at a glance



A look at 2009 – where to find the best films, festivals and events from around the world.

**A**uguste and Louis Lumière captivated the power of the moving image over a century ago in 1895 when they put on a show at the Salon Indien du Grand Café in Paris. This is widely considered to be the moment that defines the birth of cinema. Since then, it has evolved to exist at the core of our society. From the golden age to the technical age, film has explored the essential, macabre, serious and jovial. What's seen on screen is more than just a moving image; it's a celebration of ideas and a representation of our society. Through its nature, cinema offers a panacea from the mundane and ordinary; it's a fundamental part of our existence. It informs our norms, recreates the complexities of reality, builds a collective consciousness, sculpts identity, and draws us in with its creations making us return to the screen week after week, wanting more and more.

The big Hollywood action-thriller or rom-com might not be everyone's cup of tea, so where do you look to find something of the heart and mind? Film festivals, of course. Some of the films that eventually make it onto the screen at your local cinema have their first screenings at the festivals. From Venice, Berlin, Toronto, Adelaide, Sundance and Cannes, some of the best flicks find their way to the distributors and eventually to the silver screen.

Film festivals are not only the springboard for some of our favourite films, but also offer opportunities to view shorts, animation, and new emerging filmmakers, for example, Sundance's New Frontier programme cultivates new talent and brings it to a wider audience. Film remains attuned to our times, and the festivals are the first port of call.

Throughout 2009, there are thousands of festivals that span the globe from shorts, features, and documentaries to more experimental film and video, with that in mind there is a festival out there for you. Here are details of 13 recommended festivals for 2009, some large world cinema events, while others much smaller in scale have been selected for their commitment to the genre.

**Images Festival of Film, Video, New Media & Installations, Canada**  
2 - 11 April 2009  
[www.imagesfestival.com](http://www.imagesfestival.com)

Now in its 22nd year, and one of Toronto's many film festivals, it's the largest festival in North America for experimental and independent moving image culture, showcasing the innovative edge of international contemporary media art both on and off the screen. It is intrinsically linked to the promotion and survival of independent media art within Canada and abroad.

**Munich International Documentary Film Festival, Germany**  
6 - 13 May 2009  
[www.dokfest-muenchen.de](http://www.dokfest-muenchen.de)

Founded in 1985 by the Munich Documentary Filmmakers' Association, the festival's main premise was to promote creative documentary filmmaking. Now an international film festival with all the major players in documentary filmmaking taking part, Munich is one to watch. There are several prizes and five categories available for entry.

**Sydney Film Festival, Australia**  
4 - 22 June 2009

[www.sydneyfilmfestival.org](http://www.sydneyfilmfestival.org)  
Australia's premier festival, the Sydney Film Festival, was established in 1954 to showcase contemporary Australian and world cinema. The festival takes place over four venues with nine major awards up for grabs, Sydney makes an excellent alternative to some of the long established European or American festivals.

**Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK**  
17 - 28 June 2009  
[www.edfilmfest.org.uk](http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk)

Founded in 1947 alongside the Edinburgh Festival, this one has fixed roots. Often seen as a pioneering source for British and world cinema, Edinburgh has showcased some of the best films, which have moved on to become classics and favourites. The programme not only offers screenings, but also workshops and seminars.

**Brussels Film Festival, Belgium**  
27 June - 5 July 2009

[www.brusselsfilmfestival.eu](http://www.brusselsfilmfestival.eu)  
Nine days of films with 60 films in premiere, every evening free concerts and open air

Left: *Eat for This is My Body (Mange, c'est est mon corps)* by Michelangelo Quai, Edinburgh Film Festival. Top middle: *Oler the Land* by Deborah Stratman, Images Festival of Film. Bottom middle: *Flower in the Pocket* by Lew Seng Tat, Viennale. Top right: *Gospel/Hill* by Giancarlo Esposito, African Diaspora. Bottom right: Cambofest by Camerado.



screenings; BFF is a summer event with a comprehensive schedule of films on offer. Exclusive promotion of European directors' first and second films with a focus on independent filmmakers.

**Anima Mundi, Brazil**  
 10 - 19 July 2009 (Rio de Janeiro)  
 22 - 26 July 2009 (São Paulo)  
[www.animamundi.com.br](http://www.animamundi.com.br)

The 17th Anima Mundi festival will bring to the Brazilian audience the best world animation; it will present competition screenings, special programmes, retrospectives, international guests and professional workshops. The festival engages with both established and new animators, exploring the diverse genre to its fullest from design to direction.

**Norwegian International Film Festival, Norway**  
 20 - 27 August 2009  
[www.filmfestivalen.no](http://www.filmfestivalen.no)

Cooperating closely with Norwegian distributors in selecting films for screening at the festival, films are ideally signed for Norway, but the festival also makes a point of inviting a limited number of films that should be of

interest to both Norwegian and Scandinavian audiences.

**Monterrey International Film Festival, Mexico**  
 21 - 29 August 2009  
[www.monterreyfilmfestival.com](http://www.monterreyfilmfestival.com)

One of the most important cultural events in Mexico, MIFF was established in 2000. This event has attracted thousands of films from around the world, promoting cinematic culture and the diverse points of view of the many filmmakers.

**San Sebastián Film Festival, Spain**  
 17 - 26 September 2009  
[www.sansebastianfestival.com](http://www.sansebastianfestival.com)  
 Now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year, the festival is one of Europe's most established events. All films are screened in their original language with Spanish subtitles. Films must not have been shown in any competition or festival, which makes the screenings even more exciting.

**Viennale, Austria**  
 22 October - 4 November 2009  
[www.viennale.at](http://www.viennale.at)  
 Viennale is Austria's most important international film event, as well as one of the oldest and best-known festivals

in the German-speaking world. It's an international festival with a distinctive urban flair.

**African Diaspora Film Festival, New York, USA**  
 27 November - 13 December 2009  
[www.nyadfff.org](http://www.nyadfff.org)

Presenting outstanding works that shine a different or comprehensive light on African Diaspora life and culture. Redesigning the Black cinema experience, and strengthening the role of African and African descent directors in contemporary world cinema.

**Cambofest, Cambodia**  
 4 - 6 December 2009  
[www.cambofest.com](http://www.cambofest.com)  
 CAMBOFEST: Film, Video & Animation Festival of Cambodia is the first internationally recognised film festival in Cambodia. The organisers' aims are to contribute to the development of film, video, and media production in Cambodia by showcasing work by both international and regional filmmakers. First established by students at Royal University of Phnom Penh.

**Dubai International Film Festival, United Arab Emirates**

9 - 16 December 2009  
[www.dubaifilmfest.com](http://www.dubaifilmfest.com)  
 Set in one of the world's most up and coming locations, DIFF is now in its sixth year. Last year's festival featured 181 films from 66 countries and saw 47,500 visitors. "Celebrating excellence in cinema, using it as a medium to promote open dialogue between cultures and nations."

**Other festivals** worth noting include: Istanbul International Film Festival (Turkey), Festival de Cannes (France), East End Film Festival (UK), Mid-Ulster Film Festival (UK), The Times BFI London Film Festival (UK), NewFest (USA), OneMinute Film & Video Festival (Switzerland), Bite the Mango Film Festival (UK), The Festival of Fantastic Films (UK), Copenhagen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (Denmark), MedFilm Festival (Italy), Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival (Netherlands), and International Festival of New Latin-American Cinema (Cuba). For a complete guide to festivals visit: [www.britfilms.com/festivals](http://www.britfilms.com/festivals) or check back at the Aesthetica website throughout 2009 for updates.