

# Miami International Film Festival

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- May 11, 2012
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Young Filmmaker - by *michale*

## The Miami International Festival showcases independent movies by amateur filmmakers.

The Miami Film Festival takes place for 10 days during the month of March, and the [film festival](#) is geared towards amateurs looking to get exposure for their films. The festival is broken up into five competition categories and one non-competition categories, and preferred films generally have an Ibero-America or world focus.

Filmmakers who wish to enter the competition must pay a fee, and films must have been completed after March of the previous year. Accepted formats include HD, 35mm, BetaSP and DigiBeta.

### Short Competition

The Short Competition is open to films that are less than or at 20 minutes long, and the film must premiere in the United States at the Miami Film Festival. Accepted short films include [documentaries](#), animated films and dramas.

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### Ibero-American Competition

The Ibero-American Competition is open to dramatic feature films that are at least 70 minutes long, and the film must be premiering at the Miami Film Festival. This competition accepts entries from first-, second- or third-time

feature directors. Films must have been created in the Caribbean, Portugal, Spain or any Latin American country.

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### Documentary Competition

The Dox competition is open to documentary feature films that are at least 50 minutes long, and the film must be premiering at the festival and must not have been released to the American public.

### Non-competition Categories

Besides the competition categories, there are also two non-competition categories: the Cinema 360 and the Cutting the Edge categories. The Cinema 360 category is for feature films at least 70 minutes long or documentaries that are at least 50 minutes long. The Cutting the Edge category is open to films that have a revolutionary or experimental air.

### Exceptions to Rules

While the festival prefers that films premiere here, there may be exceptions to films that were premiered at Sundance Film Festival or AFI Fest. But, films must have only been premiered at one of these festivals, not both. Exceptions may also be made for films that were premiered via Video on Demand either outside of Florida or at international film festivals.

### Prizes

During the festival, over 100 films will be screened from at least 45 countries. Awards will be given out at the Awards Night Ceremony on the last day of the festival. The grand jury prize winner will receive a cash prize, usually around \$25,000. Another major award is the audience award in each category, which is voted on by attendees of the festival.

### How to Enter

To enter the competition, filmmakers must register via the Withoutabox.com website, and then fill out the online submission form. They will have to select the category in which they would like to compete and then fill out their contact information. While you can send your DVD via mail, you can also submit them via the Secure Online Screeners website.

Always check the website for the latest contest entry rules as they may change from year to year. Verify that the guidelines are still the same, and check the date of when you need to have your entry in.

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