



HBFF hollywood black film festival



FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions About HBFF 2008

Welcome to the Hollywood Black Film Festival (HBFF), an event rich in history and tradition. Founded in 1998 by its executive director, Tanya Kersey, the festival's goal is to play an integral role in discovering and launching independent films and filmmakers by bringing them to the attention of the industry, media and public. The festival's often-casual tone and shoulder-rubbing intimacy affords remarkably close access to movers and shakers in the industry we cover.

The following information will answer many of your questions and familiarize you with what you can expect at HBFF.

Q: What is the Hollywood Black Film Festival?

A: The Hollywood Black Film Festival is an annual 6-day celebration of black cinema drawing together established filmmakers, popular film and TV stars, writers, directors, industry executives, emerging artists and new audiences from Southern California and around the world. Attracting such stars as Academy Award winners Sidney Poitier and Forest Whitaker, John Singleton, Spike Lee, Anthony Anderson, Eriq LaSalle, Blair Underwood, Sanaa Lathan, Forest Whitaker, Bill Duke, and Nicole Ari Parker, the festival has become an annual mecca for the Black Hollywood creative community. The festival aims to enhance the careers of emerging and established black filmmakers through a public exhibition and competition program. The festival's goal is to play an integral role in discovering and launching independent films and filmmakers by bringing them to the attention of the industry, press and public.

Q: What are the dates of the 2008 festival?

A: HBFF 2008, the ninth edition of the Hollywood Black Film Festival is scheduled for **June 3-8, 2008 in Beverly Hills, California.**

Q: Who can attend the Hollywood Black Film Festival?

A: The festival is open to everyone, from industry professionals to the film loving general public. All are welcome at the Hollywood Black Film Festival!

Q: Where is the festival held?

A: HBFF is held at venues throughout the City of Beverly Hills. Screenings are held at the Writers Guild Theater and Laemmle Music Hall 3. The Infotainment Conference at the Clarity Theatre. Storyteller Live Staged Reading at the Clarity Theatre. Networking events and parties are held throughout Beverly Hills and neighboring communities. Check the schedule online for venue information.

Laemmle Music Hall 3

9036 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
(1/2 block from Writers Guild Theater)

Writers Guild Theater

135 So. Doheny Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
(1/2 block from Laemmle Music Hall 3)

Clarity Theatre

100 N. Crescent Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
(8 blocks from Laemmle Music Hall 3 and Writers Guild Theater)

Q: How do I know what to see and do?

A: This site is your printable source for finding out about the films, panels, workshops, parties and all of the other festival events you'll want to attend. For more detailed information and the latest updates, sign-up for the HBFF mailing list. Be sure to pick up a copy of the HBFF 2008 Film Guide, which provides comprehensive Festival details. Free copies will be available during the festival at the Writers Guild Theater and Clarity Theatre.

Q: How do I purchase tickets to festival screenings or a festival pass?

A: You can purchase tickets and passes online.

Tickets go on-sale online on May 9, 2008!

Ticket prices:

\$12 Adults

\$9 Matinees before 4 pm

\$9 Children, Students, Military & Seniors w/ID

Opening Night Gala - \$75 pp (Admittance to Opening Night Gala includes After-Party- Tuesday, June 3, 2008)

Opening night tickets may be picked up at the Clarity Theatre from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and they may also be picked up at the Writers Guild Theatre from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Closing Night Gala - \$25 pp (Admittance to Closing Night Gala including After-Party- Sunday, June 8, 2008)

Discounts: 10% off to Students, Military & Senior Citizens. If purchasing passes online, use the Voucher code STU for Student, MIL for Military and SEN for Senior. Your Student, Military or Senior I.D. will be required to pick up your pass during registration.

To Purchase Tickets:

Tickets will be sold online through June 1, 2008. After that, tickets may be purchased on-site.

Tickets will be available for pickup or purchase in person at the Writers Guild Theater June 5-8, 2008 between 10:00 am and 9:00pm; and at the Laemmle Music Hall 3 Box Office, June 4-8, 2008 between 10:00 am and 9:00 pm. The box office will open 30 minutes before the first show of the day and will sell tickets for that day's shows as well as advance tickets for other shows playing at that theatre. All sales are final; there are no refunds or exchanges.

Tickets for screenings at the Writers Guild Theater are cash sales only! Laemmle Music Hall accepts cash and credit cards.

Admission Policy:

HBFF Pass-holders and ticket holders will only be guaranteed admission until 15 minutes prior to scheduled screening. After this time, remaining seats will be sold to wait-listed patrons and then released to stand-by pass-holders.

Wait List:

If a screening is listed as "Wait List," it means that tickets are no longer available for pre-purchased. We encourage you to go to the screening venue no more than one hour prior to start time for a "Wait List" ticket. Once all pass-holders and regular ticket holders are seated, tickets will be sold to those standing in the Wait List line.

HBFF 2008 Screening Venues:

Writers Guild Theater
135 So. Doheny Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Laemmle's Music Hall 3
9036 Wilshire Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

We encourage you to purchase tickets in advance online to ensure you get to see the films of your choice. Many screenings do sell out very quickly. Festival passes are available now online. Click here for more information.

Q: By the way, what is a Festival Pass?

A: For your optimal festival experience, HBFF offers a variety of passes. Holders of the HBFF 2008 Festival Pass will enjoy access to all festival events including: unrestricted admission to all festival screenings, Infotainment Conference panel discussions and workshops; admittance to all sponsored festival parties and receptions; admission to the festival's Opening Night Gala and Closing Night Festivities. For access to all festival events, the Festival Pass is the best value for your bucks!

The Screening Pass is for all the film screenings only; the Infotainment Conference Pass is for all the panels and workshops. For more information on all the ways you can attend HBFF 2008, [visit our registration page](#).

Q: Well, how much does it cost?

A: For information on all the ways you can attend HBFF 2008, [visit our registration page](#).

HBFF Festival Pass - All Inclusive: Includes admittance to Opening and Closing Night Galas, Screenings, Infotainment Conference, Pitch-Fest Series, and all Festival Parties. Best Value!

Early-bird registration before April 25th: \$450

Regular registration up to May 30th: \$550

After May 30th, on-site registration: \$650

HBFF Infotainment Conference Pass - Includes admittance to Infotainment Conference only.

Early-bird registration before April 25th: \$325

Regular registration up to May 30th: \$375

After May 30th, on-site registration: \$475

One Day Pass - Includes admittance to Infotainment Conference Panels, Screenings and Evening Events for One Day Only. APPLICABLE WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY ONLY. NOT APPLICABLE TUESDAY & SUNDAY.

Early-bird registration before April 25th: \$125

Regular registration up to May 30th: \$150

After May 30th, on-site registration: \$200

HBFF Screening Pass - Includes admittance to all HBFF Screenings except Opening and Closing Night.

Early-bird registration before April 25th: \$175

Regular registration up to May 30th: \$200
After May 30th, on-site registration: \$250

Infotainment Panels - \$30 ea.

Includes admittance to a single Infotainment Panel except Pitchathon.

Discounts: 10% off to Students, Military & Senior Citizens. If purchasing passes online, use the Voucher code STU for Student, MIL for Military and SEN for Senior. Your Student, Military or Senior I.D. will be required to pick up your pass during registration.

Q: So, I've ordered my pass... now what?

A: Passes may be picked up as follows:

Tuesday, June 3, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater
Wednesday, June 4, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater
Thursday, June 5, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater
Friday, June 6, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater
Saturday, June 7, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater
Sunday, June 8, 2008: 9 am – 4 pm at the Clarity Theater

The Clarity Theater is located at 100 N. Crescent Drive in Beverly Hills (corner of Crescent Drive and Wilshire Blvd.) There is metered parking on the street and 1 hour free parking at the Public Parking Lot located at 333 N. Crescent Drive.

Q: Won't it be easier to just buy my pass at the festival when I get to Los Angeles?

A: No. There is a limited number of all-access Festival Passes available. We encourage you to purchase your festival passes in advance.

Q: Hey, I'm a big-wig industry executive at a major studio/network. Do I really need to buy a pass and/or screening tickets?

A: Yes!

Q: How are films selected to screen at the festival?

A: Selection of films and videos is made by the festival screening committee comprised of film studio executives, agents, entertainment attorneys, filmmakers, producers and journalists.

Q: What is going on besides films?

A: In addition to a dynamic line-up of feature, short, documentary and student films, and music videos, the Hollywood Black Film Festival is much more than just films.

The adjunct **Infotainment Conference** features dozens of informational seminars, panels and workshops covering a wide variety of topics which range from film production, distribution and marketing to pitching, writing for

television and film, in addition to specific programs of interest to actors. Each year, more than 100 top film and television executives, filmmakers, producers, directors, writers, agents, attorneys, business managers and actors participate in the talk-show style panels, roundtable discussions and workshops

There is also a free, [Storyteller Lived Staged Reading](#) of the finalists in the HBFF storyteller competition.

And of course, there are the nightly HBFF parties where attendees get a chance to network with their peers, and party!

Q: Can I write off any of my festival expenses?

A: Your registration fee is tax deductible! Even the government smiles on professional education. All expenses of Continuing Education (including registration fees, travel, meals, and lodging) taken to maintain and improve professional skills are tax deductible according to Treasury Regulation 1.162-5 Coughlin vs. Commissioner, 203 F2d 307.

Q: If I'm coming from out of town, how should I get to Los Angeles and where should I stay?

A: The Hollywood Black Film Festival has many travel partners to help you make the most of your trip. [Visit our travel & accommodations page for more information](#). When making your travel arrangements, be sure to identify yourself as part of the Hollywood Black Film Festival to receive our negotiated discount rates.

Q: What's the weather going to be like?

A: During the day the temperature should be expected to be in the 80's. It's warm and sunny in Southern California! Be prepared and bring a light jacket for early mornings and evenings.

Q: How should I dress?

A: California Casual. Opening & Closing Nights are typically a bit dressier.

Q: How do I make the most of my festival experience?

A: We want to emphasize that the Hollywood Black Film Festival is more than a festival, it's a networking experience, and your participation is a key element to its success. Make sure you bring plenty of business cards, photos/resumes, etc. Business cards (and photos/resumes for actors) are the main commodity that is traded at the festival. Network as hard as you can and collect as many business cards as possible. It's always a good idea to write a short note on the back of each card you receive to jog your memory later on as to who and what is person was about. You're bound to make a lot of lasting contacts. And don't forget to bring a camera- there will be plenty of photo ops for you and your friends, and you never know who you'll see.

Q: Any networking tips for me?

A: HBFF's tips for power networking:

- Have a one-line one-minute pitch of your film or script ready, if you've come to the festival to pitch a product.
- If you have a film, make sure you have extra DVD copies of your film. Ditto for scripts.
- Always remember, the festival network world is small, so think long term. Look for agents, producers, acquisitions executives and others to provide support for your future projects.
- Bring PLENTY of business cards. Network as hard as you can and collect as many business cards as possible. It's always a good idea to write a short note on the back of each card you receive to jog your memory later on as to who and what that person is about.
- Lastly, do not ignore one of the most important resources around you – your peers. One day your peers may be in a position to help you or to hire you, or you them! Talk up your project to them and get them to talk about theirs.

Q: Can I record (audio and/or video) the Infotainment panels?

A: Sorry, no recording is allowed. Our Infotainment Conference is fully copyrighted. No audio recording or videotaping, please. Photos are okay.

Q: What are some of the films that have played in past festivals?

A: Past festival features in the invitational program have included director John Singleton's box office blockbuster "2 Fast 2 Furious," the critically-acclaimed "The Hurricane" (starring Academy Award™ winner Denzel Washington), director Kasi Lemmons' "The Caveman's Valentine" (starring Samuel L. Jackson), and director Reggie Rock Bythewood's "Dancing In September."

Q: When do you announce the films that will screen at the festival?

A: The films are announced on the festival website in April.

Q: When will the festival screening schedule be available?

A: The [screening schedule](#) with the dates and venues of the screenings of selected films is posted on the Festival website late April.

Q: Are the films rated?

A: In general, Hollywood Black Film Festival selections have not yet been reviewed by the Motion Picture Association of America and therefore do not have an MPAA rating (G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17). However, we include details about the content and nature of films in the Film Guide and more information at www.hbff.org to help you make choices.

Q: Where do I get more information?

A: Our Festival website provides the most comprehensive details on events, programs, and other general information. Visit <http://www.hbff.org> and be sure to sign up for the e-mail newsletter so you're keep abreast of festival developments. To join the mailing list go to:
<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/optin.jsp?v=001Nw2Td2zWLAUJk1UNuCwaNqRd-Dcne-aO>.

Q: What if I have questions during the Festival?

A: Any Festival staffer or one of our volunteers will be happy to help you – just look for the HBFF volunteer badges. Visit our Information Center located in the lobby of the Writers Guild Theater or Clarity Theater to ask questions, or pick up a FREE festival guide.

Q: You still haven't answered my question. Now what?

A: Send us an email at: info@hbff.org. For business inquiries ONLY: 310.407.3596.