Festival Information & Awards History

Screamfest Horror Film Festival is the largest and longest running horror film festival in the United States. Paranormal Activity was discovered and premiered at the festival in 2007. Some of the largest horror online publications have called it the "Sundance of Horror".

The 23rd Annual Festival will be held for 10 days at the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres located in Ovation Hollywood (formerly Hollywood & Highland Center) in eclectic Hollywood, California beginning October 10th -19th, 2023.

Screamfest, America's largest and longest running horror film festival premieres and showcases new work from American and international independent horror filmmakers. Many of the filmmakers have garnered distribution and representation as a result of the festival. Screamfest launches careers.

Film entries are accepted in the categories of Best Feature, Best Directing, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Special Effects, Best SpecialFX Makeup and Best Musical Score. In addition, short films will receive awards for Best Horror Short, Best Student Horror Short and special categories for Best Animated Horror Short and Best Horror Comedy Short.

Screamfest was formed in August 2001 by film producers Rachel Belofsky and Ross Martin in order to give filmmakers and writers in the horror/sci-fi genres a venue to have their work showcased to people in the industry. We are very proud that the majority of the films showcased now have distribution.

The Screamfest Horror Film Festival is an arts organization committed to the support and development of independent filmmakers and screenwriters of the Horror genre. The 10 day festival provides a platform for emerging writers and directors to showcase their work to the industry and the horror loving public.

Known as the "Sundance of Horror," Screamfest is proud to have discovered and premiered Paranormal Activity in 2007. The director Oren Peli, garnered representation and distribution as result of his Screamfest screening. Other Screamfest alumni such as Drew and Brett Pierce (The Wretched), Issa Lopez (Tigers Are Not Afraid), Michael Dougherty (Godzilla: King of the Monsters, Trick 'r Treat), Mikael Hafstrom (1408, Drowning Ghost), F. Javier Gutierrez (Rings), and more have gone on to successful careers.

To submit your film to the festival and for more information on how you can attend the Festival, please visit our website at screamfestla.com email us at info@screamfestla.com or call 310.358.3273