



Submission Guidelines: Cucalorus Film

Cucalorus Film Festival showcases bold and innovative new works in cinema, a beguiling mix of indie hits, international treasures and regional classics. Submissions are accepted all year and almost anything goes. There are no time limits or specific genres for film submissions – if you make it, we take it – from features to shorts, music videos, web series, tv commercials, branded content, and beyond. Films must have been completed within the past two years, and films with world premieres before November 2018 are not eligible. All films must be Wilmington, NC premieres to qualify. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact [our programming director](#).

Submission Requirements

1. Completed entry form for each submission via FilmFreeway.
 2. The applicable entry fee paid via FilmFreeway.
 3. Send us the title and/or cover design for your upcoming autobiography. Yes, we're serious. Have fun with it! You can mail or email the design (programming@cucalorus.org).
- **disclaimer** - we may post this on social media!!*

Please send all packages, checks, toys, drawings, baby goats, and photos to:
Cucalorus Submissions
Jengo's Playhouse
815 Princess Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

Important 2019 Deadlines

Early Submission Deadline: May 8 [\$25]
Regular Submission Deadline: June 5 [\$35]
Extended Submission Deadline: July 17 [\$55]
Program Confirmed: August
Intended Program Announcement: September

Cucalorus Festival: Nov 13-17

Exceptions / Payments / Refunds

- There are no exceptions to these deadlines or fees, except when we make exceptions!
- Please make all fees payable to Cucalorus.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- There are no entry fees for residents of New Hanover County. Email programming@cucalorus.org for a local waiver code.
- Cucalorus endorses irrational behavior, generally.

Cucalorus Film Festival Programs

Submissions are considered for a wide range of festival programs focusing on emerging and innovative filmmakers, North Carolina artists, social justice, student films, films by youth, shorts, and international cinema. The festival strives to showcase diverse, international artists of all ages, genders, races, economics, hairstyles, religions, and backgrounds.

Magnolia: The Magnolia program showcases crowd-pleasing fare from romantic comedies to timely documentaries and includes award winners from the festival circuit.

Vanguard: The Vanguard program supports breathtaking works from pioneering filmmakers with a focus on female directors and producers.

Voices: The Voices program showcases films about social justice by artists working in the US South. Filmmakers work with ROOTS facilitators to organize community engagement events (25 free screenings were held in 2018) reaching distinct audiences like students from local ESL programs and young African-American men from the LITE Manhood program.

Convulsions: The Convulsions program presents a curated selection of horror and genre films – cinematic visions for the late-night crowd.

Works-in-Progress: The Works-in-Progress Lab (WiP) focuses on strengthening the community impact of documentaries about social justice and supporting the development of African American filmmakers. Cucalorus accepts submissions from African-American filmmakers working on social justice documentaries at various stages in the production process. WiP supports filmmakers by developing engagement strategies through an immersive residency, taking place before and during the Cucalorus Festival. Filmmakers receive extensive community feedback during a week of screenings, workshops, and outreach. The 2019 program will showcase four projects and provide direct financial support to filmmakers through honorariums, travel stipends, lodging, airfare and rental fees. WiP includes community engagement events, public and private screenings, impact strategy sessions, and one-on-one consultations.

Shorties: Cucalorus presents more than 180 shorts each year organized into 15 thematic blocks with funky names like Barn Door Shorts, Beefy Baby Shorts, and Mickey Moles Shorts (different terms used in film production, especially lighting, were used in 2017!). Thematic blocks follow threads like dance, comedy, youth and animation, but also have more open-ended cues like tough, dark, and say?what!. Cucalorus provides equal financial support to feature and shorts filmmakers.

We also accept, appreciate, and love projects that fall under these categories:

Youth Films: Youth films is a showcase of short films made by youth or made for youth. Films in this category must be appropriate for ages 9 and up. The Youth program provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the artistic achievements of young artists and promotes the appreciation of filmmaking as a critical tool for self-expression and personal growth.

Music Videos: Featured in our Visual/Sound/Walls program. V/S/W is an eye-popping, ear-pleasuring immersive experience of music videos projected onto a dozen screens. How can you jump on this??? Just make a music video and send it to us. Boom. No really, send us your music video, we really really wanna see it.

Virtual Reality: Cucalorus features a wild splattering of curated and tested virtual reality experiences. We accept VR shorts under 20 minutes, accessible on common headsets – submit those via the film entry form. If you are interested in submitting a game demo, work-in-progress or new type of VR gear, contact our programming team.

Cucalorus Provides

- Publicity and marketing support (festival website, umbrella publicity campaign, and festival print materials)
- Two Pegasus Passes, providing you with access to all Cucalorus film screenings, stage events, Connect Conference panels, lounges, parties, and plenty of food and drink.
- Housing for all filmmakers.
- Travel grants are available on a first come first serve basis.
- Creative networking with other innovative filmmakers, performers, and artists.

You Provide

- A DCP and/or Blu-ray of your film, including backup.
- Publicity and marketing for your film, including at least one high quality, high res promo image.
- Facebook event page

Cucalorus Values

Innovation & Experimentation: Artists who are taking risk in their work, exploring alternatives to genre and form.

High Energy Humor: Creators who are following the metaphorical white rabbit down the hole of hilarity!

New Work: We program new work, created within the past two years and not yet premiered in North Carolina.

Courageous Culture Shock: Films responding, challenging, and exploring contemporary politics and cultural concerns.

Inclusive Idea Sharing: We welcome all to create, witness, and present in a creatively collaborative nature.