



# FILM FESTIVAL TRACKER

TRACK EVERY SUBMISSION. MEASURE EVERY RESULT. STRATEGIZE YOUR CIRCUIT.

Festival strategy is not 'submit everywhere and hope.' It's a deliberate campaign with tiers, timelines, and goals. Use this tracker to manage your full submission circuit — from research to result — and build a smarter strategy with every film you make.

## YOUR FESTIVAL STRATEGY — BEFORE YOU SUBMIT ANYTHING

Answer these questions before your first submission. Your answers will shape your entire circuit.

<b>What is this film's primary goal?</b>	Prestige & awards consideration ■ Distribution deal ■ Audience building ■ Career advancement ■ Community screening
<b>What is your total festival budget?</b>	_____
<b>What is your premiere strategy?</b>	World premiere held for top-tier ■ Open premiere (submit widely) ■ Regional premiere only
<b>What is your timeline?</b>	Earliest premiere date: _____ Latest acceptable premiere date: _____
<b>Who is this film's audience?</b>	_____ _____
<b>Which 3 festivals would be your dream wins?</b>	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

## FESTIVAL TIER GUIDE

<b>TIER 1 PRESTIGE</b>	Sundance, TIFF, Tribeca, SXSW, Cannes, Berlin, AFI Fest Hold your world premiere for one of these. Only submit if your film is genuinely competitive. Submission fees are high (\$75–\$150+). Entry is highly selective.
<b>TIER 2 MAJOR GENRE / SPECIALTY</b>	Outfest, Essence Fest, BlackStar, NewFest, Tribeca shorts, Fantasia, Hot Docs Strongly aligned with specific audiences, genres, or communities. High prestige within their lane. Very strong for building the right audience base.
<b>TIER 3 REGIONAL &amp; MID-TIER</b>	Atlanta Film Festival, RiverRun, Sidewalk, deadCENTER, Nashville Film Festival Excellent for regional press, audience building, and awards that look good on a résumé. More accessible premiere slots. Lower fees.

**TIER 4**  
LOCAL & C  
COMMUNITY

University festivals, neighborhood film series, community cinema programs Perfect for connecting with local audiences and press. Great for films with regional stories. Low or no submission fees.




**STATUS KEY**

**RESEARCHING** Not yet submitted — evaluating fit

**NOT SELECTED** Declined — request feedback if available

**SUBMITTED** Application sent

**WITHDRAWN** Pulled before decision

**WAITLISTED** Under continued consideration

**SCREENED** Film screened at festival

**SELECTED** Official selection confirmed — congratulations!

**AWARDED** Winner or special mention

**A strategic filmmaker submits with intention — not desperation.**

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