



Screen time

Glitz, glamour and a moment for the history books, keep an eye out for these three film festivals in 2024

Pushing the boundaries of film festival traditions, these three culturally diverse events in Hong Kong, Berlin and NYC, seek to represent creators and audiences as their truest selves. Enveloping the everyday consumer in a level of glitz and glamour usually reserved for the silver screen cast, Hong Kong International Film Festival allows the audience an early access to the biggest names and most exciting emerging Asian creators.

Both born from significant historical events Berlinale, and Tribeca Festival preserve space for emerging audio visual creators, nurturing greater social connection between creators and industry.

2024 is set to see the first cohesive appearance of the American film industry since the monumental 2023 SAG-AFTRA strikes. The projects, presentations and conversations amongst creators and industry personnel are highly anticipated to hit play on a new chapter in entertainment.

BERLINALE

An exciting start to the year for any film lover, the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) is set to take place between the 15-24 February. A child of the cold war, the Berlinale was created as a “showcase of the free world”, even today the festival remains

one of daring social commentary. Accepting close to 200 films each year the monumental public festival offers an alluring lineup of events from The Competition: the festival’s centrepiece to Panorama: a highly anticipated event with the festival’s largest jury. Big names to receive the elusive golden bear include Hayao Miyazaki’s *Spirited Away* (2002) and Barry Levinson’s *Rain Man* (1988).

Hosted at the same time as the Berlinale, the European Film Market (EFM) expects more than 11,500 participants to visit Berlin during February under the umbrella of Berlinale Pro. Orchestrated so early in the year, a reputation as one of the world’s leading marketplaces for exceptional audiovisual content, EFM 2024 looks forward to a national spotlight on the Italian film industry.

berlinale.de

Above: Martin Scorsese at the Tribeca Film Festival and world premier of *The Union* in 2011

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM

Asia’s first film festival and a pioneer of delivering Asian films to a global audience, today the HKIFF is Hong Kong’s largest cultural event on the calendar amassing an audience of over 600,000. Encouraging an international viewership the festival has introduced culturally diverse storylines and dedicated language categories to English speaking audiences. HKIFF48 will take place between the 8-28 March.

Showcasing new films as gala premiers, the festival enlists significant cultural venues as the backdrop to red carpet extravaganzas allowing directors and cast members to walk the carpet and interact with audiences around screening times.

2023 saw the return of international guests to HKIFF, revitalising the atmosphere with an enthusiasm for diversity in film culture. 2024 is set to continue with exceptional programming and the best opportunities to

view stellar entries across multiple categories.

Dazzling judges in 2023, *Stonewalling* co-directed by Huang Ji and Otsuka Ryuji took home three prizes including the Chinese Language Young Cinema Competition commended for its portrayal of the female experience and the “inescapable responsibilities they have to shoulder”. Offering meaningful social commentary, *Stonewalling* sets an exciting benchmark for what is to come not only within the HKIFF but also the globalising cinema landscape.

hkiff.org.hk

TRIBECA

A wonderful intersection of silver screen stars and indie productions in search of an international break, Tribeca Festival harnesses the creative energy of springtime in New York City. Created in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal

and Craig Hatkoff launched the festival in 2002 with a reception of over 150,000 visitors achieving marvellous success in reinvigorating Lower Manhattan within its first year.

Championing adaptability during challenging times, the obstacles of an international pandemic were not enough to stop the rich cultural celebration of film. 2020 offered a remarkable opportunity for connection and

integration with the biggest names in film festivals via in-home screenings. 2021 saw a dedicated category for the debut of video games mirrored in the name change dropping “film” from Tribeca Festival.

2024 will also be the inaugural year of the De Niro Con, a fan event celebrating 80 years of Robert De Niro through screenings of the star’s movies and conversations.



Above: British actor Idris Elba poses at the *Yardie* photo call during the 68th Berlinale International Film Festival Berlin in 2018 Below: Christian Bale stops for fans on the 2019 red carpet in Berlin ahead of the *Vice* press conference

For more than two decades, the Tribeca Festival has been a destination for new and groundbreaking storytelling from both established and emerging artists. From 5-16th June, the festival will explore creative innovation across film, TV, immersive, games, audio storytelling and talks for a 23rd time.

“We’re proud to be the launchpad for the next generation of artists.” says Tribeca CEO and Co-Founder Jane Rosenthal.

“The 23rd Tribeca Festival will be a groundbreaking cultural event that shifts how audiences receive and react to entertainment.”

Offering 23 categories for submission the festival enhances opportunities with the Tribeca creators market empowering storytellers at the “intersection of art and activism” with a particular emphasis on the removal of industry from this portion of the event in line with the 2023 strike.

tribecafilm.com ■