

WORLD FEST 60

APRIL 30 - MAY 8, 2027



HOUSTON
INTERNATIONAL
FILM
FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF
INDEPENDENT FILM DISCOVERY

A LEGACY OF DISCOVERY

For 60 years, WorldFest has championed emerging filmmakers before the world knew their names.

1969	Steven Spielberg	<i>Amblin'</i>	2026
1971	George Lucas	<i>THX 1138</i>	22 Countries Represented
1970	David Lynch	<i>The Grandmother</i>	164 Filmmakers Attended
1984	Coen Brothers	<i>Blood Simple</i>	35 Feature Films Screened
1984	Ridley Scott	<i>1984 Apple Computer Ad</i>	96 Short Films Screened
1986	Oliver Stone	<i>Salvador</i>	Oscar-Qualifying Application Underway
1992	Ang Lee	<i>Pushing Hands</i>	
1991	Robert Rodriguez	<i>Bedhead</i>	
2000	Gina Prince-Bythewood	<i>Love & Basketball</i>	
2005	Deepa Mehta	<i>Water</i>	



Alumni include Academy Award®, Emmy®, BAFTA®, and Golden Globe® winners.

WHERE INDEPENDENT FILM LEGENDS BEGIN

Founded: 1961

Edition: 60th Annual Festival (WF60 – 2027)

Location: Houston, Texas

Timing: April 30 - May 8, 2027

WorldFest-Houston is the longest-running independent film festival in the world, with a six-decade legacy of discovering and championing emerging filmmakers from around the globe. Each spring, the festival convenes filmmakers, industry professionals, students, and culturally engaged audiences for an immersive celebration of independent cinema, education, and creative exchange.



Director William Shockley, Cast and Crew of Long Shadows - opened WorldFest58 at River Oaks Theater with interview by Joe Leydon of Variety

WHY WORLDFEST MATTERS

We Bring the World to Houston

WorldFest showcases independent films and filmmakers from around the globe, creating opportunities for cultural exchange, international dialogue, and global storytelling in one of the world's most diverse cities.

We Support the Creative Economy

WorldFest connects filmmakers, producers, actors, students, and industry professionals through screenings, education, networking, and professional development, helping strengthen Houston's growing film and media ecosystem.

We Discover Emerging Talent

For 60 years, WorldFest has championed independent filmmakers and early-career artists, providing a platform for new voices and bold creative visions.

We Celebrate the Human Experience

Through film, WorldFest creates opportunities for audiences to encounter perspectives, cultures, and stories they might never otherwise experience, building empathy, understanding, and connection across communities.

WorldFest is known for its filmmaker-first ethos, global perspective, and welcoming environment that prioritizes meaningful connection over scale alone.





WORLDVEST 59

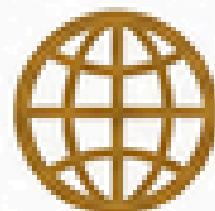
BY THE NUMBERS

A YEAR OF TRANSITION, RESILIENCE & RENEWAL

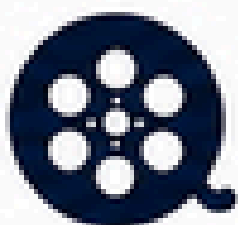
The 59th Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival
April 24 - May 3, 2026 • Houston, Texas



1,000+
FILM SUBMISSIONS
REVIEWED



22
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED



130
FILMS SCREENED
34 FEATURES • 96 SHORTS



164
ATTENDING
FILMMAKERS



840+
FESTIVAL
ATTENDEES



1,519
TICKETS
ISSUED



70+
VOLUNTEER
JURORS



50+
VOLUNTEERS &
ADVISORY BOARD
MEMBERS



16
EDUCATIONAL
SEMINARS & PANELS



8
WELLNESS
EXPERIENCES



8
NETWORKING
EVENTS & PARTIES



10
DAYS OF
PROGRAMMING

DIGITAL REACH



8,005 FIRST-TIME
WEBSITE VISITORS



53,960 ANNUAL WEBSITE
PAGE VIEWS



3,700 ACTIVE USERS
DURING FESTIVAL DATES



500+ SOCIAL MENTIONS,
STORY TAGS & CHECK-INS

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT



\$125,994 CASH REVENUE
GENERATED



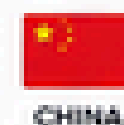
\$95,000+ DONATED GOODS &
SERVICES LEVERAGED



\$220,000+ TOTAL FESTIVAL
VALUE DELIVERED

WorldFest generated approximately \$126,000 in cash revenue, leveraged more than \$95,000 in donated goods and services, and delivered a ten-day international film festival representing 22 countries, 130 films, and more than 840 attendees.

BRINGING THE WORLD TO HOUSTON



BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE. CONNECTING OUR WORLD.

One of the world's longest-running independent film festivals, connecting filmmakers, audiences, educators, artists, and industry leaders through storytelling, cultural



INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS FROM

62 COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES

SUBMITTED FILMS TO WORLDFEST59



A TRULY GLOBAL FOOTPRINT
From every continent, filmmakers choose WorldFest to share their stories.

1,000+
FILM SUBMISSIONS
FROM 62 COUNTRIES
& TERRITORIES

130
FILMS SCREENED
34 FEATURES
96 SHORTS

164
FILMMAKERS ATTENDED
REPRESENTING 22 COUNTRIES

840+
FESTIVAL ATTENDEES
FROM ACROSS
THE GLOBE

62 COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES

NORTH AMERICA

- United States
- Canada
- Mexico

SOUTH AMERICA

- Brazil
- Chile

EUROPE (27)

- United Kingdom
- Ukraine
- Italy
- Germany
- Russian Federation
- France
- Sweden
- Poland
- Ireland
- Spain
- Serbia
- Portugal
- Hungary
- Switzerland
- Slovakia
- Netherlands
- Montenegro
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Lithuania
- Greece
- Finland
- Denmark
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Iceland
- Austria
- Belgium

ASIA & MIDDLE EAST (25)

- Taiwan
- China
- South Korea
- India
- Iran
- Japan
- Turkey
- Thailand
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- United Arab Emirates
- Singapore
- Saudi Arabia
- Palestine
- Lebanon
- Israel
- Indonesia
- Hong Kong
- Azerbaijan
- Qatar
- Afghanistan

AFRICA (4)

- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Egypt

OCEANIA (2)

- Australia
- New Zealand

CARIBBEAN (2) & OTHER

- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- United States Minor Outlying Islands

★ THANK YOU TO OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF FILMMAKERS, VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS.



STORIES BUILD COMMUNITY

21 Community Partners Strengthened Education, Industry Engagement, Cultural Exchange & Filmmaker Wellness at WorldFest59

Education & Youth Development

Houston Christian University • Houston City College • University of Houston • University of St. Thomas

Film, Arts & Industry

Captiv Studios • Houston Association of Producers • Houston Entertainment Initiative • Houston Film Commission • International Entertainment Partnership • Miss Takes Film Club • SAG-AFTRA • Spectrum Fusion • Women in Film & Television Houston

International & Cultural Exchange

Consulate General of Italy in Houston • Consulate General of Türkiye in Houston • Hispanic Community Leaders • Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston

Community & Wellness

Ashe Yoga Collective • Dawn Mountain Tibetan Buddhist Temple • EMpower You with Joni D. Goodman • Grounding Art Wellness Resort



EDUCATIONAL IMPACT



WorldFest59's educational programming connected students, emerging creatives, and working professionals with experienced filmmakers and industry experts.

15 Educational Sessions

17 Full Scholarships Awarded

30 Industry Experts & Creative Leaders

WorldFest-Houston's Educational Arm provided eight days of professional development programming designed to support filmmakers, actors, students, producers, and creative entrepreneurs.

Topics included:

Financing & Producing

Screenwriting & Story Development

Acting & Career Development

Music Supervision & Sync Licensing

Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies

Unit Still Photography

SAG-AFTRA & Professional Pathways

Directing (Shorts & Features)

Virtual Production & XR Storytelling



WELLBEING AT WORLD FEST 59



WorldFest Wellness provided complimentary yoga, meditation, sound healing, Reiki, breathwork, and burnout prevention programming, supporting the physical, mental, and creative well-being of filmmakers, industry professionals, and festival attendees. Filmmakers report feeling “safe, loved and respected” at WorldFest.





INDUSTRY VOICES



At WorldFest59, 30 presenters shared expertise from Captiv Studios • Guild of Music Supervisors • Houston Association of Producers • Houston Christian University • Music Supervisor Inc. • SAG-AFTRA • San Jacinto College • University of Houston • VISION Production Group and other leading creative organizations.

Representing film, television, music, education, and emerging technologies, these industry professionals helped connect filmmakers with real-world knowledge, career pathways, and creative inspiration.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

WorldFest 59 honored outstanding achievements in filmmaking from around the world through the Remi Awards, recognizing excellence in storytelling, craft, and creative vision.

Grand Remi Winners

Best Feature — DISDAIN (Mexico)

Best Feature Documentary — Mothers (Italy)

Best Dramatic Short — COLORable (Japan)

Best Comedy Short — Coupe au Bol (France)

Best Short Documentary — To Go or to Hold It – The Toilet War (South Korea)

Best Animation — The High King's Daughter (Ireland)

Best Student Film — The Undying Pain of Existence (Germany)

Best Television, Cable & Web Production — The Winning Try (South Korea)

Best Music Video — Sunbeam (USA)

Best Screenplay — The Weight of Wind (USA)

Excellence in Craft

Best Director — DISDAIN (Mexico)

Best Cinematography — DISDAIN (Mexico)

Best Music — BONDING (USA)

Best Editing — KODUWA THE NIGHTBIRD (India)

Best Art Direction — OBRAZ / THE TOWER OF STRENGTH (Montenegro)

Audience Awards: THE BANKER (Short Subject) • SUM FUNCTION (Feature Film)



FILMMAKER IMPACT



WorldFest-Houston created opportunities for filmmakers to be seen, celebrated, and connected. Through 130 films screened, awards recognition, educational programming, networking events, and wellness initiatives, filmmakers gained visibility, professional development, and meaningful connections within Houston's creative community and beyond.



The Opportunity: WorldFest60



Vision Statement:

As WorldFest-Houston enters its 60th year, we are honoring our legacy while investing in the future through education, accessibility, international collaboration, filmmaker wellness, and new pathways for independent storytellers to reach audiences around the world.

Building the Next Chapter of WorldFest

- Pursuing Oscar-qualifying festival status
- Preserving and digitizing six decades of film history
- Launching WorldFlix, a year-round filmmaker platform
- Expanding filmmaker wellness programming
- Launching an International Autistic Filmmaker Showcase
- Establishing named legacy awards honoring WorldFest alumni



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



WorldFest 60 Anniversary

Founding Partner
Naming opportunities
Legacy recognition
Anniversary activations

Filmmaker Development & Education

Scholarships
Seminars
Panels
Mentorship

Community Impact & Accessibility

International Autistic Filmmakers Showcase
Student programs
Community outreach
Wellness

WorldFlix & Year-Round Programming

Streaming
Interviews
Audience development
Year-round engagement

Hunter Todd Legacy Fund

Archives
Legacy preservation
Named awards
Future sustainability



WHY PARTNER WITH WORLDFEST?

- Align with a trusted cultural institution
- Reach filmmakers, creatives, professionals, and civic leaders
- Demonstrate commitment to education and community impact
- Support international cultural exchange
- Be part of a historic 60th Anniversary milestone



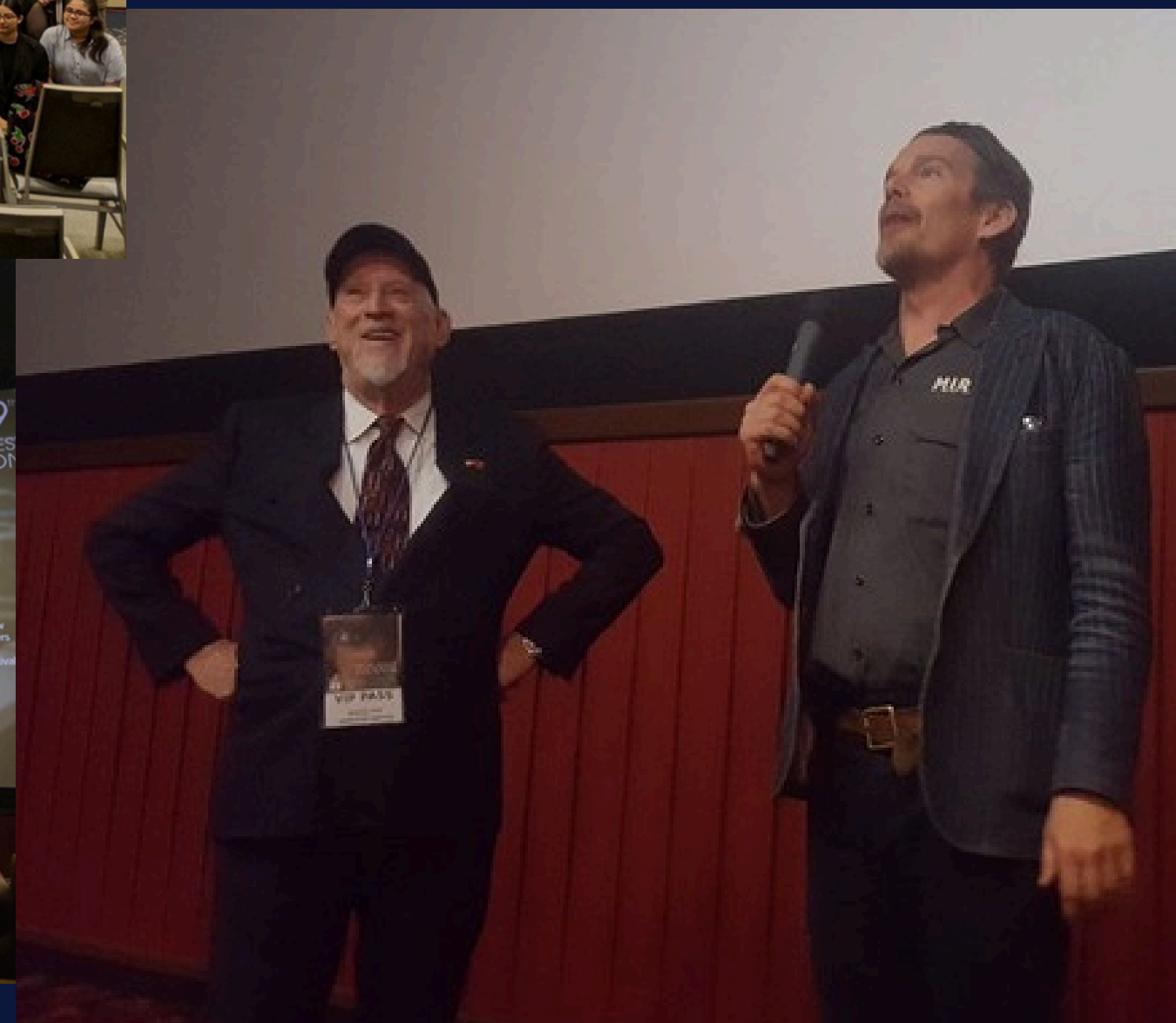
WHY HOUSTON?

- Most diverse metropolitan area in the United States
- Global gateway city
- Home to major industries, universities, and international communities
- A natural crossroads for international storytelling and cultural exchange



SIGNATURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Presenting Sponsor
- Opening Night
- Remi Gala
- Filmmaker Lounge
- Wellness Series
- WorldFlix Streaming
- Autistic Filmmaker Showcase
- Closing Day on the Bay
- Hunter Todd Inspiration Award
- Student Scholarships
- Seminars
- Producer Roundtables
- Director Panels



SPONSORSHIP & NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Founding Partner \$100,000+

Visionary Partner \$50,000+

Champion Partner \$25,000+

Patron Partner \$10,000+

Community Partner \$5,000+

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

WorldFest 60 Presenting Sponsor — \$100,000+

Remi Awards Gala Presenting Sponsor — \$50,000

WorldFlix Founding Sponsor — \$50,000

Hunter Todd Legacy Fund Founding Sponsor — \$50,000

Wellness Series Sponsor — \$25,000

Autism Filmmaker Showcase Sponsor — \$25,000

Educational Arm Sponsor — \$25,000

Student Scholarship Sponsor — \$10,000

Producer Roundtables Sponsor — \$10,000

Director Panels Sponsor — \$10,000



AUDIENCE, REACH & COMMUNITY IMPACT

FESTIVAL REACH

- 840+ Festival Attendees
- 164 Attending Filmmakers
- 22 Countries Represented
- 130 Films Screened
- 1,519 Tickets Issued

DIGITAL AND MEDIA REACH

- 53,960 Annual Website Views
- 38,000+ Facebook Followers
- 500+ Social Mentions, Stories, Tags & Check-ins
- 8,005 First-Time Event Visitors

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 30+ Festival Volunteers
- 400+ Volunteer Service Hours
- 70+ International Jurors
- 1000+ Film Submissions Reviewed
- 17 Student Scholarships Awarded
- 21 Community Partners

WorldFest is powered by a dedicated network of volunteers, advisors, jurors, educators, and community leaders who contribute their time, expertise, and passion to support independent filmmakers from around the world. \$220,000+ in festival value delivered through earned revenue, donated goods and services, educational programming, and international cultural exchange.





Advisory Board & Community Leadership

Arturo Colón • Bob Boudreaux • Ward Bond • Bruno Chatelin • Tammy “Taz”
Diaz • Dr. Ralph Dittman • JD Feigelson • Alex Garcia • Grant Carr •
Joanne King Herring • LaMonde Howard • Laurence Howard • Alisa Hsu-Young •
Robert Jauregui • Sarah Koch • Cathy & Alex López Negrete • Faith & Lee Majors
• Michelle Mower • Leigh Murray • Nick Nicholson • Christopher Nolan •
Saqib Rana • Ingrid Rincón • Daniel Saenz • Oscar Voigt • Jennifer Waldo

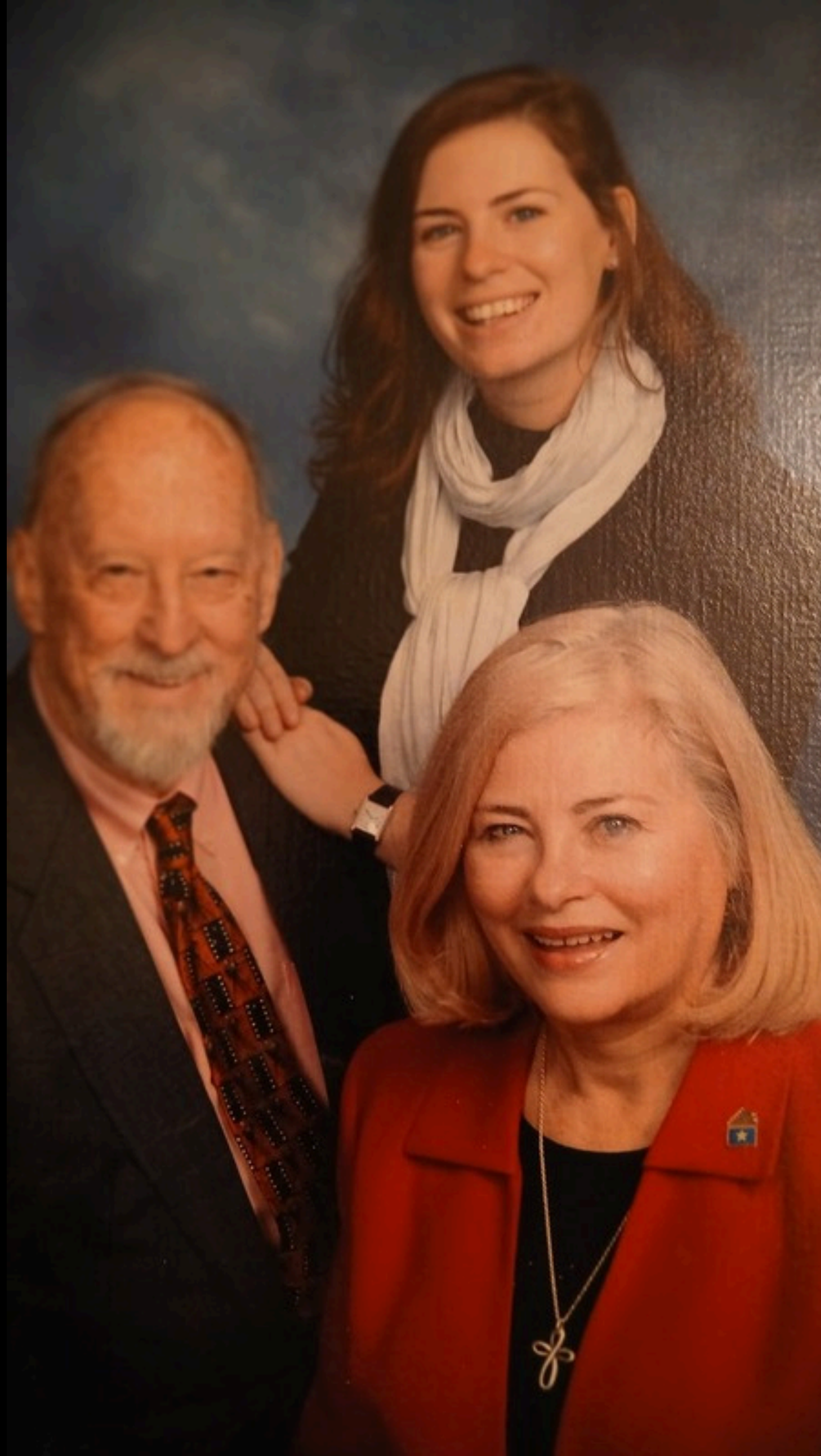


A Year of Transition, Resilience & Renewal

The 59th Annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival welcomed:

**840+ attendees
164 filmmakers
22 countries
35 feature films and 96 shorts
70 international jurors
33 volunteers**

Following the passing of founder J. Hunter Todd, WorldFest59 successfully demonstrated the festival's resilience, welcoming filmmakers from 22 countries while laying the groundwork for its next decade of growth.



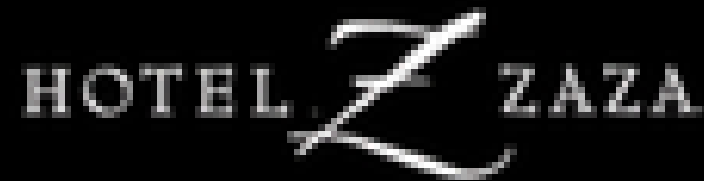
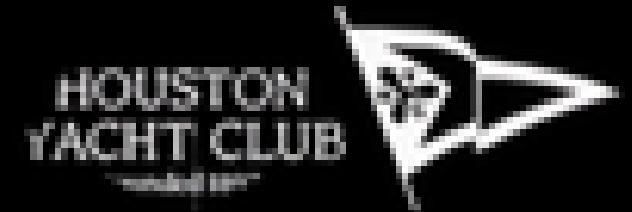
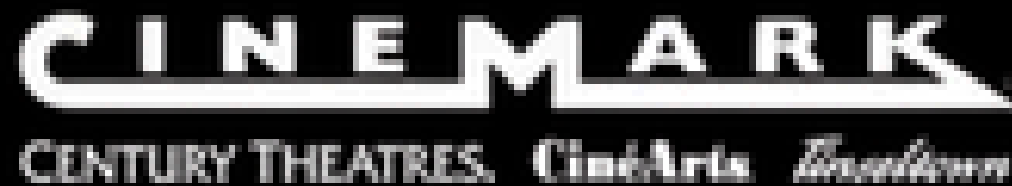
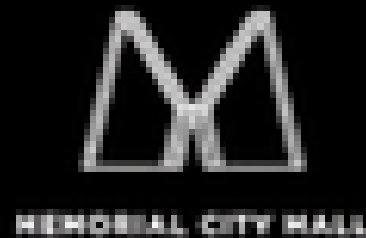
**In Memory of Our Founder
Captain J. Hunter Todd**

**Your vision continues through the
work of Katy Lea Cannon, Kathleen
Haney, and the entire WorldFest
community.**

**You live on in our mission and in our
hearts.**



CURRENT AND RECENT PARTNERS



THANK YOU

PHONE

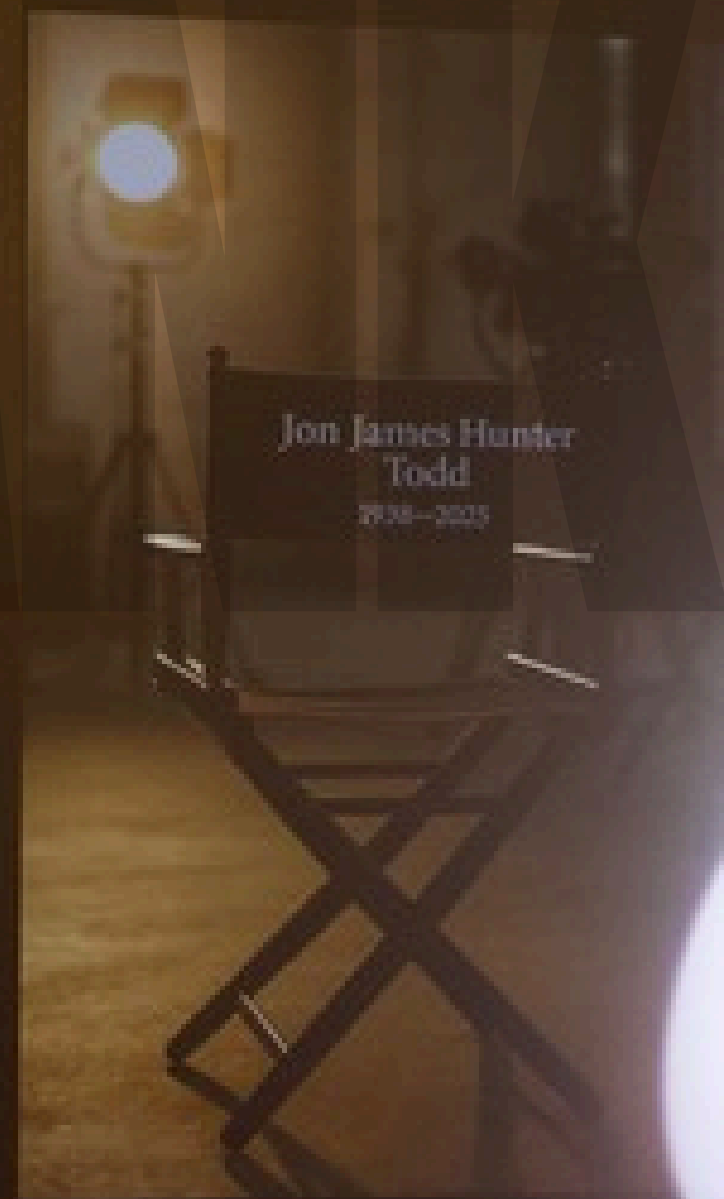
713-826-2200

EMAIL

Katy@worldfest.org

WEBSITE

worldfest.org



Honoring a Legacy of Independent Film

J. Hunter Todd dedicated his life to championing bold voices and untold stories through the art of cinema. As the founder of WorldFest-Houston, he created a home for misfits, dreamers, and underdogs—offering a platform for thousands of filmmakers from around the world to be seen, celebrated, and inspired.

With his chair now sits empty, his vision lives on. The J. Hunter Todd Legacy Fund was established to continue his lifelong mission: supporting emerging filmmakers, expanding access to storytelling, and keeping the spirit of truly independent cinema alive.

Join us in carrying the torch.
worldfest.org/in-memoriam

JOIN US FOR WORLDFEST60

April 30 - May 8, 2027