

Natalie Portman at the 2018 Austin Film Festival (Photo credit: Jack Plunkett)

Book now for the best prices and most convenient locations! Check out the "Travel and Lodging" page of the AFF website and please contact the Project Management department at (512) 478-4795 to book your stay. We look forward to assisting you!

## TEXAS-SIZED DISCOUNTS

AFF has coordinated special budget-friendly deals with many of Austin's most popular accommodations, for our badgeholders.

### CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

The Driskill Hotel – \$336

InterContinental Stephen F. Austin – \$329 or \$369 (Club Rate)

### STAY LESS THAN 2 MILES AWAY FROM THE CONFERENCE

Courtyard Marriott Austin Downtown – \$259

Residence Inn Marriott Austin Downtown – \$269

Hyatt House Austin Downtown – \$209 - \$219

Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown – \$209

Hyatt Place Austin Downtown – \$267

Sheraton Austin at the Capitol – \$199

### BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Holiday Inn Town Lake – \$160 (Overlooking Lady Bird Lake)

Crowne Plaza Austin – \$129

## ON STORY® AN AWARD-WINNING, FREE RESOURCE FOR WRITERS

Here's a simple way to not only preview our Festival experience, but to access a must-see resource for inspiration from Hollywood's leading writers and filmmakers. Austin Film Festival's *On Story* offers 8 seasons of syndicated year-round interviews with the industry's savviest writers, directors, and creatives.

This fully curated series covers a wide range of topics with interviews from Oscar® winners to the writers of cult classics. If you're a lover of story, check out our *On Story* award-winning television show, book series, podcast, public radio show, and comprehensive archive hosted at the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University. The project shares treasured in-depth conversations on the art and craft of storytelling with the public, gleaned from more than 25 years of archived footage from the annual Austin Film Festival & Writers Conference and other year-round events.

Watch all 8 seasons for free at [onstory.tv](http://onstory.tv) or subscribe via Apple podcasts.



Westworld writer Carly Wray speaking with registrants at an AFF Roundtable (Photo credit: Waytao Shing)



2018 Awardee Larry Wilmore in conversation at the 25th Annual Austin Film Festival & Writers Conference (Photo credit: Waytao Shing)

## BADGES & PASSES

Limited-time savings up to \$100 if you buy before June 14!

For a more detailed description of each Badge level, please visit [austinfilmfestival.com](http://austinfilmfestival.com).

	FILM PASS	LONE STAR BADGE	WEEKEND BADGE	CONFERENCE BADGE	PRODUCERS BADGE	
<b>COST</b>	Before June 14, 2019	\$60	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$595
	Before September 20, 2019	\$65	\$150	\$275	\$425	\$650
	Walk-Up	\$75	\$150	\$325	\$475	\$695
<b>FILMS AND PANELS</b>	All Eight Days of Film	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Script Readings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Priority Access to Films (Admitted before Film Passes & GA)		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Exhibit Hall		✓	✓	✓	✓
	All Panels on Thursday, October 24			✓	✓	✓
	All Panels on Friday, October 25			✓	✓	✓
	All Panels on Saturday, October 26		✓	✓	✓	✓
	All Panels on Sunday, October 27			✓	✓	✓
	Access to Advance Sign-Up Panels				✓	✓
	Access to Conference Q&As Sign-Ups				✓	✓
<b>PARTIES</b>	Opening Night Reception				✓	✓
	WGA, West Late Night Welcome Party			✓	✓	✓
	Film Texas BBQ Supper				✓	✓
	Filmmakers Happy Hour				✓	✓
	Awards Luncheon (Additional ticket required)			✓	✓	✓
	Podcast Mixer		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wine Reception		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pitch Finale Party		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Heart of Film Conference Party			✓	✓	✓
	"Hair of the Dog" Brunch			✓	✓	✓
	On Story Party			✓	✓	✓
	Film Pass Party	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Closing Night Party				✓	✓

All Badges can add-on a Pitch Competition ticket for \$25.00 or a Film & Food Party ticket for \$95.00. Conference and Producers badgeholders can purchase an Awards Luncheon ticket for \$65.00.

### REFUND POLICY

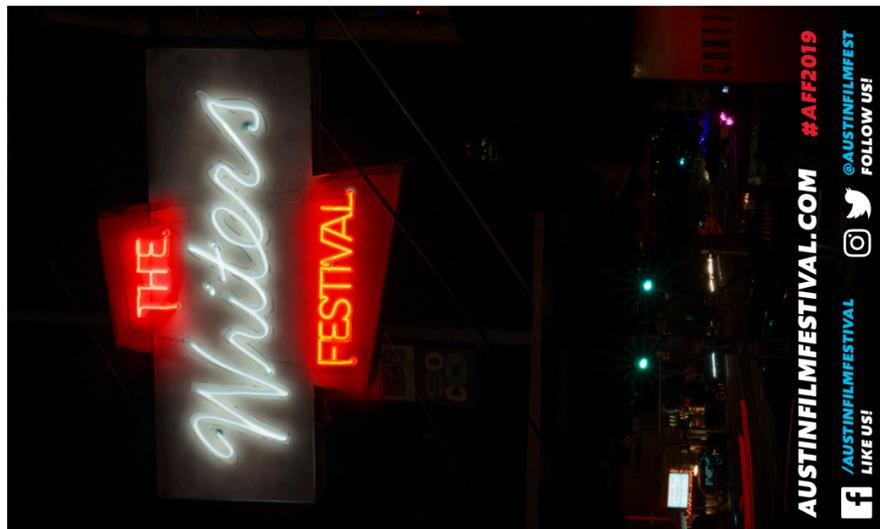
All refunds will incur a \$75 processing fee. After July 5, 2019, all payments are nonrefundable for any reason, including but not limited to illness, acts of God, or travel-related problems. Badges are non-transferable and are the property of Austin Film Festival, Inc ("AFF"). Refunds will be issued either via the original method of payment or other method approved by AFF, if such original method is not available. Registrants paying by check will be contacted for valid credit card information to enable their refunds. Unused registrations cannot be credited for future year's attendance. Badges and privileges may be revoked at any time for any reason at AFF's sole discretion, without liability to AFF. By purchasing a Badge, ticket, or other AFF materials, you hereby release and hold harmless AFF and its subsidiaries and affiliated companies, successors, assigns, and licensees, and their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents from any claims resulting in connection with an AFF event. You are solely responsible for ensuring AFF receives full payment for all AFF purchases made. If such payment cannot be charged to your credit card or if a charge is refunded for any reason, including chargeback, you agree that we reserve the right to cancel your order. If you have already received your Badge you agree to immediately correct any payment errors upon notice of such error. AFF reserves the right to collect \$100 administrative fee in addition to any unpaid amounts in connection with any bad checks or uncorrected payment problems. Your order will be halted until appropriate payment is made. Badges will be confiscated if they are transferred. We do not replace lost Badges.

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 1986

**AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL**  
1801 SALINA STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78702



This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department and the Texas Commission on the Arts



# 26TH ANNUAL AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL & WRITERS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24 - 31, 2019



## WHERE WRITERS & FILM LOVERS UNITE

Sure, there are plenty of red carpets and screenwriting legends at Austin Film Festival. But after 25 years, one thing continues to stand out — a welcoming, positive, and collaborative atmosphere quite unlike any other festival.

We invite extraordinary writers, creators, agents, and managers that have one top priority — creating the most supportive and enriching experience possible for each and every registrant. One that leads to lifelong friendships, camaraderie, and yes, career-changing industry contacts to propel you forward. That's why you'll find intimate networking experiences with Hollywood's top professionals and unique social opportunities to interact with kindred creative spirits. In an industry infamous for its closed-door policy, Austin Film Festival pulls back the velvet ropes and invites you in with open arms.

## YOUR INSIDER LOOK AT THE INDUSTRY

How do you approach the second act when writing your script? What steps did your favorite showrunners take to assemble a successful writers room? What was the process for taking the esteemed thriller *A Quiet Place* from script-to-screen? We pull the curtains back so you can hear the behind-the-scenes stories of your favorite films and TV series. Now you'll know how seasoned pros went the extra mile...and exactly how it paid off.

From true filmmaking legends to the brightest young writers, many of the stories behind the stories are as entertaining as the movies themselves. At Austin Film Festival, you'll be privy to hearing how their creative minds work, what moves them, their aha moments, and their candid advice for how to take the next steps towards breaking in and boosting your writing career.

## THE CAREER-CATAPULTING FILM FESTIVAL

Some credit their good fortune to serendipity. Many say it's a lucky break. We see AFF's yearly success stories as DESTINY, with talented, like-minded people gathering in the heart of Austin to share their stories and help new voices find success in the industry. Year after year, we're honored to watch so many of our festivalgoers take the first steps towards landing their big break. From representation deals scored between panels, to a late-night conversation turned script option at the Driskill Bar, our Festival is known to result in new mentors, writing partners, and industry connections that change career trajectories.

We're here to support you. We're ready to inspire you. And we're thrilled to welcome you to Austin Film Festival!



*Justified* creator **Graham Yost** at the 25th Annual Austin Film Festival & Writers Conference (Photo credit: Waytao Shing)

**"I FOUND MY TRIBE IN AUSTIN. I COULDN'T BE MORE IN LOVE WITH AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL'S WRITERS CONFERENCE AND ITS ORGANIZERS THAN I AM. YOU MADE THIS WRITER FEEL LIKE A ROCK STAR."**

**Elvis Wilson** 2018, Drama Pilot Semi-Finalist



*Writer/Producer Wendy Calhoun* discussing writing for television at Austin Film Festival's Writers Conference (Photo credit: Maya Coplin)

## A WONDERLAND OF FILM EUPHORIA

From world premiere screenings in the historic Paramount Theatre to post-screening Q&As with our fantastic filmmakers, our carefully curated selection of films gets to the heart of true storytelling. After a full day of panels and workshops, grab a seat at one of our 175+ film screenings and enjoy the hard work of your fellow writers and filmmakers. From unique indie voices to seat-rattling blockbusters, it's hard to squeeze so many great choices in (but it's totally worth trying!).

In 2018, we showcased the 2019 Oscar® best picture winner *Green Book* along with Oscar® nominee *The Favourite*. What award-winning films will you get to see before anyone else this year?



Sofia Alvarez



David Mandel



Craig Mazin



Erica Shelton Kodish

## 2019 CONFIRMED PANELISTS

<b>Sofia Alvarez</b>	playwright; screenwriter <i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i>
<b>Megan Amram</b>	writer/producer <i>The Good Place</i> , <i>The Simpsons</i> , <i>Transparent</i> , <i>Silicon Valley</i> , <i>Parks &amp; Recreation</i> ; actor/director/star <i>An Emmy For Megan</i> ; author <i>Science...For Her!</i>
<b>Lindsey Beer</b>	writer <i>Chaos Walking</i> , <i>Kingkiller Chronicle</i> , <i>Silver &amp; Black</i> , <i>Masters of the Universe (2019)</i> , <i>Transformers: The Last Knight</i> ; writer/executive producer <i>Sierra Burgess is a Loser</i>
<b>Amy Berg</b>	writer/executive producer <i>Neverwhere</i> , <i>Broad Band</i> , <i>Counterpart</i> , <i>Eureka</i> ; writer <i>Person of Interest</i> , <i>Leverage</i> , <i>The 4400</i>
<b>Mark Bianculli</b>	writer/executive producer <i>Lincoln</i> ; consulting producer <i>The Hunt</i>
<b>Steve Conrad</b>	writer/creator/executive producer <i>Perpetual Grace</i> , <i>LTD</i> , <i>Patriot</i> ; writer <i>The Secret Life of Walter Mitty</i> , <i>The Pursuit of Happyness</i> , <i>The Weather Man</i>
<b>Micah Fitzerman-Blue</b>	co-writer <i>Transparent</i> , <i>The Motel Life</i> , <i>A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood</i> , <i>Maleficent: Mistress of Evil</i>
<b>Rupinder Gill</b>	writer/producer <i>Schitt's Creek</i> , <i>I Feel Bad</i>
<b>Noah Harpster</b>	co-writer <i>Transparent</i> , <i>The Motel Life</i> , <i>A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood</i> , <i>Maleficent: Mistress of Evil</i>
<b>Jason Headley</b>	writer/director <i>A Bad Idea Gone Wrong</i> , <i>It's Not About the Nail</i> , <i>At the Bar</i> , <i>F*ck That: A Guided Meditation</i>
<b>Christina Hodson</b>	writer <i>Transformers: Bumblebee</i> , <i>Birds of Prey (2020)</i>
<b>Mark Johnson</b>	gran Via Productions; executive producer <i>Better Call Saul</i> , <i>Breaking Bad</i> , <i>Halt &amp; Catch Fire</i> , <i>Rectify</i> ; producer <i>Downsizing</i> , <i>Rain Man</i> , <i>A Little Princess</i> , <i>Galaxy Quest</i> , <i>The Notebook</i> , <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> franchise
<b>Jessica Julius</b>	vice President, Creative Affairs for Walt Disney Animation Studios
<b>Erica Shelton Kodish</b>	writer <i>Being Mary Jane</i> , <i>The Good Wife</i> , <i>Cold Case</i>
<b>David Mandel</b>	executive producer <i>Veep</i> , <i>Curb Your Enthusiasm</i> ; writer <i>Seinfeld</i> , <i>Saturday Night Live</i> ; writer/director <i>EuroTrip</i>
<b>Craig Mazin</b>	co-host <i>Scriptnotes</i> ; writer <i>Chernobyl</i> , <i>Identity Thief</i> , <i>The Hangover Parts II &amp; III</i> , <i>The Huntsman: Winter's War</i>
<b>Peter Ocko</b>	executive producer <i>Lodge 49</i> ; writer/producer <i>Pushing Daisies</i> , <i>The Office</i> , <i>The Leftovers</i> , <i>Elementary</i> , <i>Black Sails</i> ; writer <i>Dead Like Me</i> , <i>Boston Legal</i>
<b>Scott Rosenberg</b>	writer <i>Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle</i> , <i>Venom</i> , <i>Con Air</i> , <i>Beautiful Girls</i>
<b>Victoria Strouse</b>	writer <i>Finding Dory</i>

All speakers and events are based on permitting schedules and subject to change and/or cancellation without notice. Panelists are being added on a weekly basis: please check [austinfilmfestival.com](http://austinfilmfestival.com) for the full list and latest confirmations.

## PARTIES TO ATTEND

We're not saying that our parties and events will have you rubbing elbows with extraordinary producers, writers, and film aficionados. Or that they could lead to Hollywood deals. Or meeting future creative collaborators. But they always have. And that's a pretty good reason to take a break from all the inspiring activity in our panels, roundtables, and film screenings. So, chill out. Relax. And strike up a conversation with someone who might just be the catalyst for launching your writing career.



2018 Pitch Finale judges and finalists (Photo credit: Tina Phan)

## A FOODIE EVENT THAT SKEWERS ALL OTHERS

What if you could support the future of our artistic community while sampling the most popular dishes from Austin's top chefs? What if you could inspire young creative minds by simply enjoying an evening at the historic Driskill Hotel complete with live auctions, industry folks, outrageous recipes, and inventive cocktails? Welcome to our **17th Annual Film & Food Fundraising Party!**

The best part? Your attendance sponsors programs that inspire thousands of Austin students to improve creativity, literacy, and communication skills through screenwriting and filmmaking! Proceeds benefit AFF's Young Filmmakers Program (YFP), resulting in Summer Film Camps, AISD school programs, and so much more, all funded by a night of fabulous food and flowing cocktails. Not much of an arm twist, is it?

## SO MANY PITCHES, SO LITTLE TIME

Always one of AFF's liveliest events, our **Pitch Competition** sells out every year. Pitchers get 90 seconds to sling their boldest ideas at the industry's top agents, screenwriters, producers, and managers. The top pitches move on to our rowdy Pitch Finale Party where 20 finalists try to convince the judges and a supportive crowd that their idea is guaranteed award-winning Hollywood magic. It's like an elevator pitch, only there's hundreds of cheering fans in the elevator! Spots are very limited so PLEASE purchase your ticket when you buy your Badge!

## AWARDS LUNCHEON

Clink glasses with your favorite panelists. Dine with our legendary honorees. And celebrate our competition winners as they struggle to lift El Bronzo (our infamous Bronze Typewriter Award). No really, it's a gorgeous, weighty five-pound. statue for this heavyweight celebration of Hollywood's leading legends and talented newcomers. Please join us for the **26th Annual Awards Luncheon** in the brand new LINE Austin hotel, overlooking Town Lake in the heart of downtown.



*Everybody Hates Chris* co-creator **Ali LeRoi** in conversation at the 25th Annual Austin Film Festival & Writers Conference (Photo credit: Arnold Wells)



Party Hosts **Tess Morris**, **Christina Hodson**, **Nicole Perlman**, and **Jason Fuchs** at The WGA, West Late Night Welcome Party (Photo credit: Jack Plunkett)

## THERE'S STILL TIME TO SUBMIT

Whew! That's your last edit. Off it goes. And what??? You're a second-rounder! Or even a semifinalist! Maybe your film debuts at this year's Festival! You attend and suddenly, producers want to chat and agents want to represent you. Before you know it, you've got an option agreement! This isn't Hollywood fiction. This actually happens at AFF. So, are you really going to let your best ideas just sit there?

### FILM COMPETITION

**Categories:** Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short\*, Narrative Short\*, Narrative Student Short, Animated Short\*, Dark Matters Feature, and Comedy Vanguard Feature.

2018 Academy Award winner Frank Steifel first qualified his Oscar®-winning film *Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405* through AFF's film competition. Next year it could be you!

\*The Jury Award winners for the Narrative Short, Animated Short, and Documentary Short categories are eligible to be nominated for an Academy Award®. Selected shorts also have a chance to screen at the end of an *On Story*® episode.

**Deadlines:** **Early** March 29 | **Regular** May 24 | **Late** June 28 | **Extended** July 5

### PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

This competition is open to full-length stage plays that showcase a unique voice and mastery of storytelling for the stage. It offers playwrights a chance to expand on their craft and get their voices heard by film industry professionals who are searching for talented storytellers from all formats!

**Deadlines:** **Early** April 19 | **Late** May 15

### FICTION PODCAST SCRIPT COMPETITION

Focused on episodic writing for an audio-only medium, this Competition will launch writers into the emerging world of podcasts — a medium that offers incredible access to audiences and limitless opportunities.

**Deadlines:** **Early** April 19 | **Regular** May 15 | **Late** July 5

### SCREENPLAY & TELEPLAY COMPETITION

Accepting feature scripts, teleplay pilots and specs, and short scripts. By simply entering, all entrants receive \$50 off the current price for a Producers or Conference Badge and FREE "Reader Comments" for their script. Don't have a script to enter? Attend the Conference and you'll leave inspired to write one to submit next year.

**Deadlines:** **Early** March 29 | **Regular** April 19 | **Late** May 15

### SCRIPTED DIGITAL SERIES COMPETITION

This competition will accept both scripted and produced submissions in an effort to find talented voices who can adapt their vision for emerging digital platforms. AFF will select one winner each for a filmed and scripted digital series that display the strongest voices and greatest potential for establishing a digital series.

**Deadlines:** **Early** March 29 | **Regular** April 19 | **Late** May 15

### YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

This competition is free to enter for youth ages 9-18. Selected filmmakers will be invited to attend the Festival to see their films up on the big screen at the Young Filmmakers Showcase.

**Deadline:** September 1

### NEW FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### Rooster Teeth Fellowship

We are excited to announce our inaugural Rooster Teeth Fellowship Award. Rooster Teeth will offer a one-on-one mentorship for the writer(s) of the winning fellowship script and they will choose three (3) other writers to develop an original concept in conjunction with Rooster Teeth.

#### Josephson Entertainment Screenwriting Fellowship

AFF is thrilled to continue the Josephson Entertainment Screenwriting Fellowship for another year. This opportunity will provide a one-on-one mentorship in Los Angeles with producer Barry Josephson and his team for one writer or writing team with a feature script and one writer or writing team with a teleplay plot — selected from the Final Round of this year's competition based on the writers and scripts that imbue the most promise for development.

#### Capri Residency

The Capri Fellowship Residency hopes to provide a place where writers can find their voice and tell the stories they want to tell. The winner of the Drama Feature Screenplay Award will be provided the opportunity to stay at the Capri Residency in Marfa, Texas for 2-3 weeks — stay must be scheduled from November 2019 – December 2020. Scheduled stay to be determined by the winner(s) based on Capri Residency availability.

#### HUMANITAS

We are looking for well-written scripts with compelling stories and developed characters that explore and showcase HUMANITAS values.

A signature HUMANITAS new voices story must:

- Challenge us to use our freedom to grow and develop.
- Confront us with our individual responsibility.
- Examine the consequences of our choices.

More info at [austinfilmfestival.com](http://austinfilmfestival.com).