FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YUCCA VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL 2024 - 6th edition





This 6th edition of the Yucca Valley Film Festival will run from November 8 to November 10, 2024.

All screenings and events are free, at the Community Center of Yucca Valley.

3 days of festivities | In person event | Daily Screenings

3 Red Carpet nights | More than 50 movies in competition | 100+ artists

Masterclass with 2x Emmy Winner & 11x Telly Winner SHANE STANLEY

Scriptwriters & Composers roundtable | Meet & Greets with local community

PANEL "The Current State of Hollywood"

Interactive Pitching Event with community | Awards & Social Hour

Press Assets to download: yuccavalleyfilmfestival.com/assets

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THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY'S SIGNATURE EVENT

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Yucca Valley's signature event returns for its 6th edition. All events are free and take place at the Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

With **3 red carpets**, exclusive screening events and **A-list Hollywood guests**, the festival will once again celebrate the love of cinema, with international and local filmmakers, and allow local audiences of the Mojave Desert to discover many movies and discuss directly with the filmmakers.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

The YVFF is organized by the Town of Yucca Valley. Voted in 2018, it has since met with continuous success, and has been renewed by the Yucca Valley Town Council every year.

The event was <u>recognized for its cultural contribution</u> by the US Congress, the California Senate, the County of San Bernardino, the Basin Wide Foundation.

Between 2023 and 2024, the festival was listed 5 times in the "Top 100 Best Reviewed Film Festivals in the World" by the industry leading platform FilmFreeway.

The YVFF also placed in the Top 3 finalists for "Best Annual Event" by local leading newspaper the Hi-Desert Star, and was a nominee for the "Trailblazer" award at the Joshuas, an Honors Gala organized by the Joshua Tree Voice magazine.

Finally, it is recognized by the professional platform IMDb Pro as an eligible festival for filmmaking credits.



2023, A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

2023 was a record-breaking success with over 1,500 attendees over the weekend. Rosanna Arquette was the star of the Masterclass, and the Kids Program featured an Oscar Winning film among the world-class short movies selected for the whole family.

A STAR-STUDDED EVENT SINCE ITS INCEPTION

Previous Masterclass guests included William Baldwin, John Stanier, Brent Huff, Mina Sundwall, and Michael Dante.

In only 5 years, the YVFF screened movies starring Jason Momoa, Danny Trejo, Iggy Pop, Gerard Depardieu, and positioned itself as a major local event, bringing many talents to Town and supporting numerous local artists, filmmakers, photographers, video creators and script writers.

This year's program will show movies starring Eric Roberts, Heather Grace Hancock, Mike Mitchell.

Numerous filmmakers are returning to the festival with their new film, after participating in one or several previous editions of the event.



Rosanna Arquette signing autographs at the 2023 YVFF.

THE FESTIVAL THAT PUT YUCCA VALLEY ON THE MAP

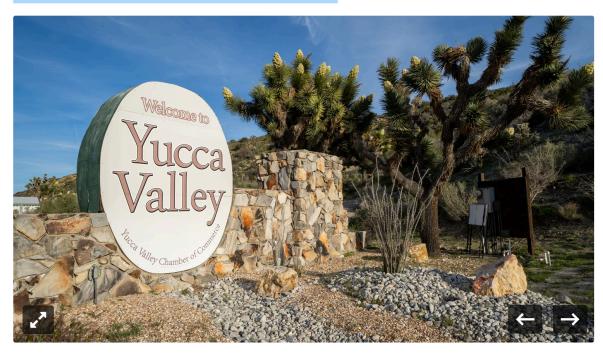
In only 5 years, the YVFF brought hundreds of artists to Yucca Valley, and helped the Town feature in many prominent publications. Thanks to the signature event journalists ranked Yucca Valley:

<u>2nd America's Best Small Town</u> by Travel + Leisure magazine <u>#4 Best small Towns in California</u> by Travel.com <u>#5 Most Gorgeous Desert Towns</u> in California by Travel magazine

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Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County

A gateway to the Joshua Tree National Park, the town is renowned for its outdoor recreation and the Yucca Valley Film Festival







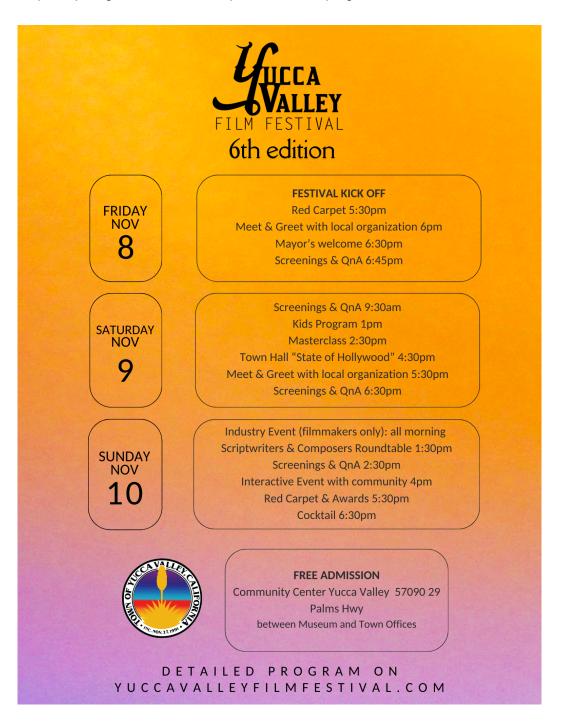
2024 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

This established 3-day formula overall remains the same, with an opening and red carpet on the Friday evening, international short films on Saturday evening, and the closing evening on Sunday.

Multiple screenings and events take place every day, with the filmmakers and the community.

The key items (masterclass, roundtable, red carpet...) are spread out through the 3 days so the festival goers, the guests, and participating filmmakers can experience a rich program of events.



WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

SCREENINGS

Each screening block now offers a mix of genres, for a richer viewing experience.

Every screening is followed by a Q&A and a picture signing with the filmmakers.

- > Friday Nov 8, 6:30 pm, Saturday Nov 9, 9:30 am, 1 pm, 6:30 pm, Sunday Nov 10, 2:45 pm.
- > Screening Saturday morning 9:30 am will offer complimentary coffee and pastries.

MEET & GREETS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Meet & Greets are now open to everyone.

These talks used to be reserved for the filmmakers and the participating community organizations. Starting this year, these Meet & Greet events will take place in the main room (Yucca Room), for everyone to attend and participate.

Previous participating clubs and groups included Miss Yucca Valley & the Sunset Rotary, YVHS Cheerleading Team, Yucca Valley Homecoming Queen and King, YVHS Wrestling Team, the Americana Jiu Jitsu Collective...

- > Friday Nov 8, 6 pm with the Super Nova All Cheers.
- > Saturday Nov 9, 5:30 pm with Captain Warrick and the Sheriff's Team.
- > Sunday Nov 10, 11 am with Miss Yucca Valley and her Court, during the industry event (reserved for filmmakers).

INDUSTRY PANEL

In an effort to create even more events where the community can participate, the YVFF will offer its first ever public Industry Panel.

Several professional guests will discuss "The Current State of Hollywood". Every festival goer and participating filmmaker will be able to ask their questions and participate in this high-level movie industry talk.

Experts panel will include:

- Brent Huff actor & director, 2022 Masterclass Speaker and YVFF 2022 Documentary Award Winner
- Shaw Huff producer, YVFF 2022 Documentary Award Winner
- Heather Grace Hancock actress, Wicked City, Grey's Anatomy, American Crime, NCIS Mike Mitchell actor, The Tomorrow War, Love, Twisted Metal
- and the special participation of Shane Stanley, director of #1 movies on Netflix and Hulu.
- > Saturday Nov 9, 4:30 pm.

INTERACTIVE EVENT - RAPID FIRE PITCH PRACTICE

The YVFF will pair community members with filmmakers, script writers, music composers and artists.

In this one-on-one setup, each artist will have 60 seconds to pitch their new project/movie idea. Then each community participant will have 60 seconds to give feedback or ask questions about the project.

Then artists switch places and community participants will hear another pitch.

This interactive, fun event will allow Yucca Valley residents to step in the shoes of a movie decision maker, and will help filmmakers to gather valuable feedback on their next project.

> Sunday Nov 10, 4 pm.

SOCIAL HOUR

After its traditional Awards distribution, the YVFF will offer a Social Hour with complimentary drinks.

> Awards & Social Hour Sunday Nov 10, 5 pm.

RETURNING EVENTS



From left to right: Merl Abel, Yucca Valley Town Council, Miss Yucca Valley 1st Princess, Miss Yucca Valley, 2nd Princess, Councilmember Jeff Drozd and festival programmer Matt Beurois. DR Robert Madole, 2019.

RED CARPET

As usual, the Red Carpet welcomes everyone and is open to anyone to enjoy.

- > Friday Nov 8, 5:30 pm & Sunday Nov 10, 5 pm with an official photographer.
- > Saturday Nov 9, 5:30 pm open for selfies.

MASTERCLASS

After **John Stanier** (Midnight Express, 2019), **William Baldwin** (Backdraft, 2020), **Michael Dante** (Winterhawk, 2021), **Brent Huff** (The Rookie, 2022), **Mina Sundwall** (Lost In Space, 2022), and **Rosanna Arquette** (Desperately Seeking Susan, 2023), this year's YVFF Masterclass will star 2-times Emmy Award Winner and 11-times Telly Award Winner **Shane Stanley**.

Seize this unique chance to attend this 1.5 hour discussion moderated by Festival Director Matt Beurois.

The Masterclass is a moment of storytelling, an opportunity for the guests to share some behind the scenes memories and one-of-a-kind on set anecdotes.

The Masterclass will be immediately followed by a picture and book signing with Shane Stanley.

> Saturday Nov 9, 2:30 pm. | More about Shane Stanley HERE.

KIDS PROGRAM

The best of the best of animated short films on the current festival circuit will once again screen at the YVFF.

11 films from Italy, Taiwan, Belgium, Germany and USA offer animated fun for the whole family.

> Saturday Nov 9, 1 pm to 2 pm.











OPENING MOVIES

Join us to Kick-Off this 6th edition!

Meet the Festival team, the Town staff, enjoy the complimentary popcorn, and sit down to discover some of the best short films of the year.

- > Mayor's opening words Friday Nov 8, 6:30 pm.
- > Screening Friday Nov 8, 6:45 pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT MOVIES

The perfect night out in Yucca Valley: come and watch carefully curated movies, documentaries, music videos, experimental and student films from international and local filmmakers.

> Saturday Nov 9, 6:30 pm.

ROUNDTABLE

As it is now tradition, scriptwriters and music composers selected in official competition will sit down on stage to discuss their craft and how to go from script to screen.

> Sunday, Nov 10, 1:30 pm.



All filmmakers strike a pose on stage during the closing night of the 2023 YVFF.

- FRIDAY PROGRAM ROADMAP —

- Filmmakers lounge opens | 5 pm Red Carpet, popcorn | 5:30 pm Meet & Greet with YV Super Nova All Star Cheer | 6 pm
- Mayor's opening words | 6:30 pm
- Screening Opening Short Film(s) | 6:45 pm > Followed by QnA and picture signing

— SATURDAY PROGRAM ROADMAP —

- Filmmakers lounge opens | 9 am

- Screening & complimentary breakfast | 9:30 am
 Animated short films | 1 pm
 Masterclass | 2:30 pm > Followed by a picture & book signing | 4 pm
 Public Industry Panel "State of Hollywood" | 4:30 pm
 Red Carpet, popcorn | 5:30 pm
 Meet & Greet with Sheriff | 5:30 pm
 Screening International Short Films | 6:30 pm > Followed by OnA and

- Screening International Short Films | 6:30 pm > Followed by QnA and picture signing

— SUNDAY PROGRAM ROADMAP —

- Industry event reserved for filmmakers | All morning Filmmakers lunch | 12:30 pm Writers & Composers roundtable | 1:30 pm Screening | 2:45 pm Rapid Fire Pitch Practice | 4 pm Red Carpet, popcorn | 5 pm Awards | 5:30 pm Closing Social Hour and screening of Bon Entendeur Versailles DJ Set | 6:30 pm



Short Film "Out On A Limb" screening this year at the festival.



Website: yuccavalleyfilmfestival.com | Facebook, Instagram: @yuccavalleyfilmfestival

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ASSETS: <u>yuccavalleyfilmfestival.com/assets</u>