



OFFICIAL FESTIVAL AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 11–13, 2026

Sumter, South Carolina

HOSTED BY

Sumter Little Theatre

Three days of film, screenplays, stage plays, music & celebration

TICKETS

WEEKEND PASS — \$30

Online or at the door • www.sumterlittletheatre.org

Day Passes (at the door only): Friday \$15 • Saturday \$20 • Sunday \$15

PRESENTED BY

The Moonless International Film Festival • Romans VIII Film Festival

PRESENTING SPONSORS



STEELHORN HOLDINGS



THE CITIZENS BANK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Opening Night

5:30 PM	Doors Open — Red Carpet, Check-In & Lobby Mixer
6:00 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Festival Director & recognition of invited guests</i>
6:15 PM	Trophy Presentation — Mark Williams, MAWilliams Films <i>Presented by S.C. Speaker of the House Murrell Smith — Sponsored by Jones Chevrolet</i> <i>Honoring service, artistry, and the veterans-in-film mission</i>
6:45 PM	Hometown Showdown Block 1 — THE UNDERSTUDY <i>A short film by Mark Williams — MAWilliams Films — screening + Q&A</i>
7:15 PM	Hometown Showdown Block 2 — A CHAMPION'S HEART <i>A short film by Wayne D. Burdette Jr. — Moonless Media & Entertainment — screening + Q&A</i>
7:45 PM	Intermission (10 min)
7:55 PM	HARPER'S BABYSITTING ADVENTURE — Short Film <i>Dir. Amani Summer — Official Selection: Best Short Film — 4:38</i>
8:00 PM	Opening Night Trailer — UNRAVELLED <i>Official Selection: Best Trailer</i>
8:05 PM	Opening Night Feature — THE PRESENT HELP <i>Official Selection: Best Feature Film • Best Actor • Best Actress & more — 1 hr 36 min — screening + filmmaker Q&A</i>
9:45 PM	Closing Remarks — Preview of Saturday Program
10:00 PM	Lobby Reception — End of Night

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Full Festival Day | 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

MORNING SESSION

10:00 AM	Doors Open & Check-In
10:12 AM	Morning Opening Trailer — CAROLINA RAIN <i>Official Selection — 43 sec</i>
10:15 AM	ENEMY HEROES — Short Animated Film <i>Official Selection: Best Short Film • Best Animated Film — 7 min 51 sec — screening + intro</i>
10:30 AM	HIGH MOON — Trailer Premiere <i>Official Selection: Best Trailer — 2 min</i>
10:35 AM	THE RED BOOK — Short Film <i>Cyprus — Official Selection: Best Short Film — 14:28</i>
10:50 AM	Intermission (10 min)
11:00 AM	Panel 1 — Mark Williams, Independent Filmmaker <i>Topic to be announced — 60 min</i>
12:00 PM	Lunch Break <i>On your own — local dining guide in program</i>

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 PM	NIX FRAGMENT — Short Film <i>Official Selection: Best Short Film — 18 min 53 sec</i>
1:20 PM	Moonless International Music Competition <i>SOUTHERN LIFE (Best Music Video nominee, 3:24) • SHE NEVER CAME HOME (2:30) • FORWARD (6:25) • UNFROZEN (3:49) • SATISFIED IN YOU (6:22) • SOUL LANGUAGE (5:32)</i>
1:50 PM	Break (10 min)
2:00 PM	SMOKES — Short Film <i>Official Selection — 15 min</i>
2:15 PM	Feature Film — ROMANCING SYDNEY <i>Official Selection — 1 hr 23 min — screening + Q&A</i>
3:45 PM	I AM WITH YOU — Short Film <i>Official Selection — 18 min — screening + Q&A</i>
4:15 PM	MOMMA/MOTHER — Short Film <i>Dirs. Mikael James & Gabriel Zepeda — Official Selection: Best Short Film — 9:10 — Southern Gothic psychological thriller</i>
4:30 PM	AN INTIMACY COORDINATOR — Short Film <i>Official Selection: Best Short Film • Best Director • Best Actress • Best Cinematographer — screening + Q&A</i>

EVENING SESSION

5:15 PM	Dinner Break — Pre-Awards Reception (45 min)
6:00 PM	SLPFF Awards Ceremony <i>All competition categories — film, screenplay, stage play & music</i>
7:00 PM	Feature Film — TRANSFERENCE <i>Official Selection: Best Feature Film • Best Actress • Best Director — screening + filmmaker Q&A</i> <i>Not recommended for audiences under 17 — contains nudity and language</i>
9:00 PM	End of Night

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Closing Day | 12:55 PM – 7:15 PM

12:55 PM	Music Video — BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT <i>Dir. Bradford May — from the movie musical Mendel's Messiah — 2:10</i>
1:00 PM	Feature Film — MENDEL'S MESSIAH — Director's Cut <i>Official Selection — 2 hr — screening</i>
3:00 PM	International Short Film Showcase <i>SIGHT / THE LOVE PROJECT (12:29) • GAME ON / THE LOVE PROJECT (10:00) — both Official Selections: Best International Short Film — followed by video interview with the winner</i>
3:30 PM	Best Student Film Block <i>10 YEARS: THE ART OF NOT KNOWING (10:00) • FELL THE BRUXTON BEAST (12:54)</i>
4:00 PM	Feature Film — CHARITY CASE <i>The Band Who Made a Million Dollars...and Gave It All Away — Official Selection — 1 hr 37 min — screening</i>
5:40 PM	THE WAY THINGS USED 2 B — Short Film <i>Official Selection: Best Short Film — 16:43</i>
6:00 PM	Closing Feature — SUPPRESS US <i>Dir. Mia Faith Johnson — Official Selection: South Carolina Film/Filmmaker — 1 hr 6 min — screening</i>
7:10 PM	Closing Remarks & Farewell — See You in 2027
7:15 PM	Festival Concludes

AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best Feature Film
- Best Short Film
- Best Local Short Film
- Best International Short Film
- Best Screenplay
- Best Stage Play
- Best Music Video
- Best Trailer
- Best Original Score
- Best Original Song
- Best Director
- Best Cinematography
- Best Animated Film
- Audience Choice Award
- Swan Lake Sentinel Award

Awards presented Saturday evening at the SLPFF Awards Ceremony. Feature slots are 1 hr 45 min (screening + Q&A) and assume runtimes up to ~95 minutes. Schedule subject to change. Final selections, panel topics and running order will be announced at slpff.com.