

# 15th Method Fest

Breakout Independent Film Festival

March 19 - 26, 2026  
El Segundo, California

## "Where Acting Meets Art"

The Method Fest was launched in 1999 with a clear goal: honor actors and their craft through independent film.

Since then, we've become one of the go-to festivals for anyone who loves incredible performances and human stories.

Over the years, we've built a global reputation for putting acting first. We celebrate rising filmmakers, and legendary actors, who leave it all on the screen.

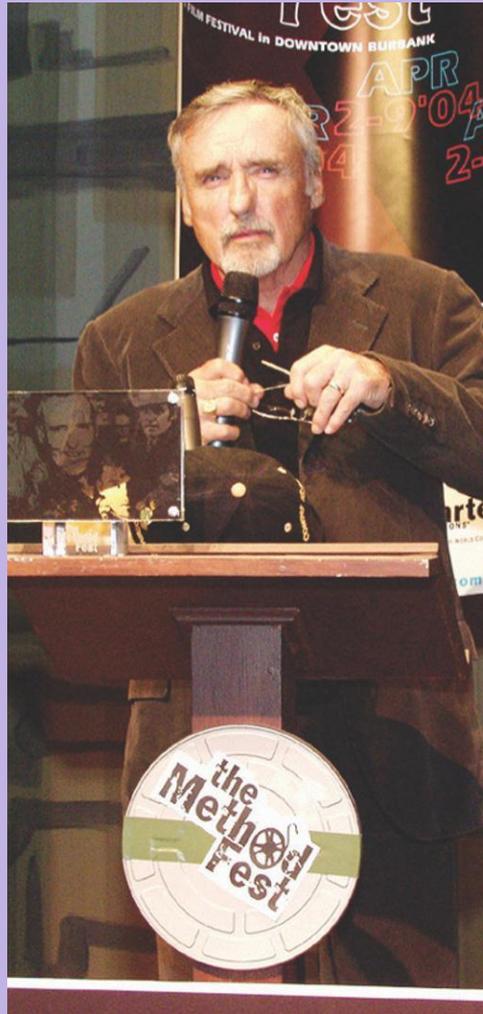
The Method Fest is the only film fest in America that highlights two crucial ingredients to great films, acting and story. The Method Fest places a focus on breakout-acting performances of emerging actors and career defining performances by legendary actors in story-driven films.

The Method Fest focuses on emphasizing storytelling as a craft. Many films in years past have told stories of marginalized people overcoming adversity in an insightful way that challenges many commonly held beliefs. Stories told at The Method Fest are enriching and authentic.

## Fest Events & Screenings

- Film Launch Party (February 19th) (250 People)
- Opening Night Gala (350 People)
- Centerpiece Screen Parties (600 People) (Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday)
- Actor Reception (150 people)
- Sponsors/Competition Film Makers VIP Reception/Wine Tasting (125 People) (Opening Night)
- Indie Music Night Reception (Monday) (200 People)
- Closing Night Awards Ceremony (350 People)
- Daily Film Screenings (34 Featured Films) (4,800 People) (38 Short Films) (1,500 People) (6 Programs) (2 Retroproctive Films) (200 People)
- Q&As
- Actor and Filmmaker Panels (150 People)
- Actors and Filmmakers Workshops (150 People)
- Screenwriting Workshops (100 People)
- Youth Education Programs (100 People)

**Total Number of Expected Attendees: 9,025**



## WHAT WE SHOW

Drama, Coming-of-Age, LGBTQ+, Comedy, Thrillers, Biopics, Slice-of-Life stories, Shorts, Experimental Films, Documentaries, Horror, Sci-Fi, Romance, and Films on Political & Social Issues.

## FILM NUMBER

34 Feature Films  
38 Short Films  
2 Retroproctive Films

## AWARDS WE PRESENT

Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Maverick Award, Audience Choice Awards, Best Supporting Actor & Actress, Festival Director's, Jury Awards for Short Films, Lifetime Achievement Award, Indie Supporter Award, Indie Hero Award, Breakout Actor Award, Student Awards

# What We're Asking from the City of El Segundo

We're inviting the City of El Segundo to be a title or presenting sponsor. With the City's support, we will deliver one of the few highest quality film festival in the West United State. The Method Fest, an inclusive community event, brings incredible filmmakers, films, stars, film Industry, and storytelling to the El Segundo community.

We'd like to offer the City one of our top two sponsorship packages at a significantly reduced rate. This includes major visibility throughout the festival, such as red carpet recognition, logos on our signage and materials, shoutouts on social media and press, VIP access, and more. It's a meaningful way for El Segundo to be recognized as a creative and cultural hub while also supporting the local economy and building real connections with artists, businesses, and residents.



## ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

Increased Foot Traffic to local restaurants, bars, hotels, and shops.

Nightlife Boost: Receptions and parties every night for nine days.

Tourism Magnet: Festival brings in two distinct audiences; young, educated, upscale visitors from SoCal and out-of-town filmmakers and second more established audience of Film Industry, filmmakers, friends, and family passionate about film.

Real Estate Awareness: Introduces potential new business and property owners to El Segundo.

Additional Film Shoots: Increasing revenue to El Segundo.

## CITY BRANDING & IMAGE

Position El Segundo as an Arts Hub: Reinforces the city's reputation in entertainment and culture.

Business-Friendly Image: Attracts entertainment-oriented companies (e.g., Lightstorm, DirecTV).

Media Exposure: National/regional/international coverage and celebrity attention during festival week.

Civic Pride: Residents benefit from a prestigious, community-rooted event.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partnerships with Civic Orgs: Involves community groups in planning or programming.

Youth & Education Programs: Panels and showcases at El Segundo High School.

Volunteer Opportunities: Engages residents and students.

## VENUE & INFRASTRUCTURE USE

Cinema West (main screenings)

El Segundo Music Hall (retrospectives)

El Segundo High School (student films, panels)

Local restaurants, bars (parties)



## Economic Impact of Hosting The Method Fest

Based on data from similar regional film festivals

- **\$1.5M–\$3.5M+ in total economic impact**  
*Includes direct spending on hotels, dining, retail, and transportation.*
- **Visitor Count: 2,000–4,000+ attendees**  
*From LA County, across California, and out-of-state.*
- **Hotel Occupancy Increases by 20–35%**  
*Boosts weekday and weekend bookings during an otherwise slower season.*
- **Restaurants and Bars See 25–40% Revenue Spikes**  
*Driven by nightly receptions, VIP parties, and attendee spending.*
- **Local Retail Gains 10–20% in Sales**  
*Due to foot traffic from tourists, filmmakers, and filmgoers.*
- **Sponsorship and Vendor Revenue: \$200K–\$500K+**  
*Local, regional, and national brands often invest in event exposure.*

More details available upon request. Sources (Visit California Economic Impact Reports, Newport Beach FF Analysis 2023, Santa Barbara FF Press Kit 2024, Palm Springs ShortFest Summary 2022)



## 10 Reasons to Host Method Fest in El Segundo



- 1) Hosting a festival like this shows the world that El Segundo isn't just a great place to live, it's a place that supports creativity, storytelling, and the arts.
- 2) Festival Goers eat, shop, stay, and explore. And a lot of them end up falling in love with the vibe here.
- 3) Whether it's morning coffee shops or late-night spots, festival week drives real traffic and dollars to our community.
- 4) The festival draws media and industry attention, and that kind of exposure sticks with people.
- 5) Student films and high school panels give the next generation a chance to share their voice, and show what's possible.
- 6) Friendly people, beautiful venues, beach town charm, it's the kind of place that sticks with you.
- 7) From film premieres to rooftop mixers, the city becomes a stage for unforgettable memories.
- 8) Let's be honest, El Segundo gets a little quiet after dark. This festival brings the buzz, every night of the week.
- 9) Residents get to be part of the action, volunteering, attending, or just soaking it all in.
- 10) Festivals like this often lead to new events, new investments, and new connections.

# Director's Cut \$150,000 (Discounted Rate)

- Festival Naming Rights
- Executive Producer Credit
- Custom-Branded Short Film
- Opening Night Gala Host
- VIP Green Room Naming Rights
- Full Venue Branding Takeover
- Branded Step & Repeat Priority
- Branded “Director’s Cut” Panel
- Dedicated Press Table
- 20 All-Access VIP Badges

- First Look Access to Screenings
- Co-Branded Festival Trailer
- Top Homepage Logo Placement
- Branded Charging Stations/Info Booths
- Festival App Splash Page
- Branded Awards Trophies
- Premium Gift Bag Placement
- Custom On-Site Activation
- 60-Second Ad on opening and closing nights

- On-Camera Interview with Director
- Filmmaker Tour Sponsorship
- Logo on Volunteer Shirts & Badges
- Branded Cocktail Reception
- Private Meet & Greet with Talent
- Priority Festival Press Coverage
- Logo in Attendee Email Blast
- Feature in Recap Video
- Executive Airport Transportation
- Logo on All Tickets

- Festival HQ Naming Rights
- Influencer Partnership Support
- 10 Sponsored Social Ads
- Custom ROI & Reach Report
- VIP Jury & Headliner Dinner
- Step & Repeat Branding Priority
- Branded “Director’s Cut Showcase” Series
- Mention in Opening Ceremony Speech
- Inclusion in Behind-the-Scenes Content

- Ad in Awards Program
- Mention in Recap Emails
- Streaming Branding (Hybrid Fest)
- Onstage Custom Plaque
- Branded Maps & Schedules
- Voiceover Mention in Festival Trailer
- Product Sampling at VIP Events
- Press Interview Opportunity
- Talent Gifting Room Activation
- First Right of Refusal for Next Year

# Star Power \$100,000 (Discounted Rate)

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- Presenting Audience Choice Award
- Green Room Naming Rights
- “Star Power Panel” Sponsorship (celebrity moderated)
- Branded Meet-and-Greet Experience
- 10 All-Access VIP Badges
- Branded Photo Activation on Red Carpet
- Step & Repeat Premium Logo Placement
- Premium Website Placement

- Gift Bag Placement
- Half-Page Ad in Program Guide
- 30-Second Ad Before Genre Screenings
- Custom Instagram Story Highlights
- Celebrity Social Media Shoutout (if permitted)
- Panel Moderator or Presenter Role
- Product Table in Talent Lounge
- Logo on Awards Stage Screens
- Pre-Festival Teaser Trailer Inclusion
- Branded Hashtag Integration

- Exclusive Screening Host Night
- Logo on Digital Schedule, App & Venue Maps
- Invite to Meet the Filmmakers Brunch
- Video Interview with Festival Talent
- Brand in Post-Festival Slideshow
- Logo in Post-Event Thank You Email
- Logo on Screening Tickets
- Priority Expo Booth Location
- 5 Social Media Posts (IG, X, Facebook)

- Link in Festival Newsletter
- Custom Analytics Report
- Festival Lanyard Sponsor
- On-Site Reel Inclusion (Lobby Screens)
- Credit in Festival Trailer
- Brand Mention in Host Remarks
- Branded Snacks or Beverages in Talent Lounge
- Reserved Front-Row Seats at Key Events
- Talent Gift Card Sponsored by Brand

- Exclusive Contest Co-Promotion
- 2-Minute Brand Feature in VIP Night
- Post-Festival Audience Feedback Summary
- Company Interview in Festival Blog
- App Push Notification During Festival
- Merchandise Giveaway Co-Brand
- Special Thanks Slide in Closing Credits
- Priority Invite to Jury Cocktail Hour

# City/Arts Organizations Fest Support

- AFI Film Festival (Los Angeles): At least \$250,000 city support conservatively, as well as \$350,000 from NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities).
- Newport Beach International Film Festival (Newport Beach, CA): \$250,000 from Newport Beach.
- Outfest (Los Angeles):\$180,000 from various places and city boards in Los Angeles.
- Mill Valley Film Festival (Mill Valley, CA): \$100,000 from Mill Valley.
- Slamdance Film Festival (Los Angeles):\$151,000 from Los Angeles.
- San Francisco International Film Festival (San Francisco, CA): City of San Francisco (via Grants for the Arts) allocated \$187,000 to SFFILM (the organization behind the festival) in FY 2023-24.
- San Luis Obispo International Film Festival (San Luis Obispo, CA): \$47,000 from the city of San Luis Obispo.
- Sundance Next (Los Angeles): \$1,000,000 from Los Angeles.
- Cinequest (San Jose, CA): City of San Jose (Office of Cultural Affairs) provided \$100,000 in grants (2022-23).
- Seattle International Film Festival (Seattle, WA): City of Seattle (Office of Arts & Culture) provided \$181,875 in general operating support (2023).
- DTLA Film Festival (now Hollywood Park Film Festival) (Los Angeles): \$80,000 from Los Angeles.
- New Filmmakers Los Angeles (Los Angeles):\$38,000 from Los Angeles.
- Sundance Film Festival (Park City, UT): State of Utah provided \$1.8 million annually to the Sundance Institute.
- Toronto International Film Festival (Toronto, Canada): City of Toronto allocated CAD \$1.8 million through a multi-year grant for cultural events, including TIFF (2022).
- South by Southwest Film Festival (SXSW) (Austin, TX): No specific direct cash grant to the film festival component publicly itemized from the city.

# City/Arts Organizations Fest Support

- Tribeca International Film Festival (New York City): Information not publicly available.
- Venice Film Festival (Venice, Italy): \$17,000,000 from various foundations associated with the city.
- New York Film Festival (New York City): Received multiple grants from Lincoln Center, not publicly specified.
- Cannes Film Festival (Cannes, France): Information not publicly available.
- Hamptons International Film Festival (East Hampton, NY): \$527,000 from foundations in East Hampton.
- Chicago International Film Festival (Chicago, IL): City of Chicago (DCASE) allocated \$180,000 in grant funding to Cinema/Chicago (2023).
- Dallas International Film Festival (Dallas, TX): City of Dallas (Office of Arts and Culture) provided \$100,000 in cultural funding (2023).
- Austin Film Festival (Austin, TX): City of Austin (Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts Division) provided \$150,000 in grants (2023).
- Cleveland International Film Festival (Cleveland, OH): Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (county agency) provided \$400,000 in general operating support (2023)
- Miami Film Festival (Miami, FL): Miami-Dade County (Department of Cultural Affairs) provided \$300,000 in grants to Miami Dade College for cultural programs (2023).
- Palm Springs ShortFest (Palm Springs, CA): City of Palm Springs provided approximately \$125,000 annually (as of 2017) in support for film festival activities, which includes ShortFest.
- Morelia International Film Festival (Morelia, Mexico): Information not publicly available.
- Nashville Film Festival (Nashville, TN): Metro Nashville Arts Commission provided \$50,000 in grant funding (2023).
- Vancouver International Film Festival (Vancouver, Canada): City of Vancouver provided CAD \$200,000 in direct grants (2023).
- St. Louis International Film Festival (St. Louis, MO): Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis provided \$100,000 in grants (2023).
- Denver Film Festival (Denver, CO): City of Denver (Arts & Venues) provided \$120,000 in cultural grants (2023).

# City/Arts Organizations Fest Support

- Palm Springs International Film Festival (Palm Springs, CA): City of Palm Springs provided approximately \$125,000 annually in support for film festival activities. \$110,000 from Cathedral City. \$225,000 respectively from various art foundations located in Palm Springs and the surrounding area.
- Santa Barbara International Film Festival (Santa Barbara, CA): \$325,000 from the city and local businesses/art foundations.
- LALIFF (LA Latino International Film Festival) (Los Angeles): \$215,00 from the city of Los Angeles and arts organizations/foundations.
- Pan African Film & Arts Festival (Los Angeles): \$350,000 from various foundations and organizations and nonprofits in Los Angeles
- LA Film Festival (Los Angeles): \$550,000 from organizations and art foundations in Los Angeles.
- Los Angeles Pacific Asian Film Festival (Los Angeles): \$325,000 respectively from nonprofits and art foundations in Los Angeles.
- San Diego Film Festival (San Diego, CA):\$125,000 from San Diego and art foundations.
- DTLA Film Festival (now Hollywood Park Film Festival) (Los Angeles): \$150,000 from Los Angeles.
- Jewish LA Film Festival (Los Angeles): \$276,000 from Los Angeles and art foundations and nonprofits.
- Telluride Film Festival (Telluride, CO): \$450,000 from Telluride and art foundations.
- South by Southwest Film Festival (SXSW) (Austin, TX): \$950,000 from Austin and the state of Texas.
- Tribeca International Film Festival (New York City):\$650,000 from New York City and its art foundations.
- New York Film Festival (New York City): \$350,000 from the city of New York and its art foundations.
- Sun Valley Film Festival (Sun Valley, ID): \$550,000 from sun valley and the state.
- Sonoma International Film Festival (Sonoma, CA): City of Sonoma provided \$435,000 from the city of Sonoma, the wineries, and the art foundations.
- Palm Springs ShortFest (Palm Springs, CA): City of Palm Springs provided approximately \$250,000 and \$200,000 from other arts foundations.