

# FESTIVAL TARGETING FOR HORROR WRITERS



**How to Use This Guide:** Use this curated cheat sheet to identify which horror festivals best fit your current project, whether it's a short film, feature script, or proof-of-concept teaser. Each festival listed supports horror voices and offers screenplay, labs, or valuable networking opportunities.

## *FANTASTIC FEST (AUSTIN, TX)*

Known for genre celebrations, strong industry presence, and wild programming. Accepts shorts, features, and script submissions.

## *PANIC FEST (KANSAS CITY, MO)*

Strong community feel with filmmaker support, screenplay contests, and horror-specific programming.

## *SCREAMFEST LA (LOS ANGELES, CA)*

The longest-running horror festival in the U.S. Offers screenplay competitions, premiere opportunities, and industry networking.

## *NIGHTMARES FILM FESTIVAL (COLUMBUS, OH)*

A respected indie festival with emphasis on bold, emotional horror. Offers screenplay and micro-short competitions.

## *BROOKLYN HORROR FILM FESTIVAL (BROOKLYN, NY)*

Known for progressive, voice-driven horror and New York premiere opportunities. Accepts shorts or features.

## *FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (MONTREAL, QC)*

One of the world's leading genre festivals. Extremely competitive. Offers global exposure for truly original horror.

## *SUBMISSION TIPS*

- Research each festival's recent programming and winners.
- Format your script properly before submission (use PDF).
- If submitting a short, upload to Vimeo or YouTube with password protection.
- Track submission deadlines using a spreadsheet or Coverfly.
- Follow up only if the festival encourages it; otherwise, wait for the results.