



New Media Film Festival® Turns 18 — The Original New Media Powerhouse That Sparked a Global Movement

Los Angeles, CA — Before “new media” became a buzzword, before tech companies built labs around immersive storytelling, before festivals rushed to add VR categories, one event recognized the shift and built a home for it: New Media Film Festival®.

New Media Film Festival® has set June 2–3 for its 18th edition, with programming online June 2 and in Los Angeles June 3. Widely known for championing emerging formats long before they entered the mainstream, the event returns with world premieres, creator labs, immersive showcases, and its signature cross-disciplinary programming.

“I’ve been to numerous film festivals over the years but nothing compares to the great, positive energy of New Media Film Festival!” – EMMY® winner Richard T. Wilson

The Festival That Defined a Genre

New Media Film Festival® did not inherit a framework — it established one, setting into motion the standards, categories, and creative pathways that now define the global new media landscape. When the festival launched nearly two decades ago, AI-assisted filmmaking wasn’t a headline. VR was niche. Web3 didn’t exist. Digital humans were science fiction. Vertical cinema wasn’t a format. And “new media” wasn’t a category — until New Media Film Festival® made it one.

What began as a bold commitment to future-facing storytelling quickly became a cultural touchstone. The festival didn’t simply anticipate the future; it helped shape it.

Over the years, more than 400 industry leaders have taken the stage — Nobel Laureates, Academy Award winners, pioneering technologists, and executives from companies driving culture and innovation. Their presence has been foundational to the festival’s evolution and its reputation as a home for creators working at the edge of possibility.

A Track Record That Speaks Louder Than Trends

Titles showcased at New Media Film Festival® have gone on to secure distribution, acquisitions, and global visibility — a reflection of the festival's ability to identify meaningful work long before the rest of the industry catches up.

In a landscape where “new media” is often used as a marketing term, New Media Film Festival® remains one of the few platforms where creators are genuinely supported, discovered, and elevated. The event has become a touchpoint for executives exploring new-generation storytelling, serving as a meeting ground for innovators shaping the future of media. No politics. No pay to play. Creators first.

A Remarkable Close to 2026

That legacy carried into 2026, a year defined by the extraordinary caliber of creators who aligned with the festival's mission. The season's lineup and award recipients included globally recognized innovators such as David Byrne, Pendulum, Wargasm, and former Walt Disney Imagineering creative executive Bob Weis — alongside an international slate of filmmakers, technologists, and multidisciplinary artists operating at the forefront of cultural and technological change. Their participation underscored the festival's standing as a destination for boundary-breaking talent and a platform where influential voices choose to debut, experiment, and advance the future of storytelling.

Eighteen Years In — Still Leading the Charge

With that momentum, the 18th edition arrives at a moment when the media world is shifting faster than ever. AI is reshaping workflows. Immersive formats are redefining audience expectations. And creators are seeking platforms that understand the future, not simply react to it.

New Media Film Festival® enters its 18th year with the same clarity of purpose that has guided it since its inception — leading the evolution of emerging media with a vision and structure that continue to influence the field today. The 2027 program will feature world premieres, creator labs, immersive showcases, Q & A , and a curated lineup that blends art, technology, and culture in ways few events attempt.

Now Open

Creators across all emerging formats are invited to submit their work for the 18th annual edition.

Submit Your Work - Attend the Festival - Partner With Us

<https://www.newmediafilmfestival.com>