

2026 64 Hour Film Festival Genres

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Fairy-Tale Legal Drama

Fairy-Tale:

The fairy-tale movie genre features stories set in magical or enchanted worlds shaped by folklore, myth, and imagination. These films often include spells, curses, mythical creatures, and kingdoms where moral lessons are central to the narrative. Fairy tales use fantasy and symbolism to explore ideas such as fairness, responsibility, courage, and transformation, allowing audiences to engage with important themes through imaginative settings and timeless characters.

Fairy-Tale Films

Cinderella
Beauty and the Beast
Frozen
Into the Woods
Maleficent

Legal Drama:

The legal drama movie genre focuses on conflicts resolved through the legal system, including trials, hearings, investigations, and courtroom arguments. These films emphasize how evidence, rules, and legal reasoning shape outcomes. Legal dramas often explore themes of justice, truth, and fairness, highlighting the tension between what is legal and what is morally right as characters navigate structured judicial processes.

Legal Drama Films

A Few Good Men
Legally Blonde
Erin Brockovich
12 Angry Men
To Kill a Mockingbird

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a fairy-tale world (with magic, mythical creatures, or supernatural elements) with a central legal conflict, where laws, trials, or courtroom decisions determine the outcome of the story.

*Remember ALL FILMS MUST ADHERE TO CONTENT GUIDELINES and be family-friendly (G to PG-13)

Suburban Superhero Drama

Suburban:

The suburban movie genre focuses on everyday life in residential neighborhoods, often highlighting family dynamics, social expectations, and the contrast between appearance and reality. These films typically take place in quiet communities with schools, cul-de-sacs, shopping centers, and homes that represent normalcy and routine. Suburban stories frequently explore themes such as identity, conformity, belonging, and hidden conflict, revealing how ordinary environments can mask deeper emotional or social struggles.

Suburban Films

The Truman Show
Edward Scissorhands
Pleasantville
Back to the Future
The Mitchells vs. the Machines

Superhero Drama:

The superhero drama genre centers on characters with extraordinary abilities who struggle with responsibility, identity, and moral choice. Unlike action-focused superhero films, this genre emphasizes emotional conflict, character development, and the personal consequences of having power. Superhero dramas often explore themes such as secrecy, sacrifice, belonging, and the tension between public duty and private life, presenting heroes as complex individuals rather than flawless icons.

Superhero Drama Films

Spider-Man
Black Panther
The Incredibles
Chronicle
Wonder Woman

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a suburban setting (focused on everyday neighborhood life) with a superhero narrative, where characters with extraordinary abilities navigate personal and emotional challenges alongside their responsibilities as heroes.

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Local-Legend Whodunnit Horror

Local Legend:

The local-legend genre is built around myths, rumors, and stories passed down within a specific community. These tales often explain strange events, warn of danger, or preserve the history of a town or neighborhood. Local-legend stories typically involve mysterious figures, cursed places, or unexplained disappearances that residents believe to be true. The genre explores how shared stories shape collective fear, memory, and identity, blurring the line between fact and folklore.

Local-Legend Films

Candyman
Urban Legend
The Blair Witch Project
Jeepers Creepers
I Know What You Did Last Summer

Whodunnit Horror:

The whodunnit horror genre combines mystery storytelling with suspense and fear. These films center on uncovering the identity of a killer or supernatural threat while tension steadily builds. Clues, red herrings, and suspect lists guide the audience through the investigation, while horror elements (such as atmosphere, danger, and shocking reveals) raise the emotional stakes. The genre often explores themes of secrecy, guilt, and paranoia, keeping viewers engaged as they try to solve the mystery before the truth is revealed.

Whodunnit Horror Films

Scream
Happy Death Day
When a Stranger Calls
The Ring
Disturbia

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a local legend or community myth with a central mystery, where characters investigate clues to uncover the truth behind a frightening threat or series of events.

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Tech Startup Satire

Tech Startup:

The tech startup genre focuses on companies built around new technology, innovation, and rapid growth. These stories often take place in modern office spaces, co-working hubs, or Silicon Valley-style environments and feature entrepreneurs, programmers, and investors. Tech startup narratives commonly explore ambition, disruption, competition, and the pressure to succeed quickly. The genre highlights the fast-paced culture of innovation, where ideas are treated as currency and success is measured by growth, influence, and visibility.

Tech Startup Films

The Social Network
The Internship
Jobs
The Founder
Moneyball

Satire:

The satire genre uses humor, exaggeration, and irony to critique people, institutions, or social trends. Satirical films often present familiar situations in an exaggerated way to expose flaws, contradictions, or absurd behavior. Rather than offering straightforward realism, satire encourages audiences to question power, status, and cultural norms. The genre frequently blends comedy with social commentary, using humor to make serious critiques more accessible and engaging.

Satire Films

Dr. Strangelove
Office Space
Zootopia
Don't Look Up
The Big Short

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend the world of a tech startup with satire, using humor and exaggeration to critique startup culture, innovation obsession, or the people and systems behind the technology.

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Office Escape Room Mystery

Office:

The office movie genre focuses on workplace environments and professional routines, often highlighting office culture, hierarchy, and interpersonal dynamics. These films typically take place in corporate buildings, cubicles, meeting rooms, or shared workspaces and explore themes such as teamwork, power, ambition, and conflict. Office stories use familiar, everyday settings to examine how people behave under pressure, revealing both humor and tension within structured professional spaces.

Office Films

Office Space
The Devil Wears Prada
The Proposal
The Intern
Hidden Figures

Escape Room Mystery:

The escape room mystery genre centers on characters trapped in a confined space who must solve puzzles, uncover hidden clues, and work together to escape. These stories emphasize logic, observation, and problem-solving, with tension building as time runs out or stakes increase. The genre often explores themes of trust, cooperation, and hidden motives, keeping audiences engaged as secrets are revealed and the mystery behind the situation unfolds.

Escape Room Mystery Films

Saw
Escape Room
1408
The Game
Don't Breathe

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend an office workplace setting with an escape-room-style mystery, where characters solve puzzles and uncover clues to escape or resolve a hidden problem within the workplace.

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Sleepover Conspiracy Thriller

Sleepover:

The sleepover movie genre focuses on overnight gatherings, often involving friends or classmates, where ordinary routines give way to secrets, bonding, and unexpected events. These stories typically take place in homes, basements, backyards, or shared sleeping spaces and emphasize youth perspectives, peer relationships, and late-night conversations. Sleepover films often explore themes of trust and growing independence.

Sleepover Films

The Sleepover
Adventures in Babysitting
Now and Then
The Baby-Sitters Club
The Craft

Conspiracy Thriller:

The conspiracy thriller genre centers on uncovering hidden truths, secret organizations, or deceptive power structures. These films follow characters who slowly realize that events are not what they seem and must piece together clues while facing danger, secrecy, and mistrust. The genre emphasizes suspense, paranoia, and escalating stakes, often exploring themes of control, surveillance, truth, and the consequences of asking too many questions.

Conspiracy Thriller Films

National Treasure
The Maze Runner
Divergent
The Hunger Games
V for Vendetta

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a sleepover setting with a conspiracy thriller plot, where characters uncover hidden truths or secret plans during a night that turns far more dangerous and suspenseful than expected.

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Study Hall Prison Break Comedy

Study Hall:

The study hall genre focuses on school environments where students are expected to sit quietly, follow rules, and complete academic work. These stories typically take place in classrooms, libraries, or supervised school spaces and highlight boredom, routine, and student–authority dynamics. Study hall narratives often explore themes of control, rebellion, friendship, and creativity, using familiar school settings to show how students respond to restriction and oversight.

Study Hall Films

The Breakfast Club
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Napoleon Dynamite
Mean Girls
Spider-Man: Homecoming

Prison Break Comedy:

The prison break comedy genre centers on characters attempting to escape confinement through clever planning, teamwork, and humor. These films parody the seriousness of traditional prison escape stories by replacing danger with absurd obstacles and exaggerated authority figures. The genre emphasizes problem-solving, unlikely alliances, and comic mishaps, often exploring themes of freedom, resistance, and ingenuity in a lighthearted way.

Prison Break Comedy Films

O Brother, Where Art Thou?
Chicken Run
Toy Story 3
Life
Stir Crazy

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a study hall or school setting with a prison-break-style comedy, where students plan a clever and humorous escape from rules, supervision, or confinement.

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School Newspaper Investigative Thriller

School Newspaper:

The school newspaper genre focuses on student journalism and the role of reporting within a school community. These stories often follow student writers, editors, or photographers as they investigate issues that affect their peers or uncover hidden problems within their school. The genre highlights curiosity, teamwork, and responsibility, emphasizing the importance of asking questions, verifying information, and giving voice to truth within a familiar academic setting.

Journalistic Films

All the President's Men
The Paper
Spotlight
Almost Famous
The Post

Investigative Thriller:

The investigative thriller genre centers on uncovering hidden truths through research, interviews, and the careful analysis of clues. These films build suspense as characters dig deeper into secrets that others want to keep buried. The genre emphasizes tension, urgency, and rising stakes, often exploring themes of truth versus power, ethical responsibility, and the personal risks involved in exposing wrongdoing.

Investigative Thriller Films

Zodiac
Prisoners
The Da Vinci Code
Enola Holmes
Gone Girl

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a school newspaper setting with an investigative thriller plot, where student journalists uncover secrets or wrongdoing through research, interviews, and mounting suspense.

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Family Game Night Psychological Comedy

Family Game Night:

The family game night genre centers on gatherings where relatives come together to play board games, card games, or group activities. These stories typically take place in homes and focus on family dynamics, competition, and long-standing relationships. While the setting appears lighthearted, family game night narratives often reveal hidden tensions, rivalries, and unresolved conflicts beneath the surface. The genre explores themes such as bonding, tradition, competition, and the pressure to maintain harmony during shared activities.

Family Game Night Films

Game Night
Jumanji
Clue
Zathura
The Mitchells vs. the Machines

Psychological Comedy:

The psychological comedy genre uses humor to explore characters' thoughts, emotions, and internal conflicts. Rather than relying on physical comedy alone, these films focus on awkward interactions, misunderstandings, manipulation, and exaggerated mental spirals. The genre often highlights anxiety, insecurity, ego, and perception, turning emotional tension into comedy. By exaggerating psychological stress in relatable situations, psychological comedies reveal how people behave when pushed slightly out of their comfort zones.

Psychological Comedy Films

The Truman Show
Groundhog Day
Inside Out
Stranger Than Fiction
Barbie

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a family game night setting with psychological comedy, where friendly competition slowly reveals emotional tension, misunderstandings, or exaggerated mental conflict in a humorous way.

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Community Theater Dress Rehearsal Farce

Community Theater:

The community theater genre focuses on local productions created by amateur performers, directors, and volunteers who come together to stage a show. These stories often take place in small theaters, school auditoriums, or multipurpose community spaces and highlight collaboration, passion, and limited resources. Community theater narratives emphasize personality clashes, creative ambition, and the joy (and chaos) of putting on a performance, often celebrating teamwork and the love of storytelling despite imperfections.

Community Theater Films

The Greatest Showman
Pitch Perfect
High School Musical
Hairspray
Sing

Dress Rehearsal Farce:

The dress rehearsal farce genre centers on last-minute preparations before a performance, where everything that can go wrong does. These stories rely on fast-paced humor, mistaken identities, missed cues, broken props, and escalating misunderstandings. Farce emphasizes exaggerated situations, precise timing, and overlapping chaos, turning mounting pressure into comedy. The genre often explores themes of performance versus reality, ego, and the thin line between disaster and success.

Dress Rehearsal / Farce Films

Noises Off
A Midsummer Night's Dream
To Be or Not to Be
The Producers
Clue

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a community theater setting with a dress-rehearsal farce, where last-minute preparations spiral into comedic chaos driven by misunderstandings, mishaps, and exaggerated characters.

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Career Day Identity Swap Comedy

Career Day:

Career days are school events where students are introduced to different professions through guest speakers, presentations, or role-playing activities. These stories typically take place in schools and highlight curiosity, aspiration, and uncertainty about the future. Career day narratives often explore themes of identity, expectations, and self-discovery, showing how young people imagine adulthood and question who they want to become.

Classroom Mentor Films

School of Rock
Freedom Writers
October Sky
Stand and Deliver
Akeelah and the Bee

Identity Swap Comedy:

The identity swap comedy genre centers on characters who switch roles, bodies, or social positions, leading to humorous misunderstandings and personal growth. These films rely on contrast; placing characters in unfamiliar situations that challenge their assumptions and behavior. The genre often explores empathy, perspective, and self-awareness, using comedy to show how stepping into someone else's life can reveal hidden strengths, flaws, and connections.

Identity Swap Comedy Films

Freaky Friday
Big
13 Going on 30
The Parent Trap
Jumanji

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a career day setting with an identity-swap comedy, where characters temporarily take on different roles or professions and gain new perspectives through humorous misunderstandings.

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Bake Sale Heist Film

Bake Sale:

The bake sale genre centers on school or community fundraisers where homemade food is sold to raise money for a cause. These stories typically take place in gyms, hallways, playgrounds, or community centers and emphasize teamwork, planning, and friendly competition. While bake sales appear wholesome and low-stakes, they often involve social dynamics, rival groups, and the pressure to succeed for a shared goal. The genre highlights cooperation, creativity, and the unexpected intensity that can arise from seemingly simple events.

Bake Sale / Fundraiser Films

Akeelah and the Bee
The Mighty Ducks
Lemonade Mouth
Camp Rock
Pitch Perfect 2

Heist Film:

The heist film genre focuses on planning and executing a clever theft or mission, often involving a team where each member has a specific role. These films emphasize strategy, timing, problem-solving, and unexpected twists. Rather than brute force, heist stories rely on intelligence, disguise, and coordination. The genre often explores themes of loyalty, ingenuity, and outsmarting authority, keeping audiences engaged as plans unfold and complications arise.

Heist Films

Ocean's Eleven
The Italian Job
Inside Man
Logan Lucky
Mission: Impossible

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a bake sale or fundraiser setting with a heist-style plot, where characters carefully plan and carry out a clever scheme to steal, recover, or protect something valuable.

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Family Cookoff Star-Crossed Romance

Family Cook-Off:

A family cook-off centers on two or more families competing against one another through food, often during neighborhood events, joint celebrations, holidays, or community gatherings. These stories typically take place in kitchens, backyards, or shared public spaces and transform friendly competition into high-stakes rivalry. Each family brings its own traditions, secret recipes, and pride to the table, and long-standing tensions or grudges often resurface as the competition intensifies. The genre emphasizes judging, strategy, sabotage, and performance, using food as a symbol of identity, heritage, and family loyalty.

Food Competition / Culinary Films

The Hundred-Foot Journey
Cook Off
Ratatouille
Chef
Julie & Julia

Star-Crossed Romance:

The star-crossed romance genre focuses on two people who fall in love despite powerful forces keeping them apart. These obstacles often include family rivalries, traditions, social expectations, or long-standing conflicts that make the relationship difficult or forbidden. The genre explores themes of loyalty, misunderstanding, and choice, highlighting the emotional tension between personal feelings and family obligation. While traditionally associated with tragedy, star-crossed romances can also be told as comedies, using heightened conflict and irony to explore love emerging in the most unlikely circumstances.

Star-Crossed Romance Films

Romeo + Juliet
West Side Story
Love, Simon
The Big Sick
Lady and the Tramp

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: YOUR FILM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Your film must blend a cook-off competition between rival families with a star-crossed romance, where two characters fall in love despite being divided by family loyalty, tradition, or competitive pride.

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