

UTSAV INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Season 5,

LOGO



DEADLINES

Submission Starts on 01 Feb 2026

July 31 Earlybird Deadline

August 31 Regular Deadline

September 30 Late Deadline

October 31 Extended Deadline

Notification by November 15 2026

FESTIVAL DATES

Dates 10-13 December 2026,

FEES FOR SUBMISSION OF FILMS

USD 2.00 (FOR EACH TYPE OF SUBMISSION)

RULES

INTRODUCTION

Utsav – Celebration or Festival

We have started this LGBTQ+ & Independent Film Festival for cinema lovers. This film festival will be a celebration of creativity and ideas. After successful completion of the four editions of the festival, we are now ready for the fifth edition.

LGBTQ+ cinema globally as well as in India has become an important part of the film industry. OTT platforms have increased the reach of these films to a larger audience. Of course, these avenues are mostly for mainstream cinema and filmmakers. There are a lot of independent film makers who also have interesting stories to present. We hope that this festival will be a platform for these independent film makers and their wonderful stories. Each film has various components – story, script, cinematography, editing, sound, music, acting – to name a few. In this festival, we wish to acknowledge all aspects of film making

and creativity. Thus, we hope that film makers will be encouraged to submit their work to showcase any or all aspects of their creativity.

Not all film makers, particularly independent filmmakers, and students, have the luxury of large budgets and wonderful locations for filming. We appreciate these limitations and would like to provide a platform to these filmmakers. We would encourage first time filmmakers who would like to present their work to submit to the festival.

It is also important to learn from each other's experiences. During the festival, we hope to have panel discussions with filmmakers, writers, editors, sound engineers, cinematographers, musicians, and audience as well. This healthy exchange will enrich the experience.

The first two days of festival will be for LGBTQ+ cinema, and the next two days will be for other independent films in this edition of the festival.

Come be a part of this 'UTSAV'!

AWARDS & PRIZES

Multiple awards will be given as a part of the festival.

RULES & TERMS

Please read the rules prior to submission

The films should be LGBTQ+ themed or the main characters of the films should be LGBTQ+. For the purposes of this festival this includes Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Hijras, Intersex, Pansexual, Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, and Queer.

We will also accept other Independent cinema for this edition of this film festival

We will accept films in these categories: Narrative Shorts, Narrative Features, Experimental, Web series, and Student Films

*Narrative Short Films: The maximum duration of films in this category is 40 minutes.

*Narrative Feature Films: Any film more than 40 minutes will be considered a feature film for the purpose of the festival.

*Experimental films: Experimental films with a maximum duration of 15 minutes will be considered in this category.

*Web series: This includes more than one episode of the series. We do not have time limits for each episode.

*Student films: Films submitted by current film students will be considered for this category. Each submission should include a valid identity card from a film school.

All the films should be subtitled in English (if they are not in English)

We will not include pornographic films in the festival.

There are no restrictions on previous submissions or date of production. However, submissions that are already present on open platforms (accessible to everyone without subscription) will not be given priority.

By submitting the film to the festival, you agree to the terms and condition of the festival.

You agree to let the organisers show the film in the festival and password protected online in cases of hybrid festival. The films will be screened in the physical festival or online festival, or both. The final rules for physical screening will be sent to the selected films.

By submitting to the festival, you agree that you have all the rights (including copyright if required) for this submission.

By submitting to the festival, you agree that a part of your film (maximum up to two minutes) may be used for promotional material or trailer of the festival

Each selected film will receive a laurel.

All the selected films will be eligible for awards.

You agree to pay the required submission charges for the festival.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: Manojit Mitra

Email: utsav@utsaviff.in

VENUE OF FESTIVAL

RDX Studios, Versova,
Andheri, Mumbai,
India

SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE: <https://utsaviff.in/>

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/utsav_filmfestival/

X HANDLE: <https://x.com/FilmUtsav>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/utsavfilmfestival2022>