

MOVIE MAKER

THE ART AND BUSINESS OF MAKING MOVIES

25 Coolest Film Festivals: 2009

by *Jennifer M. Wood* | Published July 31, 2009 [Excerpted]

Depending on the era in which one grew up, what is “cool” can be a very different thing. But whether you watched James Dean on the big screen, were introduced to cinema through Quentin Tarantino or believe that great movies begin and end with Michael Bay, “cool” cinema takes us beyond the expected, captures the zeitgeist and changes the way we view the films that come along for us afterward.

The same can be said for the 25 film festivals profiled [alphabetically] below. With the help of hundreds of independent moviemakers, festival directors and fest attendees, we scoured the world to identify more than two dozen fests that are creating a truly unique film festival experience (for moviemakers and festival-goers)...

ROGER EBERT'S FILM FESTIVAL • CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL •

SAN FRANCISCO FROZEN FILM FESTIVAL • SAN FRANCISCO, CA •

SEBASTOPOL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL • SEBASTOPOL, CA •

This fest is making a big splash in a town that Tom Waits, Les Claypool and Peter Krause call home. Understanding that few things go better with movies than a bottle of wine — particularly in California's wine country — the doc fest takes place near one of the area's biggest coalitions of wineries, Wine Road. “Part of being the coolest is knowing about it when no one else does,” says program director Jason Perdue of the two-year-old event, “and being the one to let everyone else know.”

www.sebastopolfilmfestival.org

SIDEWALK MOVING PICTURE FESTIVAL • BIRMINGHAM, AL •

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST • AUSTIN, TX • ...