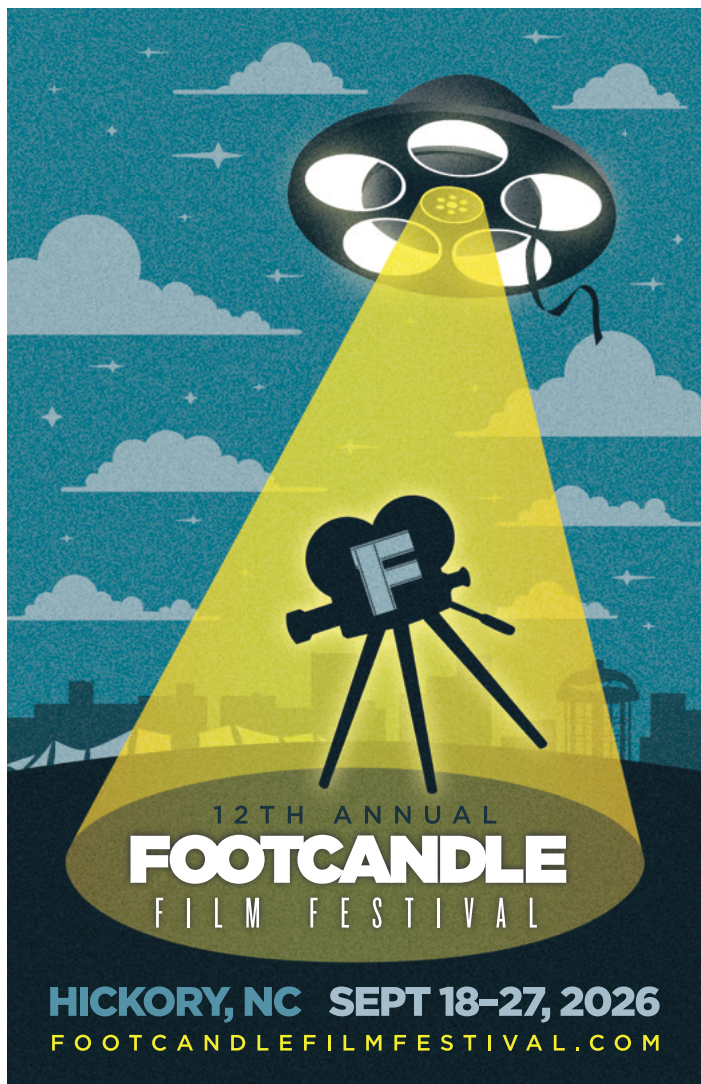




FOOTCANDLE
FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 18-27 2026



This will be an exciting week of film screenings with films being submitted from around the world for consideration. The best reviewed films will be shown during the weekend, starting with an opening night event and closing with an awards ceremony.

The festival will be held at various locations across the community, including the Hickory Community Theatre, the SALT Block and the Carolina Theater.

THE FIRST 11 YEARS:

OVER 330 FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

OVER \$90,000 IN ARTISTIC CONTRACTS

OVER 140 FILMMAKERS VISITING CATAWBA COUNTY

OVER \$75,000 RAISED FOR NC FILMMAKER GRANTS

Every dollar spent on this festival will go towards creating an experience that attendees, filmmakers and other visitors to the area will remember and help “spread the word” for continued festival growth next year.

This festival continues to be a showcase event for the Catawba County area, and we are making every effort to have our twelfth year be just as successful as the first.

To do so, **we depend on support from local businesses, organizations, and individuals.**

The festival is being produced by the **Footcandle Film Society**, a Catawba County-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All financial contributions to the film festival are tax deductible.

www.FootcandleFilmFestival.com

The 2026 Footcandle Film Festival will be a week-long event, including the following events and activities:



FILMLAB

FILMMAKING COMPETITION

The FilmLAB is a weekend-long filmmaking competition that invites filmmaking teams from across North Carolina to produce a short film over the course of a set amount of time, September 18th—21st.

On Thursday, September 24th, the completed films from the FilmLAB weekend will be shown in a free event at the Hickory Community Theater. Each of the filmmaking teams will share their experiences making the films with the audience in a discussion following the screening.

OUTDOOR FILM SCREENING

FREE OUTDOOR FILM

The Footcandle Film Festival will host a special outdoor film screening of *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND* on Saturday, September 19th. This free event will be open to the public and held in a prime location in Hickory (to be determined).



FOOTCANDLE PRESENTS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On Wednesday, September 23rd, the festival will host a night of special film screenings at the Hickory Community Theater in Downtown Hickory to showcase films that were either produced using previous years' Footcandle Filmmaking Grant funds, or will be a premiere film for the area with North Carolina connections. The filmmakers will be invited to attend to discuss their films and the production process, as well as to engage in a Q&A session with the audience.



FILMMAKER SYMPOSIUM

A FOOTCANDLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

This 2-hour workshop will feature a panel of independent filmmakers in the North Carolina & South Carolina, many of whom had films shown in previous years of the Footcandle Film Festival, speaking to attendees about the nature of independent filmmaking, opportunities to get film projects started, sources for funding, and challenges to be prepared for along the way.





YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

The Youth International Film Festival (YIFF), hosted by the Footcandle Film Society, is a special showcase event to help expose school-age children to short films from around the world. Films are submitted from around the world, with the best selections shown during two special in-person screening events over the course of the festival week. The emphasis this year is on films for children in 4th – 8th grades.

COMPETITIVE FILM SCREENINGS

BY FILMMAKERS AROUND THE WORLD

The 2026 Footcandle Film Festival will screen films during the course of the festival weekend. There will be feature-length films and short films, all in a competitive field and eligible for awards determined by both judges and the audience.

The 2026 film festival is a combination in-person and online events. Attendees can choose to attend select screenings in person or watch select films online the week after the in-person festival.

Six awards will be presented at the end of the 2026 festival weekend: **Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short, Best International Film, Audience Favorite Feature** and **Audience Favorite Short**. The awards will announced Sunday evening during the Closing Awards Ceremony.



SCRIPTWRITING

COMPETITION

The Footcandle Film Festival will be holding the eighth year of the Footcandle Scriptwriting Competition in 2026. Film script submissions from filmmakers around the world were accepted earlier in the year, and a committee reviews all applications and selects a winner for this year's award. The script submissions can be of any length, but have to be scripts for films that have yet to be produced at this time. The award will be presented at the Closing Awards Ceremony, along with a dramatic reading of select scenes from the winning script.

The goals of the Footcandle Film Festival are:

- To bring a collection of filmmakers from around the region, or around the world, to the Catawba County area, either in-person or through a virtual presence;
- To bring awareness of independent filmmaking and styles to the residents of Catawba County;
- To provide a weekend of interesting film screenings and discussions for both residents of Catawba County and visitors to the area;
- To create a showcase, high-profile event that would elevate Catawba County's artistic and cultural status in the region.

Sponsorship Levels

There are several levels of suggested financial support listed below, along with the sponsorship benefits; however, we appreciate any contribution, of any amount, that can be given to support the festival.

FESTIVAL SPONSOR Level — \$10,000.00

- Company/name featured prominently during all events and all promotional material as a **lead sponsor** of the festival
- Representative has opportunity to speak during the opening “Footcandle Presents” event and Closing Awards Ceremony
- Ten (10) weekend passes to the festival (includes ten tickets to all films and events)
- Ten (10) festival t-shirts
- Featured in promotional video shown before all screenings, social media, web site (large)

DIRECTOR Level — \$5,000.00

- Company/name listed in festival program
- Company/name listed on festival web site
- Representative has opportunity to speak during Short Film Showcase Friday Night introduction
- Five (5) weekend passes to the festival (includes five tickets to all films and events)
- Five (5) festival t-shirts
- Featured in promotional video shown before all screenings, social media, web site (large)

STAR Level — \$1,000.00

- Company/name listed in festival program
- Company/name listed on festival web site
- Two (2) festival t-shirts
- Two (2) weekend passes to the festival (includes two tickets to all films and events)
- Featured in promotional video shown before all screenings, social media, web site (small logo)

PRODUCER Level — \$2,500.00

- Company/name listed in festival program
- Company/name listed on festival web site
- Three (3) festival t-shirts
- Three (3) weekend passes to the festival (includes three tickets to all films and events)
- Featured in promotional video shown before all screenings, social media, web site (medium logo)

CREW Level — \$500.00

- Company/name listed in festival program
- Company/name listed on festival web site
- One (1) weekend pass to the festival (includes one ticket to all films and events)
- Two (2) festival t-shirts

CINEMATOGRAPHER Level — \$200.00

- Company/name listed in festival program
- Company/name listed on festival web site
- Two (2) festival t-shirts

You can also donate to the film festival online!

Visit www.footcandlefilmfestival.com and click the “**Become a Sponsor**” button in the main menu.
Please indicate that you want to donate specifically to the film festival.

In order to properly recognize you during the festival weekend, and on any of the festival material, please provide the following information when you contact us about your donation:

☐

Please check if you do not wish to be recognized publicly at the festival for your contribution

Organization or Individual's Name: _____

Contribution Level or Donation Amount: _____

Contact Person Email: _____ Phone: _____

If you are able to help support this year's festival, please let us know in one of the following ways:

Phone: 828-962-4188 • **Email:** alan@footcandle.org • **Mail:** Post Office Box 9123, Hickory, NC 28603

Thank you for your support! We're looking forward to a great festival!