



# MARQUEE GALA

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 | FREMONT STUDIOS

## Event Guide

### How Can I Support This Event?

**Invite:** This year each table seats up to 8 guests. Reach out to friends, family, colleagues and business partners, etc.—anyone who wants to support SIFF and the importance of film and independent filmmakers, as well as SIFF's education and SIFFsupports programming, and next year's Festival. We'd love to have a full and enthusiastic room!

**Host:** At the event, welcome your guests and share why SIFF matters and is so special to you, answering any questions your guests may have. During the program, sit back and be inspired to come together and make an impact through bidding and raising your paddles!

**The Next Step:** After the event, encourage your guests to get more involved—invite them to a film screening or upcoming program like [L.A. Noir](#) or [DocFest](#).

We appreciate your support of the 2025 SIFF Marquee Gala and are here to help you have a great experience! The event will take place on **Thursday, September 18, 2025** at Fremont Studios. By supporting SIFF and inviting others to join you at the event, you will help inspire your guests with your excitement, knowledge, and dedication, and they will have the opportunity to learn more about our programs and impact in the community. You can choose to purchase tickets for your guests or ask them to procure them individually, listing you as their connection.

### Step by Step Guide

- 1. Make Contact:** Compile a list of friends, colleagues and family members to invite. Forward the digital invitation you received. Follow-up on the invite a week later. Don't wait—start today! If you need a copy of the digital invitation or printed invites, please let us know.
- 2. Share your Enthusiasm:** We hope this year's program will inspire your guests and attendees to make a gift and encourage everyone to contribute at the level that is most meaningful to them.
- 3. Submit your Guest List:** If you have guests purchasing tickets we would love to know! Be sure to include a note while you, or they, are registering online. You can also send a message to: [giving@siff.net](mailto:giving@siff.net). Thank you in advance for your help.
- 4. Pre-Event Reminders:** We will send email reminders to all attendees for whom email addresses are given. However, the most effective reminder is still for you to personally contact

each guest a few days prior to the event. And don't forget to tell all your friends that you're excited by posting messages on your Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

**5. Post-Gala Follow-Up:** All "raise the paddle" contributions are 100% tax deductible and donors will receive an acknowledgment. We will also send updates post-event. Thank you again for ensuring that we have accurate contact information for your guests so we may thank them. We also encourage you to thank your guests directly for helping make the event a success!

## **The Invite**

A personal invitation from you is the best way to ask guests to attend the Gala. Think creatively about whom to invite and then make a phone call, send an email, or invite them over to coffee—use the best method for you and the guest you are inviting. Tell your invitees why you have chosen to support SIFF this year. Share your favorite highlights of the past year, and what you're most looking forward to in the year to come. Share your passion!

Sample email invitation:

Dear [Invitee],

I'm thrilled to be attending this year's SIFF Marquee Gala fundraiser. The event will truly be an unforgettable evening celebrating storytelling and SIFF's community impact. Now, more than ever, the arts and independent cinema needs to be championed through our support. I would love for you to join me and learn more about their upcoming projects, programs, and impact in the community.

The Gala is Thursday, September 18 at Fremont Studios. Doors open at 6:30pm for a cocktail reception with elevated small plates and premium beverages followed by an exciting program and can't-miss after-party!

Please reach out with any questions.

Warmly, {Your Name}

## **Sample social media post language:**

"Hi Friends and Family! Are you looking for a special and unique way to make an impact on the film community? As a SIFF [board member/volunteer/donor/member], I'm attending this year's Marquee Gala to support the incredible work SIFF is doing. Will you join me in supporting their efforts? Every ticket, every bid, every donation directly sustains independent filmmakers and brings vital stories to life."

Be sure to include the link to our [Marquee Gala registration page](#) with each post!

Please check out the [social media toolkit](#) for more resources!