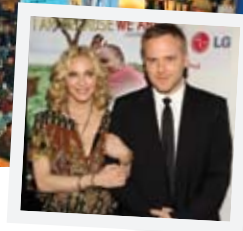




Catch a free outdoor screening at the Los Angeles Film Festival. Insets, from far left: Tribeca Film Festival founders Jane Rosenthal and Robert De Niro; Marisa Tomei, producer Grace Loh and Hilary Duff; Julianne Moore; and Madonna and Nathan Rissman.



**cannes**

**CANNES FILM FESTIVAL** // May 13-24 // This will be the 62nd edition of the world's most prestigious film festival, set on the French Riviera. While not always a showcase for films that go on to fame and fortune, it remains the ultimate red-carpet experience for film lovers determined to be at the center of things. Last year Sean Penn was head of the international jury, bequeathing the Palme d'Or to a French school drama called *The Class*. For the big events, black tie is not optional — it's de rigueur (festival-cannes.com).

**los angeles**

**LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL** // June 18-29 // L.A. may be synonymous with Hollywood, but this hearty film fest shines its spotlight on independent cinema from around the world — everything from narrative features and documentaries to shorts and music videos. Last year's event attracted 4,500 submissions and an audience of more than 100,000. Its top prize went

# cinema

to *Prince of Broadway*, an immigrant tale set in New York's garment district, and actor Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda*) was honored with a Spirit of Independence award. It's a seriously indie scene, but count on more than a few parties poolside (lafilmfest.com).

**moscow**

**MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** // June 19-28 // This A-list festival, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has always reflected the economic and political conditions of its nation — and the Russians' passion for film. During perestroika, in 1987, an American (Robert De Niro) first topped the jury. Eight years later,

after the Soviet Union's fall, actor Richard Gere was the jury's president and Russian director Nikita Mikhalkov celebrated his Oscar-winning *Burnt By the Sun* with a vodka-fueled extravaganza on the grounds of the Kremlin. MIFF struggled with the chaos of the early post-Soviet years, but it has sprung back to glory this decade (moscowfilmfestival.ru/eng).

**new york**

**TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL** // April 22-May 3 // When Swedish director Tomas Alfredson received the top feature prize at last year's festival for his coming-of-age vampire story *Let the Right One In*, Robert De Niro was literally right behind him. The legendary New Yorker, the fest's co-organizer and godfather,

launched the event in 2002 in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center to help revitalize Lower Manhattan. Since then, the fest has showcased a combustible combo of indie and studio fare and attracted more than 2 million attendees from around the world. And with its magnetic New York locale come plenty of stars and lively soirées (tribecafilm.com).

**shanghai**

**SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** // June 13-21 // Launched in 1993, the festival is China's largest, with a serious commitment to Chinese stars and expanding its reputation internationally. Last year's top prize went to a Russian film, and Hong Kong master Wong Kar-wai (*In the Mood for Love*, *Fallen Angels*) headed up the international jury after the unexpected death of Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*, *Cold Mountain*). That fest grabbed headlines for another reason: After former guest Sharon Stone described China's devastating earthquake as karmic payback, festival organizers made it clear she was not invited back (siff.com/Articleen).

## sky box

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