

The background is black and features several decorative elements. In the top left, there are four circles: a purple one, a blue one, a green one, and a white one. Three film strips, colored blue, green, and yellow, are layered diagonally across the top. The word 'VIRGINIA' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the green film strip. Below it, the word 'QUEER' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the yellow film strip. Further down, the words 'FILM FESTIVAL' are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on an orange film strip. At the bottom, the words '2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES' are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a red film strip. On the right side, a portion of a black film reel is visible, featuring three colored circles (yellow, orange, and red) on its surface.

VIRGINIA

QUEER

FILM FESTIVAL

2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

DEAR FILM LOVER,

As a life-long cinephile I'm thrilled that the Virginia Queer Film Festival is now embarking on its second year. Our 2025 Festival was an unqualified success with nearly 100 original film submissions from queer filmmakers around the globe, and I'm grateful for and proud of our board, volunteers, and financial supporters for bringing this project to life.

Filmmaking is a unique form of storytelling. And the story is at the heart of any good film. Unless there is an engaging story to be told, the special effects, setting, and actors are meaningless. Every culture and community has its own unique stories and narratives, and when they are shared through the medium of film, they can have a profound effect on the viewer.

Harnessing that power to tell the stories of the LGBTQ+ community is impactful in many ways. It can be an effective agent of change, and in a time when visibility is vital to our very survival film can and has paved the way to a deeper understanding of the many facets of the LGBTQ+ community.

That understanding is reflected in the increasing number of mainstream films featuring LGBTQ+ characters. In 2022, GLAAD reported that 28.5% of 350 films released featured an LGBTQ character—more than in any other year in the survey's history.

Independent festivals like ours are especially important for queer filmmakers. They give burgeoning creators an opportunity to get their work in front of audiences and, hopefully, ultimately, in front of production companies that can offer wider distribution.

Financial support from our generous donors and membership base is essential to the Virginia Queer Film Festival's continued ability to connect aspiring LGBTQ+ filmmakers with film fans who are joined together by their love of story.

Stories that make us think and feel, laugh and cry. Stories that cross boundaries and borders. Stories that reach across the globe and into our hearts.

Eric Hause

President and Festival Director



ABOUT

COMING UP ON OUR FOURTH YEAR, the Virginia Queer Film Festival closed the books on three successful years with filmmakers, creators, and buffs attending the multi-day festival in September 2025. Our offerings also included workshops for burgeoning creators, filmmaker talk backs, and social events. Beyond the Festival itself we curated a year-round schedule of public screenings of LGBTQ-themed films through our community outreach film series program.

OUR MISSION

The Virginia Queer Film Festival fosters community engagement by showcasing queer film programming and social dialogue with a focus on Southern voices.



// As a former Hampton Roads resident and graduate of Old Dominion University, it did my soul good to come home and share my passion for film making and social justice. The Festival is vital to moving that dialogue forward. //

David MacFarland
Creator and Executive Producer, ***Alone in the Game***



FILMS

OUR 2025 FESTIVAL ENTRIES featured 33 original films by queer filmmakers from around the world. From full length documentaries to shorts, film topics ranged from the unique challenges faced by queer people of color to the story of a lesbian community that found each other online and virtually thrived during the pandemic. Awards were presented for Best Animated Film, Best Student Film, Best Documentary, and Best Virginia Film, among others. In 2026, we're expanding our reach and opening film submissions early in the year, so expect to see a diverse and eclectic selection of entries.

2025 FILM FESTIVAL WINNERS



// Working with the team from VAQFF was a major dose in southern hospitality, and I was so impressed with the Festival that I volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors. //

Blake Pfeil, Director
All American Ruins



WHY SPONSOR?

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE BIG FILM FESTIVALS

but what about the Virginia Queer Film Festival?

You might be surprised, but there are quite a few festivals showcasing inventive, high



concept stories that you might not otherwise see because they don't have Hollywood headlining talent or a large distribution budget.

These smaller festivals also go largely unnoticed because of their lack of celebrity endorsement and strained budgets.

That's why sponsorship and membership programs are key to the success of the Virginia Queer Film Festival.

SPONSORING THE VIRGINIA QUEER FILM FESTIVAL IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO SHOWCASE YOUR COMPANY'S BRAND—

especially when ours is a niche Festival that reaches a very specific audience. Your sponsorship is guaranteed to be seen not only by attendees and filmmakers, but in other markets where we promote the event.

Sure, having your company's name and message up in front of large crowds alongside giants like Xfinity, United Airlines, and JP Morgan Chase may be beneficial for a business with a large advertising budget.

But if your ad budget is limited a low cost sponsorship with significantly fewer attendees can provide the opportunity to connect one-on-one with potential customers in a fun, casual environment.

Your support of the Festival also demonstrates your dual commitment to the LGBTQ community and the arts, both of which



face challenges in our increasingly complex world. By supporting queer filmmakers you are validating their work and contributing to the possibility that their films will be selected by mainstream production companies.

FILMS ARE MEANT TO BE A COMMUNAL

EXPERIENCE. We owe it to our filmmakers to have their film judged as it was meant to be screened: with the gasps, laughs, and tears that only a live screening can provide.

Join the Virginia Queer Film Festival community today!



www.vaqff.org • director@vaqff.org

The Virginia Queer Film Festival is a registered nonprofit Virginia corporation (Tax ID # 88-4145996) soliciting charitable donations for the purpose of operating the annual Virginia Queer Film Festival. Contributions may be tax deductible.

SPONSORSHIP SELECTIONS

CREATOR - \$10,000

Festival Promotion

- Recognition as Filmmaker Award Presenting Sponsor
- Inclusion in all 2026 Festival publicity and marketing through Festival date
- Six (6) all-access passes to Festival screenings and 2026 events*
- Six (6) total swag bags (tote bags with complimentary T-shirts)*
- Four (4) tickets for each screening during the 2026 Festival
- Logo on 2026 volunteer T-Shirt
- Logo on 2026 step-and-repeat
- Logo on official 2026 Festival poster
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Logo in 2026 Festival catalog
- Opportunity for company representative to speak before each in-person screening
- Video recognition before each digital screening
- One (1) dedicated promotional email to subscribers
- Full-page ad in Festival film catalog

Year-Round Marketing Opportunities

- Homepage ad banner on Festival website
- Company name and link to web site on VAQFF.org
- Four (4) company-dedicated social media posts
- Feature in three (3) email newsletters to Festival subscribers

* Reservations required and based on availability.

* Custom sponsorships available! Email director@vaqff.org.

BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

Festival Promotion

- Inclusion in three (3) press releases through Festival date
- Four (4) all-access passes to festival screenings and 2026 events*
- Four (4) total swag bags (tote bags with complimentary T-shirts)*
- Two (2) tickets for each screening during the 2026 Festival
- Logo on 2026 volunteer T-Shirt
- Logo on 2026 step-and-repeat
- Logo on official 2026 Festival poster
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Logo in 2026 Festival film catalog
- Opportunity for company representative to speak before two in-person screenings
- Half-page ad in Festival film catalog

Year-Round Marketing Opportunities

- Homepage ad banner on Festival website
- Company name and link to web site on VAQFF.org
- Four (4) company-dedicated social media posts
- Feature in three (3) email newsletters to Festival subscribers



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SPONSORSHIP SELECTIONS (cont)

PRODUCER – \$2,500

Festival Promotion

- Inclusion in one (1) press releases through Festival date
- Two (2) all-access passes to Festival screenings and 2026 events*
- Two (2) total swag bags (tote bags with complimentary T-shirts)*
- Two (2) tickets for each screening during the 2024 Festival
- Logo on 2026 Volunteer T-Shirt
- Logo on official 2026 Festival poster
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Logo in 2026 Festival film catalog
- One (1) quarter page ad in film catalog

Year-Round Marketing Opportunities

- Company name and link to web site on VAQFF.org
- Two (2) company-dedicated social media posts
- Feature in one (1) email newsletter to Festival subscribers

DIRECTOR - \$1,000

Festival Promotion

- Logo on 2026 Festival T-Shirt
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Logo in 2026 Festival film catalog
- Company name on VAQFF.org
- One (1) quarter-page ad in film catalog
- One (1) company-dedicated social media posts

* Reservations required and based on availability.

* Custom sponsorships available. Email director@vaqff.org.

2024 ADVERTISING PARTNERSHIPS

ENTHUSIAST – \$1,000

- Logo on 2026 step-and-repeat
- Logo on official 2026 Festival poster
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Logo in 2026 Festival film catalog
- Company name on VAQFF.org
- One (1) dedicated promotional email to Festival subscribers
- One (1) full-page ad in film catalog

FRIEND – \$500

- Logo on 2026 step-and-repeat
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- Company name on the Festival website
- One (1) dedicated promotional email to Festival subscribers
- One (1) half-page ad in film catalog

ADVOCATE – \$250

- Company name on Festival website
- Logo on official 2026 Festival trailer
- One (1) quarter-page ad in film catalog

