

what's on

# Spring 2017

All the biggest and best events this season



MARCH 20-APRIL 16

### The National Cherry Blossom Festival, District of Columbia

This 90-year-old celebration marks the 1912 gift of Japanese cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo. It features more than 150 cultural performances at the District's most historic sites, including a fireworks display on the southwest waterfront, and a kite festival in the grounds of the Washington Monument. [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org)

APRIL 27-29

### Gathering of Nations Powwow, Albuquerque, New Mexico

More than 3,000 dancers from over 500 tribes attend the 'Superbowl of Powwows,' attracting more than 150,000 spectators. Activities include a Miss Indian World Pageant, while the Pit Arena resounds with the sound of beating drums and the jingle of bells sewn onto traditional outfits and headdresses. [gatheringofnations.com](http://gatheringofnations.com)

MARCH 24-APRIL 2

### Atlanta Film Festival, Georgia

ATLFF, one of only two Academy Award-qualifying festivals in the U.S., makes its 41st appearance this year. Welcoming an audience of close to 25,000, the festival shows hundreds of independent, international, animated, documentary and short films, selected from 6,000-plus submissions. Screenings also include in-person dialogues with filmmakers. [atlantafilmfestival.com](http://atlantafilmfestival.com)

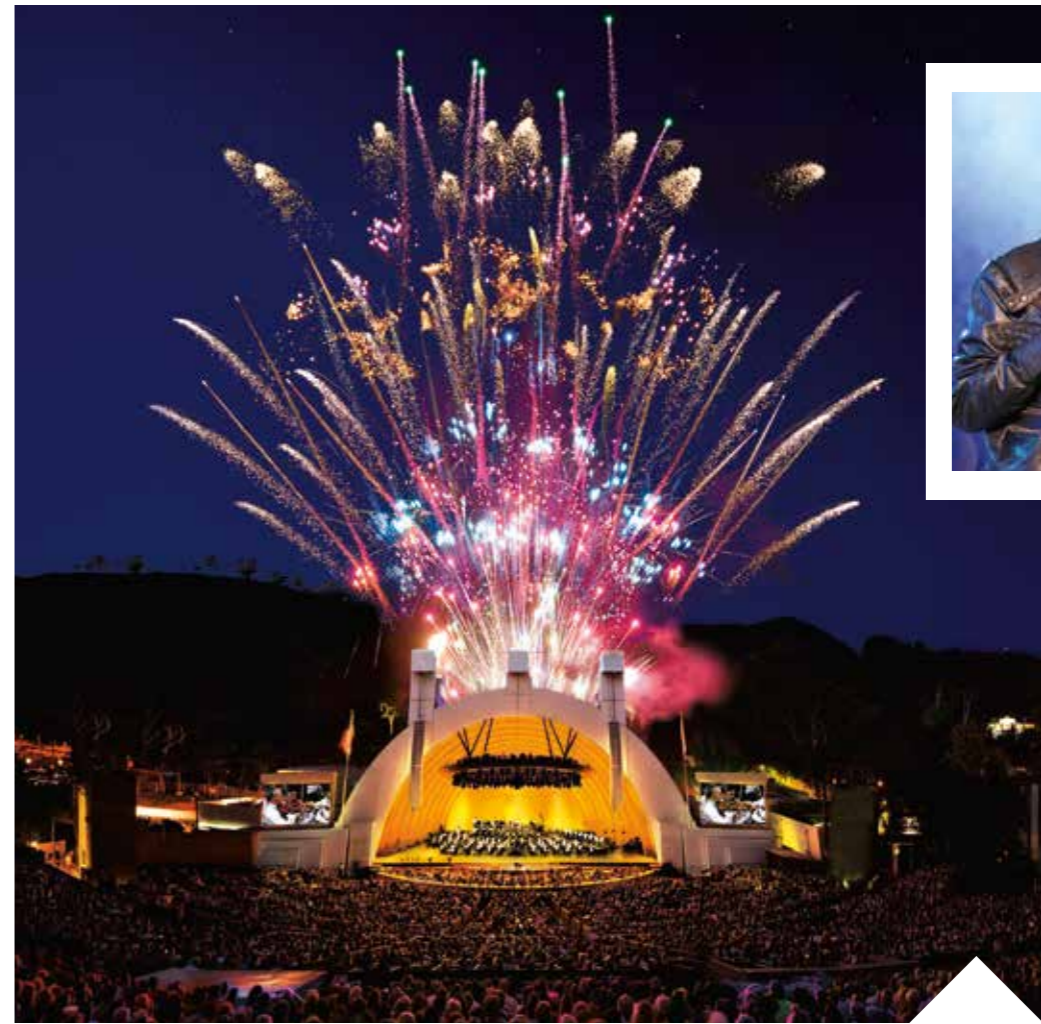
APRIL 22-23

### Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, California

Celebrate the written word at LA's leading literary event. The event unites book lovers from all over the world and has a jam-packed schedule full of performers, authors and speakers. It also includes the presentation of the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes. Just minutes from downtown LA, the festival attracts people of all ages. [events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks](http://events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks)



IMAGES: ALAMY; GETTY; THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ASSOCIATION



JUNE 3

### Space City Food Truck Festival, Houston, Texas

This celebration of hip hop, R&B and food truck cuisine takes place for the second year running in Houston. Enjoy the live sounds of rappers like Roy Dale, WhyJae and John Ibe, while savoring the flavors from exhibitors at the Houston Food Park. [threadersvillage.com](http://threadersvillage.com)



JULY 2-4

### Fireworks Spectacular with Pentatonix, Hollywood Bowl

The sky above the Hollywood Bowl will light up with fireworks for three nights. The pyrotechnics will be accompanied by the harmonies and beat-boxing of three-time Grammy-winning a cappella quintet, Pentatonix along with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com)

MAY 26-JUNE 11

### Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, South Carolina

Known as America's premier performing arts festival, Spoleto features internationally acclaimed opera, theatre, dance and music. The old-town charm of Charleston, combined with the festival's rich history, provides a perfect setting for the event, which has showcased more than 200 world premieres and attracted world-class musicians such as Yo-Yo Ma. [spoletousa.org](http://spoletousa.org)



### International

MAY 26-28

### BUSHFIRE, Swaziland

This festival in the heart of the Malkerns Valleys of Swaziland features the best talent in Africa, as well as international artists. Past acts have included Swiss singer Pablo Nouvelle and South African duo Mafikizolo. With more than 25,000 people attending from over 60 countries, the festival covers all art forms and has a community outreach focus too. [bush-fire.com](http://bush-fire.com)

JULY 12-31

### Just for Laughs, Montreal, Canada

With more than two million attendees, the event's key acts include some of the biggest names in comedy (previous years have attracted the likes of Dave Chappelle, Kevin Hart and Rowan Atkinson). Montreal will fill up with laughter for two weeks, with theatre productions, galas, street art, stand-up performances and over 1,600 performances. [hahaha.com](http://hahaha.com)

JULY 17-30

### Galway International Arts Festival, Ireland

People from all over the world come to windswept Galway, where this festival has been running for 40 years. It's grown into a major cultural event, with 200,000 attendees in 2016; stars who've previously appeared include Joni Mitchell, Cormac McCarthy and Philip Glass. [giaf.ie](http://giaf.ie)