

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Backlight Student Film Festival is a two-day student short film festival that takes place every April at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. Backlight is a competitive festival that accepts submissions from undergraduate and graduate students at colleges and universities across the state of Georgia, with an average acceptance rate of 12%. Backlight accepts films in two categories: short-form (1-7 minutes) and mid-length (7-25 minutes).

Backlight is a nonprofit organization devoted to fostering innovation and creativity within the Georgia film community by promoting and highlighting the work of aspiring student filmmakers. Backlight unites students and industry professionals across the state, offering opportunities for growth and professional advancement. As the film industry expands into Georgia, we provide outlets for student filmmakers to showcase their talents and build connections within their local film community.

Founded in 2022 by University of Georgia Students, Backlight is an emerging festival offering a variety of opportunities for students to develop their talent in the media entertainment industry through a networking mixer, red carpet, film screenings, industry panels, and an awards ceremony featuring industry professionals, film academics, and notable alumni of Georgia colleges and universities. Backlight has exploded from an entirely student-run production at the University of Georgia to an award-winning accredited non-profit organization with connections state and nationwide.

Backlight's primary purpose is to serve and acknowledge the growing creative talent in the state of Georgia by showcasing and awarding their films.

Our partnerships go beyond the two days of the festival. We hope to create lasting relationships within the growing Georgia Film Industry, by connecting professionals, students, and film-lovers. We are grateful for your support!

OUR AUDIENCE

Our festival is unique in its focus on a youthful demographic for both entrants and attendees. At Backlight, we promote student filmmaking and student film communities not only in the films we showcase but by creating a fun, exciting environment for college-age attendees from across the state and the country. Our goal is to form long-lasting relationships among young filmmakers with a passion for film, and industry scholars and professionals that help facilitate and sponsor our festival.

With a contribution to Backlight, you can be part of these important relationships that drive the network-based entertainment industry. Through networking opportunities like our mixer and red-carpet, we want to not only showcase our films but also highlight you, our sponsors, and help connect our young filmmakers and attendees with you, and the opportunities and resources you can provide for them in their post-graduate life. Likewise, we hope that our festival serves as a showcase of the college-age talent in the state of Georgia and a glimpse into a future where they will be on the frontlines of the entertainment industry.

OUR COMMUNITY

Backlight is a mission-driven film festival, and its main focus is on helping build and foster communities within the Georgia film industry. In the state with the fastest growing film industry in the country, Backlight strives to help uplift and showcase the young, up and coming talent within the state and create an outlet for them to exhibit their talents and connect with other talented and creative amateurs and professionals in their fields. Your commitment to Backlight helps foster and promote creative talent in the state of Georgia and prepare the next generation of Georgia filmmakers to take the Georgia film industry to new heights.