

## Garden State Film Festival

The [Eighth](#) Annual Garden State Film Festival is rolling into Asbury Park March 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>. Last year over 150 films were shown in [6](#) locations to over [30,000](#) people who attended the event over its 4 day run.

The Festival showcases independent films, shorts, animations, music videos and documentaries from aspiring and accomplished filmmakers and actors from around the world and features a category for Jersey artists, called Home Grown. “New Jersey, not Hollywood, was the actual birthplace of the filmmaking industry,” says Executive Director/[Founder](#) Diane Raver. “We are proud to promote a positive image of New Jersey, as well as re-focus New Jersey as a location for artists and the industry to practice their craft.”

The festival has become one of the most respected events in New Jersey and in the film industry, because of its high standards and on-going outreach programs, that include networking for artists and sponsors. “Throughout the year, we arrange screenings in schools, eldercare facilities, Veterans Hospitals and our Board [members as well as myself](#) are available for speeches and seminars”, Raver continued. “ We also regularly send [our most](#) popular films to our Armed Forces overseas. We also adopt a charity each year, to help raise funds and awareness for their cause. Last year, we selected Autism and this year, we are working [with the National Lyme Disease Association](#) to fund research, care and diagnosis of this condition. Our Thursday Night pre-opening will feature the film [UNDER OUR SKIN](#) on [this topic with a portion](#) of the proceeds will go to LYME DISEASE ASSOCIATION.”

If you’ve never attended a film festival , you’re in for an exciting weekend. In addition to the movies, which are shown in 2 hour blocks, you also may join in discussions with film makers, bring headshots for casting calls, attend seminars, meet celebrities and party Hollywood style at the many parties that fill the weekend. The official Friday Night Gala delivers the Hollywood feel with floodlights, photographers, a lively cocktail party with a full buffet, the opening night screenings and an after party. You may purchase tickets for the Opening Night event, for individual Saturday and Sunday 2 hour screenings and events, or for just \$45 buy an all access weekend pass, that gets you into everything, except for the concluding Awards Dinner.

Films are grouped together in genres, documentary lovers, horror fans, Jewish Culture enthusiasts, etc. will be sure to see what they like. Bring your camera, wear comfortable shoes and your business cards, as you’re sure to make lots of new friends over the weekend. The Garden State Film Festival is a non-profit organization and this year’s economic woes make volunteers, sponsors and donations even more appreciated. “We know how to make stars, and we will give anyone who gets involved, especially our sponsors, the star treatment.”

For more information please go to [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org).