Palm Beach Cultural Festivals
COMMUNE WITH THE ARTS AT ONE OF THESE AREA EVENTS

PALM BEACH POETRY FESTIVAL

DATES
• JANUARY 19-24

HISTORY
• The Palm Beach Poetry Festival was formed to foster the writing, reading, performance and appreciation of poetry. The inaugural festival was held in January 2005 as a partnership between Poets of the Palm Beaches and Lynn University and included poets Patricia Smith, Thomas Lux and Sharon Olds, among others.

WHAT TO EXPECT
• The eleventh annual festival is a six-day event at the Delray Beach Center for the Arts at Old School Square and will feature workshops, talks, readings and panel discussions. This year’s special guest poet is Dana Gioia (far left), former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Poetry workshops are restricted to 12 participants and require an application.

CONTACT
• 561-368-8445, FESTIVALOFFTHEARTSBOCA.ORG

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS BOCA

DATES
 • MARCH 6-15

HISTORY
• The Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park in Boca Raton established the festival in 2007 as a means of bringing quality performers, authors and speakers to Palm Beach County. Since its inception, the festival has attracted hundreds of cultural icons and thousands of fans annually.

WHAT TO EXPECT
• The festival dedicates programming to classical and contemporary music, literature, dance, performance art and film. Performances and author conversations take place in the Mizner Park Amphitheater and the Cultural Arts Center.

CONTACT
• 561-868-2063, Palmeachpoetryfestival.org

THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

DATES
• MARCH 26 TO APRIL 2

HISTORY
• A not-for-profit organization, the Palm Beach International Film Festival was founded by former commissioner Burt Aaronson with the support of philanthropist George Elmore, who each saw the value in bringing a film festival to Palm Beach County, both culturally and financially. The 2015 festival marks PBIFF’s twentieth anniversary.

WHAT TO EXPECT
• PBIFF revolves around the mission to support emerging filmmakers. In doing so, it hosts a plethora of films, documentaries and shorts from national and international filmmakers.

CONTACT
• 561-362-0003, PBIFILMFEST.ORG

SUNFEST

DATES
• APRIL 29 TO MAY 3

WHAT TO EXPECT
• On average, SunFest attracts 175,000 festivalgoers. As most to a variety of musical genres, the festival does a good job of scheduling multiple worthwhile shows spread across three stages. In true South Florida fashion, the close of the festival is celebrated with fireworks over the water.

CONTACT
• 561-659-5900, SUNFEST.COM

The festival has hosted dozens of poets in its short history, including Jeff McDaniel, Kim Addonizio and Cornelius Eady. Most importantly, the festival has excelled in its mission to create a nurturing learning environment for established and amateur poets.

In addition to such speakers as Edward Albee, Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Patricia Engel and David Ignatius, the festival has welcomed violinist Itzhak Perlman thrice, as well as Renee Fleming, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Cirque de la Symphonie.

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SunFest was established in 1982 and is Florida’s largest waterfront music and art festival, taking place annually during the first week of May in downtown West Palm Beach.

Enter to win two PBIFF gold passes, including access to all regular screenings and the closing night film and party, at palmbeachillustrated.com/hottickets

The festival has screened more than 150 world premieres and more than 1,100 films total. Each year, PBIFF attracts film fans from around the world as well as celebrities, including Tommy Lee Jones, Woody Harrelson and Samuel L. Jackson. In 2014, Jill D’Agnencia’s Life Inside Out was awarded Best Feature Film and Patrick Mark’s Fabergé: A Life of its Own won Best Documentary Feature.

In the 2015 lineup has yet to be released, but past years have included performances by Kid Rock, Ellie Goulding, The Smashing Pumpkins, Ed Sheeran, The Go Goo Dolls and The Fray.

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