

# 3D

THREE DAYS

# TRIBECA CINEMAS

## Take six at Tribeca

**BLOCKBUSTERS AND INDIES  
MINGLE AT DE NIRO'S  
ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL**

By David Freedlander  
Special to amNewYork

The Tribeca Film Festival returns to the cobbled streets of Lower Manhattan next week with its usual assortment of flashy movies and smaller gems. Pay heed, though: Tickets cost more this year.

On the glitzy end, a few major studio films will be premiering at the festival: "Spider-Man 3," "The Gates," a film about Jean-Claude and Christo's saffron installation in Central Park, and "Lucky You," starring Drew Barrymore and Robert Duvall.

But Tribeca has always been as much about small, politically oriented films as it has been about the big tickets, and this year brings a raft of films about Afghanistan and several

others about the Latino experience in the U.S. Also, Al Gore will host the opening night gala, which will feature a series of short films about global warming.

"The artist as activist is really the heart of what this festival has been," said Jane Rosenthal, who co-founded the event with Robert De Niro after the 9/11 attacks. "We started this because of an act of war. As filmmakers we were sitting here wondering what we could do for our community."

With 160 films showing in 17 theaters throughout Manhattan, Tribeca has gained a reputation for programming shoot 'em up action films alongside high-brow art flicks.

"Movies are our last

hope to bring people together who don't understand each other," said Peter Scarlet, executive director of the festival. "There is a collision here between art house films and general interest films, but it's the kind of collision where sparks really fly."

Tribeca has had a meteoric rise into the upper echelon of film festivals around the world, but still lacks some of the prestige of Cannes, Sundance and Toronto.

"There are probably five times as many film festivals as there were 10 years ago," said Christian Gaines, director of festivals at the American Film Institute. "Tribeca is an extremely well-resourced player. It re-

ally sprinted out of the gate with a lot of energy and marketing reach."

Some film industry insiders have wondered why such a well-financed festival — besides De Niro, it's backed by corporate support from American Express — needs to charge so much for tickets. Prices went up by 50 percent this year, to \$18, more than any other film festival and more than it costs to see a first-run movie in any local theater. Organizers say the festival has been running at a million-dollar deficit, and a price increase couldn't be avoided.

"We've raised our prices, yeah," said Scarlet. "But it costs a lot of money to put on a film festival."



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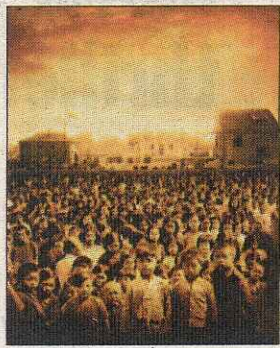


# The ones to watch at the festival

By Mina Hochberg  
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With more than 150 films to choose from, deciding what to see is no easy task. Here are a few movies that caught our eye:

## Documentaries



A still from "Nanking"

### Nanking

The Rape of Nanking in 1937-38 resulted in an estimated 200,000 Chinese deaths at the hands of the occupying Japanese. The tolling have been higher had it not been for a group of Westerners, including a Nazi businessman and American missionaries, who stayed through the occupation to provide a refuge. They saved a reported 250,000 lives. The story is told through interviews with survivors and Japanese soldiers, as well as letters and diaries.

### I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal

Simon Wiesenthal lost nearly 100 family members during the Holocaust, his own life spared when the Allied forces liberated him from Mauthausen concentration camp. With no schooling as an investigator, he devoted his entire life to hunting down more than 1,000 war criminals. In this documentary narrated by Nicole Kidman, director Richard Trank taps into a tenacious man's life.

## The Basics

### Tribeca Film Festival

April 25 - May 6  
For complete schedule and venue addresses, visit

www.tribecafilmfestival.org

### Ticket Prices

General Screenings (Evenings/Weekends): **\$18**  
General Screenings (Matinee/Family Films): **\$14**

Premium Screenings: **\$25**

Panel Discussions: **\$25**  
Purchase tickets at **866-941-FEST** or **646-452-5296**. Visit the Web site for box office locations.

### Door Sales

Door sale lines form approximately 60 minutes prior to start time. Admission will begin approximately 15 minutes before start time, based on availability. Admission is not guaranteed.

### The Power of the Game

Director Michael Apter, of the gripping "7 Up" documentary series, delves into the world of soccer and the impact the sport has had on countries around the world — at political, social and personal levels. He follows six stories, finally ending with the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

### The Devil Came on Horseback

Through hundreds of exclusively shot photos, retired Marine Captain Brian Steidle shares his perspective of Darfur, where he spent six months working with the African Union to monitor a ceasefire. Given his unique access within Sudan, Steidle was able to take scores of photographs documenting the genocide in a way not many others have.

### The King of Kong

Everyone loves a competitive world of [fill in the blank]. In this case, it's "Donkey Kong." Though versions of the classic arcade game are instantly accessible via a quick Google search, there is in fact a world record-holder. And apparently he's very protective of his title.



Billy Mitchell in "The King of Kong."

### Taxi to the Dark Side

From the Oscar-nominated director who brought us "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," comes this investigation of the Bush Administration's torture policy. Alex Gibney interviews former government officials and provides exclusive images from Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and Bagram prisons. Executive-produced by Sidney Blumenthal, former senior adviser to President Bill Clinton.

### Invisibles

Actor Javier Bardem and Producers Without Borders produced this collection of five short films spotlighting obscure humanitarian aid efforts around the world. In Spanish, English, Lwo, Kiluba and Swahili, the shorts are directed by esteemed filmmakers including Wim Wenders and Isabel Coixet.

### Bomb It



"Bomb It" is an exploration of graffiti culture.

This film takes a timely look at the history and controversies of graffiti. Director Jon Reiss interviews graffiti writers and traces the art in the act as he traces the "art form" from prehistoric times. The focus extends from Brazil to Japan.

## Features

### Gardener of Eden

Kevin Connolly of HBO's "Entourage" steps behind the camera for his directorial feature debut. The dark comedy, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, stars Lukas Haas as a young man living with his parents, stuck in a going-nowhere deli job. His humdrum life changes when he happens to catch a serial rapist. Also starring Giovanni Ribisi, Erika Christensen.

### Lady Chatterley

Winner of multiple Cesar-Awards — the French equivalent to the Oscars — this adaptation of "John Thomas and Lady Jane" brings D.H. Lawrence's story of reawakened desire to the big screen. The story is one of the three versions that's been printed of Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover."



Elijah Wood sheds his hobbit looks in "Day Zero."

### Day Zero

Elijah Wood goes bareheaded in this film set in the near future. The world is gripped by terrorism and the draft has been reinstated. But three New York friends — played by Wood, Chris Klein and Jon Bernthal — don't want to go. They've got 30 days to report for duty. Directed by Bryan Gunnar Cole.

### The Education of Charlie Banks

Jesse Eisenberg starred in one of the festival's original claims to fame — "Rodger Dodger," back in 2002. Now he returns as



"The Education of Charlie Banks"

conflicted star Charlie Banks, an Upper West Side kid who secretly rats out his pal Mick to the police for a brutal beating. Three years later, Mick pays a visit, and a jumpy Charlie wonders if his history as a snitch has been revealed.

### Mulberry Street

Here's a film for horror fans — or for anyone who's lived in the city too long. The story centers on an infection that spreads throughout Manhattan, turning humans into killer rats. As the city falls to pieces, six apartment evictees fight for survival. And, of course, to protect their apartment building, rats, evictions and guarding real estate? Can't get more New York than that.

### Golden Door

Set in 1913 and starring Charlotte Gainsbourg, "Golden Door" captures the immigrant experience in New York City. A Sicilian family gives up the familiarities of their life in Europe to venture a four-week trip across the Atlantic to Ellis Island. The film has already picked up accolades at previous festivals, including a Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival last year.

### Lovesickness ("Maldeamores")

A three-pronged story about, well, love. Set in Puerto Rico, "Lovesickness" follows its ensemble of characters through a love triangle, a failing marriage fraught with infidelity and a hostage situation.



Sarah Michelle Gellar and Alec Baldwin star in "Suburban Girl"

## Tribeca Family Festival Street Fair

### Tribeca Family Festival Street Fair

Sat, May 5, 10am-6pm, FREE.  
(Greenwich Street, between Hubert and Duane streets)

An array of activities and performances unfold over seven blocks in the heart of Tribeca as local schools,



Bring the family to the Tribeca Street Fair.

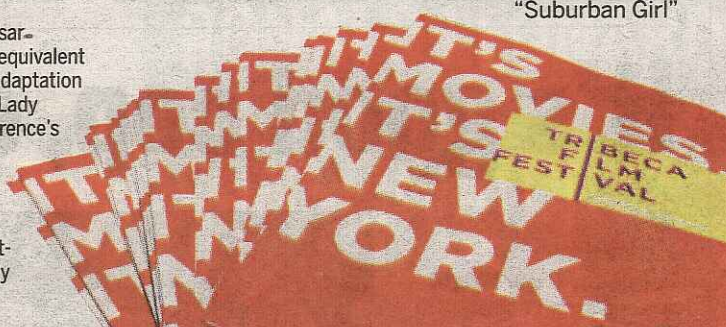
merchants, restaurants and civic organizations join together for this all-day, family-friendly celebration. There will be surprise characters from movies, books and television, as well as games, storytelling, puppet shows, face-painting, free screenings and more.

(Dan Lehman)

## Name branding

Here are some movies starring names you know.

- **Live!** (Eva Mendes)
- **Watching the Detectives** (Cillian Murphy, Lucy Liu)
- **Charlie Bartlett** (Robert Downey Jr.)
- **Suburban Girl** (Sarah Michelle Gellar, Alec Baldwin)
- **2 Days in Paris** (Julie Delpy writes, directs and stars)
- **Purple Violets** (Selma Blair, Ed Burns, Debra Messing, Patrick Wilson)



## Spider-Man Week

www.spider-man-weeknyc.com  
April 30-May 6

In honor of "Spider-Man 3," which will premiere in Queens as part of the festival, here's a host of other Spidey events. It's all part of the Spider-Man Week hoopla.

- **"Spider-Man" screening**  
Tues, May 1, Midnight, \$18  
Clearview Chelsea West 1
- **"Spider-Man 2" screening**  
Wed, May 2, Midnight, \$18  
Clearview Chelsea West 1



■ **"Spider-Man" Marathon**  
Thurs, May 3, 5pm, \$18  
BMCC  
TribecaPAC 1

■ **The Ultimate Spider-Man Comic Collection**  
New York Public Library  
www.nypl.org/research/calendar/exhib/hssl/hsslexhib-desc.cfm?id=455  
During Spider-Man Week only, NYPL will exhibit never-before-displayed, original Spider-Man comic books at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

■ **The Amazing Spider-Man Adventure** Gray Line New York Sightseeing  
www.newyorksightseeing.com  
Tour the Big Apple Peter Parker style with two webbed double-decker buses. Hop on and off attractions made famous by the Spider-Man movies, and sneak peeks at sites from "Spider-Man 3." Buses depart every 10 minutes at 50 locations citywide.

■ **Free Comic Book Day**  
www.freecomicbookday.com  
Sat, May 5  
Celebrate the sixth annual Free Comic Book Day by visiting a comic book store near

you and receiving a free Spider-Man comic book, among others. No purchase necessary. To find a participating comic book retailer near you, call 1-888-COMIC-BOOK.



Spider-Man is taking over the city for a third time.

■ **Forbidden in the Village**  
Forbidden Planet  
www.fpnyc.com  
Thurs, May 3  
840 Broadway (at 13th Street)  
Renowned comic book

Mecca Forbidden Planet will celebrate Venom's debut with a special signing and giveaway, followed by a midnight screening of "Spider-Man 3."

■ **It's a Rap: Closing Night Celebration**  
The Apollo Theater  
www.apollotheater.org  
Sat, May 5  
The Apollo will host Spider-Man Week's closing-night celebration. Urban poets from the five boroughs will compose original raps about Spider-Man and his many adventures. The winner takes home a Sony Bravia TV. (DJ)