Celebrating thought-provoking international cinema, year-round, for a diverse audience of movie lovers and students.

MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL - TOWER THEATER MIAMI 2018-19 SUCCESS STORIES
“Miami Film Festival provides us with a feast for the senses in so many ways, and MDC’s Tower Theater Miami is my go-to ‘Happy Place’ to enjoy movies in Miami.”

— Miami Film Society member
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BIRDS OF PASSAGE, 2019 MFF Knight MARIMBAS Award winner
This report of our Department’s success stories covers the period of activity from April 2018 to March 2019. The time frame encompasses:

- Miami Film Festival’s 36th annual season, and 16th edition as a production of Miami Dade College.
- The 17th year of operations for Tower Theater Miami under the College’s administration.
- The first full 12-month cycle of these proud College brands managed as one merged Department.
HIGHLIGHTS

Films presented:

235 films from 50+ countries

Total people served:

93,000+
Billy Corben (left) and Alfred Spellman (right), director and producer of SCREWBALL, accept the Audience Award (Feature) from Festival director Jaie Laplante (center) at MFF 2019.

Awards distributed: $150,000 cash

Funding partnerships and grant funds: $827,730
Admissions/Theater Revenue: $960,563

Complimentary tickets: +4,000 to students, industry partners and volunteers

Individual Donors: $176,300
As always, Miami Dade College students received foregrounded access to educational opportunities via MFF and TTM. Miami Dade College students were invited free-of-charge, simply by showing their current MDC ID card, to all Master Classes and Seminars that took place during the Festival dates. Through our Faculty distribution program and via activation through the 8 Student Life centers at each MDC campus, the Festival provided MDC students with an additional 1,227 complimentary tickets to film screenings of their own choice.
For the ninth year, the Festival’s all-Miami-film-student short film competition “Cinemaslam” was held, and two of MDC’s School of Entertainment, Design & Technology (SEDT) student films were chosen as finalists, each winning several prizes, including the top award. In 2019, a new addition to the program was the introduction of Works in Progress grants for films that made use of archival footage from the Wolfson Moving Images Archive, and two MDC students received cash grants toward completion of their projects.
Miami Film Festival brought visiting filmmakers to the North Campus’ School of Entertainment & Design Technology for special class visits and guest lectures, including Spanish filmmakers Celia Rico Clavellino (*Journey to a Mother’s Room*) and Amanda Sans (*Last Street*).

For the third consecutive year, SEDT offered a first-time Film Festival Experience class where 22 students studied the film festival industry, including hands-on experience at Miami Film Festival via first-tier volunteer and internship opportunities.
WORLD IMPACT

MIAMI FILM FESTIVAL AND TOWER THEATER
MIAMI RECEIVED OVER 600 MILLION COMBINED WORLDWIDE PRESS AND ADVERTISING IMPRESSIONS.

The Festival and Theater have been covered by national outlets such as The Hollywood Reporter, Forbes, CNN Español and more.
THIS YEAR, MFF PARTNERED WITH VARIETY TO HOST THE 10 LATINXxs TO WATCH BRUNCH

honoring promising talent in the Latino community. The celebration included a panel discussion featuring individuals from the 10 Latinxs to Watch list including writer-director Jayro Bustamante; horror filmmaker Gigi Saul Guerrero; filmmaker Lila Aviles; actor Daniel Zovatto; and actor Marcel Ruiz.
MFF WELCOMED MANY WORLD-RENOWNED GUESTS

including Academy Award winner Barry Jenkins, actor Luis Guzmán, actress Jackie Cruz and Academy Award nominee Patricia Clarkson who was honored with the Festival’s prestigious Precious Gem Award in recognition of her incredible acting achievements.
2018-19 proved noteworthy in several aspects. The College interfaced daily with the South Florida public via acclaimed programming at Tower Theater Miami (TTM), to the degree that the theater’s box office revenues were the highest of any independent art cinema in Miami-Dade for the fourth consecutive year.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As a cornerstone of the vibrant rejuvenation of the Little Havana business district on Calle Ocho, the College’s TTM has been transformed into a vibrant and lively social space, anchored by the top international cinema of the year and a multitude of community events and programming.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Miami Film Festival (MFF) continued to distinguish the College’s presence in the flourishing film scene in Miami with an outstanding season of interaction and support for Miami’s young and emerging creatives. In May, a theatrical premiere of the first two episodes of a major Miami-created and filmed web series “Grown” (created for COMPLEX network) was hosted by MFF.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In December, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced a new five-year grant of $775,000 to MFF to support the continuation of its Made in MIA Award, with a major increase in cash awards directly to artists through a MFF juried annual process. Most impressive of all, MFF launched a new program in March, Knight Heroes, bringing together an audience of more than 750 for an educational and revealing look at the creative philosophy, path and process of three creatives with particular resonance to the Miami film community – Miami native and Academy Award winner Barry Jenkins (Moonlight), award winning independent artist Boots Riley, and screenwriter Aaron Stewart-Ahn.
DIVINE LOVE, directed by Gabriel Mascaro