

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792717403321
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Titolo	Activist film festivals : towards a political subject / / Sonia Tascon and Tyson Wils
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bristol, [England] ; ; Chicago, [Illinois] : , : Intellect, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	1-78320-636-5 1-78320-635-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (258 pages) : illustrations, tables
Disciplina	791.43658
Soggetti	Politics in motion pictures Political participation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	; Section 1: Film festivals as platform. Watching others' troubles : revisiting "the film act" and spectatorship in activist film festivals / Sonia Tascon ; Off-screen activism and the documentary film screening / Lyell Davies ; ITVS (Independent Television Service) community cinema : state sponsored documentary film festivals, community engagement and pedagogy / Tomas F. Crowder-Taraborrelli and Kristi Wilson -- ; Section 2: Contextual and institutional forces. The revolution will not be festivalized : documentary film festivals and activism / Ezra Winton and Svetla Turnin ; Human rights film festivals : different approaches to change the world / Matthea de Jong and Daan Bronkhorst ; Refusal to know the place of human rights : dissensus and the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival / Tyson Wils -- ; National and regional perspectives. Bristol Palestine Film Festival : engaging the inactive, the aroused and the aware / David Owen ; Reframing the margin : regional film festivals in India, a case study of the cinema of resistance / Shweta Kishore ; "It's not just about the films" : activist film festivals in post-new order Indonesia / Alexandra Crosby -- ; Identity politics. ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival : collaborative criticism through curatorship / Davinia Thornley ; Disability film festivals : biological identity(ies) and heterotopia / Ana Cristina Bohrer Gilbert ; "Would you like politics with that?" : queer film festival

Sommario/riassunto

Film festivals are an ever-growing part of the film industry, but most considerations of them focus almost entirely on their role in the business of filmmaking. This book breaks new ground by bringing scholars from a range of disciplines together with industry professionals to explore the concept of festivals as spaces through an activist lens, as spaces where the sociopolitical identities of communities and individuals are confronted and shaped. Tracing the growth of activist and human rights-focused films from the 1970s to the present, and using case studies from San Francisco, Brazil, Bristol, and elsewhere, the book addresses such contentious topics as whether activist films can achieve humanitarian aims or simply offer "cinema of suffering." Ultimately, the contributors attack the question of just how effective festivals are at producing politically engaged spectators?