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Frisbee fun at the Dogwood Festival



**BEST ARTS FESTIVAL**  
**THE DOGWOOD FESTIVAL**

**THE LOWDOWN:** After being banished to the Lennox Square parking lot in 2008, the Atlanta Dogwood Festival was happy to return to Piedmont Park for its 73rd anniversary this year (dogwoods must not like asphalt). Atlanta's premier rite of spring brings out sculptors, painters and musicians alike, and packs the whole thing into one weekend, coinciding with the blooming of the dogwood blossoms.

**THE BASICS:** [www.dogwood.org](http://www.dogwood.org)  
**THE RUNNER-UP:** Inman Park Festival

**BEST FILM FESTIVAL**  
**THE ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL**

**THE LOWDOWN:** Atlanta's signature film event has been bringing some of cinema's most exciting voices to town since 1977, with screenings, workshops, panels, readings and parties. Having screened early films by Steven Spielberg, Victor Nunez and Spike Lee alongside works by fresh faces, the festival aims to build a strong independent media arts community.

**THE BASICS:** [www.atlantafilmfestival.com](http://www.atlantafilmfestival.com)  
**THE RUNNER-UP:** Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

**BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
**THE ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL**

**THE LOWDOWN:** Nearing its 32nd year, this city favorite has expanded despite budget cuts and a floundering economy. Showcasing legends and up-and-coming acts to diehard fans and new ears alike, the month-long festival celebrates jazz with live music, food and other events, culminating in a three-day blowout over Memorial Day Weekend.

**THE BASICS:** Various venues through May 31. [www.atlantafestivals.com](http://www.atlantafestivals.com)  
**THE RUNNER-UP:** Dogwood Festival  
**OUR FAVORITE ANSWER:** Music Midtown (We know how you feel, brother.)



**BEST LOCAL MAGAZINE**  
**ATLANTA MAGAZINE**

**THE LOWDOWN:** Consistent, comprehensive and always raising the bar for local journalism, Atlanta Magazine employs some of the greatest editors, writers, photographers and designers (er, after The Sunday Paper, of course). But seriously, the staff puts out a stellar read month after month, year after year, and we applaud them for it.

**OUR FAVORITE ANSWER:** The Sunday Paper (naturally)

**THE BASICS:** On newsstands everywhere. [www.atlantamagazine.com](http://www.atlantamagazine.com)  
**THE RUNNER-UP:** The Atlantan