

Submission guidelines for the Malta Short Film Festival



The Malta Short Film Festival

Fifth edition

July- September 2013

Submission guidelines

The Malta Short Film Festival will once again be held between July and September in conjunction with PBS Ltd, which manages TVM, Malta's national television station. The Malta Film Foundation will be the entity responsible for the production of the festival. Each film that passes to the official selection will be shown in its entirety on television and online, and discussed by a panel of judges. Trophies will be awarded to various filmmakers during the final event ceremony.

Eligibility

In order for a submission to be eligible, it should have the appropriate:

1. quality, theme and technique
2. language
3. duration

Genre

The festival is open to all short films including animation, drama, thriller and documentaries. Adverts, music video and/or Public Service Announcement are also accepted.

Applicant/s

The primary contact completing the submission process must be authorized to submit the film for consideration including permission from a distributor or sales agent representing the film and must have obtained necessary permissions for the inclusion of copyrighted music, names and/or images within the film. In certain cases, there might be more than one person who would like to submit their work and in this case, they must submit a joint application. It is essential that the application is filled with the correct spelling. The

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producers cannot be held responsible if there are errors on the application or if they do not match the spelling used in the titles of the film.

Duration

The maximum duration of the films is 15 minutes including the credits. There is no minimum duration.

Country of origin

The films can originate from any country in the world.

Language

If the original language of any dialogue or text featured in the film is not English, the preview and screening copy must be subtitled or dubbed in English. The title of the film can be kept in the original language, however this has to be subtitled in English.

Synopsis

A synopsis of the film, including the genre/s the applicant feels it falls into must be clearly stated. Credits should also be presented in a printed format.

Repeat entries

Submissions can also include films which have already participated in other festivals, however this will not be mentioned when the film is screened or streamed. Filmmakers who have participated previously in the festival can participate with new projects, but cannot submit the same film twice.

Publicity

In addition to the reproduction of stills and clips of selected films and/or trailer/s for all publicity material, both print, television and the web, excerpts of films may be used for all promotional material. The festival also reserves non-exclusive rights to show your film free-of-charge online on the festival website. The festival will publish the email and telephone number for the primary contact and distributor on the festival website of all films selected for the programme. The producers may use stills, synopsis and/or trailer of each submission on social network sites to create interest in the festival.

Selection and notification

Successful entrants will be notified in writing first via electronic mail. The complete list will also be posted on our website www.maltashortfilmfest.com. The festival cannot enter into individual correspondence regarding films that have not been selected. Those films

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which are chosen to participate in the festival will be aired on TVM, Malta's national television station and online.

Voting

The judges will state their views of the film during the television programme and give a vote for each film. The public will also be able to vote on a weekly basis. These votes will be combined to give a final placing for each film. There will also be categories which will be decided by public vote. Voters from Malta can vote via SMS, whilst international voters can cast their vote via email vote@maltashortfilmfest.com. There will also be a category Online Poll Award, where voting will take place via the festival website www.maltashortfilmfest.com and this will be open to the international public.

Festival producers' rights

1. An eliminator phase will be organized if more entries are received than required for the television series.
2. The producers reserve the right to air the films in the sequence they see fit.
3. The producers reserve the right to use the films in their entirety, or parts of for promotional purposes and to stream on websites promoting the series, even when the series has officially been terminated.
4. TVM, the broadcasting station, has the right to re-run the series for an indefinite period. The festival's website www.maltashortfilmfest.com may keep the films online for an indefinite period. TVM may also stream the festival on www.tvm.com.mt or youtube.
5. The producers reserve the right to link their website to other websites for promotional purposes.
6. The producers may increase or decrease the number of trophies awarded according to the type of submissions chosen for the official selection.
7. The producers reserve the right to hold a 3 day festival where the winning films are shown in their entirety. In this case, the applicant will be informed in writing.

Submission procedure

Signed entry forms should be submitted with 4 preview copies of the film together with promotional stills. Stills can be sent via email and CD. Confirmation of receipt will be sent to all applicants. A minimum of 6 stills should accompany each submission. Trailers of the film are most welcome.

Stills specifications

File Format : Jpeg

DPI: (Dots Per Inch): Minimum 300

Image Size (Festival Brochure and Website Campaign): Minimum 5cm width

Image size (inclusion in press campaign) minimum 15cm width

No jpegs compressed from other websites

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Submission Formats

Submissions must be sent for pre-selection on one of the following media/formats:

- DVD
- Mini-DV and miniDVcam tapes
- Data upload

All submissions should be in NTSC or PAL format. Herunder the specifications for data upload sent submissions:

Encoder: H.264

Format: NTSC/ PAL

Frame Width & Height: 1080p (1920 x 1080) Full HD

Frame Rate: 25fps

Field Order: Progressive

Pixel Aspect Ratio: Square Pixel

Audio: Stereo

Files must be higher than 1GB and lower than 2GB.

Can be send using We Transfer, Yousendit, Drop box or any other large format digital tranfer service.

All submissions shall be retained by the Festival Organizers for archive purposes, and will not be returned.

Closing date

The closing date of submissions is Friday 31st May 2013.

Trophies awarded

Each year the committee decides which categories to award, depending on the type and quality of submissions received. The following are the categories for 2013.

Best script

Best local animation

Best international animation

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Best comedy
Best documentary
Best music video
Best public service announcement
Best cinematography
Best use of sound
Best actor
Best local young director
Local jury award
Foreign jury award
Most original concept
Best editing
Best local director
Best international director
Best horror film
Best production design
Viewers' choice award
Online Poll award
Best Picture

Postal address

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