

# **WTF Film Festival**

## **General Policies and Guidelines**

### **General Management of WTF Film Festival**

A festival committee is formed each year. The committee consists of:

- Festival Director,
- Assistant Festival Director,
- Committee Members.

During the normal administration and management of the WTF Festival, committee members are allocated particular roles.

### **Fee Waivers**

As a general principle, WTF do not offer or provide fee waivers for filmmakers wishing to submit to the festival. This includes emails received from filmmakers, specifically requesting a fee waiver.

The final decision relating to any fee waiver rests solely with the WTF Committee.

### **Invitation to Filmmakers to Submit**

The decision to invite filmmakers to submit films rests with the WFFF Committee. This may involve offering a full, or part fee waiver.

Any decision to invite a film to the WFFF film festival will be based on the committee's assessment of all, or any of the following:

- The film matches the general standard of the WFFF,
- The film brings an element of prestige to the festival. I.e. A well known cast or crew member.
- The film has previously won a major festival award.
- Recognises that there is an emerging filmmaker, particularly locally.
- Identifies a film produced through great hardship, deserving of support and encouragement.

### **Submissions Rules**

Films in physical format are not accepted into the WTF Film Festival. This includes DVD's, USB stick, hard drives or any form of physical format **unless** first receiving permission from the festival director. All films must be submitted electronically.

For full details of submission rules, refer to WTF website.

### **Judging Process**

WTF Judges will be allocated specific categories to judge. Assessments of all films should be returned by the festival submission closing date.

Due to the work associated with judging, as a general guide, each judge will be allocated two submission categories. Judges can be allocated more categories if requested.

Judges will assess each film, using the scoring table supplied by Film Freeway, and in certain categories, modified by WTF for categories that have specific requirements. These include:

- Uniquely Canberra District
- Female Filmmakers
- Age specific Films (12 to 16 years and Under 18 Years)
- Student Films
- Inaugural Filmmakers
- Stage to Screen

Those categories with specific requirements, will be checked by the Festival Director when judging is completed, allowing judges to focus on technical and artistic assessment of the films.

### **Award Selection**

#### ***Best in Category***

Following the receipt of all judging assessments, the festival director will identify the films receiving the highest scores. The film with the highest score will be awarded Best in Category.

#### ***Best in category Tie***

In the event of two, or more films with a tied score, two other judges will be asked to view and assess the two films. The film with the highest score will be declared the Best in Category.

In the unlikely event that a film's score is still tied with another film, the WTF Committee will make the decision on Best in Category, and may award a joint award.

### **Best In Festival**

Following the selection of the best film in each category, those winning films will be forwarded to the entire judging panel. Each judge will be asked to judge the film.

The film with the highest accumulation of judging points, will be awarded Best Film in Festival.

In the unlikely event that a film's score is tied with another, the WTF will make the final decision through a voting process.

The Festival Director will abstain from this voting process and have the final vote on any deadlocks.

### **People's Choice Award**

The People's Choice Award is decided upon through an audience ballot process. WTF has implemented a voting process to be used in the 2024 festival and beyond, which is structured to ensure the award maintains its integrity.

The voting process is as follows:

- A ballot paper is attached to the festival ticket at the time of purchase,
- Only one ballot per ticket is issued,
- Voting takes place at the festival,
- A ballot box will be available for people to put their voting paper in,
- The ballot box will be supervised by a festival committee member, or festival volunteer,

- The ballot supervisor will be responsible for tallying votes when voting closes,
- Other committee members, or festival volunteers will assist in the tallying process to ensure accountability and accuracy.

In the unlikely event of a tie, both filmmakers will be awarded the People’s Choice Award.

**Other Awards**

WTFF Judges will also submit nominations for the following awards:

- Best Actress Under 18 Years
- Best Actor Under 18 Years
- Best Actress
- Best Actor
- Best Director
- Best Cinematography
- Emerging Filmmaker

Awards will be initially decided through the number of nominations a film, or a cast/crew member has received. If there is a clear winner, that film, cast or crew member will be receiving the nominated award.

In the event of equal number of nominations, the WTFF Committee will decide on the winner.

The Festival Director will abstain from this voting process and have the final vote on any deadlocks.

**Joint Awards**

As a general rule, WTFF will avoid joint awards through the selection processes (outlined above). This does not preclude the WTFF Committee from declaring a joint award.

**Scheduling**

Submission dates and entry costs (2024 Festival).

<b>SUBMISSION DATES</b>	<b>EARLY BIRD</b>	<b>REGULAR</b>	<b>LATE</b>
<b>Submission Open</b>	1 March	30 April	25 August
<b>Submission Close</b>	30 April	25 August	15 September
<b>ENTRY FEES</b>			
<b>Junior 12 to 16 years</b>	\$10	\$15	\$20
<b>Under 18 years</b>	\$15	\$20	\$25
<b>Open Student</b>	\$15	\$20	\$25
<b>Uniquely Canberra District</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35
<b>Open Up to 10 Minutes</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35
<b>Open Up to 20 Minutes</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35
<b>Female Filmmakers</b>	\$15	\$20	\$25

<b>Sci-Fi</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35
<b>Horror</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35
<b>Documentary</b>	\$15	\$20	\$30
<b>Inaugural Entrants</b>	No entry fee	No entry fee	No entry fee
<b>Canberra District Documentary</b>	\$10	\$15	\$20
<b>Music Video</b>	\$15	\$20	\$30
<b>Stage to Screen</b>	\$15	\$25	\$35

The festival director will be responsible for all scheduling. This will be carried out through the following process:

- After judging of all submissions has been completed, a list of films from the highest scored to the lowest will be compiled,
- Films chosen as Not Selected by the judges, will be eliminated from that list,
- An assessment of the time allocated to the particular screening will be made,
- A calculation will be used, identifying how many films can be screened within the allocated screening time.
- Films chosen for screening will be the Official Selections at the festival.

It should be noted that submissions to the festival fluctuate across the various categories with some categories receiving a lot more entries than others. This provides an opportunity to select more films for screening, particularly from those heavily entered categories.

The WFFF reserves the right to change, or amend the schedule to accommodate the screening of additional films.

#### **Judges or Committee Members Submitting Films**

As a general rule, WFFF judges or committee members are not permitted to submit a film into the WFFF. The film is not entered into a category that the Judge is involved in.

Upon receiving a film submitted by a judge, the Festival Director will:

- Notify the committee,
- Assess any potential for a conflict of interest and report any issues to the WFFF committee,
- Ensure that the judging panel is not connected with any part of the submitted film, including cast, crew, writing or any form of production associated with the making of the film.
- Remove judges' details to ensure anonymity.

The WFFF will make the final decision as to whether to accept the submission.

#### ***Submissions from WFFF Committee Members***

The Festival Director cannot enter a film into the WFFF.

