



## Edinburgh International Film Festival 2020 Open Submissions Rules & Regulations

### THE FESTIVAL

As the longest continually running film festival in the world, EIFF is now preparing its 74<sup>th</sup> edition which will take place in Edinburgh from 17 to 28 June 2020.

Since 1947, the Festival has brought ground-breaking, exciting and original films from all over the world to enthusiastic and engaged UK audiences and a wide variety of press and industry guests and delegates. EIFF seeks to discover and present the most creative and innovative developments in world cinema, bring filmmakers to local, national and international attention, and provide a dynamic and responsive platform for engagement with them and their work.

EIFF is especially interested in films by emerging filmmakers whose work manifests stylistic boldness, strength of form, and the ambition to use the medium in a way that resists cliché.

### THE RULES

- All submitted films should be no more than 12 months old by June 2020 and meet with the selection criteria as described below.
- EIFF regards a short film as 30 minutes or under and a feature film as anything over 30 minutes.
- Films that are available to purchase are not eligible. This includes DVD/Blu-ray/online digital download formats.
- Promotional films are not eligible (e.g. films promoting tourism, charitable appeals, etc.).

Different genres and lengths of film have different **PREMIERE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### FEATURES

- **ALL** Feature Films (Fiction, Documentary, Animation and Experimental) must be **UK PREMIERES**. EIFF is particularly interested in world, international or European premieres, and first or second features. Feature films that have previously been publicly screened, broadcast or otherwise made publicly available (including online) in the UK will not be considered.

#### SHORTS

Short **FICTION**, **DOCUMENTARY** and **EXPERIMENTAL** submissions are split into UK and International categories - different premiere rules apply to different categories:

- **UK** Short Fiction, Documentary and Experimental Films must be **SCOTTISH**

**PREMIERES.** EIFF is particularly interested in world, international, European or UK premieres. These films may have previously been publicly screened anywhere outside of Scotland, including the rest of the UK. However, we are unable to accept films that have previously been broadcast or otherwise made publicly available (including online) in the UK.

- **INTERNATIONAL** Short Fiction, Documentary and Experimental Films must be **UK PREMIERES.** EIFF is particularly interested in world, international or European premieres. These films **CANNOT** have previously been publicly screened, broadcast or otherwise made publicly available (including online) in the UK.

Short **ANIMATION** submissions are split into UK and International:

- **UK** Short Animations have **NO premiere restrictions.** Films **CAN** have previously been publicly screened, broadcast or otherwise made publicly available (including online) in the UK.
- **INTERNATIONAL** Short Animations must be **UK PREMIERES.** EIFF is particularly interested in world, international or European premieres. These films **CANNOT** have previously been publicly screened, broadcast or otherwise made publicly available (including online) in the UK.

**PLEASE NOTE** - your fee is non-refundable. If your film does not match the criteria listed above and you still submit your film, we will not consider your film and will not refund your fee.

*The final selection of all films presented at the Festival and their placement in the EIFF programme is at the discretion of the Artistic Director.*

## **AWARDS**

The following awards will be given at the 74<sup>th</sup> Edinburgh International Film Festival.

### **FEATURE FILM AWARDS**

#### **The Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature Film**

Named in homage to one of the most original and imaginative artists in the history of British cinema, with a career spanning 60 years, the Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature was inaugurated at EIFF in 1990 to honour imagination and creativity in British filmmaking and is regarded as a mark of prestige both within and outside the UK film industry.

The award, which carries a cash prize, is open to new British feature fiction films, and will be decided by a jury of respected film professionals.

#### **The Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film**

Judged by the Michael Powell Award Competition Jury, the Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film celebrates and promotes the great tradition of the art of film performance in the UK.

#### **The Award for Best International Feature Film**

EIFF seeks to represent global trends in cinema by introducing important new films and new filmmaking directions. The Award for Best International Feature Film highlights filmmaking from outside the UK that is imaginative, innovative and deserving of wider recognition.

The award, which carries a cash prize, is open to first and second live-action feature fiction films from any country outside of the UK and will be decided by a jury of respected film professionals.

#### **The Award for Best Documentary Feature Film**

EIFF began life in 1947 as the First International Festival of Documentary Films and is dedicated to presenting the best new documentary work to its audiences. The Award for Best Documentary Feature Film highlights bold and inquisitive documentary filmmaking from around the world.

The award, which carries a cash prize, is open to first and second documentary feature films from all countries and will be decided by a jury of respected film professionals.

#### **The Audience Award**

EIFF's Audience Award is one of the Festival's most popular awards with the public, filmmakers and distributors alike. The award is voted for by cinema-goers attending public screenings. Eligible films are selected from across the EIFF programme by the Artistic Director.

## **SHORT FILM AWARDS**

### **The Award for Best Short Film**

The Award for Best Short Film affirms EIFF's long-standing support of directors of short films and is intended both to recognise the outstanding achievements possible within the short format and to offer encouragement for the feature filmmakers of the future.

The award, which carries a cash prize, is open to short-form, live-action fiction, documentary, experimental and animated films and will be decided by a jury of respected film professionals.

### **The McLaren Award for New British Animation**

Inaugurated in 1990, the McLaren Award for New British Animation provides a focus for new British short animation and recognises the spirit of creativity.

The award, named in honour of Norman McLaren, the renowned Scottish-born animator and innovator, is decided by audience vote.

## THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

### DEADLINES & FEES

Final deadline for receipt of submissions is **Thursday 6 February 2020**.

There are three submissions deadlines:

EARLYBIRD - **Thursday 12 December 2019**  
                  **SHORT - £20.00 / FEATURE - £75.00**  
REGULAR - **Thursday 16 January 2020**  
                  **SHORT - £30.00 / FEATURE - £85.00**  
LATE - **Thursday 6 February 2020**  
                  **SHORT - £35.00 / FEATURE - £90.00**

If submitting a Secure Online Screener via FilmFreeway, these are the deadlines for submitting to the Festival via the online system.

If you are submitting a DVD screener, these are POSTMARK deadlines and reflect the date **by which you must send your submission**. However, please send your submission as soon as possible.

**Please make sure you submit the correct fee for your submission.**

### HOW TO SUBMIT

#### FilmFreeway

EIFF is a partner of FilmFreeway. The direct link to the EIFF FilmFreeway submissions page is:

[www.filmfreeway.com/EdinburghInternationalFilmFestival](http://www.filmfreeway.com/EdinburghInternationalFilmFestival)

Log on to the website, set up an account or log in to your existing account, and submit your film to EIFF directly via the website. Your fee will be taken online.

FilmFreeway allows you to either submit a Secure Online Screener or a DVD screener.

If you are submitting a Secure Online Screener, FilmFreeway will instruct you on how to upload your film onto their viewing system and EIFF programmers will watch via their online viewing platform. Please log in to your FilmFreeway account and follow the instructions on how to upload your screener at submit to EIFF.

If you are submitting a DVD screener then, once submitted, all you need to do is send us the DVD of your film. We will obtain all other information from the FilmFreeway system. Please clearly mark your FilmFreeway tracking number on both the DVD and the outer envelope and packaging.

#### EIFF Submissions Form

You can download an EIFF Submissions Form directly from the EIFF website:  
[www.edfilmfest.org.uk/submissions](http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk/submissions)

Complete this form and send it to us together with a secure online screening link OR a DVD and payment method.

### **PAYMENT METHODS**

Payment must be made in **POUNDS STERLING** only. Please note that if you pay by credit card the exchange rates are determined on the date of the transaction.

If you submit via FilmFreeway you will be asked to pay by credit or debit card.

If you submit using our downloadable EIFF Submissions Form you can pay by credit card, debit card or cheque. ALL payments must be in pounds sterling.

The submission fee is non-refundable and we are unable to offer fee waivers.

PLEASE NOTE: we **DO NOT** accept American Express or cash payments.

### **HOW TO SEND YOUR SUBMISSION**

#### **Secure Online Screener**

If you are submitting a **Secure Online Screener via FilmFreeway**, FilmFreeway will instruct you on how to upload your film onto their viewing system and EIFF programmers will watch via their online viewing platform. You do not need to send us anything.

If you are sending us a **Secure Online Screener directly** please send us the weblink and password details along with a **completed EIFF Submissions Form**. Please ensure your screener plays fully, and please ensure your password stays active until the end of April.

#### **DVD Screener**

While we prefer online screening links, we are happy to accept DVD screeners. If you are submitting a DVD screener, please note that we accept DVD Pal or DVD NTSC. Please also note we cannot return DVD screeners.

**If you have completed your submissions application online through FilmFreeway all we need from you is a DVD screener of your film.** Please clearly mark the film's title and tracking number on the disc as below, but please do not use DVD labels. Please also include the tracking number on the front of the envelope.



If you have completed the downloadable EIFF Submissions Form from our website, please send the completed form together with the DVD screener of your film. No tracking number is required.

**Multiple submissions:** please note we can only accept one film per DVD. We cannot accept several films on one DVD.

In an effort to cut down waste and to comply with our environmental policy, we ask that you **do not** send printed press or promotional materials to us - we will not keep anything in your package except your DVD (and submission form if applicable). Even the case will be recycled, so there is no need to create artwork for your DVD.

ALL DVD screener submissions should be sent to:  
Submissions Coordinator  
Edinburgh International Film Festival  
88 Lothian Road  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9BZ  
Scotland, UK

**PLEASE NOTE:** All international submissions must include the wording “Trade Sample” on any customs label. For customs purposes all international submissions are required to give a value of no more than £3 or US\$6 to the package. Failure to do this may result in an extra charge and your film not being considered for EIFF. **EIFF DOES NOT PAY THE COST OF POSTAGE OR CARRIAGE FOR DVD SCREENERS - YOU MUST PAY FOR THIS YOURSELF.**

#### **RECEIPT OF SUBMISSION**

After we have processed your submission a confirmation email will be sent to you. Those who submit via FilmFreeway can check the status of their submission through the website. Alternatively, if sending a DVD by post, you may also include a self-addressed, stamped postcard, which we will mail back to you once your submission has been processed.

**Please allow at least four weeks for your submission to be processed and confirmation to be sent.**

Please note that we are unable to provide refunds on submission fees. It is the filmmakers’ responsibility to ensure that the submitted film meets the eligibility criteria. If a film becomes ineligible after it has been submitted, while we would be grateful if you let us know, we are unable to provide refunds for films already submitted.

#### **ROUGH CUTS / WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Our programmers are happy to consider rough cuts and will judge the film accordingly. We will not reject any film on the basis of being incomplete, however you should be confident that your film will be complete well in advance of the start of the Festival. Please note that due to the large volume of titles we receive, we cannot guarantee that programmers will be able to watch the completed film at a later date. Please consider

this before submitting the rough cut and aim to have your final cut ready and submitted by our LATE deadline.

When submitting a rough cut, please provide details of the elements of your film still to be completed (e.g. colour grade, sound mix, VFX etc).

### **PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED**

EIFF will only consider a previously submitted film if it has been considerably re-edited or re-shot. If you are unsure, it probably means it hasn't been changed enough. Please include a cover letter with details of the changes made to the film since its previous submission. If we already viewed your film as a rough cut in the preceding year, we normally will not consider it for the current year.

### **TECHNICAL PROBLEMS**

If your Secure Online Screener or DVD does not work we will contact you and request another screener. However, in this case there is a risk that we will not receive the working copy in time to view, and screeners that do play properly will get priority viewing. If submitting a Secure Online Screener please ensure that it plays fully before submitting. If submitting a DVD please make sure it is the correct format (see above) and plays all the way through before submitting. If your disc is damaged in the post we will contact you for a replacement.

### **SUBTITLES**

If your film contains non-English dialogue, we require that you include on-screen English subtitles. If your film is mostly in English and you are intentionally leaving out subtitles for non-English dialogue, you do not need to provide on-screen subtitles.

### **CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS**

Please make sure that you inform us of any changes to your contact details by emailing [submissions@edfilmfest.org.uk](mailto:submissions@edfilmfest.org.uk).

Email is the main form of communication used by the EIFF Submissions team. It is vital that we have the correct information should we require to contact you about your submission.

### **SCREENING FORMATS**

EIFF is proud to be able to support a wide variety of screening formats and always screens at the optimum possible format for each film. Should your film be accepted for our official selection, screening formats will be discussed with you by our Programme Planning team. We screen from a wide variety of formats and always to the highest technical standards.

### **SUBMISSIONS BY ORGANISATIONS**

We are happy to accept submissions from official or professional national organisations.



National film agencies and institutes or film schools submitting multiple films may contact the Submissions team by email to discuss fees for multiple submissions.

### **SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSIONS**

If your submission is successful you will be notified by invitation by the end of **April 2020** and our official Entry Form and Screening Guidelines will be sent to you for completion and return. All information with regard to press and industry viewing permissions will be included in the Entry Form and Screening Guidelines. Please pay particular attention to the shipping and customs information that will also be sent to you at that time.

Please note EIFF **DOES NOT** pay screening fees.

### **UNSUCCESSFUL SUBMISSIONS**

If your submission is unsuccessful, we will inform you by email as soon as possible and no later than early May 2020.

Please note that due to the amount of submissions that we receive, EIFF is unable to provide comments or feedback for any films not selected for the programme.

### **AGREEMENT**

Submission to EIFF constitutes agreement to all rules, regulations and conditions contained in this document and your consent that your film be considered for any awards that may be given at the Festival. Submission also certifies that all film and music rights and clearances have been obtained (in accordance with UK copyright laws). By submitting, you agree not to withdraw your film from EIFF after it has been accepted by the EIFF selection board.

#### **Correspondence Address:**

Submissions Coordinator  
Edinburgh International Film Festival  
88 Lothian Road  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9BZ  
Scotland, UK

Tel: (Int.+44) 131 228 4051

Fax: (Int.+44) 131 221 5501

Email: [submissions@edfilmfest.org.uk](mailto:submissions@edfilmfest.org.uk)

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