

2018 HEARTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Submission Rules & Regulations



About the Festival

The Heartland International Film Festival serves to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. The 27th annual Heartland International Film Festival will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, October 11-21, 2018. Filmmakers participating in the Festival attend numerous screenings of their films and other special events designed to allow interaction between filmmakers and audiences.

Categories

Heartland International Film Festival selects and organizes films in three categories:

- **Narrative Feature**
 - » Dramatic or comedic narratives; live-action or animated.
 - » Running time of more than 40 minutes.
 - » Narrative Features with their U.S. or World premiere may be eligible for “Best Premiere” awards.
 - » Total of 5 Finalists will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other Narrative Features will be featured as Official Selections or Special Presentations. Finalists and Official Selections will be eligible for Audience Choice Awards, the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award, and Social Impact Awards.
- **Documentary Feature**
 - » Nonfiction films; animated or live-action.
 - » Running time of more than 40 minutes.
 - » Documentary Features with their U.S. or World premiere may be eligible for “Best Premiere” awards.
 - » Total of 5 Finalists will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other Documentary Features will be featured as Official Selections or Special Presentations. Finalists and Official Selections will be eligible for Audience Choice Awards, the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award, and Social Impact Awards.
- **Indiana Spotlight Competition**
 - » Narrative or documentary; live-action or animated with a running time of more than 40 minutes.
 - » Must meet two of the following three criteria for eligibility:
 - » Director is a current Indiana resident or native.
 - » Producer/executive producer/writer is a current Indiana resident or Indiana native.
 - » At least 65% of the film was shot in Indiana.
 - » Total number of category films to be determined to compete for one Grand Prize. Films in this category will be featured as Indiana Spotlight Program Selections and are eligible for Audience Choice Awards.

Selection Criteria

Each submitted film goes through an involved judging process, and is screened in its entirety by at least one member of the selection committee. Selected films could eventually be seen more than six times by members of the screening committees, programming staff, and juries.

Films submitted to Heartland International Film Festival are judged on their overall artistic and technical quality. Additionally, each film must be engaging and entertaining, but do more than simply entertain. Selected films have a transformative power that impacts audiences by educating, inspiring, challenging or shifting perspectives - ultimately Heartland International Film Festival programs story-driven films that do much more than entertain.

Finalists/Official Selections

Films are ultimately chosen as either **Finalists**, which remain in competition for the Grand Prizes, or **Official Selections**, which screen out of competition for the Grand Prizes. Finalists are still eligible for other prizes, such as the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Awards, Best Premieres, Social Impact Awards, and Audience Choice.

All submitted films that meet the below eligibility requirements are considered “in competition” for Heartland International Film Festival Finalists at the time of submission. In September, 2018, Finalists are publicly announced. Only Finalists are eligible for the Grand Prize in each category. Grand Prize winners are announced at the Heartland International Film Festival Awards Party on Saturday, October 20, 2018. Filmmakers must be present to win.

Films that are not selected by our juries as Finalists may be invited to screen as “Official Selections” and are eligible for the Audience Choice Awards, the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award, and Social Impact Awards. Official Selections are not in competition for Festival Awards/Grand Prizes.

Other films may be invited to screen at the Festival as a “Special Presentation” or in a “To Be Announced” time slot; these may be eligible for the Audience Choice Award depending on when the films are scheduled.

Finalist films will be programmed to screen up to four times during the Festival. Official Selections will screen up to three times.

Notification

Filmmakers (producer or director) for films selected to be Finalists will be notified by no later than August 15, 2018. All other filmmakers will be notified by email shortly thereafter. Official Selections and Finalists will be publicly announced in September, 2018, and Heartland International Film Festival reserves the right to release basic information about selected films as early as May.

Awards & Prizes

Heartland International Film Festival presents a variety of awards to selected filmmakers. Winners of the 2018 Awards are announced on October 20, 2018. A director or producer of each winning film must be present at the Festival from October 18-21 (as described below) in order to receive their cash prize. The awards are adjudicated by juries comprised of individuals from the scholarly film community and previous Heartland Film Festival filmmakers. The awards are given as follows:

- **Five Narrative Features** are selected as Heartland International Film Festival Finalists, announced prior to the Festival
 - » One of the five Finalists receives the \$25,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature, and is announced at the Awards Party during the Festival, with the four non-winners receiving \$1,000 each.

- **Five Documentary Features** are selected as Heartland Int'l Film Festival Finalists, announced prior to the Festival
 - » One of the five Finalists receives the \$25,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature, and is announced at the Awards Party during the Festival, with the four non-winners receiving \$1,000 each.
- **The Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award** will include a \$5,000 cash prize for a single winner. The winning film will best embody the ongoing legacy of actor and national hero Jimmy Stewart and will demonstrate the triumph of the human spirit through determination and the defiance of odds, humble vulnerability, and courage in the face of adversity. Finalist and Official Selection titles are eligible.
- **U.S. or World Premiere Awards** will be selected from Finalist and Official Selection titles with their premieres at the 2018 Heartland International Film Festival with two awards given as described below:
 - » Best Narrative Feature Premiere and a cash award of \$3,500
 - » Best Documentary Feature Premiere and a cash award of \$3,500
- **Social Impact Awards** will honor films (Finalists or Official Selections) that showcase stories centered on the fight for equality, justice, or feature stories/subjects that have made an impact on society. Two awards will be given:
 - » Social Impact Award, Narrative Feature and a cash award of \$2,500
 - » Social Impact Award, Documentary Feature and a cash award of \$2,500
- **Indiana Spotlight:** one film from any category that qualifies as an Indiana Spotlight selection will be selected winner of the Indiana Spotlight competition.
 - » The winner will receive a \$2,500 cash award.

One filmmaker (director or producer) from each film selected as Finalist must be present at the Festival to receive his/her award. The Finalists will be revealed prior to the Festival at the Heartland International Film Festival Announcement Party on September 13, 2018. The Grand Prize award winners will be revealed during the Festival's Awards Party on Friday, October 20, 2018. A completed tax form W-9 (W-8 BEN for non-US residents) is required for any filmmaker collecting a cash prize.

There will also be one Audience Choice Award per respective category (one each for the Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Documentary Short, Animated Short, Special Presentation, and Indiana Spotlight categories) announced at the Festival's Awards Party on Saturday, October 20. Winners of the Best Premiere and Indiana Spotlight prizes will also be announced at the Awards Party.

**Per U.S. tax code and tax treaties, Heartland Film Festival will withhold U.S. taxes from monetary prizes when applicable, totaling as much as 30 percent of the cash award, regardless of recipients' citizenship. Taxes withheld will be deposited with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The filmmaker will be solely responsible for filing with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service if they are eligible to retrieve those funds.*

Eligibility

To be eligible for Heartland International Film Festival, films must comply with the following:

- The film must have been completed on or after January 1, 2017 and be longer than 40 minutes in length. Short films (40 minutes or less) must be submitted to Indy Shorts, the separate, all-short-film expansion festival (July 26-29, 2018).
- The film must be available for 3-4 screenings during the Festival, October 11-21, 2018.
- There must not be a screening fee attached to the film. Heartland will not pay a screening fee to any film featured in the Festival; there are no exceptions.
- Heartland requires a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) for every film. No Blu-rays, DVDs or 35mm prints will be screened at the Festival.

- Premiere status has no bearing on whether a film is selected. Heartland Film does not encourage your film being available on YouTube, Vimeo, theatrical release, etc. prior to the event, but that does not have any bearing on eligibility.
- Films that have already secured wide distribution or are produced/distributed by a major studio prior to the Heartland International Film Festival will only be eligible to screen as a Special Presentation.
- The film cannot require dual projection (interlock) or separate soundtracks.
- Non-English films must be subtitled.
- Films competing for Best U.S./World Premiere must hold their U.S. or world premiere at the Heartland International Film Festival between Oct. 11-21, 2018. If it is found that the film has already played, or is scheduled to play prior to the Heartland International Film Festival, the film is no longer eligible for the Premiere Awards and may be pulled from the lineup at the discretion of Heartland Film. Once a film is confirmed as a premiere title it cannot play any other festival prior to the scheduled Heartland screening date, regardless of any other festivals or events you have submitted to before Heartland.

Rules for Submission

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, filmmakers must comply with the following submission rules to be considered for a Festival award:

- The submitting filmmaker must be either the producer or director of the film.
- Entries are accepted exclusively through FilmFreeway.com.
- A completed official entry on FilmFreeway.com must be digitally signed by the filmmaker.
- Payment of the non-refundable entry fee must accompany the submission.
 - » Payment can be made by credit card, check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to Heartland Film, Inc. The filmmaker will be responsible for bank fees associated with any check returned to Heartland by the bank as unpaid.
- All items on the materials checklist (below) must be provided by the entry deadline.
- Multiple submissions must be provided as individual submissions.
- Films submitted in the wrong categories to save on submission costs will be disqualified and fees will be kept by Heartland Film, Inc. (example: filmmaker submits to High School Film Competition but was not a student at the time the film was made) - this includes filmmaker claims of being a student when they are not indeed students.

Materials Checklist

All entries must submit the following information to be considered for the Festival:

- Link to a functional streaming video file (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) in high definition 720p or 1080p. If the link is password-protected, a working password is mandatory.
- Completed and digitally signed submission on FilmFreeway.com.
- Entry fee.

Exhibition Format for Selected Films

- Selected films must provide a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) by Monday, September 10, 2018.
- Two Blu-ray backups must be provided for each film, in case of issues with the primary exhibition format. Otherwise, no Blu-rays, DVDs or 35mm prints will be screened at the Festival.

- The Heartland Film Festival reserves the right to screen your film in the lower quality Blu-ray format if your film is not delivered in a timely manner. Heartland will return film prints and media in the two weeks following the Festival.
- One DVD: filmmakers will provide an exhibition-quality copy of the film to be placed in the Heartland International Film Festival archives for private viewing by staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders post-festival.

What if My Film is Selected as a Finalist?

IMPORTANT! One filmmaker (director or producer) from each of the films selected as Finalists must be present in Indianapolis from Thursday, October 18 through the evening of Saturday, October 20 in order to receive his/her award and/or cash prize. Heartland will cover expenses (as listed below) for one filmmaker from each Finalist film. Part of Heartland's unique tradition is the promise to Festival attendees that all filmmakers from each Finalist will be present, and this is a standard we continue to uphold when giving awards. Finalists will have screenings starting Wednesday, October 17, and filmmakers should be in attendance for Q&As.

The Heartland International Film Festival Awards Party is on Saturday, October 20, and all filmmakers representing films selected as Finalists are required to be in attendance and participate in festivities. Grand Prizes will be announced in each category, and Best Premiere, Indiana Spotlight, Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award, and Social Justice Awards will all be announced. Finalist filmmakers are also required to attend the Filmmakers' Brunch on Sunday morning, October 21. After the brunch, all Finalists will be shown at a single screening venue, and filmmakers are encouraged to attend.

Note: Films that have had a theatrical release, a television broadcast within the United States or a release through an on-demand outlet such as Netflix, Amazon or any other outlets that are widely available prior to the Festival dates are not eligible to be Finalists. If Heartland Film finds that a film selected as a Finalist film is scheduled to be publicly shown in Indiana or is available via an on-demand outlet between the time of acceptance and the Festival, the film will be disqualified from cash prize consideration and possibly removed from the lineup. If selected as a Finalist and you have existing plans to go wide with a theatrical release, television broadcast on-demand release plans prior to the Festival, you must tell Heartland Film immediately to discuss potential eligibility. Films are welcome to screen at other film festivals in Indiana prior to Heartland, but may not be eligible for Best Premiere awards.

What if My Film is Invited to Screen as an Official Selection?

Films invited to screen as Official Selections will be eligible for Audience Choice Awards, the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award, and Social Impact Awards, but are not be eligible for Grand Prizes. Feature films holding their U.S. or World Premiere may be eligible for Best Premiere prizes and Audience Choice Awards. Films competing in the Indiana Spotlight program are eligible for the cash award in that category.

What are the Festival's Terms and Conditions of Entry to Which All Applicants Must Agree?

I, the undersigned, as submitting filmmaker (producer or director) of the film, acknowledge and agree that I have read, understood, and complied with the Heartland Film Festival submission rules. If my film is selected to compete as a Finalist for Heartland International Film Festival, I WILL BE PRESENT at the Festival from October 17 - 21, 2018, including the Awards Party on Saturday, October 20, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana to receive the award. If I am unable to attend, another filmmaker (producer or director) representing the film will accept the award in my place. Additionally, should I be awarded, I will acknowledge Heartland Film Festival in the film's future advertising and promotional materials. I hold Heartland Film Festival harmless from any damage to the print en route or otherwise during the Festival's possession of the film.

I hold that any claims I have made about the premiere status of my film are accurate at the time of submission. I hereby acknowledge that I will notify Heartland International Film Festival of any changes in the film's premiere status as soon as they occur. I accept that changes in the film's premiere status prior to the Festival may not have any bearing on my eligibility for Finalist/Grand Prize status. (continued)

Heartland Film, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw any film from screening consideration at any point in the process. I hereby warrant that I am authorized to commit the film for screening, and understand and accept these requirements and regulations, and, if accepted for Heartland, agree that no screening fee will be demanded. I hereby warrant that I have all the necessary rights to exhibit all elements of my submission, including music rights.

If selected to screen at Heartland International Film Festival, you authorize Heartland Film, Inc. to publicly exhibit your film again as part of the Heartland Film Roadshow, for at least one screening in 2018 or 2019 (without any fee).

If your film is chosen as a Grand Prize Winner in a respective category attached with a cash prize, Heartland Film mandates the use of the Grand Prize laurel/prize language on the film's ongoing written and visual promotional materials including, but not limited to: press releases, website, posters, etc. It is the responsibility of the filmmaker to convey this requirement to distributors if said title is eventually picked up for distribution. Heartland International Film Festival has some of the country's largest cash prizes and the Grand Prize honors merit this requirement.

I shall indemnify and hold harmless Heartland International Film Festival from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees, and costs of the court) which may be incurred by reason of any claim involving copyright, trademark, credits, publicity, screening, and loss of or damage to the screening prints/films entered.