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## 2014 HEARTLAND FILM FESTIVAL CALL FOR ENTRIES PERIOD OPENS FEBRUARY 1

*Academy Award®-qualifying festival seeks independent film submissions from all over the world, will award more than \$115,000 in cash prizes at 10-day festival in October*

**(INDIANAPOLIS)** – Independent filmmakers can now submit films for consideration to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Heartland Film Festival**. The 10-day festival, which will be held in Indianapolis from **October 16-25, 2014**, serves to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Filmmakers participating in the Festival attend numerous screenings of their films and other special events designed to allow interaction between filmmakers and audiences.

The **Heartland Film Festival is a qualifying festival for the Annual Academy Awards®** in the Short Films Category. This means that the winner of the Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short Film will qualify for consideration in the Short Films category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules. Recent Heartland Oscar® winners and nominees include "Inocente" (2013, winner), "Head Over Heels" (2013, nominee) and "Buzkashi Boys" (2013, nominee).

"From attendance to submissions, the Heartland Film Festival broke records across virtually every category in 2013," said Tim Irwin, Heartland's artistic director. "We expect another strong year in 2014, and are fully committed to the artistic process; filmmakers can rest assured that their **films will be watched at least three times in full by our jury members.**"

Filmmakers are invited to submit independently-produced feature length and short films in Narrative and Documentary categories. Student filmmakers are encouraged to apply for consideration within the standard field of competition. High school filmmakers are encouraged to enter their films in the **Heartland High School Film Competition**, now entering its fifth year.

Submissions will be evaluated for their achievement of excellence in filmmaking and alignment with Heartland's mission to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Submissions are accepted through **Withoutabox.com**.

Volunteer screening committees will help narrow down the initial field of competitors. Juries comprised of individuals from the scholarly film community, local film critics and previous Heartland Film Festival filmmakers will review the submissions and select five narrative features, five documentary features, five narrative short films and five documentary short films including student films, as winners. Outstanding films will be recognized with Heartland Film Festival Awards and more than **\$115,000 in cash prizes**, including a **Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature, Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature, Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short Film** and **Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short Film**.

Completed U.S. and international feature length and short films may be submitted by **April 4** for early consideration and a reduced submission fee. The regular deadline to submit films for the 2014 Heartland Film Festival is **May 16**.

A record 1,521 independent films were submitted in 2013. Visit [HeartlandFilmFestival.org](http://HeartlandFilmFestival.org) for eligibility requirements, a full list of categories, submission rules and more information on Heartland Film Festival's 2014 Call for Entries.

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#### **About Heartland Truly Moving Pictures**

*Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a nonprofit arts organization, seeks to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Its flagship event, the Heartland Film Festival®, launched in 1991 and runs each October in Indianapolis, screening independent films from around the world. Each year, the Festival awards more than \$115,000 in cash prizes and presents its Festival Awards to the top-judged submissions. Heartland has awarded more than \$2.6 million to support filmmakers during the last 22 years. The organization's Truly Moving Picture Award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission. By bestowing this award seal to honored films, the award allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film's transformative power and appeal. Heartland is also dedicated to cultivating youth, and thus created the Heartland Institute to provide innovative educational and outreach programs that enrich the minds and lives of youth and aspiring filmmakers. Heartland also shares inspiring films year-round in the community through the Heartland Roadshow. For more information, visit [TrulyMovingPictures.org](http://TrulyMovingPictures.org).*