

# 2020 INDY SHORTS INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

*Presented by Heartland Film*  
*Submission Rules & Regulations*

## ***About the Festival***

Submit to the third annual, Academy Award®-qualifying Indy Shorts International Film Festival, Presented by Heartland Film! Indy Shorts (July 21-26, 2020) is an expansion of the Heartland International Film Festival (Oct. 8-18, 2020) and will exclusively showcase the best in international short films (with a runtime of 40 minutes or less).

Heartland Film is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 1991 with the mission to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Heartland Film has built a reputation on its impactful movies, the connections audiences make with visiting filmmakers, the overall hospitality and intimacy of the experience, and bringing big Hollywood names – like Robert Downey Jr., Rob Reiner, Jessica Biel, and Oscar® winner Geoffrey Rush – to the Hoosier state.

The third annual Indy Shorts International Shorts Festival will take place in Indianapolis from July 21-26, 2020 at Newfields (formerly the Indianapolis Museum of Art). Filmmakers participating in the Festival attend numerous screenings of their films and other special events designed to allow interaction between filmmakers and audiences. Filmmakers from around the world are invited to submit films; student filmmakers are welcomed in each category as well. Indy Shorts will select and honors films in several categories, with all winners to play encore screenings at the Heartland Film Festival in October:

## ***Awards & Prizes***

Indy Shorts will award more than \$32,000 in cash prizes for 2020.

Indy Shorts has earned the special designation of being a qualifying festival for the Annual Academy Awards® within two of the Short Films categories. This means that the winner of the Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short Film and Grand Prize for Best Documentary 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.

- **Narrative Short (\$5,000 Cash Prize)\***
  - » Five finalists with four non-winning finalists.
  - » Academy Award®-qualified category.
  
- **Documentary Short (\$5,000 Cash Prize)**
  - » Five finalists with four non-winning finalists.
  - » Academy Award®-qualified category.



- **Animated Short (\$5,000 Cash Prize)**
  - » Five finalists with four non-winning finalists.
- **High School Film Competition (HSFC) (\$2,000 Total Cash Prize)**
  - » Four category winners awarded \$500 each.
- **Indiana Spotlight Competition (\$2,000 Cash Prize)**
- **Heartland Horror (\$1,000 Cash Prize)**
- **Best Directorial Debut (\$1,000 Cash Prize)**
- **Best Comedy Short (\$1,000 Cash Prize)**
- **Best Student Film Awards (\$1,000 Cash Prize each)**
  - » Categories of Narrative, Documentary, Animated, and Indiana
  - » University students eligible. Submitting filmmakers must provide a scan of their active student I.D. with entry.
- **Audience Choice Awards (\$250 cash prize each)**
  - » Categories of Narrative, Documentary, Animated, Indiana Spotlight, High School Film Competition, Comedy, Heartland Horror
- **Jenni Berebitsky Legacy Award (\$1,800 Cash Prize)**
  - » The Jenni Berebitsky Legacy Award honors longtime Heartland Film friend Jenni Berebitsky, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in March 2009 and passed away in 2019. The \$1,800 award will recognize one short film in the Indy Shorts lineup for the best embodiment of Jenni's spirit and legacy.

## ***Categories***

Indy Shorts selects and honors films in five categories:

- **Narrative Short**
  - » Dramatic or comedic narratives; live-action.
  - » Under 40 minutes in length.
  - » Total of 5 Finalists will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other Narrative Shorts will be featured as Official Selections.
  - » The Grand Prize winner in this category 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.
- **Documentary Short**
  - » Nonfiction films; live-action.
  - » Under 40 minutes in length.
  - » Total of 5 Finalists will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other Documentary Shorts will be featured as Official Selections.
  - » The Grand Prize winner in this category 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.

- **Animated Short**
  - » Dramatic or comedic narratives or nonfiction.
  - » Under 40 minutes in length.
  - » Total of 5 Finalists will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other Animated Shorts will be featured as Official Selections.
- **High School Film Competition**
  - » Short films under 15 minutes in length.
  - » Narrative or documentary; live-action or animated.
  - » The director must have been in high school when the film was completed.
  - » The director must not have graduated from high school any earlier than Spring/Summer, 2019.
  - » Total of 4 category winners (Narrative, Documentary, Animated, Indiana) will be chosen by our jury to compete for 1 Grand Prize - other films selected will be featured as High School Film Competition selections are not eligible for Audience Choice Awards.
  - » Submitting filmmakers must provide a scan of their valid student I.D.
- **Indiana Spotlight Competition**
  - » Narrative or documentary; live-action or animated under 40 minutes in length.
  - » Films eligible include principal production (director or producer) or cast (leading actor/actress) from or currently living in Indiana and/or 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***

Films submitted to Indy Shorts are judged on their overall artistic and technical quality. Each submitted film goes through an involved judging process, and is screened 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. Heartland Film reserves the right to stop watching your film after 5 minutes if the reviewer determines that the film's technical quality is not at a baseline level for festival inclusion.

## ***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 (though they may remain eligible for the Indiana Spotlight prize, as described below).

All submitted films that meet the below eligibility requirements are considered “in competition” for Indy Shorts Finalists at the time of submission. In June, 2020 Finalists are publicly announced. Only Finalists are eligible for the Grand Prize in each category. Grand Prize winners are announced at the Indy Shorts Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 25, 2020. Filmmakers must be present to win.

Films that are not honored as Finalists may be invited to screen as “Official Selections” and are eligible for the Audience Choice Awards. Official Selections are no longer “in competition” for Festival Awards.

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 on or about May 31, 2020. All other filmmakers will be notified by email shortly thereafter. Official Selections and Finalists will be publicly announced in June, 2020, and Indy Shorts reserves the right to release basic information about selected films as early as May.

## ***Awards & Prizes***

Indy Shorts presents a variety of awards to selected filmmakers. Winners of the Indy Shorts Awards are announced on July 25, 2020. A director or producer of each winning film must be present at the Festival from July 24-26 (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 International Film Festival/Indy Shorts filmmakers. The awards are given as follows:

- **Five Narrative Shorts** are selected as Indy Shorts Finalists, announced prior to the Festival
  - › One of the five Finalists receives the \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival.
  - › The Grand Prize winner in this category 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.
  - › Each Festival Award winner will be offered a broadcast deal by Shorts International®, which includes iTunes and Amazon Prime listings, in addition to broadcast on the ShortsHD cable channel.
- **Five Documentary Shorts** are selected as Indy Shorts Finalists, announced prior to the Festival
  - › One of the five Finalists receives the \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Short, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival.
  - › The Grand Prize winner in this category 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.
  - › Each Festival Award winner will be offered a broadcast deal by Shorts International®, which includes iTunes and Amazon Prime listings, in addition to broadcast on the ShortsHD cable channel.
- **Five Animated Shorts** are selected as Indy Shorts Finalists, announced prior to the Festival
  - › One of the five Finalists receives the \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Animated Short, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival.
  - › Each Festival Award winner will be offered a broadcast deal by Shorts International®, which includes iTunes and Amazon Prime listings, in addition to broadcast on the ShortsHD cable channel.

- **Four High School Film Competition (HSFC)** submissions will be chosen as Finalists in four respective categories. At the Awards Ceremony one of the four Finalists will be named as the Summer White Lynch Memorial Award Grand Prize winner, and will receive an additional \$2,000 for a total prize of \$2,500.
  - › One narrative short will be chosen as the High School Film Competition Narrative Winner, and will receive a \$500 cash award.
  - › One documentary short will be chosen as the High School Film Competition Documentary Winner, and will receive a \$500 cash award.
  - › One animated short will be chosen as the High School Film Competition Animated Winner, and will receive a \$500 cash award.
  - › One Indiana Spotlight film (narrative, documentary, or animated) will be chosen as the High School Film Competition Indiana Spotlight Winner, and will receive a \$500 cash award. The filmmaker must be from an Indiana High School to be eligible.
- **Best Student Films:** one film from any category made by a university/college student qualifies for the best student film award. Submitting filmmakers must identify their film as a student project with a scanned copy of their active student I.D.
  - › The winner of the Narrative, Documentary, Animated, and Indiana categories will each receive a \$1,000 award.
- **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 \$1,500 cash award.
- **Heartland Horror:** one film from the Heartland Horror section will be eligible for the top juried category award.
  - › The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award.
- **Best Comedy Short:** one film from the comedy section will be eligible for the top juried category award.
  - › The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award.
- **Best Directorial Debut:** one film from any category will be chosen as the best directorial debut winner - this must be the first short film for the director to be eligible.
  - › The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award.
- **Jenni Berebitsky Legacy Award (\$1,800 Cash Prize)**
  - › The Jenni Berebitsky Legacy Award honors longtime Heartland Film friend Jenni Berebitsky, who was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease in March 2009 and passed away in 2019. The \$1,800 award will recognize one short film in the Indy Shorts lineup for the best embodiment of Jenni's spirit and legacy.

One filmmaker (director or producer) from each Finalist film must be present at the Festival to receive his/her award. The Finalist films will be revealed prior to the Festival. The Grand Prize award winners will be revealed during the Festival's Awards Ceremony on Saturday, July 25, 2020. A completed tax form W-9 (W-8 BEN for non-U.S. residents) is required for any filmmaker collecting a cash prize.

There will also be Audience Choice Awards announced at the Festival's Closing Night on Sunday, July 26. Audience Choice Award voting will occur on all full days of screenings through Sunday, July 26.

*\*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 Indy Shorts, films must comply with the following:

- The film must have been completed on or after January 1, 2019 and be 40 minutes or less in length.
- The film must be available for up to three screenings during the Festival, July 21-26, 2020.
- 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.
- 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.
- The film cannot require dual projection (interlock) or separate soundtracks.
- Non-English films must be subtitled.

## ***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 through FilmFreeway.
- A completed official entry from one of the above submission platforms.
- 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.
- Short films (including HSFC submissions) must be submitted via functional streaming video link via Vimeo, YouTube, or similar method. All streaming submissions must be HD (720p or 1080p).
- 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 submission on FilmFreeway.
- Entry fee.

## ***Exhibition Format for Selected Films***

- Selected films must provide a Digital Cinema Package (DCP), ProRes, H.264, or equivalent by Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Otherwise, no Blu-rays, DVDs or 35mm prints will be screened at the Festival.
- Heartland will return film prints and media in the two weeks following the Festival.

## ***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 from Heartland Film Festival, I WILL BE PRESENT at the Festival from July 25 through July 28, 2019, including the Indy Shorts Awards Party on Saturday, July 27, 2019 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 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 Festival Awards.

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 Indy Shorts, 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 Indy Shorts, you authorize Heartland Film, Inc. to publicly exhibit your film again as part of the Heartland Film Roadshow, for at least one screening in 2020 or 2021 (without a screening or any other fee).

I shall indemnify and hold harmless Heartland 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 videos entered.