



## SUBMITTING TO THE 2012 SANTA CRUZ FILM FESTIVAL

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1) WHEN ARE SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Fees vary by film length and deadline postmark with certain exceptions listed below.

Entries must be postmarked by the respective deadline date. Fees increase after each deadline.

##### EARLY DEADLINE

December 2, 2011

##### REGULAR DEADLINE

February 10, 2012

##### LATE DEADLINE

February 24, 2012

STANDARD FEES	EARLY DEADLINE	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE
Feature (60 min. and longer)	\$60	\$65	\$75
Short (59 min. and shorter)	\$40	\$45	\$55
Youth Works (Under 18-years-old) (any length)	\$25	\$30	\$40

#### EARTHVISION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SECTION

Works that seek to raise awareness of, and aim to discover solutions to, issues between both humans and each other, and humanity and the environment are invited to submit into the EarthVision Environmental and Social Justice Film Section.

EarthVision features two Audience Awards; the EarthVision Environmental Award and the Spirit of Action Prize, given to a film whose goal is to call action to important and relevant social, political and economic issues. An audience award is presented to a feature-length and to a short subject film for each prize.

Fees are discounted for EarthVision film submissions.

Feature (60 min. and longer)	\$55	\$60	\$70
Short (59 min. and shorter)	\$35	\$40	\$50

#### STUDENT, SANTA CRUZ/MONTEREY COUNTY FILMMAKERS

Discounted fees are available for works made by University-level students and filmmakers who are either residents of and/or works were produced in Santa Cruz and/or Monterey Counties. Former residents qualify as well. When submitting as either a student or a local please include proof of enrollment or residency.

Feature (60 min. and longer)	\$40	\$45	\$55
Short (59 min. and shorter)	\$25	\$30	\$40

SCFF treats all submissions fairly and equally regardless of which deadline you choose. Late submissions are processed and screened in exactly the same manner as earlier submissions are. The only difference is the higher submission fee. We encourage you to submit as early as possible!

#### 2) WHAT ARE THE SUBMISSION CATEGORIES AND HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR MY FILM?

Each year, we select 30-40 feature films and 80-90 short films for presentation. Filmmakers do not apply into a particular section, and these sections may change or take new names. SCFF decides which section is best suited for each work. Section placement does not impact scheduling or promotion films in any way. Scheduling is produced to ensure the best possible presentation for every film.

##### EVENT NIGHTS

SCFF's biggest, most special evenings. Includes Opening Night, Closing Night, Special Presentations and Spotlight



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Screenings. Event Nights include works of any types, subjects and lengths.

#### **WORLD CINEMA**

Feature length fiction work running 60 minutes or longer including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style. All subjects, genres, styles, languages and origins are included.

#### **DOCUMENTARIES**

Non-fiction works of any length that do NOT include entirely scripted or improvised fictionalizations of actual events. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, you may submit in this category.

#### **EARTHVISION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SECTION**

Films that raise awareness of, and aim to discover solutions to, issues between both humans and each other, and humanity and the environment.

#### **YOUTH WORKS**

Works made by filmmakers 17-years-old and younger of any length. This section includes youth work made locally.

#### **SHORTS PROGRAMS**

Any work 59 minutes and shorter. This section includes student work.

#### **KEEP SANTA CRUZ WEIRD**

Works made by residents of Santa Cruz or works produced within Santa Cruz or Monterey Counties. The entirety of the Santa Cruz Mountains area is considered local as well. Filmmaker from these areas, regardless of where they currently reside are eligible.

### **3) IS THERE A COMPETITION AND PRIZES?**

The Santa Cruz Film Festival features fourteen (14) Audience Awards. All films are eligible to win Audience Awards in one of the following categories:

1. Best Narrative Feature
2. Morton Marcus Documentary Feature Award
3. Emerging Filmmaker Prize (honoring a first or second-time feature filmmaker)
4. EarthVision Environmental Feature Award
5. EarthVision Environmental Short Award
6. Spirit of Action Prize (feature)
7. Spirit of Action Prize (short)
8. Best Narrative Short
9. Best Documentary Short
10. Best Animated Work
11. Best Experimental Work
12. Best Student-Produced Work
13. Evan Kuhn Youth Film Award
14. Best Locally-Produced Work

Ballots are submitted by the audience following each screening and the winners are chosen by taking a weighted average of the votes cast for each film.

### **4) HOW DO YOU DISTINGUISH SHORT FILMS FROM FEATURE FILMS?**

Films with running times of 59 minutes and shorter are classified as Shorts. Films that are 60 minutes or longer are classified as Features. You should select your submission category based on what the final running time of the film is including credits.



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#### **5) MY FILM WAS REJECTED LAST YEAR. CAN I SUBMIT IT AGAIN?**

Yes, but only if it has changed significantly. We are not interested in seeing the same cut again. It should be a complete reworking of the previous version that was submitted in 2011.

#### **6) DOES THE FESTIVAL HAVE A PREMIERE REQUIREMENT?**

The Festival's only requirement is that our screening be a local premiere. The film cannot have had a public, ticketed screening in Santa Cruz or Monterey County that were open to the general public. Private screenings for cast, crew and friends are acceptable.

#### **7) HOW OLD CAN MY FILM BE AND STILL QUALIFY FOR SUBMISSION?**

Any film submitted must have been completed after January 1, 2011. If your film was completed prior to December 31, 2010, it is no longer eligible. If your film's production took place before 2010 but your final cut was not completed until 2011, your film is eligible.

#### **8) CAN I SUBMIT MY FILM AS A ROUGH CUT?**

A large percentage of the films submitted every year are unfinished versions with incomplete or temporary sound, missing scenes, no credits or titles, unfinished effects, etc. However, it does need to be complete enough for us to be able to make a decision.

If you expect that your final version will be two hours long, it's probably not a good idea to send us a 45-minute rough cut. Whenever possible, you should provide an on-screen description of missing scenes or elements as placeholders within the film's continuity.

#### **9) DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN RIGHTS CLEARANCE FOR MUSIC OR OTHER COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL IN MY FILM?**

From a legal standpoint, you must clear all copyrighted material included in your film before you can publicly screen it. SCFF does not check to make sure that you have received relevant clearances, nor will we be held responsible for the inclusion of any unlicensed elements in your film.

It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting the project to secure permission from copyright holders, whether it is music, stock footage, or any other elements that could violate an existing copyright, in advance of submitting for Festival consideration.

#### **10) IF MY FILM INCLUDES NON-ENGLISH DIALOGUE, DO YOU REQUIRE ENGLISH SUBTITLES?**

Yes. English subtitles are required. We will be unable to screen your film if on-screen English subtitles are not included.

#### **11) WHAT IS YOUR ACCEPTED FORMATS FOR SUBMISSION?**

Films can be submitted on DVD (Any region), Blu-ray, or as any digital media format (MPG, MOV, WMV, etc.). We also accept submissions that are available to be viewed online.

For discs, we prefer that they be sent in paper sleeves, rather than plastic cases, to save space and cut down on waste. Once we receive your disc, the case or sleeve will be recycled, so it doesn't matter what type of packaging you use to submit your disc.

For online submissions, be sure to include the URL and any login info necessary to access the site with your application.

#### **12) CAN I SEND YOU MY DVD IN PAL FORMAT, OR DO YOU ACCEPT NTSC ONLY?**

It is highly preferred that you send us an NTSC, Region 1 or region free (Region 0) DVDs when submitting, but we also accept DVDs mastered for any region as well as PAL and SECAM formatted DVDs.



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If you are sending a DVD that has a region code other than 0 or 1, and/or a format other than NTSC, please mark this CLEARLY on the DVD.

#### **13) DO YOU ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS IN VHS OR ANY OTHER FORMAT?**

No. For the purposes of reviewing your submission, we cannot accept VHS, BetaSP, DigiBeta, MiniDV, HDCAM, 16mm, 35mm or any other format not referenced above. If your film is accepted into the Festival, we will contact you regarding the formats we accept for exhibition that do include these formats.

#### **14) WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE WITH MY SUBMISSION?**

After you have completed the online or paper application, all we need from you is your film disc or URL and access info, along with a copy of the confirmation page that was sent to you upon completion of the application if made on Withoutabox.

Please write or print your film's title and tracking number directly on the face of the disc and on the outside of the envelope that you send it in.

In an effort to cut down on waste, we ask that you do not send any printed publicity materials to us. Digital versions of press kits and images are acceptable.

#### **15) WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET MY DISC TO PLAY?**

We will make every effort to play your disc, but in the event that we are unable to view your film, we will contact you to request another copy using the primary contact information that you provided on your application. If we are unable to reach you, the submission will automatically be rejected. No application fee refunds are given for submissions that are processed but unable to be viewed.

#### **16) WILL YOU NOTIFY ME IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE MY FILM?**

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to guarantee that we will contact you with status, particularly if you enter using the paper application. We will make an effort to reach out if time permits.

If you submit via Withoutabox, you can check there to see whether the film has been received or not. Please allow 4 weeks from the time you mail your submission before contacting us if it is not marked as in consideration in the system.

#### **17) CAN I SUBMIT A NEWER CUT OF MY FILM AFTER I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED AN EARLIER VERSION?**

It is preferable to submit the film as close to its completion as possible. If you need to send another cut, email [programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org](mailto:programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org).

#### **18) MUST I SUBMIT ONLINE, OR CAN I FAX OR MAIL MY APPLICATION FORM INSTEAD?**

You can submit using a printable entry form, however, the Festival prefers online entries submitted via Withoutabox which provides a centralized, cost-saving, paperless, eco-friendly submission process.

Withoutabox's internet-only submission platform features online applications via one master entry form, online fee payments, and digital press kits. Fill out one master entry form and take advantage of quick entry, extended deadlines, and powerful submission management tools. There's no extra cost to you, your information is secure and not shared with third-party marketers or government agencies, and by submitting, you'll join Withoutabox's global filmmaker community and stay in the loop about international exhibition opportunities.

#### **19) HOW MANY FILMS CAN I SUBMIT?**

You may submit as many films as you'd like, but each film submitted requires a separate entry fee. We do not offer reduced



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rates in fees for multiple submissions. If you have an exceptionally large number of films you'd like to submit contact the Festival for special arrangements at [programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org](mailto:programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org).

#### **20) WHAT IF MY CONTACT INFORMATION OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT MY SUBMISSION CHANGES AFTER I'VE ENTERED?**

Email the Festival at [programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org](mailto:programming@santacruzfilmfestival.org) with new contact or other information. Be sure you include the film's title and Withoutabox entry number, if applicable, in the email.

#### **21) WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY FILM WAS SELECTED?**

We will contact you via email no later than April 15, 2012.

#### **22) DOES THE FESTIVAL SANTA CRUZ PROJECT DIGITALLY?**

The Festival has utilized digital projection technology since 2002. As a reference point only, our preferred digital projection format is HDCAM, non-anamorphic, 1080/59.94i or 1080/23.98psf, with LTRT audio on tracks one and two, and Dolby E on tracks three and four

We can also screen films in DigiBeta, BetaSP, Blu-ray, 35mm, DCP and from Pro-Res Quicktime files. We highly discourage screening in DVD, however, we will make exceptions in special instances.

#### **23) IF MY FILM IS NOT SELECTED, MAY I SPEAK WITH A PROGRAMMER FOR NOTES OR FEEDBACK?**

Unfortunately, no. We typically review close to 1,000 film submissions each year, so it simply isn't viable for us to correspond with applicants individually. Don't be discouraged if your film isn't accepted—we consider far more worthy films each year than we have space to include.

#### **24) IF I SUBMIT ONLINE AND NEVER SEND MY FILM TO YOU, CAN I GET A REFUND OF THE APPLICATION FEE?**

The Withoutabox application fee is not charged to you until the Festival receives and processes your entry.

#### **25) WHERE DOES MY ENTRY FEE GO?**

The Santa Cruz Film Festival is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that produces one of the largest cultural events along California's Central Coast. The entry fees we receive are used to cover the operating cost of producing such a large-scale event; venue rentals, projection equipment, printing, shipping and other marketing materials.

#### **26) WHEN WILL THE 2012 SANTA CRUZ FILM FESTIVAL TAKE PLACE?**

The Festival will take place in Santa Cruz, California from May 10-19, 2012.

Thanks for your interest in the Santa Cruz Film Festival. We look forward to reviewing your creative work!

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