



## 2017 Festival Information Sheet

If you are a Filmmaker and would like to have your movie screened by professionals, win prizes and have your film played on TV, then sign up for the Westmont Park District's Frozen Film Festival. The event will be held February in Westmont, IL. For more info, call 630-963-5252.

### HERE'S THE SCOOP

1. **THE BASICS:** Filmmakers must submit completed entry form for consideration. ONLY 30 films will be selected to compete. Films should be 30 minutes or less. Films that are longer than 30 minutes may be submitted, but may only be accepted at committee's discretion. Filmmakers will be notified by email by February 10 regarding their selection to compete. Filmmakers must be present at the screening of their film. Selections of awards will be decided on the day of the event.
2. **PRIZES:** Exposure of your film, Trophies, have your film played on TV.
3. **APPLICATION:** All Filmmakers must complete application and submit with support materials (The movie itself; see FAQ for more details); **Final Submission Deadline** will be Monday, February 13, 2017.
4. **AGE:** All experience levels are welcome. Any Filmmaker under 18 must complete a parent release signature and contact information with entry form.
5. **FILM CATEGORY SELECTION:** Filmmakers must indicate the category in which their film should be judged. Filmmakers must be completely forthcoming in regard to content that contains profanity, sex, drug, violence, or anything else that would warrant an advisory warning per movie industry standards.
6. **FILM GENRE:** This contest is open to all movie genres providing that materials and content is appropriate for this event.
7. **PROFESSIONALISM:** Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. Event coordinators reserve the right to remove any participant at any time. We expect the following:
  - MUST be prompt in responding to any communications regarding this contest – if you can't return an email or phone call within 24 hours, then you will not be allowed to participate.
  - MUST be courteous and respectful at all times including interactions with other Filmmakers, event attendees and the crew coordinating event.
  - MUST be prompt in following directions during the event, especially in regards to set-up and teardown.
8. **JUDGING:** Judges will be experienced movie professionals; decision of judges is final. The criteria for judging both the initial pre-screening process and the competition will be as follows:
  - **Quality of Material** – Additional consideration given to original material
  - **Film Making Skill & Overall Talent** – Raw technical skill and execution
  - **Originality** – Have I seen this film before or is this unique?
  - **Script Writing** – Storyline, does the movie have a good flow.
  - **Audience Response** – That's right, audience judging will make up for 20% of the points.
9. **PUBLICITY:** We expect participants to spread the word about this event and invite EVERYBODY THEY KNOW to come out and support the contest. Remember, 20% of the judging criteria are based on the audience rating/judging the film. Also, by participating in this event, participants agree to give permission to the Westmont Park District to use photos and video recorded during the contest for future publicity purposes.
10. **MORE INFO:** Call our office at 630-963-5252 and ask for Stephen Golembiewski.



Title of Movie: \_\_\_\_\_

Style of Movie : \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact (non-published information):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Contact (published info for web site, programs, advertising, etc.)

Youtube Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Facebook Page: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**Event Rules:**

Age: 10 years and up

No film made before 2000 will be allowed in this festival. If you started to make the film before 2000 and your final cut was after this date, your film will be allowed.

All films should be submitted to us on a single DVD-R or DVD+R disc. DVD's must be compatible with standard set-top DVD players. Please make sure your film works in a DVD player.

Filmmakers must be completely forthcoming in regards to content that contains profanity, sex, drug, violence or anything else that would require an advisory warning per movie industry standards. We do reserve the right to exclude your film due to improper content.

Event organizers reserve the right to make any necessary changes to contest rules and have the final word in any disputes that should arise

By signing below, each Filmmaker confirms that he or she has read and will follow the Rules and Regulations described in this informational packet for this event. Any violation of these rules may result in the immediate disqualification of the film.

Film Makers Signatures:

Age:

Date of Birth:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signatures (for film makers under 18 years old)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## **Submission Category and Eligibility Requirements**

**\*Please note that the selection committee has the right to eliminate any category we see fit based on the amount/content of entries; Categories may be combined if needed. The selection committee has the right to re-categorize your film.**

### **COMEDIC FILMS**

From the light hearted, to the laugh so hard your side hurts, this is the category for you. Whether you prefer slap-stick, or dark; as long as it is funny, we will consider it. We will even accept live comedy acts as well, but make sure the performance is family friendly. Any narrative work, including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style will be submitted to this category. There is something to be said for making people laugh and laughter makes any day better. In order to qualify, the submitted project must a total running time of 30 minutes or less.

### **DRAMATIC FILMS:**

The Dramatic Films category will offer a first look at new voices in American independent film. Fueled by fierce creativity and vision, these films are guaranteed to leave a lasting impact on the next generation of cinema. This section can include an assorted mix of horror, sci-fi, surreal tales, overt animation, and bizarre stories that defy categorization. Any non-comedic documentary style film will be submitted in this category. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, but we will ultimately decide which category is best suited for your project. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational, have a total running time of 30 minutes or less.

### **ANIMATION FILMS:**

Whether executed by pen or by software, in 2-D or 3-D, the world of animated films remains an ever-expanding alternate universe for storytelling. Category will include by not limited to: Claymation, Stop Motion and Cutout Animation. Exceptionally wrought by meticulous artists, Animation Spotlight proves that remarkable filmmaking is sculpted by the imagination. In order to qualify, the submitted project must a total running time of 30 minutes or less

# **Frequently Asked Questions about how to Submit Films**

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

### **FILM SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

**Monday, February 13, 2017 – Westmont Community Center**

**These are required dates in which registration must be filled out and films must arrive at the Westmont Community Center. Postmark deadline is Friday, February 10, 2017. We handle all submissions fairly and equally, regardless of which deadline you choose. We encourage you to submit as early as possible!**

**Please note that your film MUST arrive at our office no later than the deadline Monday February 13, 2017 at 4:00PM. For this reason, it is suggested that you mail your film to us well in advance of the deadline for which has been assigned.**

## **1) WHAT ARE THE FESTIVAL PROGRAM CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH?**

The Frozen Film Festival is comprised of multiple Competition program categories, listed in separate sections. If you are not sure what your film category is our screening team will decide which of the Festival categories it will play. Please be aware that these categories can be combined if the number of entries is small.

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

Any film submitted for 2017 Festival consideration must have been completed after 2000. If your film was completed prior to 2000, it is no longer eligible for submission. If your film's production took place prior to 1999 but your final cut was not completed until 2000, your film is still eligible.

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

We require that all films that contain non-English dialogue include on-screen English subtitles. A translated list of dialogue on paper is not sufficient! If your film is mostly in English and you intentionally leave out subtitles for any non-English dialogue included in the film for plot/artistic purposes, you do not need to provide subtitles for those particular sections.

#### **4) 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. The Westmont Park District will NOT be held responsible for any inclusion of unclear materials in your film. It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting the project to secure permission from the copyright holder of the material in question, whether it is music, stock footage, or any other elements that could violate an existing copyright. Quite often, rights holders offer reduced rates for festival films, so you should contact them directly to avoid any possible rights infringements.

#### **5) WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION?**

Films should be submitted to us on a single DVD-R or DVD+R disc, and we would prefer that they be sent in a simple paper CD/DVD sleeve in order to cut down on waste. Once we receive your DVD, the case or sleeve will be recycled, so it doesn't matter what type of packaging you use to submit your disc. DVDs must be compatible with standard set-top DVD players-- do not simply burn a QuickTime or AVI file to a disc as data. Please ensure that your disc plays in a standard DVD player before you mail it to us! We will also accept submissions on dual-layer discs (DVD-DL or DVD+DL), but if you choose to submit your film in that format, please include a standard DVD-R or DVD+R disc as a backup.

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

In an effort to cut down on waste, we ask that you do not send printed press or promotional materials to us-- we will not keep anything in your package except for your **DVD** and **INFORMATIONAL PACKET**. Even the case it is sent in will be recycled, so there is no need to spend time creating artwork for your case. Please do not use a paper label on your disc! There are many different variables with stickers and paper labels that could render your disc unplayable-- a permanent marker (such as a Sharpie) will work just fine. Discs with text or graphics printed directly on the surface are also acceptable. Please write or print your film's title tracking number and name directly on the face of the disc AND on the outside of the envelope that you send it in!

#### **7) WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET MY DVD TO PLAY?**

We will make every effort to play your DVD, but in the event that we are unable to view your film, we will attempt to contact you to request another copy using the primary contact information that you provided on your application. However, there is no guarantee that we will get your replacement disc in time, and we must give preference to those who sent in a working copy to begin with. For this reason, we ask that you make absolutely sure that your DVD plays all the way through BEFORE you submit it to us! We reserve the right to disqualify any film whose initial submission was deemed unplayable.

**8) HOW MANY FILMS MAY I SUBMIT?**

You may submit as many films as you'd like. Upon doing so, you may fill out individual applications for multiple films. Please do not submit multiple projects on the same DVD. If we receive a submission with multiple films on one disc, we will only consider the first film included.

**9) DOES IT MATTER IF MY FILM IS LOW BUDGET AND DOESN'T FEATURE ANY CELEBRITIES?**

We depend on new talent and new filmmakers to uphold our mission as a festival of discovery. If your film is received in time, your account is paid in full, and there are no playability issues with your DVD, YOUR FILM WILL BE SCREENED in its entirety and given the same initial level of consideration as any other film that is sent to us. It doesn't matter if you have an agent, manager, or publicist-- we screen all films equally and fairly, regardless of who you know. Discovering new talent is our main priority. The judging process will focus on the quality of the film.

**10) WHAT TYPES OF FILMS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT STANDS OUT?**

We celebrate the independent spirit of interesting and original storytelling. Diverse voices and films that push the limits of style and narrative also excite us, but there is no single aesthetic that we look for over any other. We are mainly looking for great films and interesting points of view. The two categories we have are Comedic and Dramatic

**12) WHEN DOES THE 2017 FROZEN FILM FESTIVAL TAKE PLACE?**

The Festival will take place at the Hollywood Blvd in Woodridge. The date of the event is February 18, 2017. We hope to see you there!