

CinefestOZ Film Festival

Short Film - Terms and Conditions of Submission

CinefestOZ mission: We use the medium of screen to entertain, inform, inspire and educate. We present festivals that celebrate and explore screen culture with unique programs of screenings and special events that showcase the regions in which they are presented. We champion the significant role that First Nations stories deliver throughout communities by providing a platform of self-determination. We raise the profile of screen culture for current and future practitioners by offering industry programs and creating career pathways.

The festival is comprised of the following submission categories; the following conditions are specific to c. Short Film Selection:

- a. Film Prize Selection: The Film Prize brings to the festival Australian filmmakers and actors of international repute, including a Film Prize jury made up of five national and international filmmakers.
- b. Official Selection (Feature length scripted and documentary): CinefestOZ presents a diverse range of Australian and French screen content.
- c. **Short Film Selection: Screenings of specially curated short film sets are played across the South West.**
 - Short Film Awards - the prizes and awards being presented are:
 - CinefestOZ Short Film Prize – \$5,000 (Must be a WA Premiere)
 - CinefestOZ Indigenous Best Short Film – \$2,500 (Must be a WA Premiere)
 - CineWest Best WA Short Film – \$2,500 (Must be a WA Premiere)
 - Best Director
 - Best Lead Actor
 - Best Screenwriter
 - Inclusion Award
- d. Music Videos: Visual projects that accompany the release of music. These submissions will be included under the Short Film selection.
 - Best Music Video Awards: prizes available for best music video as judged by a panel of industry professionals awarding a cash prize, along with additional prizes for the People’s Choice Award.
- e. Screen Other: This category is open to all other screen-based storytelling, including innovative works that utilise elements beyond traditional media. These works may include VR, MR, and AR projects for various platforms, media installations, live performances, or a combination of those formats. There is no limitation as to the length of the work. This category also includes web and tv series.

The following terms and conditions govern the submission of all works that are received by CinefestOZ and you (hereinafter referred to as ‘submitter’) are required to confirm your understanding and acceptance at the time of submitting any film. Please note that these regulations are to serve to 2026 festival and are subject to change for future festival. CinefestOZ reserves the right to govern these terms and conditions for future festivals.

2. Definitions

- a. Australian: the production must satisfy at least one of the following:
 - i. Half of the development or production funding is sourced from Australian funding sources.
 - ii. Half of the film was filmed within Australia.
 - iii. Half of post-production work was completed within Australia.
 - iv. This definition is set by the Significant Australian Content (SAC) requirements as implemented by Screen Australia.
- b. IndigifestOZ: The CinefestOZ program strand focusing on First Nations films.
- c. Aussies Abroad: The program strand that celebrates Australians working in the film industry outside of Australia. CinefestOZ accepts submissions for films that are created with a minimum of 2 Australians on the production team. These films are not eligible for Film Prize.
- d. Premiere: Meaning its first public screening in any theatre, cinema or otherwise.
- e. Complete and/or Final version: This is the version of the screen project that will be theatrically released.

3. Submission Deadline

Only films submitted within the allocated deadline, along with payment made and all other submission requirements have been met will be considered. CinefestOZ reserves the right to refuse a submission if these requirements have not been met.

4. Specific Short Film Eligibility

- a. To be eligible for entry, a short film mustn't exceed 40 minutes in length.
- b. The submission must have been completed (picture lock off) after June 2025.
- c. Films can be invited to submit; however, this does not automatically qualify as selection. All films that are invited to submit will be subject to regular selection processes.
- d. The film must meet the Significant Australian Content (SAC) requirements and CinefestOZ reserves the right to ask for documented proof of qualification.
- e. Short Length Premiere Status:
 - i. To be selected, the Submitted Film must not have played elsewhere in WA.
 - ii. The Submitted Film must not be available to stream online.
 - iii. This premiere status does not apply to films screening under the IndigifestOZ banner.
- f. First Nations:
 - i. To be considered as a submission under the IndigifestOZ banner, the screen project must have a minimum of a writer *and* director who identify as Indigenous. In the case of writing teams, the lead writer must be Indigenous. These terms are guided by [Screen Australia's recognition of Indigenous films](#)
 - ii. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders must be able to meet all of the three-part criteria of Aboriginal recognition as defined by the [Australian Law Reform Commission](#);

1. They must be of Aboriginal decent, And, they must self-identify as Indigenous, And, they must have Indigenous community recognition of their identification
 - g. Short Film Awards Category Qualification:
 - i. All films submitted will automatically be considered for the awards that the film is eligible for.
 - ii. CinefestOZ Indigenous Best Film: the writer and director must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander as defined.
 - iii. CineWest Best WA Short: to qualify as a West Australian film it must be shot in Western Australia or 2 of the three key creative roles –writer, director, producer- must be able to prove their WA residency.
 - h. CinefestOZ reserves the right to program films that do not fit the above criteria.
 - i. Incomplete entries will be ineligible. CinefestOZ may disqualify any person who has not entered the Festival in good faith and who at any stage of submission fails to meet any eligibility requirement.
5. *Payments and Expenses*
- a. All entries must be accompanied by an entry fee in US dollars as shown on Film Freeway.
 - b. The entry fee applies per submission into category of a screen project and is non-refundable in any circumstances.
 - c. All payments must be made through Film Freeway at the time of submission.
 - d. Unless otherwise expressly provided in these terms and conditions, submitters must bear all of their own costs.
6. *Preview Screener Formats*
- a. Submitters must provide a screener to be considered for selection.
 - b. CinefestOZ only accepts online screeners. The screener must be included in submission as part of the Film Freeway submission process. This can be supplied as a password protected Vimeo link or unlisted YouTube link entered directly sent to film@cinefestoz.com
 - c. No other material submitted will be considered for the festival. Online copies will only be used for selection purposes.
 - d. CinefestOZ will take reasonable care to securely access online screeners, however all materials are submitted at the submitters own risk and CinefestOZ takes no responsibility of any kind for them or their safekeeping
7. *Selection*
- a. Submitters will be notified of selection outcomes by approximately mid-July.
 - b. Submissions are judged and selected by the CinefestOZ programming team and the Film Selection Committee.
 - c. Any conflicts of interest that could impact the selection process within the CinefestOZ team are dealt with internally and the individual with the conflict will be withdrawn from the decision making.
 - d. Films that are not selected will be notified by the 16th of July

- e. Once the submitter has been notified that a submitted film has been selected, it cannot be withdrawn from the festival and the submitter agrees to comply with the requirements of participation and screening as an Official Selection film.
- f. All selected films will be screened to the public at CinefestOZ Film Festival between 29th August to 6th September 2026.

8. *Delivery*

- a. Each selected Film Entrant must provide to CinefestOZ a DCP and digital copy of the film for the screenings no later than 10th August.
- b. DCP's must be delivered directly to the programming team.

9. *Authorised Use and Inclusion of Materials*

- a. CinefestOZ will not be held responsible for any unauthorised inclusion of:
 - i. Any copyrighted content or materials within or related to the submission
 - ii. If any authorised inclusion of materials as set out above applies to a submitted film, CinefestOZ reserves the right to forego consideration of that film or to withdraw the confirmation of selection from the program.
 - iii. It is the responsibility of the Entrant to ensure all consents have been obtained and granted for the submission and public screening of the Submitted Film at CinefestOZ Festival and that this will not infringe the rights, including copyright, of any third party.
 - iv. The submitter indemnifies and will keep CinefestOZ and its agents, licensees or assignees, indemnified from all costs, damages or expenses incurred as a result or a consequence of any breach of the Entrant's warranties and undertakings in respect of the Submitted Film in the Competition and otherwise in relation to the CinefestOZ Film Festival

10. *Other screening conditions, if selected*

- a. CinefestOZ regularly utilises non-traditional screening venues to enhance the immersive impact of the film, CinefestOZ reserves the right to screen submitted films in unique and non-traditional cinema venues to broaden the reach of audiences.

11. *Competition*

- a. Short Film Awards: An independent jury will be appointed by CinefestOZ to select the winning film in each category from the finalist films.
 - i. The decision of the Jury is final.
 - ii. The Jury abides by CinefestOZ code of conduct
 - iii. All jury members are selected on the basis that they are not financially or creatively involved in selected finalists' projects, equating to a credited role in the project or being an investor. Any relationships with the film teams are also declared and accessed by the Film Committee as to being reasonable or not given the small size of the Australian Screen industry. Conflicts are assessed against whether there is something to reasonably gain for the juror by awarding the prize to that certain film.

12. Marketing

- a. the submitter must provide, within two weeks of notification of the Film being screened at the festival, the following through the submission means requested by CinefestOZ:
 - i. 3 high resolution stills from the film(landscape)
 - ii. 3 low resolution stills from the film(landscape)
 - iii. a 25-word synopsis and a 100-word synopsis of the film
 - iv. A downloadable film trailer and film trailer link (youtube) if made available
 - v. EPK if available
- b. CinefestOZ will provide “CinefestOZ Official Selection” Laurels to producers upon notification of selection. Laurels must only be used in accordance with any guide or limits notified by CinefestOZ and not provided to other parties.
- c. By submitting, you are agreeing to allow CinefestOZ to utilise clips of the submitted films trailer as part of festival promotional material. This clip may be used in conjunction with other films that have been selected.
- d. By submitting, the submitter agrees to withhold any marketing, publicity and announcement pertaining to their film on the day of the selected films premiere screening, unless it is specifically referring to CinefestOZ.

13. Exclusion of Liability

- a. In the event CinefestOZ cancels, postpones or varies, CinefestOZ it will not be liable to any person for any loss or damage of any kind (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss or loss or damage caused by CinefestOZ, its licensees or assigns or other party's negligence) arising out of, or in connection with, the cancellation, postponement or variation of the festival. Nor will CinefestOZ or other party be liable for any loss, damage, payment or expense of any kind (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss or damage caused by CinefestOZ or other party's negligence) or personal injury or other damage suffered or sustained as a result of entering, cancellation or acceptance, enjoyment of CinefestOZ.

14. Use of information

- a. By entering the Festival for consideration, Entrants consent to any information submitted or any material bearing personal information, being entered into a database and CinefestOZ, its licensees or assigns may use this information in any media for future promotional, marketing and publicity purposes without any further reference or payment or other compensation. All personal details of submitters will be stored at the office of CinefestOZ.
- b. A request to access, update or correct any information should be directed to CinefestOZ.
- c. CinefestOZ’s privacy policies, as a replicable or updated from time to time, will apply to this information



- d. Successful or unsuccessful entrants may not release any information as to the Film Selection Committee or its decisions including without limit that a Submitted Film is or is not a festival selection, until CinefestOZ has released the information publicly. CinefestOZ will notify the entrant as to when they will be able to make any public announcements

13. Reservation of Rights

CinefestOZ reserves the right to make program selections that do not fit the following the aforementioned criteria.

These Rules are governed by the laws of Western Australia and all Entrants agree to be bound by and subject to Western Australian law.