

# Envision Film Festival **High School** Rules & Guidelines

## Submission **Deadline** – postmarked or submitted online by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### **Mission Statement**

The Envision Film Festival honors aspiring filmmakers whose visual storytelling explores the range of human experience with hopeful vision, artistry, truthfulness and integrity.

### **Festival Goals**

- To honor Taylor University filmmakers & films, providing a venue for public exhibition of their work.
- To solicit entries from talented high school filmmakers and encourage their development as artists.
- To highlight the significance of film as a medium that can express beauty, truth and goodness, prompting meaningful dialogue, engaging culture and ultimately giving glory to God.
- To acquaint film & media industry professionals with the work of Taylor and high school filmmakers.
- To provide networking and educational experiences for Taylor and high school filmmakers by means of interaction with industry professionals.
- To offer opportunities for audiences to learn more about the filmmaking process in dialogue with filmmakers.

### **High School Eligibility**

- Any full-time high school student who played a major role in the creation of an original film (producer, director, writer, cinematographer or editor) is eligible to enter.
- Film must have been completed within two years prior to the festival date.
- No industry professionals or faculty can play a major role--producer, director, writer, cinematographer, editor--in the production of the film—although they can have an advisory role. The film must be considered a student production.
- A single student may contribute a maximum of two films in which he/she played one of these roles: producer, director, writer, cinematographer or editor.
- Projects developed by teams are encouraged. For team projects the entry form can list:
  - Up to five team members, their addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and the specific responsibilities of each team member on the project.
- A single film may only be submitted to the Envision Film Festival once. No repeat entries in subsequent years are allowed.

### **Film Content & Length**

- The Envision Film Festival encourages creativity and originality. The Festival acknowledges that expressing the range of human experience with artistry and

truthfulness may result in stories and images that are gritty or the cause of offense to some. The judges encourage filmmakers to explore the human experience in all of its dimensions. However, judges will likely exclude films that do not uphold the values generally shared by a broad Taylor University community audience. For instance, the judges will likely exclude films with gratuitous obscenity, gratuitous violence, or whose subjects are macabre, in poor taste or risqué. Content matters.

- Films may be narrative/fiction, non-fiction/documentary, music video or experimental in nature.
- Submissions may be no more than **ten minutes** in length including credits, but you should know that the judges believe that *shorter is almost always better*.

### **Judges & Judging Criteria**

All films will be judged by a panel of judges including:

- Taylor alumni/faculty/staff who understand filmmaking. The judges will evaluate the films on the merits of:
  - story (originality/creativity/emotional drama)
  - production values (quality of lighting, sound, camera work, editing, pacing)
  - acting (quality of performance)
  - capacity of the film to meet the festival goals – “exploring the range of human experience with hopeful vision, artistry, truthfulness and integrity”
- A film will need at least three judges’ nominations in order to receive an award in a particular category.
- Judges may decline to give an award in a particular category if no entry meets the festival’s standards of quality.
- All films accepted by the judges for screening either as the top film or as the winner other another award will be notified no less than two weeks prior to the festival.

### **Award Categories**

All films accepted for screening in the high school category are eligible for awards in the following categories:

- Best Picture
- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay
- Best Editing

*Only the film judged Best Picture in the high school competition will screen with the college films on the evening of March 8th. However, all high school films that are award-worthy will screen at a private event for high school students and parents on March 9th and are eligible for awards at that private event. All award-winners will be notified approximately two weeks before the festival.*

### **Submission guidelines**

- Films **must** be submitted in **one** of two formats:
  - (Preferred) As a YouTube or Vimeo link. Please upload your file in HD format **OR**

- DVD in widescreen (16x9) format. No menu screen is required. Be sure your DVD plays in standard DVD players, not just as a computer file. The judges accept no responsibility for disc read errors or formatting problems. Label the DVD and DVD case/sleeve with the title of your film(s), its total running time, your name and contact info (name, address, phone # and e-mail).
  - If you are submitting more than one film, submit each one on a separate DVD, and fill out a separate entry form for each film.
  - DVDs will not be returned.
- Note: projects that cannot be viewed by the judges can be disqualified from competition.
- Films not in English must be clearly subtitled or dubbed into English.
- Entries without online entry forms can be disqualified.

## **Entries must be postmarked by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**

### **Rights**

- Even though this is a student competition, and “fair use” guidelines can allow copyrighted material in student educational projects, those rights do not extend to public performance of that material at the March 8th event. Consequently, all copyrights must be cleared by festival submission deadline for films that wish to be considered for Best Picture consideration. All materials (images, music, etc.) must be original work, work used with the copyright holder’s permission, or be work that is in the public domain. Films that violate copyright law cannot be shown publicly in the festival’s March 8th event. That means they cannot be contenders for Best Picture if they contain copyrighted music. They can, however, be shown in the private, March 9<sup>th</sup> event and will be eligible for other awards.
- By entering the work, you give Taylor University and the Envision Film Festival unlimited rights to use your film or images from your film for various screenings and use in promotional materials in part or in their entirety at any time, and to publish in print, electronic or digital form in perpetuity. In practice, we typically just post it online after the event in our winners’ page on the website.

If you have questions about these guidelines, feel free to e-mail Kathy Bruner at [ktbruner@taylor.edu](mailto:ktbruner@taylor.edu).