

Envision Film Festival - University Rules & Guidelines

Submission **Deadline** February 6th 2012, 5pm

Drop off at Comm. Arts office

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.

Eligibility

- Any full-time Taylor University student who played a major role in the creation of an original student film (producer, director, writer, cinematographer or editor) is eligible to enter.
- Recent Taylor graduates are also eligible, assuming their film was produced while they were students.
- Film must have been completed within two years prior to the festival date.
- No industry professionals can play a major role--producer, director, writer, cinematographer, editor--in the production of a film which is considered "in competition." "Out of competition" films may have professional or faculty involvement but are not eligible for awards. Faculty involvement does not automatically disqualify a film, but the film must still be deemed a student production.
- A single student may contribute a maximum of three 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 must 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.
- “Out of Competition” Films: Occasionally, a film or video project that falls outside the existing narrative, documentary or experimental film categories may merit screening. For instance, a client-based project with wide appeal, a ministry film project of interest to the campus, a music video, etc. Judges may determine that this film should be screened as “out of competition.” Out of competition film and video projects are not eligible for awards.

Film Content

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

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 reserve the right to exclude films that do not uphold the positive values generally shared by a broad Taylor community audience. For instance the judges will likely exclude films with gratuitous obscenity, gratuitous violence, or which are in poor taste or risqué.

Judges & Judging Criteria

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

- Taylor faculty/staff/alumni with background in 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 must have at least three judges’ nominations in order to receive an award in a particular category.
- Films accepted by the judges for screening will be notified ahead of time and will be screened in their entirety (unless the film is feature length) during the March 2nd event.
- The judges’ top films will receive awards at the festival.
- Judges may decline to give an award in a particular category if no entry meets the festival’s standards of quality.
- Films in categories with fewer than three submissions will not be eligible for awards, but may be screened as “out of competition.”
- There is no limit to the number of awards an individual can receive.

Audience Choice

- The Audience Choice award will be voted on by audience ballot at the March 2nd screening. Results will be announced during the event.

Award Categories

All films accepted into the festival are eligible for awards in a variety of categories. The judges will not award in all categories if no worthy film fits a category's criteria.

Categories in the past have included:

- Best Picture
- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay
- Best Editing
- Best Drama
- Best Comedy
- Best Experimental
- Best Documentary
- Audience Choice

Submission guidelines

- Films **must** be submitted in **TWO** formats:
 - on DVD in widescreen (16x9) format. No menu screen is needed. Do **not** include trailer on this disc.
 - On a data disk, submit the film **and** a trailer of no more than 30 seconds in H.264 Quicktime format.
 - Optional: If your film has a promotional poster and/or 1-2 still photos from the film or stills from during production, please 1-2 jpegs of those files on your data disc. *These items are not required, but films that provide these items are more likely to receive future print & web promotion.*
- Films may be submitted in the long form category (10-30 minutes) or the short form category (less than 10 minutes).
- Narrative, documentary & experimental films may be submitted for consideration as "in competition." Films outside those categories (such as music videos, ministry videos, client videos of broad interest to the campus, etc.) may be submitted for consideration as "out of competition." Out of competition films will only be included in the festival if they are exceptional and if time allows in the program.
- 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).
- Entries with incomplete or illegible entry forms, illegible labels on media or in the wrong media format can be disqualified.
- 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.
- Filmmakers should test their DVD & Quicktime files to be sure they play back on several DVD players and computers. The judges accept no responsibility for disc read errors or formatting problems. Projects that cannot be viewed by the judges will be disqualified from competition.
- Films not in English must be clearly subtitled or dubbed into English.
- DVDs will not be returned.

Submission Deadline is February 6th at 5pm. Entries should be dropped off at the Communication Arts Office in Rupp.

Rights

- Even though this is a student competition, and “fair use” guidelines can sometimes allow copywritten material in student educational projects, those rights do not extend to public performances of that material. Consequently, all copyrights must be cleared by festival submission deadline. All materials (images, music, etc.) must be original work, work used with the copyright holder’s permission, or work that is in the public domain. Films that violate copyright law cannot be allowed in the festival.
- 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.

If you have questions about these guidelines, e-mail Kathy Bruner at ktbruner@taylor.edu.