

FILMMAKING

Description

The Art and Process of Making Motion Pictures

Overview

Weave together a compelling story with striking visual aesthetics, and technical expertise to create a powerful medium of expression that not only entertains but also evokes emotions and sparks thought in its audience.

Requirements:

1. Single Entry: Only one film per contestant.
2. Short Film Duration: Maximum running time of 5 minutes.
3. Storyboard Submission:
 - a. A storyboard, either digitally rendered or hand-drawn, must be submitted prior to competition.
 - b. Storyboards should be printed and cannot be displayed on a tablet/screen.
 - c. Storyboards are *not* stills from the film but rather original visual representations of the planned film.
4. Format: The film should be submitted in MP4 format. Films can be submitted on a standard DVD for local competitions hosted at a facility requiring DVD usage. Contestants must ensure video playback on a DVD prior to competition.
5. Running Time: Maximum running time of 5 minutes, excluding closing credits.
6. Playback: A playback unit will be provided.
7. National Competition: Advancing contestants will need to upload their film.
8. Original Footage: All footage must be original and shot by the contestant. Stock footage or licensed material is not permitted.

Necessary equipment:

1. Projector Screen or TV w/DVD player if using DVD's
2. Projector
3. Laptop w/charger
4. Speakers
5. HDMI Cable
6. [Dongle Adapter](#) for Macbooks
7. Outlet Surge Protector

Judging Criteria

Category	Weight	Description
Creative	25	
	10	<i>Storyboard Execution: How well the film relates to the storyboard.</i>
	15	<i>Originality: Unique approach, innovative storytelling, or fresh perspective.</i>
Production	35	
	25	<i>Direction/Structure: Effective use of camera angles, shots, and editing to convey the story.</i>
	10	<i>Lighting: Effective use of light to enhance the mood and visuals.</i>
Sound	15	
	10	<i>Sound Design: Use of sound effects and music to enhance the film's atmosphere.</i>
	5	<i>Audio Clarity: Clear and audible dialogue.</i>
Post-Production	25	

	20	<i>Editing: Smooth transitions, effective pacing, and overall cohesion.</i>
	5	<i>Titles: Clear and visually appealing title sequence.</i>
Point Deduction	-1 to -5	In the event the student presentation exceeds 5 mins you can deduct one point for every minute over up to five points.
Total	100	

Notes for Judges

- Each contestant will have 5 minutes to present their project and then the judging co-hort will have 5 minutes for any follow up questions and quick deliberations before the next contestant. Each contestant will only have an allocated time frame of 10 minutes.
- You should not under any circumstances engage with the students before or after the competition until the Awards Ceremony has concluded.
- You must provide honest constructive feedback for each contestant that you are judging.
- Scoring Rubric:
 - 95-100 - Qualifies as a Gold Medalist
 - 90+Up - Qualifies as a Silver Medalist
 - 85+Up - Qualifies as a Bronze Medalist
 - Please take heed that the identifying word here is “Qualifies”. There can be multiple contestants that can qualify as gold medalist and if that’s the case the highest score will receive the gold, and silver and bronze will be allocated to the next two highest scores.
 - In the event the highest score is a 90 then there is no gold medalist and there’s only a possibility for a silver and bronze medalist as long as the remaining scores land within the 85+Up region.

Tips for Contestants

- **Story is King:** A strong, engaging story is the foundation of a great film.
- **Visual Language:** Use camera angles, shots, and movement to convey emotions and information.
- **Sound Matters:** Good sound design can elevate your film.
- **Editing is Key:** Choose the best takes, create smooth transitions, and maintain a good pace.
- **Practice Makes Perfect:** Experiment with different techniques and styles.
- **Feedback is Valuable:** Seek feedback from peers and mentors.
- **Have Fun:** Enjoy the creative process and let your passion shine through!