

# 2015 HEARTLAND FILM FESTIVAL

## *Submission Rules & Regulations*



### ***About the Festival***

The Heartland Film Festival serves to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Heartland Film Festival will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, October 16-25, 2015. Filmmakers participating in the Festival attend numerous screenings of their films and other special events designed to allow interaction between filmmakers and audiences.

### ***Categories***

The Heartland Film Festival selects and honors films in five categories:

- **Narrative Feature**
  - › Dramatic or comedic narratives; animated or live-action
  - › Anything but a documentary qualifies for this category
  - › 50 minutes or longer
  - › Narrative Features holding their U.S. or World Premiere may be eligible for “Best Premiere” awards
- **Documentary Feature**
  - › Nonfiction films; animated or live-action
  - › 50 minutes or longer
  - › Documentary Features holding their U.S. or World Premiere may be eligible for “Best Premiere” awards
- **Narrative Short**
  - › Dramatic or comedic narratives; animated or live-action
  - › Anything but a documentary qualifies for this category
  - › Under 50 minutes in length
- **Documentary Short**
  - › Nonfiction films; animated or live-action
  - › Under 50 minutes in length
- **High School Film Competition (HSFC)**
  - › Short films under 10 minutes in length
  - › Narrative or documentary; live-action or animated
  - › The director must have been in high school when the film was completed
  - › The director must not have graduated from high school any earlier than summer, 2014

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- **Indiana Spotlight**

- » Narrative and documentary films, both short and feature length
- » Must meet two of the following three criteria for eligibility:
  - » Director is a current Indiana resident or Indiana native
  - » Producer/Executive Producer/Screenwriter is a current Indiana resident or Indiana native
  - » At least 65% of the film was shot in Indiana
- » Films must be U.S. or World Premieres to qualify for the Indiana Spotlight competition

## ***Selection Criteria***

Each submitted film goes through an involved judging process, and is screened in its entirety by at least three members of the selection committee. Selected films have been seen 6-15 times by members of the screening committees, programming staff, and juries.

Films submitted to the Heartland Film Festival are judged on their overall artistic and technical quality. Additionally, each film must be engaging and entertaining, but do more than simply entertain. Selected films have a transformative power that impacts audiences by educating, inspiring, challenging or shifting perspectives.

## ***Festival Award Winners/Official Selections***

Films are ultimately chosen as either **Festival Award winners**, which remain in competition for the Grand Prizes, or **Official Selections**, which screen out of competition for the Grand Prizes (though they may remain eligible for Best Premiere or Indiana Spotlight prizes, as described below).

All submitted films that meet the below eligibility requirements are considered “in competition” for the Heartland Film Festival Awards at the time of submission. In September, 2015, Festival Award winners are publicly announced. Only Festival Award winners are eligible for the Grand Prize in each category. Grand Prize winners are announced at the Heartland Film Festival Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 24, 2015. Filmmakers must be present to win.

Films that are not honored as Festival Award winners may be invited to screen as “Official Selections” and are eligible for the Audience Choice Awards. Official Selections are no longer “in competition” for Festival Awards. Feature length films having their U.S. or World Premiere at Heartland are eligible for Best Premiere Awards. Indiana films meeting eligibility requirements for the Indiana Spotlight competition are eligible for the award in that category.

Other films may be invited to screen at the Festival as a “Special Presentation” or in a “To Be Announced” time slot; these may be eligible for the Audience Choice Award depending on when the films are scheduled.

Festival Award-winning films will be programmed to screen up to eight times during the Festival. Official Selections will screen up to four times.

Heartland generally selects approximately 25 Narrative Features, 25 Documentary Features, 65 short films (narrative and documentary combined) and 10-15 High School Film Competition submissions. In 2014 135 films were selected from 1,634 submissions.

## ***Notification***

Filmmakers (producer or director) for films selected to receive a Festival Award will be notified by phone on or about August 10, 2015. All other filmmakers will be notified by email after that date or before September 14, 2015. Official Selections and Festival Award winners will be publicly announced on September 17, 2015, at the Heartland Film Announcement Party. Heartland reserves the right to release basic information about selected films as early as August.

## ***Awards***

Heartland Film Festival presents a variety of awards to selected filmmakers. Winners of the 20 Heartland Film Festival Awards are announced on September 17, 2015. A director or producer of each winning film must be present at the Festival from October 21-25 (as described below) in order to receive their statuette and/or cash prize. Festival Award winners will be eligible for the Grand Prize awards in each category; Grand Prize winners will be announced at the Heartland Film Festival Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 24, 2015. The awards are adjudicated by juries comprised of individuals from the scholarly film community and previous Heartland Film Festival filmmakers. The awards are given as follows:

- **Five Narrative Features** are selected as Heartland Film Festival Award winners, announced prior to the Festival
  - › Each Festival Award winner receives an expenses-paid trip (as outlined below) to Indianapolis for the Festival and a Heartland Film Festival Award statuette
  - › One of the five Festival Award winners receives the \$45,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival
- **Five Documentary Features** are selected as Heartland Film Festival Award winners, announced prior to the Festival
  - › Each Festival Award winner receives an expenses-paid trip (as outlined below) to Indianapolis for the Festival and a Heartland Film Festival Award statuette
  - › One of the five Festival Award winners receives the \$45,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival
- **Five Narrative Shorts** are selected as Heartland Film Festival Award winners, announced prior to the Festival
  - › Each Festival Award winner receives an expenses-paid trip (as outlined below) to Indianapolis for the Festival and a Heartland Film Festival Award statuette
  - › One of the five Festival Award winners receives the \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival
  - › The Grand Prize winner in this category will qualify for consideration in the Short Films category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules
  - › Each Festival Award winner will be offered a broadcast deal by Shorts International®, which includes iTunes and Amazon Prime listings, in addition to broadcast on the ShortsHD cable channel

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- **Five Documentary Shorts** are selected as Heartland Film Festival Award winners, announced prior to the Festival
  - » Each Festival Award winner receives an expenses-paid trip (as outlined below) to Indianapolis for the Festival and a Heartland Film Festival Award statuette
  - » One of the five Festival Award winners receives the \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Short, and is announced at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival
  - » Each Festival Award winner will be offered a broadcast deal by Shorts International®, which includes iTunes and Amazon Prime listings, in addition to broadcast on the ShortsHD cable channel
- Two of the 20 Festival Award-winning films will be student films selected as Jimmy Stewart Memorial Crystal Heart Award winners, and will receive a cash prize of \$2,000. If one of these two films also wins one of the Grand Prizes, the cash awards will not be combined; only the larger amount will be awarded.
- Feature length films holding their U.S. or World premiere at Heartland are eligible for the Festival Awards described above. Additionally, two awards will be given as described below:
  - » Best Narrative Feature Premiere and a cash award of \$5,000
  - » Best Documentary Feature Premiere and a cash award of \$5,000
- One film will be selected as the Grand Prize winner of the **High School Film Competition**
  - » The winner and a guardian will receive expenses-paid trips to Indianapolis
  - » The winner will receive two All-Access Fest Passes for the Festival
  - » The winner will receive a cash award of \$3,000
- One film from any category that qualifies as an “Indiana film” will be selected winner of the **Indiana Spotlight competition**
  - » The winner will receive a \$5,000 cash award.

One filmmaker (director or producer) from each selected film must be present at the Festival to receive his/her award. The attending filmmaker will receive a Heartland Film Festival Award statuette. The 20 award-winning films will be revealed prior to the Festival at the Heartland Film Festival Announcement Party on September 17, 2015. The Grand Prize award winners will be revealed during the Festival’s Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 24, 2015. A completed tax form W-9 (W-8 BEN for non-U.S. residents) is required for any filmmaker collecting a cash prize.

There will also be four Audience Choice Awards (one each for the Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short and Documentary Short categories) announced at the Festival’s Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 24. Audience Choice Award voting will occur on all full days of screenings through Friday, October 23. No voting will occur on Saturday, October 24.

Winners of the Best Premiere and Indiana Spotlight prizes will also be announced at the Awards Ceremony.

*\*Per U.S. tax code and tax treaties, Heartland Film Festival will withhold U.S. taxes from monetary prizes when applicable, totaling as much as 30 percent of the cash award, regardless of recipients’ citizenship. Taxes withheld will be deposited with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The filmmaker will be solely responsible for filing with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service if they are eligible to retrieve those funds.*

## ***Eligibility***

To be eligible for the Heartland Film Festival, films must comply with the following:

- The film must have been completed on or after June 1, 2014.
- The film must be available for 4-8 screenings during the Festival, October 16-25, 2015.
- There must not be a screening fee attached to the film. Heartland will not pay a screening fee to any film featured in the Festival; there are no exceptions.
- Heartland requires a digital file for every feature film. The file must be at least Apple ProRes 422 (or equivalent) and 1080p. The file may be delivered on hard drive (unencrypted) or we can extract the file from an HDCAM (no HDCAM SR). No Blu-rays, DCPs or 35mm prints will be screened at the Festival.
- Short films must be available in one of the following formats: HDCAM or Apple ProRes 422 (or equivalent) on a flash drive, hard drive or other digital media. All films must have a resolution of 1080p.
- Films that have had a theatrical release, a television broadcast within the United States or a release through an on-demand outlet such as Netflix, Amazon On-Demand or any other outlets that are available in Indiana prior to the Festival dates are not eligible for Festival awards, but may be considered for “Special Presentation” screenings. Films with a theatrical release, television broadcast or available on-demand outside of the USA are eligible to screen as “Official Selections” and are eligible for Festival awards.
- The film cannot require dual projection (interlock) or separate soundtracks.
- Non-English films must be subtitled.

## ***Rules for Submission***

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed above, filmmakers must comply with the following submission rules to be considered for a Festival award:

- The submitting filmmaker must be either the producer or director of the film.
- Entries are accepted through [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com).
- A completed official entry on Withoutabox.com must be digitally signed by the filmmaker.
- Payment of the non-refundable entry fee must accompany the submission.
  - » Payment can be made by credit card, check or money order payable in U.S. dollars to Heartland Film, Inc. The filmmaker will be responsible for bank fees associated with any check returned to Heartland by the bank as unpaid.
- All items on the materials checklist (below) must be provided by the entry deadline.
- Feature films must be submitted via Region 1 or Region 0 DVD. (Note: Heartland does not accept prints or arrange screenings as a form of submission.)
- Short films (including HSFC submissions) must be submitted via Region 1 or Region 0 DVD or a link to a functional streaming video file on VIMEO. All streaming submissions must be HD (720p or 1080p). If the quality of the link is not high enough, you will be required to send us a DVD of your film. Links may be included in the Withoutabox cover letter or emailed to [submissions@heartlandfilm.org](mailto:submissions@heartlandfilm.org).

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- Multiple submissions must be provided as individual submissions. A compilation DVD is not acceptable.
- All DVD entries must be shipped to:
  - Heartland Film Festival
  - 1043 Virginia Ave. Ste. 2
  - Indianapolis, IN 46203 USA

Heartland recommends shipping DVDs in either a box or bubble-packed envelope to ensure safe delivery. Please check all DVDs before shipping to ensure that they will work on an average American DVD or Blu-ray player.

## ***Materials Checklist***

All entries must submit the following information to be considered for the Festival:

- Film on DVD (Region 0 or 1) labeled with title, filmmaker name, filmmaker email address, contact number, run time and Withoutabox submission number.
- Narrative Features and Documentary Features must submit three (3) copies of the film; short films only need to submit one (1) copy.
- Link (for short films only) – if applicable, to a functional streaming video file (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) in high definition 720p or 1080p. If the link is password-protected, please provide the password.
- Completed and digitally signed submission on Withoutabox.com.
- Entry fee.
- Optional items that may be included:
  - › Self-addressed stamped postcard for Heartland to verify receipt of entry.
  - › Self-addressed stamped envelope for return of DVD(s). (Note: DVD(s) will be returned only if this is included.)

## ***What if My Film is Accepted to Screen at Heartland?***

All selected films must provide all of the following items by **Friday, August 7, 2015**, for promotion of the film in Heartland's print materials, website and media kit:

- A trailer of the film (a short clip is acceptable for selected Short Films). It must be Apple ProRes 422 (or equivalent) and 1080p. Standard definition (480p resolution or lower) clips/trailers will not be accepted.
- Three (3) original DVD copies of the film for Heartland's library to be used for promotion of the Festival and historical archive purposes.
- One (1) head shot of each filmmaker or cast member who may be attending the Festival – 300 dpi and 4 in (h) x 6 in (w) or 1200 pixels (h) x 1800 pixels (w).
- Biography of 50 words or less for each filmmaker, principal cast member or featured individual expected to attend.
- Twitter handles, Facebook/website URL for director/crew and film for social media promotion.

## ***Exhibition Format for Selected Films***

Selected films (shorts and features) must provide a digital file of the film for exhibition by **Friday, August 7, 2015**. Files must be at least Apple ProRes 422 (or equivalent) and 1080p. Files may be delivered on unencrypted hard drive or HDCAM (no HDCAM SR).

Two Blu-ray backups and two DVD backups must be provided for each film, in case of issues with the primary exhibition format. Otherwise, no Blu-rays, DCPs or 35mm prints will be screened at the Festival.

The Heartland Film Festival reserves the right to screen your film in the significantly lower quality DVD format if your film is not delivered in a timely manner. Heartland will return film prints and media in the two weeks following the Festival.

## ***What if My Film is Selected as a Festival Award Winner?***

**IMPORTANT!** One filmmaker (director or producer) from each of the 20 Festival Award-winning films must be present in Indianapolis from Wednesday, October 21 through the evening of Sunday, October 25 in order to receive his/her award and/or cash prize. Heartland will cover expenses (as listed below) for one filmmaker from each Award-winning film. Part of Heartland's unique tradition is the promise to Festival attendees that all Award-winning filmmakers will be present, and this is a standard we continue to uphold when giving awards.

Heartland will provide:

- Round-trip economy airfare for one filmmaker to attend the Festival.
- Ground transportation to and from the Indianapolis International Airport (transportation is not provided to the airport at your point of departure).
- Lodging at official host hotels (minus incidentals, for which the filmmaker must provide a credit card to the hotel).
- Transportation to and from Festival screenings and events.
- Filmmaker badge that allows access to all screenings and the Hospitality Suite.

Festival Award winners will have prime time screenings starting Wednesday, October 21, and filmmakers should be in attendance for those screenings.

The **Heartland Film Festival Awards Ceremony** is on Saturday, October 24, and all Festival Award-winning filmmakers are required to be in attendance and participate in a Q&A onstage. Grand Prizes will be announced in each category, and Best Premiere, Indiana Spotlight and Audience Choice Awards will all be announced. There will be a rehearsal for the Awards Ceremony in the morning on the day of the event (attendance at the rehearsal is required for Festival Award-winning filmmakers).

Festival Award-winning filmmakers are also required to attend the **Filmmakers' Brunch** on Sunday morning, October 25. After the brunch, all winning films (Grand Prize winners, Audience Choice Award winners, Best Premiere winners, Indiana Spotlight winner) will be shown at a single screening venue, and filmmakers are encouraged to attend.

## ***What if My Film is Invited to Screen as an Official Selection?***

Films invited to screen as Official Selections will be eligible for Audience Choice Awards in their respective categories, but will not be eligible for Grand Prizes or Festival Awards. Feature films holding their U.S. or World Premiere may be eligible for Best Premiere prizes and Audience Choice Awards. Films competing in the Indiana Spotlight program are eligible for the cash award in that category.

Heartland is able to provide the following for every visiting filmmaker (director, producer only – other cast/crew must be approved by the Artistic Director):

- Filmmaker badge that allows access to all screenings and the Hospitality Suite.
- Discounted hotel rates at host hotel(s).
- Free transportation from the airport to a host hotel, and back to the airport upon departure.
- Free ground transportation between host hotel(s), screening venues and special event venues.
- Travel stipends may be available on a case-by-case basis dependent on Heartland's travel budget.

## ***What are the Festival's Terms and Conditions of Entry to Which All Applicants Must Agree?***

I, the undersigned, as submitting filmmaker (producer or director) of the film, acknowledge and agree that I have read, understood, and complied with the Heartland Film Festival submission rules. If my film is selected to receive a Festival Award from Heartland Film Festival, I WILL BE PRESENT at the Festival from October 21 through October 25, 2015, including the Heartland Film Festival Awards Ceremony on Saturday, October 24, 2015 in Indianapolis, Indiana to receive the award. If I am unable to attend, another filmmaker (producer or director) representing the film will accept the award in my place. Additionally, should I be awarded, I will acknowledge Heartland Film Festival in the film's future advertising and promotional materials. I hold Heartland Film Festival harmless from any damage to the print en route or otherwise during the Festival's possession of the film.

I hold that any claims I have made about the premiere status of my film are accurate at the time of submission. I hereby acknowledge that I will notify Heartland Film Festival of any changes in the film's premiere status as soon as they occur. I accept that changes in the film's premiere status prior to the Festival may not have any bearing on my eligibility for Festival Awards, but may materially impact my eligibility for Best Premiere Awards.

Heartland Film, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw any film from screening consideration at any point in the process. I hereby warrant that I am authorized to commit the film for screening, and understand and accept these requirements and regulations, and, if accepted for the Heartland Film Festival, agree that no screening fee will be demanded. I hereby warrant that I have all the necessary rights to exhibit all elements of my submission, including music rights.

I shall indemnify and hold harmless Heartland Film Festival from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees, and costs of the court) which may be incurred by reason of any claim involving copyright, trademark, credits, publicity, screening, and loss of or damage to the screening videos entered.

Submit to the 2015 Heartland Film Festival online at [Withoutabox.com](http://Withoutabox.com)

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