



**36th Annual
Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival
April 13-29, 2017**

Submission Guidelines and FAQ

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ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) is the largest film event in the Upper Midwest Region of the United States. Hosted by the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, 501(c)(3) non-profit, MSPIFF celebrates its 36th year April 13-29, 2017.

This highly anticipated celebration of independent cinema annually debuts more than 250 international, national, and local films to Minnesota audiences, and welcomes the attendance of more than 150 filmmakers and artists from around the world. MSPIFF presents a diverse lineup of World, US and Regional Premieres of films from more than 70 countries annually, and provides filmmakers with a platform to showcase their films for an astute and responsive audience of more than 45,000.

MSPIFF accepts film submissions in the following categories: Narrative (all lengths), Documentary (all lengths), Music Videos, Animation (all lengths), Childish (all lengths) and Experimental (all lengths).

HOW TO SUBMIT:

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival accepts submissions through:

- Withoutabox.com
- FilmFreeway.com

Links to our submission platforms and more information can be found at mspfilm.org/mspiff-submissions

MINNESOTA MADE FEE WAIVER:

In recognition of Minnesota's filmmaking community, MSPIFF offers one complimentary submission per individual for projects that qualify as "Minnesota Made" and are submitted before the Late Deadline of November 15, 2016. Eligible "Minnesota Made" films submitted between November 16 - December 31, 2016 may request a 50% discounted entry. To qualify, a film's director must be a current Minnesota resident OR a combined 50% or more of production and/or post-production must have taken place in Minnesota. Please email submissions@mspfilm.org to claim this fee waiver.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES:

- **Films completed after January 1, 2016 are eligible for submission.**
- **Minnesota Premieres are required of all submissions.**
Films that have had a public, ticketed screening within the state of Minnesota are not eligible for submission.
- **Submitted films must not have been broadcast or televised within the state of Minnesota.**
- **Feature-length submissions must not be publicly available in their entirety online prior to their date of exhibition in the Festival.** Short films may be available online. However, this will be taken into consideration for selection and films available online are not eligible for juried competition.
- **Foreign language (non-English) submissions must be available in their original language and soundtrack and must be subtitled in English.**
- **Films that have been submitted for consideration in previous years are eligible for submission for the 2017 Festival only if they have undergone extensive changes and reapply as a new submission.**

COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES:

Over the last few years, MSPIFF has awarded over \$100,000 in cash and other prizes to short and feature length films. Films may be invited by festival programmers to participate in juried competition.

EMERGING FILMMAKER COMPETITION:

This juried competition recognizes new and up-and-coming filmmakers from around the world for their achievements in narrative filmmaking. A cash prize is awarded to the film that demonstrates standout excellence in creativity, storytelling technique, and innovation in the narrative form.

TO QUALIFY:

- The film must be the director's debut or second feature
- The film must be a feature length narrative
- The film must not have US distribution at the time of selection

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION:

The juried Documentary Competition recognizes national and international documentary filmmaking that exemplifies the very best in presentation, diversity, innovation, and powerful storytelling. A cash prize is awarded to the chosen film.

TO QUALIFY:

- The film must be a feature length documentary
- The film must not have US distribution at the time of selection

MINNESOTA MADE DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION:

For our home-grown juried competitions, awards are given for films that exemplify standout achievements in feature length documentary filmmaking.

TO QUALIFY:

- All MN Made Documentary Features participating in the Festival are eligible for this juried competition

MINNESOTA MADE NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION:

For our home-grown juried competitions, awards are given for films that exemplify standout achievements in feature length narrative filmmaking.

TO QUALIFY:

- All MN Made Narrative Features participating in the Festival are eligible for this juried competition

DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION:

This juried competition recognizes national, international and local documentary short form filmmaking that exemplifies the very best in presentation, diversity, innovation and powerful storytelling.

TO QUALIFY:

- The film must not be available online in its entirety

NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION:

This juried competition recognizes national, international and local narrative short form filmmaking that exemplifies the very best in presentation, diversity, innovation and powerful storytelling.

TO QUALIFY:

- The film must not be available online in its entirety

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS:

Audiences cast their votes in the categories of Best Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Minnesota Made Narrative Feature, Minnesota Made Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, and Documentary Short. All films are eligible for these awards.

DEADLINES AND ENTRY FEES:

MSPiFF is run by the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides filmmakers and festivalgoers with a range of programs and initiatives. Festival submission fees assist in funding these programs and festival operations. For more information on the Film Society, visit mspfilm.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

	Earlybird Jul. 1 - Sep. 1	Regular Sept. 2 - Oct. 15	Late Oct. 16 - Nov. 15	Extended Nov. 16 - Dec. 15	Withoutabox Extended Dec. 16 - Dec. 31
Short Films (Narrative, Documentary, Childish)	\$30	\$45	\$60	\$75	\$90
Feature Films (Narrative, Documentary, Childish)	\$45	\$60	\$75	\$90	\$105
Experimental & Animated Films (All lengths)	\$20	\$35	\$50	\$65	\$80
Music Videos	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$40

NOTIFICATION DATE:

Submitters will be notified of their acceptance status on or around February 24, 2017.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INVITED FILMS:

If your film is selected for exhibition, the following will be required:

FOR FEATURE FILMS:

- A secure online screener link must be provided for press requests and internal festival use.
- Exhibition copy of the film must arrive at the Festival offices by April 6, 2017.

FOR SHORT FILMS:

- Exhibition copy of the film must be delivered to the Festival immediately upon notification of acceptance. Electronic delivery is preferred, but physical drives will be accepted as well.

FOR ALL FILMS:

- All films must be available for exhibition in DCP format.

Experimental films may also exhibit on Super 8mm and 16mm. No other exceptions will be made.

- Upon notification of acceptance you will be required to fill out an online Confirmation Form which asks for the following information:
 - Cast/Crew information
 - Film synopsis
 - High-resolution film stills
 - Electronic Press Kit
 - Downloadable trailer, .mov or .mp4 format preferred (if available)
 - 1 - 3 film clips
- Physical marketing materials including the following should be mailed to the Festival.
 - 2 physical posters 27" x 40" or similar size (if available)
 - Flyers
 - Promotional Postcards
- Digital assets may be emailed to materials@mspfilm.org

REGARDING THE SHIPMENT OF PHYSICAL DRIVES:

Filmmakers are responsible for the shipment of the exhibition copy of their film to MSPIFF if sending a physical drive. The Festival will provide return shipping. If requested, the Festival may ship the exhibition material to another festival, decided on a case-by-case basis.

ENTRY CHECKLIST:

The following must be received by the Festival before your film will be considered for inclusion:

- 1) **Completed Online Submission Form.** Via either of the accepted submissions platforms.

- 2) **Submission Fee.** Payment is accepted through all online submission platforms or via money order made out to the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul.

- 3) **Submission Screener.** Submissions must include an online screener (Vimeo preferred). Both Withoutabox and FilmFreeway allow HD uploads during the application process and have Vimeo integration. The Festival no longer accepts DVD submissions. **PLEASE NOTE:** Changing the password for a private online screener may make the submission unviewable, and therefore disqualified. The Festival will attempt, but is under no obligation, to contact the applicant for an updated password.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Does the Festival accept submissions in DVD format?**

No. Because of the rapid decline in DVD submissions and as an effort to go more green the Festival no longer accepts submissions via DVD.

- **Am I allowed to send an updated cut of the submission for consideration?**

Yes. However, we ask that you send the screener as soon as possible. If your film has already been reviewed, the programming team will attempt to watch the updated version, but viewing priority will be given to submissions not yet screened.

- **What happened to your Minnesota Made category?**

It still exists! Both the Minnesota Made Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature competitions will return for the 2017 Festival to celebrate the talented filmmakers working in our home state. We'll also continue to highlight MN Made films in the festival program. The MN Made submission category may be gone, but all MN Made films can receive a complimentary fee waiver to the appropriate submission category by emailing submissions@mspfilm.org.

- **How do you define "Minnesota Made"?**

A film's director must be a current Minnesota resident OR a combined 50% or more of production and/or post-production must have taken place in Minnesota.

- **My film meets the Minnesota Made requirements. How do I receive my fee waiver?**

Please email submissions@mspfilm.org to receive a link to our brief MN Made Fee Waiver Request form.

- **What is your distinction between feature length and short film?**

Films with running times of less than 40 minutes are considered Shorts. Films 40 minutes or longer are considered Features. Please select your submission classification based on what the final projected running time will be, including credits. There is no maximum length limitation for features, and no minimum length requirement for shorts.

- **Will screening/licensing fees be paid to submissions that are accepted into the Festival?**

Submissions accepted into the Festival will not be provided screening/licensing fees.

- **Can I submit my film if it's not completed?**

Works-in-progress may be submitted to the festival for consideration, but should be 99% completed and need to include very specific details regarding elements to be completed (i.e. "Additional color correction will be completed January 2017"), as well as a firm completion date.

- **When will I be notified if my film has been accepted to participate in the festival?**

All notifications will be sent via email around February 24th, 2017. Notifications will be sent to both selected and non-selected submissions.

- **Is any feedback provided by the festival for non-selected films?**

Unfortunately, due to time restraints and the large number of submissions we receive, the festival does not have the resources required to provide feedback for non-selected entries.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Please direct further questions to our submissions department at submissions@mspfilm.org.
We will respond to you as quickly as possible.